







First Mission Founded: July 16, 1769 by Father Junipero Serra Named for: Saint Didacus of Alcala Location: 6 miles from the city of San Diego on Presidio Hill overlooking Mission Valley

Mission San Diego is referred to as the "Mother of Missions". It is the oldest mission in California, and the first link in the "chain of missions".

On Presidio Hill there stands a large cross on which the following words are written: "Here Father Serra first raised the cross. Here began the first mission, here the first town, San Diego, July 16, 1769."

On each side of the massive doors in the church facade are outspread walls which appear like welcoming arms to visitors. The most pictorial feature of the large white church is the towering campanario. Five bells ring from the arched openings. The largest bell is the Mater Dolorosa which weighs twelve-hundred pounds.





California

San Carlos Borromeo de Carmelo

Founded: June 3, 1770 by Father Junipero Serra Named for: Saint Charles Borromeo Location: a few miles south of the city of Carmel on Junipero Ave.

San Carlos Borromeo was the headquarters for Father Serra. He is buried here along with Father Fermin Lasuen. Moorish style architecture, unusual unmatched bell-towers and lovely gardens make Mission San Carlos one of the most beautiful in California. Huge wooden gates separate this mission's peaceful and serene atmosphere from busy modern life of the outside world.

Much of the old mission quadrangle has been restored and now serves as a parochial school.

In the church's mortuary chapel stands the statue of the Virgin that Father Serra brought with him on his journey to upper California in 1769.