

Possible Discussion Questions on the Canonization of Junipero Serra

1. What is a saint?
2. What is the purpose of canonizing a saint?
3. What do you know about the California missions?
4. What do you know of the evangelization of the “New” world following Christopher Columbus?
5. If you were a Native American/Californian, what do you think your attitude towards Serra’s canonization would be?
6. If you were a Native Californian, how do you think you would have responded to Spanish evangelization? To the missions?
7. Was Serra a saint? Why or why not?
8. What can we learn from Serra?
9. If you were a missionary today, what would your approach to indigenous peoples be?
10. Is it fair to judge Serra by 21st century standards? Keep in mind, he is being declared a saint in the 21st century.