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1969-07-18

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Office of Public Information, "Ecumenical Celebration of 200th Scheduled" (1969). *News Releases*. 250.  
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# NEWS RELEASE



## University of San Diego

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### IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### ECUMENICAL CELEBRATION OF 200TH SCHEDULED

SAN DIEGO, Calif.----An ecumenical celebration in Old Town will be the religious highlight of the San Diego's 200th anniversary of the founding of Mission San Diego de Alcala and the state of California.

The celebration by Catholic, Protestant and Jewish clergymen will be held at 7:30 p.m. July 27 in the Old Town arena. The Most Rev. Francis J. Furey, Bishop of San Diego, is chairman of the religious celebration committee of the 200th anniversary. The ecumenical gathering is probably the last ecumenical ceremony he will participate in before leaving for his new post as Archbishop of San Antonio, Texas.

Catholics are expected to attend in large numbers the religious ceremony commemorating the founding of the mission in San Diego, said Father John Portman, chairman of the Diocese Ecumenical Commission. The public will participate fully in the ceremony, he said.

Father Valentine Healy, OFM, of San Luis Rey Mission, will give the main address.

The invocation will be given by Rabbi Morton J. Cohn, Temple Emanu-El, and the benediction by Bishop Furey.

The ceremony will include a public response to the litany led by the Rev. Donald J. Shelby, pastor of St. Mark's United Methodist Church, Father Portman said.

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The congregation will also join the choir in the singing of the hymn, "God of Our Father, Whose Almighty Hand."

Reading from the Scriptures will be the Rev. Heber H. Pitman, pastor, Central Christian Church, and the Rev. Paul G. Satrang, rector, All Saints Episcopal Church. The readings will be taken from Micah and Ephesians.

The choir will also sing the anthem, "Praise Ye the Lord," and "Almighty and Everlasting God."

The choir is formed of members of various San Diego church choirs, joining together as the San Diego Ecumenical choir for occasions such as this, said Father Portman. The choir is directed by Carl Gorham, a member of the music faculty of Mesa Evening College.

Organist for the program is Nicolas Reveles, AGO, of St. Francis Seminary, University of San Diego.

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