



# WEEKLY Diocesan Update



## Photo of the Week:

September 26, 2019, the Sisters of the Diocese of Stockton gathered to officially welcome Bishop Cotta. The gathering was held on the grounds of the Sacro Costato Sisters at St. Luke's in Stockton. The time together was wonderful and after presenting a small gift to Bishop Cotta, the Bishop shared his vision and commissioned all those gathered to reach out to the Body of Christ who needs our witness and our care.

## Office of the Bishop:

**Bishop Cotta's Monthly Reflection** – Please [click here](#) to read Bishop Cotta's Monthly Reflection for the month of October.

**Catholic Rural Life** – The Church sets aside feast days and liturgical days throughout the year to help us remember and celebrate our spiritual lives. Catholic Rural Life takes particular interest in the cycles of nature and seeks ways to unite the change of seasons with the constant Word of the liturgy. To that end, they have put together a series of blessings for each month of the year that highlights an aspect of rural life. To read the blessing for the month of October please [click here](#). More information will soon be available on our website.

## Office of Human Resources

**Deacon Steve Budnik** – We are excited to announce that the Office of Life & Dignity has expanded to include Marriage and Family Life Ministry, and will now be called the Office of Family and Respect Life. With this expansion, we will be better able to serve God's people and meet the needs of families, providing resources and support to address the everyday realities of marriage and family life.

## Upcoming Events:

**October:** Respect Life Month

**October 12:** Stockton Chorale performing Will Todd's "Mass in Blue"

**October 12-13:** Parish Festival (Holy Family)

**October 12-13:** Discovering Divine Mercy-God's Precious Gift (St. Michael's)

**October 12-13:** Formacion Liderazgo Pastoral

**October 19:** Curso de Formacion Biblica 2019

**October 25-27:** Rachel's Vineyard Retreat (English)

**October 28:** All Clergy Day

**October 28:** The 177 Project (St. Stanislaus)

**November 16:** 7th Annual Bishop's Dinner for the Seminarians

**December 5-7:** California Catholic Ministry Conference

We are also excited to announce that we have hired Deacon Steve Budnik as the Coordinator of Marriage and Family Life Ministry, effective Tuesday, October 1, 2019.

Deacon Steve was ordained as a Permanent Deacon for the Diocese of Oakland in 2000 and has worked within his parish in Family Life ministry for many years, and now brings that experience to our diocese. Having recently relocated to the San Joaquin Valley, he will continue work within the Diocese of Oakland while working part-time as the Diocese of Stockton Coordinator of Marriage and Family Life Ministry.

Please join us in welcoming him. To read Deacon Steve's full biography please [click here](#).

**Monsignor Robert Silva** – No sooner has he retired from being the Pastor at the Church of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin in Stockton, Monsignor Robert Silva has accepted another ministry in the Diocese: Coordinator of the Ongoing Formation for Priests.

Monsignor Silva comes to the task with a background in high school [St. Mary's High School] and university [University of the Pacific Catholic Campus Ministry] and seminary [Theological College in Washington, DC] experience. He served as Pastor at St. Patrick in Sonora, Church of the Presentation and Cathedral of Annunciation in Stockton, and Holy Cross in Linden, and for a number of years he was the Executive Director of the National Federation of Priests' Councils.

Monsignor Silva will be focusing particularly on accompanying our newly ordained priests, our first-time pastors, and our international priests. We welcome his expertise and his willingness to continue serving our local Church.

## Office of Religious Education:

The San Jose Diocese's California Catholic Ministry Conference (formerly known as Santa Clara Faith Formation Conference) is an excellent conference with over 90 speakers and specialized tracks. The ORE is on the planning committee and excited to participate. For more information go to [www.cacmc.net](http://www.cacmc.net).

## Safe Environment

The Diocese of Stockton is taking an active role in educating the public and parishioners in regards to everything we are doing to maintain a safe environment for our children and vulnerable adults. Each month we will post information from various departments here at the Pastoral Center highlighting their role and what they do to help keep our children safe. This information is intended to be shared with as many people as possible. Please [click here](#) to see this month's edition.

## Vicar for Priests:

2019 All Clergy Day is October 28. The event will be held at St. Frances of Rome in Riverbank. Cost is \$30 per person. For more information and to register today register today please [click here](#).

**\*All events are Pastoral Center events unless specified.**

**Visit our website's calendar for full details about upcoming events**