

**Office of the Bishop:**

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

Child Abuse Prevention Month takes place in April. It is important to promote awareness about the dangers of child abuse and steps that can be taken to prevent it in your community. During Child Abuse Prevention Month it is also important to spread the message of protecting children, focusing on positive parenting and keeping kids safe. Together, let us continue to support Child Abuse Prevention Month.

**Office of Development and Stewardship:**

2019 Bishop's Ministry Appeal (BMA) Update – Thank you ALL for your excellent work these past weeks! We are getting closer to this year's goal, thanks to all of you and to our generous donors (5,142 to date), who have graciously supported the 2019 BMA Campaign with gifts of \$1,098,507 (cash collected) and total pledges promised of \$705,514. Thank you everyone!

Save The Date – 2019 Bishop's Awards Dinner, Saturday, October 5, 2019 at Church of the Presentation in Stockton. Details to come!

**Office of Formation for Seminarians:**

Save the Date – The Office of Formation for Seminarians proudly announces the Priestly Ordination of two of our seminarians: Deacon Ace Cisneros and Deacon Larry Machado. These men are finishing their studies that have brought them to this point in their journey. The Ordination will take place at the Cathedral of the Annunciation, Saturday, July 6, 2019, at 10:00 am. Please join us in celebrating the holiday weekend by your presence at this wonderful event. More information to follow.

**Life and Dignity Ministry:**

40 Days for Life, Modesto – March 6-April 14, 2019. The Respect Life Ministry at St. Joseph's Parish in Modesto is sponsoring this peaceful prayer vigil. It will be held Monday thru Saturday at Family Planning Associates, 2030 Coffee Road, Modesto. You can sign up for Vigil Hours at <https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/modesto/>. If you have questions contact Roger & Karen Salstrom at (408) 309-6378 or [fortydaysmodesto@aol.com](mailto:fortydaysmodesto@aol.com).

**Ministry to Priests:**

Annual Priests Retreat – This year's priests retreat will be held at St. Francis Retreat Center in San Juan Bautista from May 6-10, 2019. The cost is \$650.00 per person. Click [here](#) for the registration form. Deadline for submission is April 25, 2019.

**Social Justice/Restorative Justice:**

Deacon Fidel Carrillo, a Chaplain at one of our Youth Correction Facilities, invites you to read about a program he has instituted. Please [click here](#) to read more.

### **Vocations:**

Holy Triduum/Vocational Retreat – Join us on April 18-21 for a Holy Triduum/Vocational Retreat for women 21-35. The retreat will take place at the Newman House in Stockton located behind UOP. Donation: \$30.00 per person. Register at <http://portalvocacional.org/>. For questions or more information contact Sr. Rosa at [rhernandez@guadalupeusa.org](mailto:rhernandez@guadalupeusa.org) or 209-992-9618.

Vocations to the Priesthood Dinner – Do you know an adult male who might be called to the priesthood? If so, please invite him to our next discernment meeting Sunday, April 28, 2019 at 5:00 pm in the Cathedral of the Annunciation's Parish House. 425 W. Magnolia Street, Stockton. A light meal will be offered. RSVP to Fr. Cesar at: 209-463-1305 or [vocations@stocktondiocese.org](mailto:vocations@stocktondiocese.org)

### **Office of Worship:**

Chrim Mass – The Chrim Mass will be on April 11 at 6:00 pm at the Cathedral of the Annunciation. Please join us for this celebration of the priesthood and of the Holy Oils which are used in our liturgies and sacraments!

Liturgical Reminders – “The Easter Vigil must take place during the night, so that it begins after nightfall and ends before daybreak.” (Roman Missal, Easter Vigil, 3). This year, for our diocese, the Easter Vigil may not begin before 8:30 pm.

While the option exists to read fewer than the nine readings provided for the Easter Vigil, it is instructive to read what the Missal says about exercising this option: “In this Vigil, the mother of all Vigils, nine readings are provided, namely seven from the Old Testament and two from the New (the Epistle and the Gospel), all of which should be read whenever this can be done, so that the character of the Vigil, which demands an extended period of time, may be preserved. Nevertheless where more serious pastoral circumstances demand it, the number of readings from the Old Testament may be reduced.” (Roman Missal, Easter Vigil, 21).