



March 15, 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Muslim Community within the Diocese of Stockton,

On behalf of the Catholic community, I wish to express our deep sorrow and grief over the deadly violence at the Noor and Linwood mosques in Christchurch and to offer you our condolences and prayers at this time. Earlier today, His Holiness Pope Francis expressed his own prayers for those who were killed and injured, as well as their families, asking the Lord to bring them comfort and strength in this tragic ordeal.

We stand together with you and leaders of all faith communities in condemning violence, particularly that which is rooted in religious intolerance and radical extremism. This violence profanes the name of God and violates the sacredness of human life. We cannot tolerate hatred, violence, or prejudice against any of God's children.

We pray with you that the God, who is our refuge and strength, will bring you comfort and lead us to walk together in solidarity and peace. May we be strengthened to stand together and to speak out against all forms of racism, intolerance and violence.

In solidarity and peace,

Most Reverend Myron J. Cotta
Roman Catholic Bishop of Stockton

MJC:DH:hayo