



WEEKLY Diocesan Update



Photo of the Week:

On Sunday, February 9, 2020, Bishop Cotta and the Office for Vicar of Religious honored Women and Men Religious in our Diocese to celebrate their jubilees and years of service. See more details on next page.

Office of the Bishop:

Bishop Cotta's Monthly Reflection – Please [click here](#) to read Bishop Cotta's Monthly Reflection for the month of February. The reflection focuses on his recent Ad Limina visit to Rome.

Catholic Rural Life – This month's Catholic Rural blessing is the blessing of New Life. Birth is an elusive mystery: an everyday occurrence in nature and rural life that is nonetheless marvelous to behold. Its wonder and splendor are fresh with each new entrance into creation. At the appointed time, a universal labor of intense energy opens the womb of Nature's gateway and ushers into the world an innocence and hope that is always a gift. To read the blessing for the month of February please [click here](#). For more information about Catholic Rural Life please visit our [website](#).



Fr. Larry Machado and Bishop Cotta. Fr. Larry is currently completing his studies in Rome.

Catholic Charities:

Beacon of Hope Gala – March 5, 2020 at 5:30 pm in Modesto. Join us as we highlight the services of Catholic Charities, spotlighting our Veterans Program, and hear from Sister Donna, the first female president to lead Catholic Charities USA in the organization's 105-year history. Please visit this [link](#) for more information.

Upcoming Events:

February 19: French Boys' Choir (Presentation)

February 20: French Boys' Choir (St. Stanislaus)

February 29: Mass of Anointing at St. Joseph's Church

March 5: Beacon of Hope Gala

March 11: Reboot! Turlock with Chris Stefanick

March 14: Youth & Young Adult Congress 2020

March 17-18: Lenten Mission at St. Joseph's

March 25: Feast of the Annunciation (Annunciation)

April 25: Familia Católica: Regresa a Tus Raíces

May 15-17: Rachel's Vineyard Retreat

July 11: Sanctus Cup 3: Young Adult Event (St. Stanislaus)

Visit our [website's calendar](#) for full details about upcoming events

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

Communications / Special Announcement:

Effective February 14, 2020, Joe Dondero has left his position as Director of Communications for the Diocese of Stockton. A replacement will be announced when the position is filled. In the meantime, please email communications@stocktondiocese.org for any of your communications needs.

Life and Dignity Ministry

Anniversary of Evangelium Vitae – March 25th, 2020 is the 25th anniversary of Evangelium Vitae, The Gospel of Life. All parishes are invited by the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities to join a nationwide effort from March 25, 2020 to March 25, 2021 entitled “Walking with Moms in Need: A Year of Service.” This initiative is to better support pregnant and parenting moms in desperate need, and to better communicate the help that is available.

Parish resources such as: timelines & guides on how to implement the services, announcements, prayers, activities, homily notes can be found by going to the [Diocese of Stockton website](#). Click on Parish Resources for Walking with Moms in Need.

Rachel’s Vineyard Experience – Jesus’ mercy and love. There is hope in Christ Jesus. The first Rachel’s Vineyard retreat in Danville, CA is May 15-17, 2020. For retreat details contact Kim Fuentes at kfuentes@stocktondiocese.org or call 209-465-5433.

Safe Environment

The Diocese of Stockton is taking an active role in educating the public and parishioners in regard to everything we are doing to maintain a safe environment for our children and vulnerable adults. This Month looks at how the Safe Environment Office is taking an active role in contributing to a safe environment for all. Please [click here](#) to see this month’s edition.

Vocations Ministry

Catholic Sisters Week – March 8-14 is the celebration of Catholic Sisters Week. You are encouraged to pray for more vocations to Religious Life and find creative ways to recognize and learn more about Catholic Sisters. There is a role for everyone in Catholic Sisters Week: individuals, groups and organizations, families, parishes and schools. Visit the Catholic Sisters Week website www.nationalcatholicsistersweek.org and make a plan to celebrate Religious Sisters Presence in your parish and school. For more information contact Sr. Wanda Billion, Office of Vicar for Religious Women, in the Dioceses of Stockton, 209-466-0636.

On Sunday, February 9, 2020, Bishop Cotta and the Office for Vicar of Religious honored Women and Men Religious in our Diocese to celebrate their jubilees and years of service. The luncheon was held at St. Bernadette's in Stockton. There was a short presentation from the Vicar for Religious and a wonderful sharing from Bishop Cotta about his visit to Rome. We celebrated the 60th Anniversary of Sr. Odetta Bonini, MSC, and the 25th Anniversary of Mother Lourdes Guerra. There were 33 Sisters and Priests in attendance. The afternoon was a joyful one: the sum total of all the years served for those who were present was 1,097 years. Wow! Thank you to each and every Religious who calls the Diocese of Stockton their mission for the time being. Praise God!