



WEEKLY Diocesan Update



Photo of the Week:

Bishops from California, Hawaii and Nevada prepare to concelebrate Mass at the Basilica of St. Mary Major while making their "ad limina" visits in Rome Jan. 30, 2020. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

Special Announcement:

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

Office of the Bishop:

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 January please [click here](#). For more information about Catholic Rural Life please visit our [website](#).

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 7-14: National Marriage Week

February 20: French Boys' Choir

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

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)

Family and Respect Life:

This year's National Marriage Week with a theme of "Stories from the Domestic Church" will be celebrated the week of February 7-14. This annual observance is a great opportunity for us to reflect on the gifts and witness that married couples bring to our Church and our communities. May it also be a call to all married couple to focus on building strong marriages. Check out [ForYourMarriage.org's National Marriage Week Page](#) for great resources.

In addition, you are invited to join us in prayer for marriage and families on Wednesday, February 12 at 3:00 pm EST: Live Rosary for Married Couples and Families on the [USCCB Facebook Page](#).

Life and Dignity Ministry

Death Penalty/Capital Punishment – The Catechism of the Catholic Church makes it clear: “The deliberate murder of an innocent person is gravely contrary to the dignity of the human being, to the golden rule, and to the holiness of the Creator,” (2261). Catholic Mobilization Network (CMN) offers a printable version of this Just Mercy Catholic Study Guide, ideal for use in group settings or for private reflection. Get the Catholic Study Guide by visiting Diocese of Stockton web page. Go to this [link](#) and click on Catholic Mobilization Network.

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 regards 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

Discernment Gathering – Do you know of an adult male who may be interested in becoming a Catholic priest? If so, please invite him to our next Discernment Gathering on February 16, 5:00 pm at the JV/Newman House, 4101 Manchester Avenue, Stockton. A light dinner will be offered. For more information please contact Fr. Cesar Martinez, Director of Vocations at: vocations@stocktondiocese.org

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.

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

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