



# WEEKLY Diocesan Update



## Photo of the Week:

Congratulations to the Eucharistic Franciscan Missionary Sisters for their 50th Anniversary of Diocesan presence in the dioceses of Los Angeles and Stockton. The Sisters celebrated 50 years of mission during the week of March 2-6. They concluded their celebration in Los Angeles on Sunday, March 8, 2020 with a Mass in Thanksgiving which was concelebrated by several priests that have had a significant role in their mission and work. Msgr. John Armistead was in attendance. We are grateful for the ministry, presence and faithfulness of this wonderful group of Sisters. Keep their ministry in your prayers.

## Office of the Bishop:

**Coronavirus (COVID-19)** – With growing concerns about the Coronavirus (COVID-19) it is important that we continue to take precautions and do everything reasonably possible to mitigate the spread of infection. We are closely monitoring the situation and following the information issued by health professionals at the county, [state](#), and [federal](#) levels. We will implement the safeguards recommended by these health officials and take every step we can to ensure the safety of our families, employees, and community. As the situation develops we will post the latest information and resources on our diocesan [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Prevention](#) webpage. These resources include both public health resources and church resources, including a *Faith Response to the Coronavirus* in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

Please pray for those affected by COVID-19, those afflicted, their families and caregivers and all health care workers. Through the intercession of our Blessed Mother Mary, Health of the Sick, may we find protection and comfort during this time.

## Upcoming Events:

*It is not known, at this time, if any of the events scheduled in March will continue as scheduled or be postponed. Please check with each parish for the latest information on parish events.*

**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.**

**Priestly Ordination Anniversaries** – Bishop Cotta asks the people of our diocese to join him in prayer and gratitude for the life and service of our priests who were ordained in the month of March.

- March 23, 1985: Msgr. Bonifacio Baldonado
- March 23, 1991: Fr. Leonardo del Carmen
- March 24, 1986: Fr. Alvaro Lopez

**Other March Anniversaries** – Bishop Cotta celebrates several anniversaries himself this month. Let us pray for his continued good health and leadership.

- March 15: Second Anniversary as Bishop of Stockton
- March 21: Bishop Cotta's birthday
- March 22, 2014: Episcopal ordination of Bishop Cotta

## Catholic Social Teaching:

**Faithful Citizenship – Census 2020** - As required by the Constitution, the federal government has begun conducting the [2020 Census](#). By April 1, the Census Bureau plans to send a letter or a door knocker to every U.S. household. Your responses will shape how political power and federal tax dollars are shared in the U.S over the next 10 years. The number of congressional seats and Electoral College votes each state gets are determined by census numbers. Census numbers also guide how an estimated \$880 billion a year in federal funding is distributed for schools, roads, faith communities and other public services in local communities. Please see the diocesan website: [Catholic Social Teaching](#), for guidance offered by the US Bishops, and other related resources, and ensure that you are counted.

## Liturgy and Worship:

Blessings to the over 200 adult candidates entering the Catholic Church or finishing their initiation who attended the Call to Continuing Conversion with Bishop Cotta on February 29th at Our Lady of Fatima! Blessings also to the 97 adults and 210 youth seeking baptism who were recognized by Bishop Cotta at the Rite of Election at the Cathedral of the Annunciation on March 1st and St. Stanislaus March 3rd. Please remember in your prayers all those preparing to enter into the Church in the next months!

## Ministry to Priests:

**2020 Priests' Annual Retreat** – This year, the retreat for priests will be held at the beautiful El Retiro Jesuit Retreat Center in Los Altos from May 4th - 8th. Fr. Chris Cartwright, S.J. will be the speaker. Unless excused by Bishop Cotta, all priests of our diocese are asked to attend. There is no charge for retired priests, but a registration form is necessary to hold your spot. Registration forms can be found on our website at Ministries and Departments > Ministry to Priests > Calendar and Events > Forms or by clicking [HERE](#).

## Vocations Ministry

**March Discernment Meeting** – Have you thought about this very important vocation? Do you know anyone else who has? This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about becoming a Catholic priest. Come to our discernment meeting Sunday, March 22, 2020 at the JV/Newman House located at 4101 Manchester Ave., Stockton. A light dinner will be offered. For more information please contact Fr. Cesar Martinez, Director of Vocations at [vocations@stocktondiocese.org](mailto:vocations@stocktondiocese.org).

## Catholic Schools Office:

### Suspension of Onsite

**Learning Effective March 13, 2020** the Diocese of Stockton has suspended onsite learning at all Catholic Schools. Our school campuses are temporarily closed, and teachers are facilitating distance-learning at home. [Read the latest information here.](#)

Please email [communications@stocktondiocese.org](mailto:communications@stocktondiocese.org) for any of your communications needs.