



# WEEKLY Diocesan Update



## Photo of the Week:

Participants in the Spanish Catechist Specialization course are hard at work. This course offered by the Office of Evangelization & Faith Formation at St. Jude's, Ceres has 52 Catechists enrolled.

## Office of the Bishop:

**Coronavirus (COVID-19)** – Many people are concerned about the current coronavirus outbreaks. The USCCB has sent out a memo regarding the celebration of the liturgy, [which may be found here](#). Their suggestions do not go any further than what was already sent out in our [memo regarding flu season](#). At this time nothing more is needed than normal precautions to avoid spreading respiratory viruses. Stay informed on the situation by visiting the California Department of Public Health's [coronavirus page](#).

**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

**Chrism Mass** – Our annual Chrism Mass will be held April 2, 2020. Invitations have been sent out via Flocknote. This is a reminder to please respond with your RSVP by *March 12, 2020*. Seating at the Dinner is always at capacity. Name-badges ensure your entrance to the gymnasium for dinner that evening. We ask that you RSVP today to allow time to process the badges.

## Catholic Social Teaching:

**Census 2020** - As required by the Constitution, the federal government will soon be asking you some personal questions for 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.

## Upcoming Events:

**March 11:** Reboot! Turlock with Chris Stefanick

**March 14:** Youth & Young Adult Congress 2020

**March 14:** Healing Mass with Anointing of the Sick (Holy Family Church)

**March 17-18:** Lenten Mission (St. Joseph's, Modesto)

**March 21:** Spanish Women's Retreat (Holy Family Church)

**March 22-23:** Lenten Mission with Fr. Leo Patalinghug (Church of the Presentation)

**March 24:** Dinner and Cooking Demonstration with Fr. Leo Patalinghug (Church of the Presentation)

**March 24:** Feast of the Annunciation Potluck (Annunciation)

**March 25 – March 25, 2021:** Walking with Moms in Need: A Year of Service (Local Participating Parishes)

**March 26:** Rosary for Life with Bishop Cotta (Family Planning Associates, 2030 Coffee Rd, Modesto)

**March 28:** Spanish Men's Retreat (La Sagrada Familia)

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

## Life and Dignity Ministry

**Rosary with Bishop Cotta** - Join Bishop Cotta and fellow Catholics to pray for the change of hearts and the end to abortion on Thursday, March 26th, 10 AM at the abortion clinic at 2030 Coffee Rd, Modesto.

**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](mailto:kfuentes@stocktondiocese.org) or call 209-465-5433.

**Walking with Moms in Need: A Year of Service** – Discover ways to help pregnant and parenting moms in need within your parish by clicking here <https://stocktondiocese.org/faith-in-action> for resources. Walking with Moms in Need: A Year of Service begins on March 25th. Sign up to receive monthly prayer intentions, homily notes and updates on this Year of Service.

## 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](http://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.

**March Discernment Meeting** – Do you know of a man who is thinking of becoming a priest? Please invite him to our next discernment meeting: March 22, 2020, 5:00 P.M. at the St. John Vianney (Newman House), 4101 Manchester Avenue in 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).

## Upcoming Events:

**April 2:** Chrism Mass (Cathedral of the Annunciation)

**April 25:** Familia Católica: Regresa a Tus Raíces

**May 15-17:** Rachel's Vineyard Retreat

**June 13:** Familia Católica: Regresa a Tus Raíces (Parroquia Sagrado Corazón)

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

**January 23, 2021:** Walk for Life West Coast 2021/San Francisco

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

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

## 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](mailto:communications@stocktondiocese.org) for any of your communications needs.