



# WEEKLY Diocesan Update



## Photo of the Week:

**Virtual Worship** – A Chrism Mass like none other! On April 2, in a private, live streamed liturgy, Bishop Cotta blessed the Holy Oils which will be used in our diocese throughout this coming year. [View more photos here.](#)

## Office of the Bishop:

**Easter Message** – [Click here](#) to view Bishop Cotta's 2020 Easter Message.

**Monthly Reflection** – Please [click here](#) to read Bishop Cotta's Reflection for the month of April.

**Priestly Ordination April 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 April.

- 4/5/2005 Rev. Chandrasekar Chillian Paulraj
- 4/6/1974 Rev. Jose Maghinay
- 4/9/1973 Rev. Msgr. Agustin Gialogo
- 4/12/2011 Rev. Raju Gudimalla, HGN
- 4/12/2013 Rev. Kondayya Mocherla, HGN
- 4/19/2012 Rev. Madhu Appanapalle, HGN
- 4/19/2012 Rev. Kishor Yerpula, HGN
- 4/20/2005 Rev. John Peter Pragasam
- 4/18/1983 Rev. Editho Mascardo
- 4/21/1977 Rev. Dante Dammay
- 4/28/1968 Rev. Alexandre Pacheco (Retired)
- 4/28/2011 Rev. Christhudas Varghese, HGN
- 4/29/1967 Most Rev. Stephen E. Blaire (RIP)

## Coronavirus

Find the latest information, diocesan directive and resources on our diocesan [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Prevention](#) webpage.

## Prayer & Reflection

### “break open the tomb”

An Easter prayer from CRS

Lord of Easter's Promise,

I live in faith of the Resurrection,  
but such is the nature of my faith  
that so much of me remains  
entombed.

Break open the tomb.

Where I've buried my compassion,  
break open the tomb.

Where I've buried my sense of mercy,  
break open the tomb.

Where I've buried my humility,  
break open the tomb.

Where I've buried my humanity,  
break open the tomb.

Where I've buried my love for my  
Heavenly Father,  
break open the tomb.

Where I've buried my sense of joy,  
break open the tomb.

Where I've buried my willingness  
to forgive,  
break open the tomb.

Lord, in you I've found a Savior no  
grave can withstand.

Help me to roll away this stone  
And find the miracle of new life  
That I may live more fully in your  
saving grace.

Amen

## Catholic Relief Services:

**CRS –Rice Bowl** – Our Catholic community in the United States does something amazing each Lent. We come together to practice prayer, fasting and almsgiving—and by doing so we help lift families and communities out of poverty. Families may turn in their Lenten gifts in the following ways:

1. Send directly to your parish, or
2. Send directly to Catholic Relief Services online by using the CRS website in [English](#) or [Spanish](#)
3. To give by phone: 1-877-435-7277. Be sure to tell the operator that the gift is for CRS Rice Bowl.
4. To give by mail: Please write “CRS Rice Bowl” in the memo line of your check and mail it to Catholic Relief Services, CRS Rice Bowl, P.O. Box 17090, Baltimore, Maryland 21297-0303

[EASTER PRAYERS from CRS](#)

## Catholic Social Teaching:

**2020 Census** – Reminder to all parishioners throughout the diocese: Be sure to take the time to fill out Census 2020 - online, by phone or by mail. Go to <https://my2020census.gov> to start today! As Catholics we affirm the inherent, divinely given dignity of every person. In answering the Census and encouraging our neighbors to do so too, we declare that “everyone counts” – que “todos contamos” – and that no one should be excluded from critical funding and political representation that everyone deserves. “We urge for all people to be counted in the Census... Our society, rooted in the strength of the family, cannot risk missing this opportunity to give children and parents the tools they need to succeed.” (*Bishops Frank Dewane and Joe Vásquez, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*)

Follow links provided for helpful [multilingual contact information and flyers](#) and [Stockton Counts! – 2020 Census Video](#).

**Impacts of Isolation** – During this time of quarantines, sheltering in place, and “stay at home”, we are all experiencing the impacts of isolation. Our own experience offers us a chance to reflect upon the experience of those who are in forced and prolonged isolation. The risk of spread of COVID-19 is particularly acute in places of detention, such as prisons, jails, and immigration detention centers, as well as residential institutions for people with disabilities and nursing facilities for older people. States have an obligation to ensure medical care for those in their custody at least equivalent to that available to the general population, and must not deny detainees, including asylum seekers or undocumented migrants, equal access to preventive, curative or palliative health care. Asylum seekers, refugees living in camps, and people experiencing homelessness may also be at increased risk because of their lack of access to adequate water and hygiene facilities. The extra time we have at home can be productively used by writing to our legislators and letting them know how we, as people of faith, feel about the treatment of those most vulnerable, and particularly during the pandemic. Two useful resources to contact your representatives are the [California Catholic Conference](#) and the [Common Cause “Find Your Representative” online tool](#).

## Prayer & Reflection continued

### “A Prayer Amid an Epidemic”

by: By Kerry Weber, executive editor of *America Magazine*

Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness.” At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.

Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care.

Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another.

Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

Jesus Christ, healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.

Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace.

Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace.

Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace.

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# Evangelization and Faith Formation:

**Faith Formation Resources** – Happy Easter! Every Wednesday our office adds new resources to our webpage. We are now in the Easter season and this weekend is Divine Mercy Sunday. Visit the [Family Faith Formation Resources page](#) for activities and catechesis on Divine Mercy Sunday for families, catechists and adults. Also, look for resources to prepare for Pentecost Sunday, May 31. Rejoice for He is Risen! Alleluia!

## Liturgy and Worship:

**Worship Resources** – We have compiled a number of [spiritual resources for our current crisis](#), these are linked to our general covid-19 info page which also includes a link to [Diocesan Information and Guidelines](#).

## Marriage and Family Life Ministry

**Caring for the Whole Person** – (formerly Whole Person Care) is an initiative of the California Bishops and Catholic healthcare systems that supports parishes, community services, and families in ministering to those who are seriously ill or at the end of life. The vision of *Caring for the Whole Person* (CWP) is a continuum of quality and comprehensive (physical, emotional, spiritual) care for all, enhanced through partnerships of health care professionals and institutions with community-based movements.

We are moving forward with this initiative in the Diocese of Stockton. We have gone live with our [Caring for the Whole Person webpage](#). Training for those who will train parish leaders is scheduled to begin in May.

**Grief Support** – Do you know someone who is having difficulty dealing with grief? Grief has been intensified for many by the circumstances of the Corona Pandemic; people are not being allowed to be with their loved ones at the time of death and not being able to have a "proper" Christian Burial. Additionally, many of us are grieving other losses, such as employment, income, social interactions and the Sacraments. Information and self-help resources, some of which are specifically designed with the Corona Pandemic in mind, are available at our diocesan [Grief Support webpage](#).

## Vicar for Priests

**Annual Priests' Retreat** – The retreat previously scheduled in May has been RESCHEDULED for September 21-25, 2020 at San Damiano Retreat Center in Danville with Fr. Chris Cartwright, S.J., as the retreat master. Priests are asked to hold that week open in their calendars. Additionally, the dates for the 2021 Priests' Retreat are confirmed with El Retiro in Los Altos May 3-7, 2021. Please calendar this date.

*A Prayer Amid an Epidemic –  
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Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks. May they know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth.

Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us your peace.

Jesus Christ, heal us.

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