In this season of resurrection, we offer our prayers for the world and for one another, saying:

As Jesus is risen...LET US RISE ALSO.

Our whole world is facing the specter of death in the form of a pandemic that threatens us all. In communities hardest hit, in poor nations who must compete with richer ones for the means of life, and in countries where pre-existing conditions have not disappeared: where war, terrorism and violence, economic and political upheaval were already part of daily life and have become overwhelming. As we consider what life may look like beyond the threat, we pray for wisdom and equity, for the willingness to rise to the moment.

As Jesus is risen...LET US RISE ALSO.

Reminded again of the vulnerabilities faced by people of color, by people incarcerated, by people without a nation in which to be at home, by people without family, by people of a certain age, and by those whose essential work puts them on the front lines, we pray for compassion and the willingness to see all others as our neighbors.

As Jesus is risen...LET US RISE ALSO.

As our planet has begun to breathe and its heartbeat has become audible once again, we are reminded that we can live in new ways that also let the earth live. Keeping in mind all the inhabitants of the planet, we pray for humility and a willingness to share.

As Jesus is risen...LET US RISE ALSO.
Catholic Social Teaching:

Census 2020 – April 1, 2020 was Census Day. It was not a deadline date. Everyone is encouraged to continue to register. Our diocese is one of the most diverse in the nation and also is home to a community of people who are traditionally among the hardest to count. Participating in the census is required by law and critical in determining our community funding, congressional representation, and more. Find Census 2020 information here.

Advocacy – With unemployment soaring, the COVID-19 outbreak is taking a staggering toll on workers. Food banks are ramping up services to meet the rising demand, even as donations, volunteers and supplies become more limited. Housing, prisoners’ rights, immigration and detention, nursing facility policies are all in the headlines. In response, one way to ensure that our Catholic voices are heard is to join the Catholic Legislative Network and encourage our parishioners to do the same. More information on the Network, and how to join, can be found at https://www.cacatholic.org/join-the-network or by visiting the Catholic Social Teaching tab on the diocesan website.

Development & Stewardship:

Bishop’s Ministry Appeal Update – Thank You for your continued efforts on behalf of this year’s Bishop’s Ministry Appeal! We are working to deposit all gifts as quickly as possible and complete gift processing for each parish.

If the Development Office can be of any assistance to your parish, run gift reports, provide additional information, or assist with online giving setup, please contact us! We are working remotely, with limited staffing and in-office hours, and available by phone or email.

The next BMA Parish Progress Report will be sent the week of April 20.

If you have any questions or need any other information, please contact Stacy Erickson at serickson@stocktondiocese.org or (209) 546-7648 or Martha McCoy at mmccoy@stocktondiocese.org or (209) 546-7646

Bishop’s Awards Celebration: Letting Your Faith Shine Through – Save the Date – Saturday, October 3, 2020 and check your email for event updates!

Nominations are now being accepted for those individuals and organizations who demonstrate commitment and support to our communities - perhaps someone who has let their "Faith Shine Through" during this unprecedented time, when faith is needed more than ever! Nominees may be individuals, married couples, or organizations. You may submit more than one nominee. To submit Honoree Nomination(s), please download and complete the Nomination Form. Please return Nomination form(s) to Bishop’s Awards Celebration - Office of Development & Stewardship by May 15, 2020. Please contact Stacy Erickson at serickson@stocktondiocese.org or (209) 546-7648 for additional information or if you have any questions – thank you!

iGiveCatholic Update: GivingTuesdayNow and iGiveCatholicTogether

On March 26, 2020, the #iGiveCatholic website was reactivated in support of the Church during this time of crisis. Now more than ever, giving back is critical for our parishes, which are missing weekly donations, do not have their own online giving set up, or need a second online giving option. It is also critical for our Catholic schools and non-profits, many of which have had
to cancel their fundraising events or are responding to COVID-19 and need additional funding. This relief initiative for online giving, #iGiveCatholicTogether, signifies our coming together as Catholics to provide urgently-needed resources to these life-giving ministries.

Our friends at #GivingTuesday are also responding to the unprecedented need caused by the Coronavirus. #GivingTuesdayNow is a global day of giving and unity that will take place on Tuesday, May 5, 2020. This giving day will not replace this year’s regularly scheduled #GivingTuesday on December 1. However, it does offer an opportunity for people around the world to come together right now and use the power of generosity to connect with the nonprofits that impact their lives.

If you would like additional information or if you have any questions about iGiveCatholic Together or GivingTuesdayNow, please contact Stacy Erickson at serickson@stocktondiocese.org or (209) 546-7648 or Martha McCoy at mmccoy@stocktondiocese.org or (209) 546-7646.

Life and Dignity Ministry

Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat. – October 2-4, 2020 is the new date for the previously scheduled May retreat in Danville, CA. For retreat details call our direct number at 209-465-5433 or see our website. Rachel’s Vineyard is a safe place to renew, rebuild and redeem hearts broken by abortion. The weekend offers a supportive, and non-judgmental environment to transform the pain of the past into love and hope. You don’t have to wait until the weekend to begin your healing journey. Reach out by email kfuentes@stocktondiocese.org or call 209-465-5433 for support and encouragement.

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. Training for those who will train parish leaders is scheduled to begin in May. Click here for more information.

Safe Environment

In the month of May we look 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.

Vicar for Priests

Annual Priests’ Retreat – Our annual retreat 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 for May 3-7, 2021. Please calendar this date.

Prayer & Reflection continued

“Covid-19: A Prayer of Solidarity”

For all who have contracted coronavirus, we pray for care and healing.

For those who are particularly vulnerable, we pray for safety and protection.

For all who experience fear or anxiety, we pray for peace of mind and spirit.

For affected families who are facing difficult decisions between food on the table or public safety, we pray for policies that recognize their plight.

For those who do not have adequate health insurance, we pray that no family will face financial burdens alone.

For those who are afraid to access care due to immigration status, we pray for recognition of the God-given dignity of all.

For our brothers and sisters around the world, we pray for shared solidarity.

For public officials and decisionmakers, we pray for wisdom and guidance.

Father, during this time may your Church be a sign of hope, comfort and love to all.

Grant peace.
Grant comfort.
Grant healing.
Be with us, Lord.

Amen.

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Coronavirus

Find the latest information, diocesan directives and resources on our diocesan Coronavirus [COVID-19] Prevention webpage.