



WEEKLY Diocesan Update



Photos of the Week:

With facemasks on and practicing social distancing, Fr. John Peter Pragasam and the Parish Leadership of St. Bernadette Church in Stockton surprise parishioner Helen Hutchins (pictured directly above) on the occasion of her 95th Birthday.



Office of the Bishop:

Bishop Cotta's Video Messages – Bishop Cotta's has recorded a series of video messages addressed to specific groups of individuals. These messages will be shared on the Diocesan website and Facebook page in the upcoming days. [See his most recent video here.](#)

Consecrating Our Nation to Mary – Every year, the Church seeks the special intercession of the Mother of God. This year we seek the assistance of Our Lady all the more earnestly as we face together the effects of the global pandemic. The U.S. bishops will join the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops on May 1 in renewing the consecrations of the two nations to the care of our Blessed Mother. Archbishop Gomez will lead a brief liturgy with the prayer of re-consecration on Friday, May 1 at 3:00 pm EDT. You are invited to participate in this re-dedication, and to extend an invitation to the faithful in your parish to participate, by tuning into the USCCB's social media platforms: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#). A liturgy guide in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) is available. [See more information here.](#)

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.

Rest in Peace Deacon Don Rodgers – With sadness we received word that Deacon Don Rodgers died Saturday, April 25. Don was ordained for the Diocese of Stockton in May 1991.

He and his wife, Sylvia, led the community of Good Shepherd Mission in French Camp, retiring only a couple of years ago. May the Lord keep him safe in his memory.



Catholic Charities:

Services Available – In addition to its regular ongoing services, Catholic Charities is providing some **new services in response to the COVID-19 health crisis**: financial assistance for rent, utilities, food and other basic needs for Veterans and their families, for undocumented individuals and families, for seniors, and for those who have minimal access to other resources. Funding for DACA renewals is available for a limited time. And Food Bank Services are being expanded.

Pastors, Parish Life Coordinators, and Priests will receive contact information this week for all the services provided by Catholic Charities. Call Catholic Charities for particulars: **San Joaquin County (209-444-5900), Stanislaus County (209-529-3784), Mother Lode (209-532-7632).**

Catholic Social Teaching:

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 Awards Celebration:

Honoree Nomination(s) - & Save The Date: Saturday, October 3, 2020!

Is there a special someone (or group) you would like to nominate for this year's Bishop's Awards Celebration? Is there someone in your community who has "*Let Their Faith Shine Through*" during this challenging time of uncertainty and Covid-19? Nominations are **now being accepted** for those individuals and organizations who demonstrate commitment and support to our communities (individuals, married couples, or organizations, and more than one nominee may be submitted).

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

An update from iGiveCatholic: 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, #iGiveCatholic Together, signifies our coming together as Catholics to provide urgently needed resources to these life-giving ministries.

Prayer & Reflection

Pope Francis Prayer for protection from Coronavirus

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need.

We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us:

He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

Coronavirus

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

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:

Walking With Moms – The USCCB will share a novena of St. Gianna Beretta Molla beginning on her feast day, April 28 seeking her intercession for pregnant women and all who are affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. St. Gianna was a 20th century physician, wife, and mother. You can sign up to receive this novena at www.walkingwithmoms.com/saint-gianna-novena.

Mother's Day (May 10) Resources – Mother's Day is a wonderful opportunity to highlight the beautiful vocation of motherhood and the gift of life. It calls us to cherish the gift of life that we receive from our mothers and to pray for all women to whom God has entrusted life in a very special way. We also specifically remember mothers experiencing unexpected or difficult pregnancies and pray they may find support and encouragement in choosing life for their children. This [Mother's Day action guide](#), the homily helps (English / Spanish) provide insightful background and considerations for observing the occasion with sensitivity and compassion in your parish community.

Liturgy and Worship:

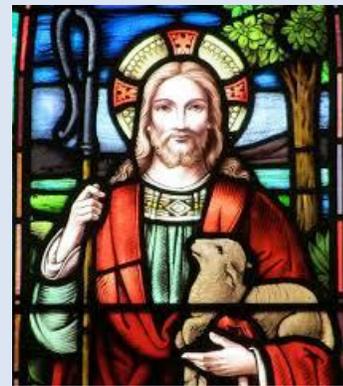
As we continue livestreaming and/or recording parish liturgies, it is important to be aware of and follow copyright law. To stream/broadcast or post performances of copyrighted music online you need a license or permission from the copyright holder. OneLicense.net provides licenses both for reprinting and for podcasting/streaming music from most liturgical music publishers. Please be aware, if you choose to discontinue the license, you must usually remove videos with the licensed music from your website, Facebook page, YouTube channel, etc. [Click here for more information on copyright and music](#). Works from before 1924 are in the public domain and may be freely used.

Please join us for a webinar on Wednesday May 6th at 2:00pm to learn more about copyright and church music. [Sign up HERE](#). Recordings will be made available afterwards.

Marriage and Family Life Ministry:

Nourish for Caregivers – Are you the primary caregiver for a Loved One? You are not alone during this time of COVID19 when, for caregivers there is more uncertainty, new concerns, and greater degrees of isolation. Nourish for Caregivers is holding daily LIVE Zoom video/phone meet-ups to provide: an opportunity to connect with other caregivers and caregiving experts; place to bring your questions and share your ideas; space to receive spiritual nourishment and faith-based encouragement. [Register Here](#).

Vocations



Good Shepherd Sunday – Help us celebrate World Day of Prayer for Vocations, which is on Good Shepherd Sunday, May 3rd. God is still calling young people during this pandemic, so given the circumstances, will you make a special effort to observe this day in your parish as best you can virtually? For ideas and resources like prayers of the faithful, homily ideas, coloring page, rosary for vocations, holy hour for vocations, and more please visit www.worlddayofprayerforvocations.com.