



WEEKLY Diocesan Update



Photos by Raul Guillen

Photos of the Week:

Grateful for our clergy! On Divine Mercy Sunday the Hispanic community of the Cathedral of the Annunciation organized a parade of gratitude. Timed to follow the livestreamed Mass, people in cars decorated with signs, balloons and banners drove by to thank their priests, deacons and the bishop for their support, dedication and ministry.

Office of the Bishop:

Monthly Reflection – Read Bishop Cotta's Reflection for the month of May here: [English](#) / [Español](#)

Video Messages – Bishop Cotta has pre-recorded video messages sharing some words of encouragement for those who are looking forward to receiving their Sacraments:

[Message from Bishop Cotta for Children \(preparing for First Communion\)](#)

[Message from Bishop Cotta to the Youth \(preparing for Confirmation\)](#)

Please share these messages with those in your community for whom they are intended.

As One:

Works on the development of an ongoing process of collaborative leadership energized by parish initiative and informed by the local church (Diocese of Stockton) vision.

An important part of collaborating is sharing what is working in your parish. The [Sharing Successful Practices](#) section of the As One webpage on the diocesan website highlights activities, programs, and procedures that are working well in various areas of the Diocese. Current highlights include ecumenical outreach, livestreaming on YouTube, and how parishes are reaching out to support the faith. Share the ideas and programs that are working well in your parish on the [Parish Successful Practice Submission Form](#). E-mail images or questions to kfuentes@stocktondiocese.org.

In Memoriam

Rev. John Baptist Wan Jo-Han, whom we also knew as **Fr. John Wang**, died early this morning, May 11, 2020, at St. Joseph's Medical



Center where he ministered for many years as Chaplain.

Fr. Wan was born in China on June 14, 1930. He entered the Salesians of St. John Bosco in Hong Kong and was ordained to the Priesthood on July 12, 1961.

He served in various educational and administrative positions before coming to the United States to earn his MA in Educational Psychology and Marriage and Family Counseling at the University of San Francisco.

He ministered in the Diocese of Stockton from 1982 until his retirement in 2004. He was for nine years an Associate Pastor in a number of parishes, and then the Administrator of St. Patrick's Church in Angels Camp. For eighteen years he then ministered as a Chaplain at St. Joseph's Hospital. In retirement he helped as he could in various parishes.

He is survived by his nephew, Joseph Wang, of Texas.

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In your prayer please commend him to the Lord.

May Mary and all the Saints come to welcome him home.

Catholic Social Teaching:

Solidarity - For developed countries, hunger comes from not having enough food available for everyone. [The overwhelming cause of hunger in these countries is poverty](#). In the U.S. nearly 15 percent of households – more than 40 million Americans, including 12 million children – struggle to put food on the table. Our measure of hunger is “food insecurity” – an ongoing uncertainty of where the next meal will come from. This insecurity is growing exponentially the longer the COVID-19 crisis keeps people isolated and out of work. Churches and charities do a lot to address the immediate needs from hunger in direct ways. But the federal government also has many safety-net programs to address food insecurity, including SNAP (formerly known as food stamps), the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), and the National School Lunch Program. These government programs provide many times more hunger-related assistance than private charities. Even with more than one in five U.S. children at risk of hunger (one in three among African-American and Latino children), funding for these critical anti-hunger programs is being challenged. To help address the growing hunger crisis locally, read [Covid-19 Food Insecurity Help](#) or contact your local [Catholic Charities](#) office.

To help on a national level, all are encouraged to [send a personal message to Congress](#) letting them know that, as a people of faith, we support food security and ask that they prioritize SNAP in the next COVID-19 relief bill by:

- Increasing the maximum SNAP benefit amount by 15%
- Increasing the minimum SNAP benefit amount, which is currently only \$16
- Suspending all SNAP rule changes that limit eligibility and benefits

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable – Seven weeks of statewide lockdown, due to an unseen, unfamiliar, and unrelenting virus, has caused many of us to feel lost and very much alone. Ongoing social distancing, quarantines, disinfectants and masks made last week’s message of Jesus’ shepherd-like tenderness, care, and kindness all the more meaningful. For some, the hope for better times to come is fading by the day. The poor and vulnerable, those often rejected by society, are the ones that are suffering the most during this pandemic. In his homily on Good Shepherd Sunday, Father Misael Avila from St. Frances of Rome parish in Riverbank provides a thoughtful reflection on the situations faced by the marginalized. His examples of injustice will pull at the heartstrings and his inspiring words will give us all a challenge to use our “shelter in place and quarantine” experience as motivation to always give a preferential option to those who feel alienated and alone all the time. See the full text of Father Misael’s [homily here](#).

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).

Prayer & Reflection

Pope Francis’ prayer intention for May: For deacons

Let us pray that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church.

[See the Pope Video for deacons.](#)

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Our Lady of Fatima, Pray for Us

Let us rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home during the month of May. At the end of each Rosary we can [recite a prayer](#) asking for our mother Mary’s intercession, that God, the source of all mercies, might free us from this pandemic and life might resume its normal course.

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!

Hispanic Ministry:

Managing Stress – A series of webinars, in Spanish, on practical ways to manage stress and anxiety have been scheduled for Mondays and Thursdays at 7:00 pm beginning on Monday, May 11, through June 4, 2020. The seminars will be offered via Facebook at www.facebook.com/xi.recoess and YouTube: [Ministerio Hispano Region XI](#).

Presenters are Maria Arroyo of San Diego, and Ernesto Vega of Los Angeles. This is a collaborative effort of RECOSS (Region Eleven Commission of the Spanish Speaking).

Life and Dignity Ministry:

Watch Party and Discussion: – *The Innocence Files* is a new Netflix series telling powerful stories behind eight cases of wrongful conviction. The Catholic Mobilizing Network is hosting a virtual watch party of [The Innocence Files](#), Episode 8 on **Thursday, May 14 at 5:30 pm PT**. Episode 8 highlights the case of death row exoneree Alfred "Dewayne" Brown and his attorney, former CMN Board Member Brian Stolarz. Following the watch party there will be a Q&A conversation with attorney Brian Stolarz. [Learn more about joining the Netflix watch party and Zoom Q&A.](#)

Ethical Vaccine for COVID-19 – Let your voice be heard! From the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB's) Action Center: "The USCCB along with leaders of many healthcare, bioethics, and pro-life organizations, is urging the Trump Administration to make sure that vaccines for COVID-19 are developed ethically and are free from any connection to the exploitation of abortion." You can voice your concerns by composing your message to Secretary of HHS Alex Azar II [here](#).

Pray for Life: May 2020 – This month features a monthly prayer intention, short reflection, suggested actions, and more. It focuses on the needs of pregnant and parenting moms of young children in our parishes and our neighborhoods. [More information here.](#)

Marriage and Family Life Ministry:

Mental Health and Emotional Well Being – These are challenging days. Many in our communities are stressed over the corona pandemic. Please share the Mental Health & Emotional Well Being self-help resources available on our diocesan [Coping with Corona webpage](#). These include resources for both children and adults.

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.

May Anniversaries

Bishop Cotta asks the people of our diocese to join him in prayer and gratitude for the life and service of our priests, deacons and vowed religious who celebrate anniversaries during the month of May.

PRIESTS

5/03/93 Rev. Ray Abella
5/03/05 Rev. Suresh Ery
5/14/10 Rev. Tino Tran
5/14/77 Rev. Marc Rougeau,
5/15/78 Rev. Pedro Olmos
Aguilar
5/18/13 Rev. Ernesto Madrigal
5/19/07 Rev. David Dutra
5/19/07 Rev. Brandon Ware
5/20/17 Rev. John Ngo
5/20/17 Rev. Joseph Nguyen
5/20/17 Rev. Thomas Orlando
5/21/16 Rev. Ronald Manango
5/23/06 Rev. Sleevaraj Pasala
5/29/66 Rev. Msgr. Ivo Rocha
5/30/70 Rev. Dennis Grabrian
5/30/85 Rev. Edwin Musico
5/31/58 Rev. Eugene Trainer
5/31/85 Rev. Marian
Stanislaus
Korzeniowski

DEACONS

5/25/91 Rev. Porfirio Cisneros

VOWED RELIGIOUS

5/03/61 Sr. Martina Lopez-
Reyes RCSCJ
5/07/78 Sr. Saomai Tran MTG
5/17/77 Sr. Susan Allbritton
OP
5/31/63 Sr. Lucille Carreau
DHS