



WEEKLY Diocesan Update



Photos of the Week:

During this trying time of so many challenges for our health, work, finances, the safety of our families and thoughts of what the future holds, we look to the examples of what social distancing can accomplish. Our diocese is graced with the presence of two cloistered groups of Nuns who make it their responsibility and lifelong vocation to pray for the needs of the Church Universal and, in particular the needs of our Diocese of Stockton. It is a wonderful feeling to know that we are supported by these beautiful women who have dedicated their lives to pray for us. Thank you, God, for the Cistercian Sisters of the Strict Observance in Thornton and the Sisters of the Cross in Modesto. We are surrounded by their prayers from North to South of the diocese. Thank you, Sisters, for your untiring prayer for us. We are in good hands and we remember your care for us. You are in our prayers.

Office of the Bishop:

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

Video Message – In the midst of the unexpected way this school year has gone, with the cancellations of so many beloved Spring and Summer events and rites of passage, Bishop Cotta reminds those in High School to trust in God - be sure to keep strong in prayer, focus on Jesus in their life.

Please share Bishop Cotta’s [video message](#) with the teens in your community for whom this message is intended.

Catholic Rural Life – The Catholic Rural blessing this month is the [Blessing of All Who Work the Land](#). We share in God’s work through our human labor. Work is not drudgery that our Creator has imposed on us, nor is it a penance for our sinfulness. Work is a gift: human participation in the creative activity of God.

Catholic Social Teaching:

Laudato Si’ Week - May 18-23 – May 24th marks the fifth anniversary of [Laudato Si’](#). In honor of the anniversary of this ground-breaking ecological encyclical Pope Francis has invited all Catholics to participate in a period of prayer and action focused on caring for God’s creation.

Prayer & Reflection

Bring solidarity to our world in a shared moment of prayer at noon local time on May 24 with the prayer below. Catholics from all across the globe will be united in spirit because “everything is connected.”

Register your participation [here](#), and feel free to share your own prayers on social media using the hashtag [#LaudatoSi5](#).



Loving God,

Creator of heaven and earth and all that is in them, you created us in your own image and made us stewards of all your creation.

You blessed us with the sun, water and bountiful land so that all might be nourished.

Open our minds and touch our hearts, so that we may attend to your gift of creation. Help us to be conscious that our common home belongs not only to us, but to all of your creatures and to all future generations, and that it is our responsibility to preserve it. May we help each person secure the food and resources that they need.

Be present to those in need in these trying times, especially the poorest and the most at risk of being left behind. Transform our fear and feelings of isolation into

You can sign up to participate in [Laudato Si' Week](#), which includes virtual retreats and workshops May 18-23, culminating in a global day of prayer on May 24. The USCCB has also published [prayer cards](#) and other resources for small groups. More information can be found [here](#).

Catholic Charities Expanded Services Available – Catholic Charities has expanded services during this Covid-19 health and economic crisis. Access this [one page information sheet](#) to be used, in whole or in part, in your media to highlight the expanded services of 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. Also, funding for DACA renewals is available for a limited time. Please know that there is money specifically set aside for those who are referred to Catholic Charities by our parishes, especially those who are undocumented. Thank you for getting this information out there!

Hispanic Ministry:

Coronavirus(COVID19) Disaster Relief Assistance for Immigrants – In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, California is providing one-time state-funded disaster relief assistance to undocumented adults who are ineligible for other forms of assistance, including assistance under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and pandemic unemployment benefits, because of their immigration status. This state funding is expected to reach about 150,000 undocumented adults. [Click here to learn how to apply](#) in each California County.

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.recoas 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:

Books to read during quarantine – While you may be cooped up at home, take a look at some book resources recommended by Catholic Mobilization Network (CMN) to dive deeper into Catholic Social Teachings and contemporary issues that focus on restorative justice and capital punishment. These books are recommended for parish social justice committees or even book clubs. [See the CMN Book Choices list on our Diocesan web page](#).

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](#).

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(COMMON PRAYER FOR THE
5TH ANNIVERSARY OF LAUDATO SI' –
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hope and fraternity so that we may experience a true conversion of the heart.

Help us to show creative solidarity in addressing the consequences of this global pandemic. Make us courageous to embrace the changes that are needed in search of the common good.

Now more than ever may we feel that we are all interconnected and inter-dependent. Enable us to listen and respond to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

May the present sufferings be the birth pangs of a more fraternal and sustainable world. Under the loving gaze of Mary help of Christians, we make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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A Rosary for Vulnerable People on the Move

As you pray the Rosary this week consider meditating with this daily [Rosary for Vulnerable People on the Move](#). Each day of the week will focus on a separate at-risk group of migrants facing increased challenges during these tumultuous times. Monday will be centered on child migrants, Tuesday on refugees, Wednesday on human trafficking victims, Thursday on migrant families, and Friday is for asylum seekers.

Un Rosario para Migrantes Vulnerables - [en Español](#)

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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.](#)

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.

School of Ministry:

The School of Ministry continues to offer courses through online learning amid the Corona-19 pandemic. For more information visit <https://stocktondiocese.org/online-learning>

Mr. Ron Hoverstad is seen here teaching a Ecumenism class in the Introduction to Theology (ITM) course using Zoom.



Vicar for Priests:

Father Dennis Grabrian will celebrate his Golden Jubilee of ordination to the priesthood on May 30th. He was ordained for the Archdiocese of Denver and served in the Diocese of Colorado Springs before ministering for twenty years as a prison chaplain and chaplaincy administrator in the Federal Bureau of Prisons. Upon retirement he has assisted the Diocese of Stockton providing Sunday Mass coverage, serving as a judge in the Diocesan Marriage Tribunal and as a teacher in the School of Ministry.

During this time of pandemic and quarantine, friends may send their greetings to Fr. Dennis at 5375 Covey Creek Circle, Stockton, CA, 95207 or through his website, Awakeninggodsdream.com.

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

VOWED RELIGIOUS

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

DEACONS

5/25/91 Rev. Porfirio Cisneros
5/25/91 Rev. Raymond
Flanders

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.](#)