



# WEEKLY Diocesan Update



## Prayer & Reflection

### ***A Coronavirus Prayer by Sister Christine Koelhoffer, IHM***

Loving God, Your desire is for our wholeness and well-being. We hold in tenderness and prayer the collective suffering of our world at this time.

We grieve precious lives lost and vulnerable lives threatened. We ache for ourselves and our neighbors, standing before an uncertain future.

We pray:

                  may love, not fear, go viral.  
Inspired our leaders to discern and choose wisely, aligned with the common good.  
Help us to practice social distancing and reveal to us new and creative ways to come together in spirit and solidarity.  
Call us to profound trust in your faithful presence,  
You, the God who does  
                  not abandon.

## Photos of the Week:

**Caring for the Whole Person (CWPI)** leaders and ministers from all over our diocese attended the first session of the first ever online presentation of the Caring for the Whole Person Train-the-Trainer curriculum on Saturday, May 16th. A total of 28 trainees from the Diocese of Stockton and 5 observers from the Dioceses of Fresno, Sacramento, and San Francisco participated in the session via Zoom.

The 5-module, 10-hour training covers the topics of Palliative Care and Hospice, Catholic Moral Teaching on End of Life Care, Caring for Parishioners Along the Continuum of Care, Advance Care Planning and Communication, and Parish as a Loving Community. This curriculum is made possible by a partnership between the Alliance of Catholic Healthcare, the California Catholic Conference, and the Caring for the Whole Person Initiative Leadership Council. It is being offered to the Caring for the Whole Person Parish Leaders and Ministers through the coordination of the Diocesan Marriage and Family Life Ministry.

## Office of the Bishop:

**Pentecost Novena** – Sunday is Pentecost. One traditional way to prepare for the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost is by praying a novena. Bishop Cotta encourages all of us to prepare our hearts for the outpouring of the “gifts and fruits” of the Holy Spirit. Join Bishop Cotta in a Novena to the Holy Spirit. Novena prayers will be live on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) at 12:00pm each day, beginning Friday, May 22nd.

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

## 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](mailto:kfuentes@stocktondiocese.org).

## Catholic Social Teaching:

**Celebrating Laudato Si** – Preparing to celebrate “Laudato Si” Week Pope Francis underscored the importance of caring for our Common Home in this time marked by the Covid-19 Pandemic. Last week launched a year-long journey of transformation promoted by the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, “as we grow through the crisis of the current moment by praying, reflecting, and preparing together for a better world to come tomorrow.” [Learn more here.](#)

## 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.

## Marriage and Family Life Ministry:

**Family Resources** – “God doesn’t love us because of our mess: He actually loves us because of our mess!” says Alicia Herson. Through their ministry “the messy family project” Alicia and her husband, Mike, work to fulfill their mission to empower parents, strengthen marriage and bring families to Christ. Great resources for navigating the challenges of family and faith are available at <https://www.messyfamilyproject.org/>.

## Life and Dignity Ministry:

**Word of & Prayer for Life: June 2020** – Word of Life & Pray for Life - June 2020: Suggestions for use. Click here (<https://stocktondiocese.org/respect-life-month>) for resources from the USCCB that may be useful and adaptable for digital purposes in newsletters or social media. Included are “ideas” for use of intercessory prayers, bulletin quotes, art and more.

## **Stay (A Blessing for Ascension)** by Jan Richardson

I know how your mind  
rushes ahead  
trying to fathom  
what could follow this.  
What will you do,  
where will you go,  
how will you live?

You will want  
to outrun the grief.  
You will want  
to keep turning toward  
the horizon,  
watching for what was lost  
to come back,  
to return to you  
and never leave again.

For now  
hear me when I say  
all you need to do  
is to still yourself  
is to turn toward one another  
is to stay.

Wait  
and see what comes  
to fill  
the gaping hole  
in your chest.  
Wait with your hands open  
to receive what could never come  
except to what is empty  
and hollow.

You cannot know it now,  
cannot even imagine  
what lies ahead,  
but I tell you  
the day is coming  
when breath will  
fill your lungs  
as it never has before  
and with your own ears  
you will hear words  
coming to you new  
and startling.  
You will dream dreams  
and you will see the world  
ablaze with blessing.

Wait for it.  
Still yourself.  
Stay.

**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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***A PRAYER FOR MEMORIAL DAY***  
*by Austin Fleming*

In the quiet sanctuaries of our own hearts,  
let each of us name and call on the One whose power over us  
is great and gentle, firm and forgiving, holy and healing ...

You who created us, who sustain us,  
who call us to live in peace, hear our prayer this day.

Hear our prayer for all who have died,  
whose hearts and hopes are known to you alone ...

Hear our prayer for those who put the welfare of others  
ahead of their own and give us hearts as generous as theirs ...

Hear our prayer for those who gave their lives  
in the service of others, and accept the gift of their sacrifice ...

Help us to shape and make a world  
where we will lay down the arms of war  
and turn our swords into ploughshares  
for a harvest of justice and peace ...

Comfort those who grieve the loss of their loved ones  
and let your healing be the hope in our hearts...

Hear our prayer this day and in your mercy answer us  
in the name of all that is holy.

The peace of God be with you.

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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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***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.](#)