



WEEKLY Diocesan Update

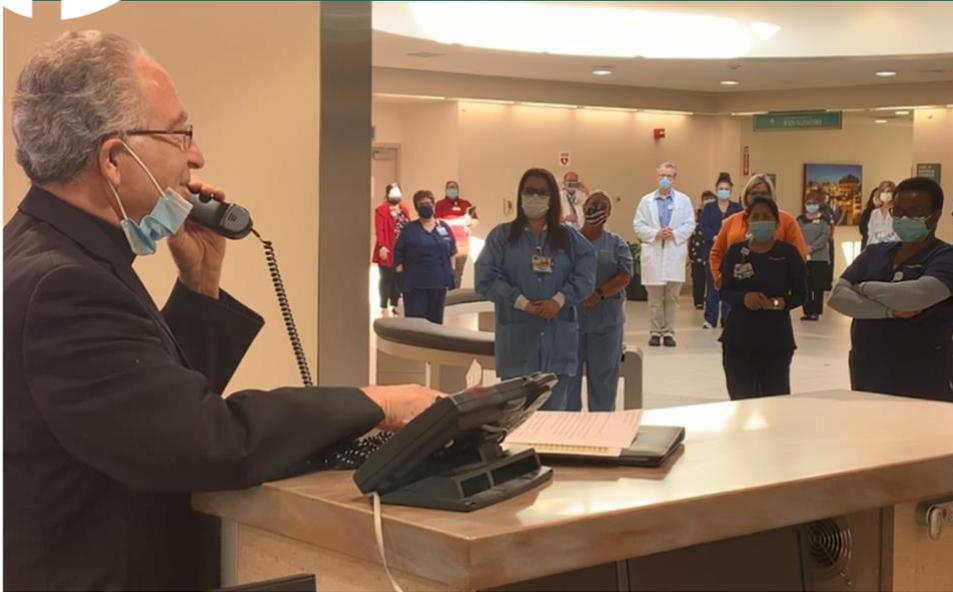


Photo of the Week:

A Blessing for Health Care Workers – Bishop Cotta prayed a special blessing over the health care staff of St. Joseph’s Medical Center. Employees, spaced six feet apart, listened from the lobby and could also hear the blessing overhead while caring for patients. [See video here.](#)

Office of the Bishop:

Message from Bishop Cotta to those in RCIA – Bishop Cotta sends his greetings to those who were to enter the Church or complete their initiation at Easter. The entire Church eagerly awaits the day that all of them are able to join us in the Eucharistic banquet.

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.

More about Catholic Rural Life can be found [here](#).

Catholic Rural Life – The Catholic Rural blessing this month is the [Blessing of the Seeds and Rain](#). More about Catholic Rural Life can be found [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.

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 Allbriton OP
5/31/63 Sr. Lucille Carreau DHS

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!

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.

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.

Prayer & Reflection

Pope Francis has written two prayers, one we published last week and the other below, for the end of the COVID-19 pandemic. He is asking people to recite the rosary and pray these prayers afterward.

"We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God."

In the present tragic situation, when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly to you, Mother of God and our mother, and seek refuge under your protection.

Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes toward us amid this coronavirus pandemic. Comfort those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died, and at times are buried in a way that grieves them deeply. Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones who are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to them. Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the consequences for the economy and employment.

Mother of God and our Mother pray for us to God, the father of mercies, that this great suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew. Plead with your divine Son, as you did at Cana, so that the families of the sick and the victims be comforted, and their hearts be opened to confidence and trust.

Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers who are on the frontline of this emergency and are risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic effort and grant them strength, generosity and continued health.

Be close to those who assist the sick night and day, and to priests who, in their pastoral concern and fidelity to the Gospel, are trying to help and support everyone.

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Life and Dignity Ministry:

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.

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.](#)

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.

Liturgy and Worship:

Updated Directives – Having now entered into the Easter season, and seeing that major restrictions will continue to be in place for some time, modifications have been made to the directives for private celebrations of certain sacraments and liturgies of which there may be more urgent need. Further, Bishop Cotta has allowed for churches to be open for private prayer as of Monday, May 4th, provided that the strict directives given are followed. Please see updated [Directives for Parishes](#), as well as [Guidelines for 'Drive-in' Celebrations of the Sacrament of Penance](#).

Music Copyrights – 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. [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.](#)

*(POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER TO BE
RECITED AT THE END OF THE ROSARY
– continued from previous page)*

Blessed Virgin, illumine the minds of men and women engaged in scientific research, that they may find effective solutions to overcome this virus.

Support national leaders, that with wisdom, solicitude and generosity they may come to the aid of those lacking the basic necessities of life and may devise social and economic solutions inspired by farsightedness and solidarity.

Mary Most Holy, stir our consciences, so that the enormous funds invested in developing and stockpiling arms will instead be spent on promoting effective research on how to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future.

Beloved Mother, help us realize that we are all members of one great family and to recognize the bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless situations of poverty and need. Make us strong in faith, persevering in service, constant in prayer.

Mary, Consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God will stretch out his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course.

To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves, O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary. Amen.

Coronavirus

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