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Diocese around California unite through the Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross acknowledges Racism and calls on God's help

Stockton CA., - Bishops from throughout the state of California will release a video today reenacting the Stations of the Cross in an effort to draw attention to the sin of racism and ask for God's help in eliminating it. It is also intended to commemorate yesterday's fifth anniversary of the tragic killings at Emmanuel AME Church in Charleston, SC and the Juneteenth holiday this Friday celebrating the end of slavery in the United States.

The "Stations of the Cross" is both a reenactment and a reminder of the struggle and humiliation that our Lord Jesus Christ went through on his way to crucifixion and his ultimate resurrection. There are 14 "stations", each depicting incidents that took place as Jesus carried his own cross to Mt. Calvary, the site of his execution.

The video released today includes the leaders of all 12 California (arch)dioceses and the three Catholic eparchies headquartered in California from the Armenian, Chaldean and Maronite rite churches.

The liturgy was developed by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops. Each station in the video was taped at a location with rich racial meaning. The Diocese of Stockton recorded its station at the Cathedral of the Annunciation in Stockton CA. They chose that location because it is their mother church and because of its urban surroundings. The visual piece shown in front of Bishop Myron Cotta represents the 14th station, where Jesus was laid on a slab and into the tomb. The slab where Jesus was laid to rest has symbolic parallels to where George Floyd was killed, on the street curb.

For interviews and other inquires please contact Chandler Marquez.

About the Diocese of Stockton: We, the Catholic people of the Diocese of Stockton, Transformed by Jesus Christ through Baptism; Empowered by the Holy Spirit; Nourished by the Eucharist; Faithful to the mission of Christ; Commit ourselves to be God's heart of mercy and love, God's voice of hope and truth, God's hands of justice and healing to all people.

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