



DIOCESE OF SAN JOSE

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings to you all. I pray that you and your loved ones remain safe and healthy, as we navigate the COVID-19 pandemic and the recent wildfires. I am most grateful for your solidarity and sacrifice in these difficult times. It is only with your generous gifts of time, talent, and treasure that we can continue the mission of Christ in the Diocese of San Jose.

**“The crisis has shown us that, especially in times of need, we depend on our solidarity with others. In a new way, it is inviting us to place our lives at the service of others.”
(Pope Francis, March 2020)**

If you or a loved one have been affected directly by the coronavirus, please know that we are here for you; your parish is praying for you. Together in unity, we can get through these difficult times. The events of this year have forced us all to re-evaluate how we live our lives. Families have had to deal with the loss of jobs, working remotely, distance learning for our children, separation from loved ones, isolation, the list goes on and on. We, as Catholics, have had to change how we worship and experience our faith community. The good news is that God remains by our side through it all, supporting us, and as a result, many have shared they have been able to grow closer to God during this time.

When the shelter in place started, our parishes began to livestream Masses, and our schools switched in one weekend to distance learning, which allowed our children to finish their school year remotely. As the situation has begun to improve, our ministries are adapting. Our parishes are now offering the in-person Masses indoors for no more than 100 people or outdoors for no more than 200 people. Our parishes are holding Baptism, First Communion, and Confirmation celebrations. Their faith formation classes, bible studies, and Small Christian Communities are now using video conferencing to meet. Our schools, which began the school year in distance learning after 10 intense weeks of planning over the summer, have resumed in-person learning this month while continuing distance learning for families who wished it. And I continue to have regular discussions with key County officials about the safety and health requirements.

On September 7, 2020, I had the honor to ordain three new priests for the Diocese of San Jose. Fr. Angelbert Chikere is serving at the St. Lawrence the Martyr Parish, Fr. Joseph Tran at Christ the King Parish, and Fr. Robain Lamba at St. Nicholas & St. Williams Parish. I ask you to join me in welcoming these three devoted and faithful men who answered God's call to minister to our Catholic community.

As our parishes and schools navigate these changes, God has been with us and guiding us every step. I want to express my deep gratitude for your prayer and financial support of our Diocese, our parishes, and schools. They would not have been able to adapt to this year's challenges without the grace of God and your support of our ministries, through your generosity of your time, talent, and treasure. The Body of Christ, of which you are a part, and your resilient faith is the greatest treasure of our Diocese. Be assured of my daily prayers for you.

Yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Oscar Cantú
Bishop of San Jose