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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 7/14/2020

Stockton CA., - Yesterday Governor Newsom announced new directives for various counties throughout California due to an increase in COVID-19 deaths and hospitalizations. San Joaquin and Stanislaus counties were included in the list of counties who received the directives.

The Governor stated that our parishes within San Joaquin and Stanislaus counties must discontinue *indoor* Masses and other liturgical services. **Masses and liturgical services within these two counties are allowed and encouraged to continue outdoors.** Parishioners must continue to follow safety guidelines, practice social distancing and wear masks outdoors when social distancing isn't feasible. **The celebration of Weddings, First Communions, Confirmations, Confessions and Funerals may continue outdoors on parish grounds.**

While the directive from the Governor is disheartening, the Diocese of Stockton wants to remind all of our parishioners that the threat from COVID-19 is still very imminent. Please continue to care for one another by praying and doing your part in following safety protocols.

Thank you for your continued patience and compassion through these turbulent times.

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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PARA LA PUBLICACION INMEDIATA: 7/14/2020

Stockton CA., - Debido al aumento de muertes y hospitalizaciones de COVID-19 el Gobernador Newsom anuncio nuevas directrices para varios condados a lo largo de California. Los condados de San Joaquin y Stanislaus están incluidos en la lista de condados que recibieron las directrices.

El Gobernador afirmo que nuestras parroquias en el condado de San Joaquin y Stanislaus deben descontinuar las Misas *en el interior de la iglesia* y otros servicios litúrgicos. **Las Misas y servicios litúrgicos en estos dos condados están permitidas y se les anima de continuarlas al aire libre.** Los feligreses deben continuar siguiendo las pautas de seguridad, practicando el distanciamiento social y usando la mascarilla afuera cuando el distanciamiento social sea factible. **Las celebraciones de Bodas, Primeras Comuniones, Confirmaciones, Confesiones y Funerales pueden continuar afuera dentro de la propiedad de la parroquia.**

Mientras que las directrices del Gobernador son desalentadoras, la Diocesis de Stockton quiere recordar a todos los feligreses que la amenaza del COVID-19 es eminente. Por favor continúe cuidándose los unos a los otros a través de la oración y haciendo de su parte por seguir el protocolo de seguridad.

Gracias por su paciencia continua y por su compasión en estos momentos turbulentos.

Para entrevistas y preguntas favor de contactar a Chandler Marquez.

Sobre la Diocesis de Stockton: Nosotros, el pueblo Católico de la Diocesis de Stockton, Transformados por Jesucristo por el Bautismo; Empoderados por el Espíritu Santo; Nutridos por la Eucaristía; Fieles a la misión de Cristo; Comprometidos de ser el Corazón misericordioso de Dios y de su amor, la voz de Dios de esperanza y verdad, las manos de Dios de justicia y sanación para todas las personas.

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Application of The New State Health Order – 7/14/2020

This applies only to counties on the state monitoring list for more than 3 days- in our diocese this is currently only San Joaquin and Stanislaus. Please be aware that the permission to hold services outside was already given in our previous guidelines- all parishes including those not currently prohibited from holding indoor services may hold services outside when needed.

1. Any liturgical rite may be held outdoors when feasible, with attendance within the limits set by public health authorities (100 unless the county sets a different limit, higher or lower). For outdoor celebrations, State guidelines maintain that masks are only necessary when 6ft distancing between those of different households is not possible. Both the ministers and those participating should continue to wear face masks whenever they will be coming within 6ft of one another. Livestreaming of services held indoors without a congregation may continue.
2. All sacraments/liturgical rites should be celebrated in accord with the precautions in the directives for the celebration of Mass.
3. When it may not be feasible to celebrate outdoors, urgent rites such as funerals should take place as they did during the initial shutdown- strictly limited attendance (10 or fewer persons), following all precautions.
4. For parishes which may not have the facilities for outdoor liturgies, consider alternative means of providing Communion to parishioners, such as simple distribution outdoors. (Communion is not to be distributed in a drive-in manner where people remain in their cars). Access to Holy Communion and Confession are especially important- we *can* do it outside, so we should provide it for the faithful.
5. Since the language of the health order prohibits only indoor worship *services*, church buildings may remain open for private prayer at the discretion of the pastor, following all precautions.