



# WEEKLY Diocesan Update



## Photo of the Week:

On Saturday, February 8, 2020, Director of Vocations Fr. Cesar Martinez, was on hand to receive a generous contribution for the education of Seminarians from the members of the Young Ladies' Institute (YLI). We are grateful for the ongoing support of the YLI in our diocese.

## Office of the Bishop:

**Bishop Cotta's Monthly Reflection** – Please [click here](#) to read Bishop Cotta's Monthly Reflection for the month of February. The reflection focuses on his recent Ad Limina visit to Rome.

**Catholic Rural Life** – The Catholic Rural blessing this month is the blessing of New Life. This blessing can be found [here](#). For more information about Catholic Rural Life please visit our [website](#).

## Catholic Charities:

**Beacon of Hope Gala** – March 5, 2020 at 5:30 pm in Modesto. Join us as we highlight the services of Catholic Charities, spotlighting our Veterans Program, and hear from Sister Donna, the first female president to lead Catholic Charities USA in the organization's 105-year history. Please visit this [link](#) for more information.

## Catholic Social Teaching:

**Faithful Citizenship** – March 3rd is election day and our Bishop reminds us that it is “our civic duty as Catholics to vote.” The election is an opportunity for citizens to vote on local issues, as well as, who may represent us in Congress and who will be presidential candidates for the General Election in November. See [our website for helpful links](#) to ensure your conscientious vote is counted!

## Upcoming Events:

**February 26:** Ash Wednesday

**February 29:** Mass of Anointing at St. Joseph's Church

**March 5:** Catholic Charities Beacon of Hope Gala, Modesto

**March 11:** Reboot! Turlock with Chris Stefanick

**March 14:** Youth & Young Adult Congress 2020

**March 17-18:** Lenten Mission at St. Joseph's

**March 25:** Feast of the Annunciation (Annunciation)

**April 25:** Familia Católica: Regresa a Tus Raíces

**May 15-17:** Rachel's Vineyard Retreat

**July 11:** Sanctus Cup 3: Young Adult Event (St. Stanislaus)

Visit our [website's calendar](#) for full details about upcoming events

**\*All events are Pastoral Center events unless specified.**

## Human Resources:

Ana María Franco has accepted the position of Executive Assistant to both Msgr. Richard Ryan (Vicar General), and Ms. Dyan Hollenhorst (Chancellor). She comes to us from TEAM Charter School where she has been employed for the last 12 years handling a variety of duties. Ana María is a graduate of the University of the Pacific with a BS Degree in Public Administration. She will be a wonderful addition and we are excited to welcome her.

## Life and Dignity Ministry

**Anniversary of Evangelium Vitae** – March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Evangelium Vitae, The Gospel of Life. All parishes are invited by the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities to join a nationwide effort from March 25, 2020 to March 25, 2021 entitled “Walking with Moms in Need: A Year of Service.” This initiative is to better support pregnant and parenting moms in desperate need, and to better communicate the help that is available.

Parish resources such as: timelines & guides on how to implement the services, announcements, prayers, activities, homily notes can be found by going to the [Diocese of Stockton website](#). Click on Parish Resources for Walking with Moms in Need.

## Safe Environment

The Diocese of Stockton is taking an active role in educating the public and parishioners in regard to everything we are doing to maintain a safe environment for our children and vulnerable adults. This Month looks 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.

## Vocations Ministry

**Catholic Sisters Week** – March 8-14 is the celebration of Catholic Sisters Week. You are encouraged to pray for more vocations to Religious Life and find creative ways to recognize and learn more about Catholic Sisters. There is a role for everyone in Catholic Sisters Week: individuals, groups and organizations, families, parishes and schools. Visit the Catholic Sisters Week website [www.nationalcatholicsistersweek.org](http://www.nationalcatholicsistersweek.org) and make a plan to celebrate Religious Sisters Presence in your parish and school. For more information contact Sr. Wanda Billion, Office of Vicar for Religious Women, in the Dioceses of Stockton, 209-466-0636.

**On Sunday, February 9, 2020**, Bishop Cotta and the Office for Vicar of Religious honored Women and Men Religious in our Diocese to celebrate their jubilees and years of service. The luncheon was held at St. Bernadette's in Stockton. There was a short presentation from the Vicar for Religious and a wonderful sharing from Bishop Cotta about his visit to Rome. We celebrated the 60th Anniversary of Sr. Odetta Bonini, MSC, and the 25th Anniversary of Mother Lourdes Guerra. There were 33 Sisters and Priests in attendance. The afternoon was a joyful one: the sum total of all the years served for those who were present was 1,097 years. Wow! Thank you to each and every Religious who calls the Diocese of Stockton their mission for the time being. Praise God!

## Special Announcement:

Effective February 14, 2020, Joe Dondero has left his position as Director of Communications for the Diocese of Stockton. A replacement will be announced when the position is filled. In the meantime, please email [communications@stocktondiocese.org](mailto:communications@stocktondiocese.org) for any of your communications needs.