



# WEEKLY Diocesan Update



## Photo of the Week:

On February 27, 2020 Fr. Ramon Bejarano was appointed as Auxiliary Bishop of San Diego. Bishop-elect Bejarano, is the first priest ordained for the Diocese of Stockton to become bishop.

Read more [here](#).

## Office of the Bishop:

**Coronavirus (COVID-19)** – Many people are concerned about the current coronavirus outbreaks. The USCCB has sent out a memo regarding the celebration of the liturgy, [which may be found here](#). Their suggestions do not go any further than what was already sent out in our [memo regarding flu season](#). At this time nothing more is needed than normal precautions to avoid spreading respiratory viruses. Stay informed on the situation by visiting the California Department of Public Health's [coronavirus page](#).

**Funeral Services for Fr. Pat Curran** – We are grateful for the life and service of Fr. Pat Curran who went home to God on Monday, February 24. His funeral services are as follows:

**Monday, March 2 - Cathedral of the Annunciation**

5:00 P.M. Reception of the Body  
5-6:45 P.M. Visitation  
7:00 P.M. Vigil

**Tuesday, March 3 - Cathedral of the Annunciation**

11:00 A.M. Funeral Mass  
Committal at San Joaquin Catholic Cemetery  
Reception following at the Cathedral Center

**Priestly Ordination Anniversaries** – Bishop Cotta asks the people of our diocese to join him in prayer and gratitude for the life and service of our priests who were ordained in the month of March.

- March 23, 1985: Msgr. Bonifacio Baldonado
- March 23, 1991: Fr. Leonardo del Carmen
- March 24, 1986: Fr. Alvaro Lopez

## 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.

## Upcoming Events:

**March 3:** Election Day

**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 21:** Spanish Women's Retreat (Holy Family Church)

**March 22-23:** Lenten Mission with Fr. Leo Patalinghug (Church of the Presentation)

**March 24:** Dinner and Cooking Demonstration with Fr. Leo Patalinghug (Church of the Presentation)

**March 24:** Feast of the Annunciation (Annunciation)

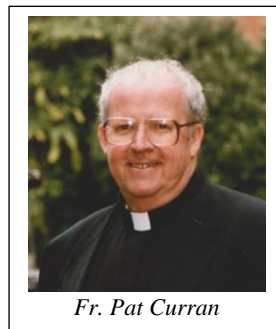
**March 28:** Spanish Men's Retreat (La Sagrada Familia)

**April 2:** Chrism Mass (Cathedral of the 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)



Fr. Pat Curran

## 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!

## 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.

## Ministry to Priests:

**2020 Priests' Retreat** – The annual priests' retreat will be held from May 4 - May 8, 2020 at El Retiro San Inigo - The Jesuit Retreat Center of Los Altos. All priests are asked to attend, unless you have been excused by Bishop Cotta. Cost of the retreat is \$700/per priest. Informational flyer and registration form are found on our website under Ministry for Priests > Events, or click [HERE](#).

## 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.

**March Discernment Meeting** –Do you know of a man who is thinking of becoming a priest? Please invite him to our next discernment meeting: March 22, 2020, 5:00 P.M. at the St. John Vianney (Newman House), 4101 Manchester Avenue in Stockton. A light dinner will be offered. For more information please contact Fr. Cesar Martinez, Director of Vocations at [vocations@stocktondiocese.org](mailto:vocations@stocktondiocese.org)

## 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.