



# DIOCESE OF STOCKTON

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

July 17, 2020

Dear Catholic School Community:

We pray that this finds you and yours healthy and coping well with the ever changing dynamics of COVID-19.

This afternoon Governor Newsom gave directives about campus closures this fall, in counties on the State's watchlist. These include San Joaquin and Stanislaus counties. Although the directives were very specific for public schools, it is unclear if those mandates extend to private schools. We are hoping that the Governor and the State can give clearer guidance, in the coming days as it relates to our K - 12 schools and preschools. Until then, we will continue to work on plans that address various scenarios of on campus instruction and distance learning.

As always, the safety of our students and staff are a top priority, and we remain fully committed to providing a quality, Catholic education regardless of any restrictions imposed upon us. We will provide ongoing updates as State and County mandates for private schools are clarified, and we hope to have more information to you by Friday of next week.

Please continue to keep our schools and those impacted by COVID-19 in your prayers. May we all continue to put our faith in God, as Jeremiah 29:11 tells us, *For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.* If ever we were called to be one body in Christ, it is now.

In the Peace of Christ,

Most Reverend Myron J. Cotta  
Bishop of Stockton

Marian DeGroot Graham  
Director for Catholic Schools