



MEMORANDUM

TO: THE DIOCESE OF STOCKTON

FROM: BISHOP MYRON J. COTTA

DATE: JANUARY 28, 2021

RE: VACCINATE TO PROTECT HEALTH OF YOURSELF AND YOUR COMMUNITY

Brothers and Sisters,

In partnership with the Catholic health systems and Catholic Charities throughout the Golden State, the Catholic Bishops of California urge all Californians to receive a vaccination to prevent the continued spread of the deadly COVID-19 pandemic that has claimed the lives of more than two million people worldwide.

As the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has said, the vaccines now available and offered (Pfizer and Moderna) and those currently in the testing approval/process (AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson) are morally permissible and can be used in good conscience.

Beyond simply protecting their own health and safety, Catholics also have an obligation to protect their family, friends and community by vaccinating as soon as feasible in accordance with public health guidelines and protocols in their area. One should always consult with their doctor regarding any personal medical concerns.

Let us continue to pray for a swift end to the pandemic.

In the Peace of Christ,

Bishop Myron J. Cotta