



OFFICE OF BISHOP MYRON J. COTTA, D.D.

Bishop's Reflection

January 2022

“The Lord bless and keep you!
The Lord let his face shine upon you, and be gracious
to you!
The look upon you kindly and give you peace!”

My Dear People of God,

As we celebrate and welcome the New Year 2022, we also acknowledge and celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Diocese of Stockton. Sixty years ago, the Diocese was established on January 13, 1962. It was erected from territories separated from the Diocese of Sacramento and the Archdiocese of San Francisco.

We, the clergy, religious and laity that make up our diocesan church, are called to give praise and thanks to God, Our Father, for his many blessings over the past 60 years. The challenges have been many, but through the generosity of his *grace* and *mercy*, all the faithful, past and present, have carried on with a spirit of hope and perseverance.

Even now, with the ongoing concern of the pandemic, we, as the faithful, will enter this New Year with a renewed sense of hope as we face what may lay ahead. I believe, as a diocese, we need to complement one another for all the good work and ministry that has been accomplished throughout the uncertainties of the past year.

This year, 2022, must be a year in which we continue to move forward by accomplishing the work that God has laid before us to do! Welcoming people home to worship and re-grouping as a parish, as the *body of Christ*, the Church, is of utmost importance. Throughout this New Year, we must remember that which the Church and our parishes have to offer **is** essential! And what is essential is Jesus, and the peace of mind and heart he offers to all. This only can be possible by means of a genuine relationship with Our Lord, the Prince of Peace.

Within this New Year we will listen and be attentive to the voice and promptings of the Holy Spirit as we continue to focus on our participation in the worldwide Synod. Also, we are invited to grow and celebrate our love for the Eucharist as we locally and nationally promote the Eucharistic Revival which is presently taking place across our country. All of this activity will help to enliven our vision of evangelization within our diocese as we celebrate our 60th anniversary.

As our opening liturgy for the first day of the New Year began with words of blessing: “The Lord bless you and keep you!”; so, too, the liturgy directed our attention to Mary as the Holy Mother of God.



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May Our Lady, Mother of the Church and Mother of our diocese, continue to grace us with her prayers and maternal love as we journey, *As One*, into this Year of the Lord, 2022.

Happy 60th! Congratulations one and all!

Mary, Holy Mother of God, pray for us.
Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us.
Our Lady of the Annunciation, pray for us.

In the Peace of Christ,

Bishop Cotta