



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

Bishop's Monthly Reflection

April 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Within this month of April, we have transitioned from Lent to the Passion and Death of Our Lord, to finally bring us face to face with the empty tomb and the glorious victory of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ!

As we welcome and reflect upon the Easter Season, let us direct our minds and hearts to the profoundly reality that: "All human activity is to find its purification in the Paschal Mystery."

As a reflection for this Month of April, I would like to share with you an excerpt taken from the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World of the Second Vatican Council (*Gaudium et spes*, nn. 37-38) summing up the beauty of the Paschal Mystery.

**From the pastoral constitution on the Church in the modern world of the Second Vatican Council
(*Gaudium et spes*, nn. 37-38)**

All human activity is to find its purification in the paschal mystery.

Holy Scripture, with which the experience of the ages is in agreement, teaches the human family that human progress, though it is a great blessing for man, brings with it a great temptation. When the scale of values is disturbed and evil becomes mixed with good, individuals and groups consider only their own interests, not those of others.

The result is that the world is not yet a home of true brotherhood, while the increased power of mankind already threatens to destroy the human race itself.

If it is asked how this unhappy state of affairs can be set right, Christians state their belief that all human activity, in daily jeopardy through pride and inordinate self-love, is to find its purification and its perfection in the cross and resurrection of Christ.

The Word of God, through whom all things were made, himself became man and lived in the world of men. As perfect man he has entered into the history of the world, taking it up into himself and bringing it into unity as its head. He reveals to us that God is love, and at the same time teaches us that the fundamental law of human perfection, and therefore of the transformation of the world, is the new commandment of love.



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He assures those who have faith in God's love that the way of love is open to all men, and that the effort to restore universal brotherhood is not in vain. At the same time he warns us that this love is not to be sought after only in great things but also, and above all, in the ordinary circumstances of life.

He suffered death for us all, sinners as we are, and by his example he teaches us that we also have to carry that cross which the flesh and the world lay on the shoulders of those who strive for peace and justice.

The gifts of the Spirit are manifold. He calls some to bear open witness to the longing for a dwelling place in heaven, and to keep this fresh in the minds of all mankind; he calls others to dedicate themselves to the service of men here on earth, preparing by this ministry the material for the kingdom of heaven.

Yet he makes all free, so that, by denying their love of self and taking up all earth's resources into the life of man, all may reach out to the future, when humanity itself will become an offering acceptable to God.

Christ died for all,
– that those who live
should no longer live for themselves
but for him who died and rose again
for their sake.

He was put to death for our sins,
and raised to life to restore us to God's friendship.

As we acknowledge our 60th Easter Season as the Diocese of Stockton, may our celebration of the 50 days of Easter draw us into a greater life given friendship with our god who loves us and has saved us.

A Blessed and Happy Easter to all!

In the Peace of Christ,

Bishop Myron J. Cotta