



MEMORANDUM

TO: THE DIOCESE OF STOCKTON

FROM: BISHOP MYRON J. COTTA

DATE: NOVEMBER 10, 2020

RE: POST ELECTIONS

Brothers and Sisters,

I thank and commend you for taking the time to faithfully form your conscience and for using that conscience to vote this election year. With so much going on in the world, this election year has been one of the more challenging years that I can remember. I also want to thank my pastoral staff, clergy, sisters and parish staff throughout the diocese for serving the people in these turbulent and confusing times. They have all worked to put together knowledgeable and informed resources to guide the faithful through this election.

The election has run its course and many laws, propositions, government officials and the President of the United States have been chosen. If the outcome of the election was in favor of your voting preference, I encourage you to do your part in utilizing the outcome to better serve society. If the outcome was not in favor of your voting, then I encourage you to keep advocating for what you think is beneficial for the common good.

The time of year the election takes place is timely because it happens right as we are quickly approaching a season of hope and promise. Advent is weeks away and during this time, we are called to reflect on new beginnings that are only possible through God's grace and mercy. We reflect on the birth of Jesus, that led Joseph and Mary on a journey. That journey for Joseph and Mary was filled with challenge and tribulation. Through it all, they relied on God to take on the challenges they faced, in hope of a new beginning for themselves as they trusted in His plan for them.

We are on a journey of uncertainty like Mary and Joseph were. Although we are in unpredictable times and there is upheaval going on around us, we must find a way to center ourselves with our Messiah Jesus and look forward to new beginnings. There will be challenges but we must trust that God and the Holy Spirit will intercede and guide our nation. Don't take on the journey yourself, ask our merciful Lord for help. With Advent beginning on November 29th, I challenge you to look forward to new beginnings and embrace the challenges that come with it. Anticipating Christ's birth, let us prepare ourselves to come and adore him. Now with the elections concluded take time to focus on your relationship with our Savior so that we may encounter well-being in our lives and within our community. As the pandemic is still present among us and remains serious, we need to live our everyday life safely and responsibly by following the given precautions. The Questions arise; how will we maintain our relationship with God? How will you and your family reconnect with your parish in order to receive sacraments and attend Mass safely? Are we willing to keep in mind our fellow parishioners as we come to worship?

Brothers and Sisters, as we enter this time of new beginnings, I assure you as your Bishop, our clergy, religious, parish staffs and that of our diocesan pastoral center staff are here to assist you.

As the Church let us continue our journey in a spirit of hope and open our hearts to Christ this Advent season. *Come Let Us Adore Him!*

In the Peace of Christ,

Bishop Myron J. Cotta