



# DIOCESE OF STOCKTON

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## COMMUNICATIONS

To the Faithful throughout the Diocese of Stockton,

Last night, a local news station quoted Bishop Cotta in stating that the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine was morally permissible. The quote was referenced from [Bishop's memorandum](#) that was sent out on January 28, 2021. The memorandum was sent out as a unified and approved statement from the California Catholic Conference of Bishops and the moral permissibility of the vaccines, was referenced from the [Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith](#).

Earlier this week, Bishop Cotta and the diocesan Office of Communications shared the [updated address for the use of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine](#) from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, which clarifies when the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is morally permissible. The address states:

*“The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has judged that ‘when ethically irreproachable Covid-19 vaccines are not available ... it is morally acceptable to receive Covid-19 vaccines that have used cell lines from aborted fetuses in their research and production process.’[1] However, if one can choose among equally safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines, the vaccine with the least connection to abortion-derived cell lines should be chosen. Therefore, if one has the ability to choose a vaccine, Pfizer or Moderna’s vaccines should be chosen over Johnson & Johnson’s.”*

Bishop Cotta and the Diocese of Stockton is committed to continue providing guidance and resources to the faithful as we navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic together, *As One*. As soon as Bishop Cotta receives updates on the vaccine and other subject matter from the California Conference of Bishops or the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Office of Communications will distribute the information to the faithful throughout the diocese.

If further clarification is needed, please contact me at [cmarquez@stocktondiocese.org](mailto:cmarquez@stocktondiocese.org) or Robert Poncini, Life & Dignity Coordinator, at [rponcini@stocktondiocese.org](mailto:rponcini@stocktondiocese.org).

Best Regards,

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