



My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As your Bishop, and brother, I send this message to you our migrant community hoping you are well in the midst of this most difficult and challenging time. The experience of this pandemic is having a serious impact on all of us. It has effected family life, employment, worship, school, etc.

As migrant workers, it is important that you, and those who employ you, are following and supplying you with all the necessary safety precautions to protect you from the Coronavirus in the workplace, and all to be reminded of the importance of keeping your families safe at home. Continuing to educate yourselves and your families in combating the virus is of utmost importance as you follow the health guidelines.

“In an April 28 statement of support to migrants, U.S. Catholic bishops called for testing and access to healthcare for farmworkers, as well as provisions allowing workers to follow CDC preventative measures at their employment and living quarters . The bishops thanked the businesses and institutions already providing these protections.”(Extension Magazine)

We, in the San Joaquin Valley, are blessed to have you as part of our worshipping and working community. As “essential” workers, your dedicated hard work of planting, caring and harvesting the bountiful crops of the fertile fields of our valley contribute to the success of California’s multibillion agricultural industry. The challenging work you do sustains the State of California, and beyond, with a steady food supply for millions of people.

We are blessed in our Diocese of Stockton to have an Office of Migrant Ministry and Hispanic Youth and Young Adult Ministry. I am grateful to Sr. Alicia López, Sr. Lourdes González and Mr. José Lopez who assist me in this great outreach to the migrant community. They bring the Good News of Jesus to you and your families and with the help of their catechetical teams who assist in preparing and educating your children in the teachings of the Catholic Faith. We are truly blessed in our Diocese of Stockton to have them and you as the faithful members of the Body of Christ, the Church.

Let us continue to strive to be responsible in observing the health directives established for the common good of our communities be it at home, work or at our parish church. May Our Lady of Guadalupe be our refuge during these difficult times.

God bless you one and all!

Bishop Myron J, Cotta