

DIOCESAN

Diocese of Stockton

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News

GOOD NEWS



Bishop Stephen Blaire sends his blessing and promises his prayer that this Easter will be, for each of you, a source of new life and deepened love for God who loves us so much and raises up Jesus Christ to be our Lord and Savior.

SEEDS

Growing Faith through Student Scholarships (SEEDS) is an independent 501c(3) corporation founded by the Young Men's Institute three years ago. Since that time, SEEDS has raised and distributed over \$300,000 to families of new and returning students at the 11 Catholic elementary schools in the Diocese of Stockton.

The SEEDS Board of Directors is comprised of lay volunteers whose goal is to make Catholic education vibrant and attainable for all. The Board is excited about the new Adopt-a-Student program that enables donors to support students throughout their entire Catholic elementary school experience.

To learn more about SEEDS or to find out how you can help, call the Development Office at the Diocese of Stockton (209) 466-0636.

Christian Churches Together

Christian Churches Together in the USA (CCT) is a new forum growing out of the need to expand fellowship, unity, and witness among the diverse expressions of Christian faith today. CCT is co-sponsored by five faith

families at the same table for the first time: Catholic, Orthodox, Evangelical/Pentecostal, Historic Protestant, and Racial/Ethnic.

Christian Churches Together provides a context — marked by prayer, theological dialogue and fellowship — in which churches can develop relationships with other churches in a new forum for participation.

Bishop Blaire serves on the Steering Committee and has been instrumental in setting up this national forum. He represents the Catholic family on the committee addressing domestic poverty. For more information go to: www.christianchurchestogether.org

We're Growing

The Diocesan Office of Christian Initiation (RCIA) welcomed over 750 participants to the annual Day of Reflection on February 24. Focused on the "Our Father", the day was led by Bishop Blaire assisted by Sr. Barbara Thiella and Sr. Gloria de Jesus.



Bishop Blaire, pictured above, preaching during the Day of Reflection

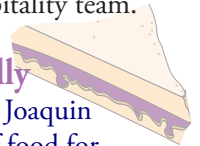
Participants included catechumens, candidates, RCIA parish teams, sponsors, and other guests. Our Lady of the Assumption Parish in Turlock

provided a beautiful location and a gracious, attentive welcome.

The following day, at three Rites of Election, Bishop Stephen Blaire declared that 260 Catechumens were members of the Elect. They will continue their preparation to receive the sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil in their own parishes. A reception followed each Rite of Election, generously hosted by the Cathedral of the Annunciation hospitality team.

Peanut Butter and Jelly

Catholic Charities of San Joaquin County provides boxes of food for 60 families each week. One of the best protein sources for children is a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. During this Lenten period Catholic Charities is requesting youth groups and other organizations to hold a **PEANUT BUTTER DRIVE**.



Staff of Catholic Charities will come pick up what you are able to collect. Please call 209 444 5923.

New leadership council begins

The newly formed Diocesan Pastoral Council, composed mainly of members from parishes, met on March 10th to begin their ministry of leadership. They will oversee implementation of the Diocesan Synod Decrees. Go to the diocesan web site to read the results of our Synod:

www.stocktondiocese.org

Click on News and Events to find the Synod section and the Decrees in it.

FUTURE EVENTS

April 5-8: Easter Triduum

April 14, 17: Adult Confirmation
Cathedral, Stockton