

Dear Children and Youth,

Now, as you continue your academic school year after the Holidays, and as we begin a New Year, I pray all is well with you.

For those of you who, last year, celebrated your First Holy Communion, I pray that you have stayed close to Jesus. I hope you, and your family, are continuing to go to church on Sunday so that you can listen to the Gospel of Jesus and to receive Him in Holy Communion - the Bread of Life, the Eucharist! Let us not deprive ourselves of so great a Gift! A Blessed and Happy New Year to you and your family.

For you, our young people, who received the Sacrament of Confirmation in 2018, I pray all is well with you as we begin the New Year, 2019.

From your day of Confirmation to the present, how has the Holy Spirit made a difference in your life? Have you fostered a relationship with Him? Are you calling upon Him to help you? Don't forget, the Holy Spirit is your "Helper." Have you asked Him for the "Fruits" and "Gifts" that are available to you? Remember, all you have to do is ask for them. The Holy Spirit is there to help you! He loves you and He will lead you to a greater relationship with Jesus. Never forget that!

Let me know how it is going by leaving a message or comment on the Diocese of Stockton's [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) page.

You remain in my prayers.

God bless you!

Bishop Cotta