

Office of the Bishop

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Diocese of Santa Rosa

P.O. Box 1297

Santa Rosa, California 95402

March 25, 2020

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Memo from Bishop Vasa to all Pastors, Administrators, Priests, Deacons:

The Holy Father, at 10:00 AM Pacific Time, Friday, March 27, will address the entire world. This is an opportunity to offer spiritual solace and comfort to the many millions who suffer as a result of the COVID-19 virus. This suffering includes, in addition to the physical suffering of those who have actually contracted the virus, the added suffering of isolation, fear, uncertainty, anxiety, depression and stress. These may lead to impatience, anger, harshness, hopelessness, rash judgment, and other sinfulness. Thus, we offer this opportunity to all of our people to hear from, not only the local pastor or local Bishop but from the Holy Father himself.

Most Reverend Christoph Pierre, Apostolic Nuncio, has sent information that the Holy See has requested that all local Churches be informed that all members of the faithful and other Christians are invited to participate in the special prayer by the Holy Father which will take place in Saint Peter's Square this FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2020.

The Apostolic Nunciature notes that during this *Statio orbis* (Message to the whole world), Holy Father, Pope Francis will grant to all participants a Plenary Indulgence before imparting His Papal, *Urbi et Orbi* (City and World) Blessing.

The message will be broadcast by Mondovision and streamed on the website of Vatican News (WWW.VATICANNEWS.VA) beginning at 6:00 PM in Rome, 10:00 A.M. (Pacific Time).

I ask that each of you help publicize this event by sending this information to all your email (Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram) contacts. To any members of any churches of any type, I invite you to join with Pope Francis in the moment of Universal Prayer. We know that Jesus was quite clear in His message: "Without Me you can do nothing" (John 15:5). While we utilize modern methods consistent with science and best medical practice, we also turn to prayer to invoke the good and merciful God to look compassionately upon us in this time of worldwide pandemic. May God be with us all during these very difficult days.