



## DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO

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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

November 14, 2018

Dear Friends in Christ:

A fiery inferno has ravaged your community of Paradise. All your Catholic brothers and sisters are shaking with the horror that is unfolding. The catastrophic blaze took the lives of many neighbors and loved ones. The raging flames reduced to cinders vibrant neighborhoods.

We join with you in prayer and support. We ask the merciful Father to send you His Son Jesus, the Good Shepherd, to lead you through this dark moment to the hopeful pastures of His grace. May Christ strengthen our resolve to build on the Rock of our Catholic Faith, and look with hope at the living waters flowing from His most Sacred Heart.

In this time, we need to come together around the Eucharistic table. I invite you to join me this Sunday, November 18 at 8:00am at St. John the Baptist Parish in downtown Chico, to offer a special Mass for all of the families affected by this tragedy.

Beginning on Sunday, November 25, the Newman Catholic Center at Chico will provide a regular Sunday Mass at 10:30am for your community. For the time being, the Hall at the Newman Center will function as the St. Thomas More parish office.

Your pastor, Fr. Godwin Xavier, and Deacon Raymond Helgeson will continue to provide for your pastoral needs. Deacon Tom O'Connell, who is assigned in Oroville and lives in Paradise, is available to provide additional support.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Mother of Mercy, intercede for you so that you may know peace and consolation of her Son, Jesus.

We also rely on the intercession of your brave patron, St. Thomas More.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jaime Soto", written over a circular stamp or seal.

+Jaime Soto  
Bishop of Sacramento