



NEWS RELEASE

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO

Msgr. Myron Cotta named Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Sacramento; Will take up post following consecration on March 25

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, January 24, 2014

CONTACT: Kevin Eckery

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SACRAMENTO – The Vatican Press Office today announced that His Holiness Pope Francis has appointed Monsignor Myron Cotta, a priest from the Diocese of Fresno, as auxiliary bishop in the Diocese of Sacramento. He will take up his appointment on March 25, following his consecration as Bishop in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in downtown Sacramento.

“I am grateful to His Holiness for giving me a faithful disciple of the Lord Jesus as an able co-worker in this favored part of His vineyard,” said the Most Rev. Jaime Soto, Bishop of Sacramento.

“Bishop-Elect Cotta is a son of the Central Valley,” said Soto. “He knows our people, he knows our land and mountains, but, most of all, he knows the Lord Jesus and is eager to share the Lord’s wisdom and charity with others.”

Soto’s comments came during a news conference this morning with Bishop-Elect Cotta held at Sacred Heart School in East Sacramento.

Cotta, 60, grew up on a dairy farm in the Merced County community of Dos Palos, the grandson of Portuguese immigrants from the Azores island of Terceira. He attended both Catholic and public schools, including West Hills Community College in Coalinga, before entering St. John’s Seminary in Camarillo (Ventura County) and being ordained to the priesthood in 1987.

“I am humbled by the faith the Holy Father and the Papal Nuncio in Washington have placed in me,” said Cotta. “And as I prepare to leave the Diocese of Fresno, I thank God for the call to the Episcopacy and for the many blessings I have experienced in over 26 years of ordained priesthood among God’s people.”

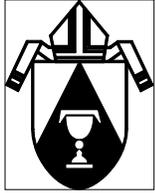
Cotta has served as a priest in the Diocese of Fresno for 26 years. For the past 15 years, he has been Vicar General in the Fresno diocese, making him the 2nd highest official there, after the bishop. In addition to his duties as Auxiliary Bishop, Cotta will also serve as Vicar General for the Diocese of Sacramento.

(MORE)

Cotta speaks English, Portuguese and Spanish.

The Diocese of Sacramento serves over 900,000 Catholics in 20 counties covering 42,000 square miles of Northern California from San Francisco Bay to Sacramento and the Oregon border. It includes more than 100 parishes, 53 elementary and secondary schools, and various social service and family support organizations throughout the region. The diocese also operates St. Mary's Cemetery in Sacramento and Calvary Cemetery in Citrus Heights, plus other community and parish cemeteries throughout Northern California.

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NEWS RELEASE

ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO

Press Statement by Sacramento Bishop Jaime Soto

Introduction of Bishop-Elect Myron Cotta

Sacred Heart Parish School

January 24, 2014

(As Prepared - English)

The Holy Father, Pope Francis, has looked kindly on the people and clergy of the Diocese of Sacramento naming Bishop-elect Myron Cotta as our new auxiliary bishop. I am grateful to His Holiness for giving me a faithful disciple of the Lord Jesus as an able co-worker in this favored part of His vineyard.

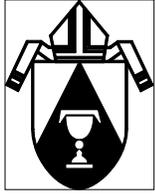
Bishop Cotta brings a wealth of pastoral experience as well as heartfelt devotion to the mission of announcing the joyful gospel of Christ. He is familiar with the many challenges of the Central Valley. He has served for many years rich agricultural lands along Highway 99. He knows the majestic beauty of the Sierra Nevada. He is familiar with the diverse cultural fabrics of the people who have rooted themselves in the hills and plains of this region. Most of all, he knows the Lord Jesus and is eager to share the Lord's wisdom and charity with others. Bishop Cotta begins a new adventure with this northern part of the valley. Quoting my predecessors words of welcome to me six years ago, I extend to Bishop Cotta a warm welcome to "Superior California".

On behalf of my brother priests, deacons, and bishops in Sacramento I express our gratitude to Bishop Armando Ochoa as well as the clergy and people of Fresno with whom Bishop Cotta has shared much of his life. Thank you for giving to the people of Sacramento one of your own. We feel most fortunate.

While we continue to pray for the much needed snow and rain upon the mountains and fields of California, we now also ask that our merciful heavenly Father rain down His wisdom and mercy upon Bishop Cotta as he prepares to take up the shepherd's staff and walk with the people of Sacramento in our journey of faith and charity.

Bishop Cotta: May the intercession of our Blessed Mother, Santa María de Guadalupe, bring you the joy and hope of her Son, Jesus.

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Sacred Heart Parish School

January 24, 2014

(As Prepared – Spanish)

“Doy eco a las palabras del salmista, “¡Qué alegría cuando me dijeron, vamos a la Casa del Señor!” (Ps. 122) Me sentía todavía más alegre cuando la Santa Sede me avisó del nombramiento de un nuevo obispo auxiliar, el Mons. Myron Cotta de la Diócesis de Fresno. Mi corazón se desborda de gratitud al Santo Padre, Papa Francisco, por brindarnos un nuevo hermano y colaborador para la misión evangélica aquí en la región norte de California.

“El Mons. Cotta ha dedicado muchos años de servicio sacerdotal en la parte sur del valle central de California. Conoce muy bien los retos y desafíos del campo, de las montañas, y los pueblos del valle. Tener un compañero tan sensato y capaz enriquecerá la labor pastoral de la Iglesia Católica aquí en Sacramento. Sus raíces portuguesas y su corazón hispano le dan un gran aprecio por la diversidad cultural y religiosa de todos los pueblos que se han enraizado en el valle. Son el tesoro dorado de este estado californiano.

“El Mons. Cotta es un padre, muy padre. Es un pastor muy devoto. Pero todavía más esencial, es un buen discípulo de nuestro Señor Jesús. Mientras rogamos para que la lluvia descienda copiosamente sobre las montañas y campos de California, hagamos plegarias a nuestro Padre Dios para que abra las puertas del cielo y derrame las aguas vivas de Su sabiduría y caridad sobre nuestro nuevo hermano, el Mons. Myron Cotta. Que el buen pastor, Jesucristo, le entregue el báculo de pastor para que junto con todo el pueblo de Dios en Sacramento caminemos alegres a la Casa del Señor. Santa María de Guadalupe, compañera en el camino de Su hijo, ruega por nosotros.”

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Press Statement by Bishop-Elect Myron Cotta
Sacred Heart Parish School
January 24, 2014
(As Prepared - English)

“Thank you, Bishop Soto, for this opportunity to express my appreciation for your warm reception, kind words, and prayerful support.

“I would like to begin by thanking His Holiness, Pope Francis, for this appointment as Auxiliary Bishop to the Diocese of Sacramento. I also thank the Office of the Apostolic Nuncio for conveying Pope Francis' decision in regard to this appointment.

“It is humbling to be called to this capacity of ministry of service to the Church; in particular, to the Diocese of Sacramento. As I prepare to leave the Diocese of Fresno, I thank God for the call to the Episcopacy and for the many blessings that I have experienced over 26 years of ordained priesthood among God's people. I thank God for the Bishops whom I have served under, along with the Clergy, Religious and Laity who have significantly contributed to my ongoing pastoral formation.

“I now look forward to this transition to assist Bishop Soto and to work with the Pastoral Staff. As I anticipate my consecration as Auxiliary Bishop, I also look forward to meeting and sharing in the ministry that lies before us; working in union with the Clergy, Religious and Laity of the Diocesan Church of Sacramento. Let us keep each other in prayer as we continue to seek God's will and build up the Kingdom of God. “

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Press Statement by Bishop-Elect Myron Cotta
Sacred Heart Parish School
January 24, 2014
(As Prepared - Spanish)

“Gracias, Mons. Soto, por esta oportunidad para expresar mi agradecimiento de su cordial bienvenida, sus palabras amables y por sus oraciones.

“Quisiera comenzar dando las gracias a Su Santidad, el Papa Francisco, por este nombramiento como Obispo Auxiliar en la Diócesis de Sacramento. También le doy las gracias a la Oficina del Nuncio Apostólico por comunicarme la decisión del Papa Francisco respecto a este nombramiento.

“Me llena de humildad ser llamado a esta capacidad de ministerio de servicio a la Iglesia, en particular, a la Diócesis de Sacramento. Mientras me preparo para partir de la Diócesis de Fresno, doy gracias a Dios por el llamado al Episcopado y por las muchas bendiciones que he recibido a lo largo de 26 años desde mi ordenación entre el pueblo de Dios. Le doy Gracias a Dios por los Obispos bajo los que he servido, junto con el Clero, Religiosos y Laicos que han contribuido de manera significativa a mi formación pastoral continua.

“Ahora espero con gusto mi transición de asistir al Mons. Soto y trabajar con el personal del Centro Pastoral. Al anticipar mi consagración como Obispo Auxiliar, espero con gusto la oportunidad de conocer y compartir en el ministerio que tenemos por delante; trabajando en unión con el Clero, Religiosos y Laicos en la Iglesia Diocesana de Sacramento. Sigamos rezando unos por otros, mientras continuamos a encontrar la voluntad de Dios y edificar el Reino de Dios.”

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DIOCESE OF FRESNO
PASTORAL CENTER
1550 NORTH FRESNO STREET
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93703-3788
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NEWS RELEASE

Fresno Bishop Armando X. Ochoa Statement on the Appointment of Msgr. Myron Cotta as Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Sacramento

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Teresa Dominguez,
Chancellor
559-488-7400

Friday, January 24, 2014

FRESNO – Bishop Armando X. Ochoa, released the following statement today concerning the Holy Father’s appointment of Msgr. Myron Cotta, vicar general of the Diocese of Fresno, as the new auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Sacramento.

“With Praise and Thanksgiving to Almighty God, I am pleased to announce that today in Rome, Our Holy Father Pope Francis, has announced the appointment of Rev. Msgr. Myron J. Cotta, up to now, Vicar General of the Diocese of Fresno, as Auxiliary Bishop of Diocese of Sacramento.

“The appointment of Bishop-elect Myron to the Episcopacy, does not come as a surprise to many who have worked with and have known him during his tenure (26 years), in the Diocese of Fresno. His election by the College of Consultors, as Diocesan Administrator of the Diocese, following the death of Bishop John Steinbock, underscores the diocesan clergy’s confidence and their acknowledgement of his many pastoral and administrative skills.

“These skills will continue to serve him well as he now prepares to collaborate with his new Diocesan Bishop, The Most Reverend Jaime Soto, the Clergy, Men and Women Religious, and the Laity, in the Diocese of Sacramento.”

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CURRICULUM VITAE

REV MYRON J COTTA, VG

DOB: March 21, 1953
Birthplace: Dos Palos, California
Parents: Daniel Edward Cotta and Mary Barbara Martin
Ordained: September 12, 1987

Education:

1965-1968 Sacred Heart School, Dos Palos, California
1968-1971 Dos Palos Joint Union High School, Dos Palos
1971-1973 West Hills Junior College, AA, Coalinga, California
1980-1987 St John's Seminary, BA & Masters in Divinity, Camarillo, California

Appointments:

Sep 12, 1987 Parochial Vicar, St Anthony, Atwater
Jun 22, 1989 Administrator, Our Lady of Fatima Shrine, Laton
Jul 1, 1992 Pastor, Our Lady of Miracles, Gustine
Jan 1—Mar 31 94 Administrator Pro Tem, Holy Rosary, Hilmar
May 20—Oct 31 94 Administrator Pro Tem, Holy Rosary, Hilmar

Other Appointments/Assignments:

Jun 22, 1987 Portuguese Language Institute (to July 31, 1987)
May 2, 1996 Board of Trustees for the Retirement Fund, ex-officio
Jun 15, 1996 Priests' Personnel Board
May 15, 1999 Vicar General (remained as pastor of O L of Miracles, Gustine, until July 15), Moderator of the Curia, Director of Continuing Formation of the Clergy, Director of Propagation of the Faith, Director for Pastoral Support of the Priests, Member of the Diocesan Finance Council, Deposit & Loan Fund
Jul 15, 1999 Commission for Orders and Ministries
Aug 8, 2002 Chaplain to His Holiness
2003 Director, Board for Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People
Jun 28, 2005 President of the Board of Directors, Our Faith, Our Family, Our Future Foundation, Inc.
Jan 5, 2008 Prelate of Honor
Dec 7, 2010 Elected Diocesan Administrator by Board of Consultors