

St. Paul
Catholic
Newman
Center



1572 East Barstow Avenue
Fresno, Ca 93710
Office 559.436.3434
csufnewman.com

First Sunday of Lent, Year B

February 21, 2021

Readings: GN 9: 8-15; 1 PT 3: 18-22; MK 1: 12-15

The Deacon's Speakin'

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

There is a kind of traditional fascination with Lent that doesn't seem to be limited to those who fervently practice their faith. Great numbers of us make great effort to receive the ashes, give up something we enjoy, get to church more often, or give to the poor during these special forty days. Just like the "spring cleaning" we do at home or work, Lent is our time for getting things in order so that we receive new life. Lent is a time for spring spiritual housecleaning. However good this discipline of Lenten practice might help us feel about ourselves, mere discipline is not the aim of Lent. However much we do, the only value in these practices is if they ultimately lead to renewed life.

Ash Wednesday is neither a Sunday or a holy day of obligation, yet our churches are packed. We want to be marked with ashes that come from dead palm branches that have been burned. It seems a contradiction – we use this sign of death at the beginning of Lent to mark our journey to a renewed life.

Penitential practices in themselves don't guarantee a spiritual renewal. Too often we spend too much of life going through the motions of what we're required to do. Spiritual housecleaning requires more. It requires a great deal of awareness of what we want to turn away from – sinfulness – and whom we wish to turn to – God – who gives us life. Although all of us are called to perform penance throughout the year, Lent is a special time the Church gives us to concentrate and focus on ourselves – not just on penance, but on the whole process of conversion – transformation to new life.

Continued on page 2

Mission Statement

Gifted by God, called by Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, St. Paul Catholic Newman Center is a parish committed to serving the academic community and all those who choose to be part of our parish family. We dedicate ourselves to bringing the transformative power of Christ to the world through word and action.



Continued from page 1

Well, most people who've had some life experience under their belts realize that human experience is full of risks, and full of trade-offs, and that life is full of good and bad, happy and sad. Having the good things in life doesn't come without a cost. There's always some sacrifice, some hard work! And, of course, life and death are part of the cycle of our human existence.

The Gospel suggests the three traditional facets of Christian penance: charity (or almsgiving), prayer, and fasting. The most genuine penance incorporates all three, because each of these practices is directed to setting right our relationship with God, self, and others. Each of these three practices takes us outside and beyond ourselves, toward others through charity, toward God through prayer, toward ourselves through fasting.

Jesus emphasized that our Lenten penance need not be large and showy, in fact, it's better to practice those things which can be reasonably accomplished and, at the same time, "stretch" us a little beyond ourselves. Penance is necessary to change us and to redirect us toward God and God's love. And, by changing ourselves, we change our relationship to God and each other. The peace, joy, and freedom of the relationship come with the living out of the relationship. God never abandons us.

The readings of Ash Wednesday cautioned us to make our Lenten penance more than mere practices. It's much better to do a little well than to take on a whole lot and, in the end, not have deepened and improved our relationships with God and others. And Lent isn't an endurance contest either. The question we might ask ourselves on Holy Saturday as we prepare to celebrate the Easter mystery ought not be whether we succeeded in not eating our favorite junk food or in our effort to get to Mass every day (as admirable as these sacrifices might be), but whether we have begun to turn our lives around in a new, life giving way.

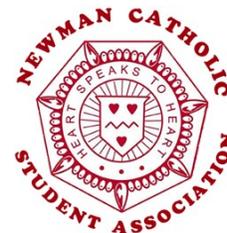
Our dying to self during Lent is about beginnings – coming to new life, deepening our relationship with God and others, and transforming who we are and how we love.

Peace and love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deacon John". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Deacon John

Campus Ministry News!



College Night

Join us this Wednesday for our Student Night. Visit our webpage or social media bio for the link!

Young Adult Mass

Every Sunday, we host a Young Adult Mass at 7:00pm. This is an opportunity for students, young adults, and young professionals to come together and be among others our age giving thanks to God.

Join us before Mass at 6:00pm for confessions or adoration followed by Mass at 7:00pm

YOUNG ADULT MASS CALENDAR

February 21	6:00pm— Adoration	7:00pm— Young Adult Mass
February 28	6:00pm— Confessions	7:00pm— Young Adult Mass

Theology and Tacos

Join us this Thursday, February 25 for Theology and Tacos. Our topic will be Hebrew Scriptures presented by Fr. Byron. Please join us on Zoom with the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81184611671>

Donations

Thank you to all who have continued to donate snacks, school supplies, and household items. We make all of these items available to students every Sunday evening at our Young Adult Mass. The need is still there to help students save a little money by offering these items for free. If you could donate any of these resources please reach out.

Campus Ministry Contacts

Edgar Guzman, Director: edgar@csufnewman.com

Fr. Byron Macias, Chaplain: frbyron@csufnewman.com

Faith, Family & Friends

Faith, Family & Friends is our parish religious education and faith formation program for EVERYONE - Single adults, couples, and families!



During this time when we are unable to meet together in large groups, we invite those of you who wish to receive Religious Education & Faith Formation resources for adults and / or children to register.

Adults: Register for our FF&F Adult Religious Education series by emailing John Prandini, Director of Ministries, at prandinij@csufnewman.com with your name, primary email address, and cell phone number. You will then be placed on the list to receive these free resources.

Recommendation: All families with children join the Joy of Love Moms - Family Ministry led by Jakki Pucheu. Joy of Love Moms is sending out weekly emails that provide great ideas and information on fun faith formation activities for children and parenting suggestions to help you reduce stress and improve family communication. You can sign up by sending an email to joyoflovemoms@gmail.com requesting to be put on their email mail list.

For additional information contact

Adults: John Prandini, MA at prandinij@csufnewman.com
Children: Sr. Kathleen Drilling at skd@csufnewman.com

Claretian High School Youth

Hey High Schoolers! We have a youth group for you here at the Newman Center kicking off on Tuesday, March 16 at 6:00pm!

Youth ages 14-18 are welcome! We want to grow together in Catholic spirituality, Scripture and Missionary zeal.

We have an informational meeting (via Zoom) on Saturday, February 27 at noon. It is important that parents and youth who are interested attend the meeting. The link is here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85363682963>
Contact Fr. Byron for more information by emailing frbyron@csufnewman.com.

Parish Lenten Reconciliation Service

As we live out our Lent this year, we will hold a special Reconciliation Service this year. Frs. Paul and Byron will hold Confessions on March 23, 24 and 25 from 2:00pm to 6:00pm at our regular Confession site (outside the Cafeteria on the patio).

To help you prepare an examination of conscience, we will post a video reflection/examination on our parish website and social media. You do not need to make reservations.

Please take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to do a good spring cleaning of the heart! Also, please help us spread the word. Please contact Fr. Byron for more information by emailing frbyron@csufnewman.com.

Family Life Ministry

FF&F Adult Religious Education and Faith Formation Ministry will send adult religious education and faith formation videos and resources to adults wishing to receive them. If you wish to be on the list of recipients, register for our FF&F Adult Religious Education Series by emailing John Prandini at prandinij@csufnewman.com with your primary email address and cell phone contact number. You will be placed on the list to receive these free resources. **You can also register by texting the message: SPCNC to 84576** and following the prompts you receive.

The Ignatian Spirituality Group has begun a weekly online Ignatian Spirituality Retreat for Everyday Life. Weekly Zoom meetings are held for those wishing to be included. Email John Prandini at prandinij@csufnewman.com for details on how to enroll and participate.

The Joy of Love Moms' Group is a family ministry led by moms. To join Joy of Love Moms email Jakki at joyoflovemoms@gmail.com.

Men's Scripture Study Group

If you'd like to receive weekly emails please send an email to John Prandini at prandinij@csufnewman.com to enroll.

Meditation Opportunities

Christian Meditation If you'd like to receive weekly emails from our Newman Center's Christian Meditation Group, member of the World Community of Christian Meditation, email christianmeditation@csufnewman.com. The group is facilitated by Benita Lankford.

Volunteers Needed

We are resuming indoor Mass for our Saturday Vigil at 5:00pm beginning this Saturday, February 27. We need volunteers to help us with the following positions: a counter, a bathroom monitor, and ushers. If you are able to help, please contact Jenna at jenna@csufnewman.com.

Lenten Children's Reconciliation Service

Our Lenten Children's Reconciliation Service will take place on Tuesday, March 2 at 6:00pm followed by Mass in the Chapel Courtyard.

During Mass, children and families will be consecrated to Saint Joseph in anticipation of his Feast and to celebrate the Church's Saint Joseph worldwide. Please make your reservation on our website.

Please contact the Joy of Moms Group at joyoflovemoms@gmail.com or Fr. Byron at frbyron@csufnewman.com for more information.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, February 21 GN 9: 8-15; 1 PT 3: 18-22; MK 1: 12-15

9:30am Mass for Rose Barretto Chapel Courtyard
 9:30am RCIA - Rite of Election Chapel Courtyard
 11:30am Mass for Trini Ramirez Chapel Courtyard

Monday, February 22 1 PT 5: 1-4; MT 16: 13-19

8:00am Mass for Terese Cenci Magee Facebook Live
 10:00am Clennon Funeral Chapel / Facebook
 6:00pm Young Adult Bible Study Google Meet

Tuesday, February 23 IS 55: 10-11; MT 6: 7-15

6:00pm Mass for Mike Gerking Facebook Live

Wednesday, February 24 JON 3: 1-10; LK 11: 29-32

8:00am Mass for Rosario Almazan Izquierdo Chapel Courtyard
 6:00pm College Night Zoom

Thursday, February 25 EST 12, 14-16, 23-25; MT 7: 7-12

5:00pm Confessions East Patio
 6:00pm Mass for Beverly Gayle Sanchez Facebook Live
 6:30pm Theology and Tacos Zoom

Friday, February 26 EZ 18: 21-28; MT 5: 20-26

8:00am Mass for Matthew Aiello Facebook Live
 3:30pm Food Distribution East Parking Lot
 6:00pm Stations of the Cross Facebook Live

Saturday, February 27 DT 26: 16-19; MT 5: 43-48

12:00pm HS Youth Group Meeting Zoom
 5:00pm Mass Chapel

Sunday, February 28 GN 22:1-2,9A,10-13,15-18; ROM 8:31B-34; MK 9: 2-10

9:30am Mass for Lai Pham Chapel Courtyard
 10:00am HS Confirmation Class Zoom
 11:30am Mass for Eleuterio Quintana Chapel Courtyard

Prayers:

- ♦ **For those who have died this week:** Barbara LaBaugh
- ♦ **Please pray for those who have requested special intentions and prayers:**
 Sandra Barrie, Deacon Joe Parugrug, Mark Lang, Nancy VanGalder, Donna Garcia, Chris Elias, Deacon Mike Avila, Jeannine Kim, Tom Lucas, Rhonda Weakland, Frank Esquivel, Kristal Lowe Limon, Fr. Joaquin Arriaga, Nettie Shute, Sandy Keith, Meghan Vasquez, Msgr. Scott Daugherty, Deacon Trinidad Guadarrama, Jacob Blake, Dan Dungy, Isabel Wiggins, Rose Derby, Monica Becerra, Alice Schultz, Nancy Martin, Sr. Rosa Maria Branco FHIC

Prayer Requests: Please note that names for the sick / special intentions will remain in the bulletin for one month. If deceased, names are only published the week they died. If you have someone who is in need of prayers please contact the office at 436-3434 or go on our website and fill out the form under the "Prayer Request" tab.

February Contributions

2020		2021	
Feb. 2	ACH \$21,504.01	Feb. 7	ACH \$20,593.06
Feb. 9	\$20,136.18	Feb. 14	\$9,225.50
Feb. 16	ACH \$18,198.51	Feb. 21	ACH
Feb. 23	\$11,615.65	Feb. 28	
Feb. Total	\$71,454.35	Feb. Total	\$29,818.56

Weekend Masses

Saturday Mass will be celebrated indoors beginning this Saturday, February 27 at 5:00pm.

Sunday Masses are celebrated at 9:30am and 11:30am in the Chapel Courtyard. Reservations are required to attend Mass. Reservations can be made online by visiting our website.

Live Streaming

Sunday Mass is live streamed at 9:30am. Daily Masses are live streamed at 8:00am on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and at 6:00pm on Tuesday and Thursday. All Masses are streamed on Facebook Live. Look for us under "St. Paul Catholic Newman Center".

Office Closure

Our office is closed due to Covid-19 restrictions. Staff members are working remotely and checking emails and phone messages. If you need to drop anything off at the office, we now have a mailbox by the front door at the main building. We can be reached on our main line at 436-3434 or by email at ncoffice@csufnewman.com.

Follow us!



St. Paul Catholic Newman Center



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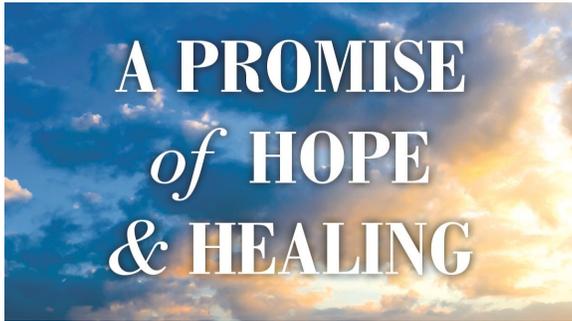
College Pages



Newman Catholic Student Association (Fresno)



newmancenter_fresno



A Promise of Hope and Healing

Although our campaign has ended, thank you to the generosity of our parishioners; we are still receiving new and additional pledges. We have received \$215,032.70 in pledges and have received 97% of that amount.

Electronic giving is the preferred, easy, safe and secure way to give to our parish. To schedule a recurring electronic gift directly from your bank account or credit card, please contact Carol at carol@csufnewman.com.

Please remember to make your payments accordingly. Thank you again for your generous support of St. Paul Catholic Newman Center!

Weekly Justice Challenge

We are entering the first full week of our Lenten journey—a journey to the cross and then to resurrection. We know we can't go straight to resurrection. As with Jesus, the sacrifice of the cross is a necessary part of our journey. Your challenge this week, but really for all of Lent, is to think of someone in the world who is experiencing the weight of their own cross. It might be the cross of hunger, of human trafficking, of living in a war-torn village or city, or of being denied freedom of expression. Even though you don't know this person's name, imagine how this person looks, how old they might be, and even where they live. Then choose something to give up this Lent, something which may cause a bit of suffering and sacrifice on your part, to stand in solidarity with the brother or sister whose pain is—and should be—our pain. Offer up your sacrifice on their behalf. Every day, as members of our one human family, say a prayer for this person. Use the time or the money you would have spent on whatever you give up to support an organization in your parish or in our universal Catholic Church which works to end injustice for those who suffer. Some possible choices include your local St. Vincent de Paul chapter, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, Catholic Charities, or Catholic Relief Services.

Second Collection This Weekend

This weekend, our special collection is for the Catholic Communication Campaign. This campaign connects people with Christ in the United States and in developing countries around the world through the Internet, television, radio, and print media. 50% of funds collected remain here in the Fresno Diocese to fund local communications efforts. Your support helps spread the Gospel message! To learn more, visit www.usccb.org/cc.

Donations

You can make your donations to our parish through several portals. Sign up to make your donation to the Newman Center via electronic funds transfer (ACH), credit card, PayPal, or your banks online banking system. You can designate your donation to Sunday Contributions and / or special gifts automatically made weekly or monthly. One can also schedule reoccurring online donations. For more information send an email to Carol at carol@csufnewman.com. We appreciate your support!

RCIA

Interested in becoming Catholic?



If you have never been baptized or if you are baptized in another denomination but would like to become Catholic, please contact ncoffice@csufnewman.com.

The RCIA process at the Newman Center is designed to be a safe and welcoming place to personally experience Christ and develop your personal relationship with Jesus in a supportive community. We don't throw a bunch of doctrines and rules at you. Instead we provide a place for you to explore and develop your faith journey with Jesus as a Catholic Christian.

If you are a baptized Catholic, spread the word and consider becoming a sponsor of those seeking Christ.

Food Distribution

We have a drive-thru food distribution every Friday from **3:30pm to 5:30pm**. Bags are distributed in our east parking lot to each vehicle. The entrance to the parking lot is at the east side gate and vehicles exit through the south gate. Please make sure to wear a mask.



Stay Strong

This Week's Readings at Mass

- ▶ Genesis 9:8-15 - Covenant with Noah
- ▶ 1 Peter 3:18-22 - The purpose of Christ's suffering
- ▶ Mark 1:12-15 - Jesus' temptation; the call to conversion

This is the first Sunday of Lent, and we have 40 days stretching ahead of us before Easter. Maybe by now you have settled on some sort of Lenten commitment for the next six weeks. We often think about Lent as a time to give up a bad habit or something that we know isn't good for us, such as coffee, sweets, or alcohol. Traditionally, Catholics are encouraged to commit to something in three areas: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving (giving to the poor).

We are encouraged to strengthen our prayer lives. If we have a prayer practice, maybe we can add a little time to it or add in something extra. If we haven't been good at making regular time for prayer, Lent can be the push we need to get a regular practice started. It could be as simple as following a Lenten prayer booklet or online daily retreat program, or getting up a few minutes early to pray and journal.



JFD

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Sheepish Question:
How do I respond to God's loving promise of salvation?

Also, we are called to fast from something that is unloving, unproductive, or just not good for us and the world community. That might mean fasting from gossip. It could mean fasting from social media that keeps us from connecting in-person in our daily lives. Or maybe it is fasting from buying things we don't need. Finally, with almsgiving, we are called to share our resources with the poor. It is exciting to think of all the good that can come from Lent if we can stick to our promises, and many other people do the same.

Of course there will be temptations. Satan, who tempted Jesus in the desert, doesn't want us to stay faithful to our commitments either, because he knows how much good we can do.

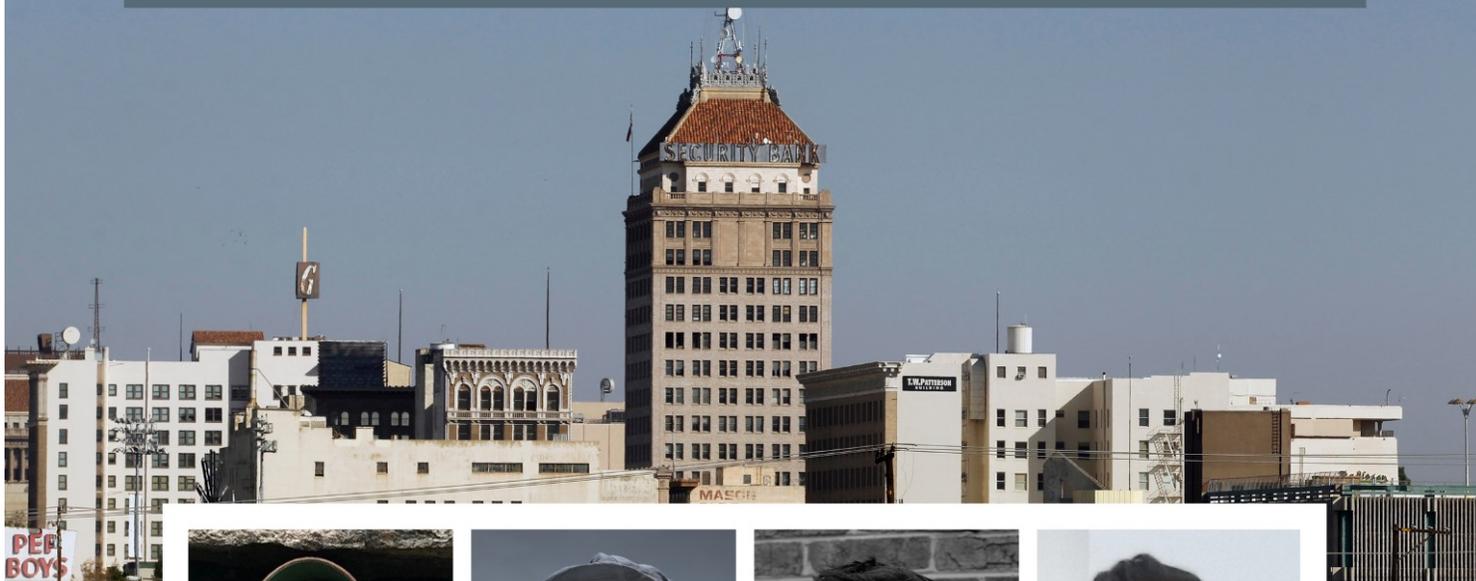
Questions of the Week

- 1 What are you committing to for a Lenten practice this year?
- 2 What do you think will be your greatest temptations to "cheat" or abandon your promises? How might you ask for help to stay strong?

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Interfaith Scholar Weekend 2021 Webinar Series

"Bearing Witness from Fresno's Mason-Dixon Line"



Dr. Andrew Fiala



Dr. Malik Simba



Dr. Nathan K. Hensley



Uziel Jimenez

Join us for six interfaith conversations every Monday beginning February 15, as we consider what it means to "Bear Witness" to Fresno's history of racism and redlining.

PART I: Opening Panel: February 15, 4-5:30 pm

Three guest scholars will share their important contributions to the study of racism and redlining in Fresno.

- Moderated by **Dr. Andrew Fiala**
- Guest Scholars
 - **Dr. Malik Simba**, Fresno State University
 - **Dr. Nathan K. Hensley**, Georgetown University
 - **Uziel Jimenez**, Antiracist Educator, Co-founder Fresno Ethnic Studies Coalition

PART II: Book Study: 60-minute sessions

Four interfaith speakers and their respondents will dive into Eddie S. Glaude Jr.'s best-book. Find out more on the next page.

PART III: Closing Roundtable: March 22, 4-5:30 pm

Three guest scholars and four interfaith speakers return for a powerful discussion on lessons learned and the urgent questions to call forth a new America in our communities.

- Moderated by **Jim Grant**, MA, Chair for ISW

To RSVP and for more information, learn more at

bit.ly/ISW_rsvp21



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PART II: Book Study

" Bearing Witness with James Baldwin"

Representatives from four faith traditions and respondents take a deep dive into Eddie S. Glaude Jr.'s best-selling book, *Begin Again: James Baldwin's America and Its Urgent Lessons for Our Own*.
Make sure to RSVP today at bit.ly/ISW_rsvp.

**All plenary sessions are FREE and will be recorded. You do not need to be present to participate.*

Week 1: February 22, 4-5 pm

"Introduction," Chapter 1: "The Lie," and "Conclusion"



Christian Faith
Rev. Dr. Paul Binion
Pastor of Westside
Church of God, Fresno

Moderated by Ashlie M. Kosinski, Co-founder
The Wildflower Collective, Information Coordinator, ISW

Respondents

- **Rev. Anna Lopez**, New Thought Community, Fresno, indigenous cosmology and modern spirituality perspective
- **Daniel O'Connell**, PhD, Executive Director, Central Valley Partnership, Quaker-Buddhist perspective

Week 2: March 1, 4-5 pm

Chapter 2: "Witness" and
Chapter 3: "The Dangerous Road"



Reform Jewish Faith
Rabbi Dr. Laura Novak Winer
Hebrew Union College
Jewish Institute of Religion

Moderated by Gaonoucci Belle Vang

Respondents

- **Sukaina Hussain**, Deputy Executive Director for CAIR Sacramento/Central Valley, Islamic perspective
- **Lady Jessica Criner**, St. Rest Baptist Church, Fresno, Christian perspective

Week 3: March 8, 4-5 pm

Chapter 4: "The Reckoning" and
Chapter 5: "Elsewhere"



Muslim Faith
Hajj Reza Nekumanesh
Executive Director, Islamic
Cultural Center of Fresno

Moderated by Mariah Cushing, M.A.,
Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary

Respondents

- **Rabbi Rick Winer**, Temple Beth Israel, Fresno, Reform Jewish perspective
- **Sister Kathleen Drilling**, SSND, St. Paul Catholic Newman Center, Director of Religious Education, Roman Catholic perspective

Week 4: March 15, 4-5 pm

Chapter 6: "Ruins" and Chapter 7 "Begin Again"



Hindu Faith
Dr. Veena Howard
Professor of Asian Religions,
Coordinator, Peace and
Conflict Studies
Fresno State University

Moderated by Zena Chafi,
Community Organizer for CAIR Fresno/Merced

Respondents

- **Darren Duerksen**, PhD, Associate Professor of Intercultural and Religious Studies, Fresno Pacific University, Evangelical-Anabaptist Christian perspective
- **Rev. Akiko Miyake-Stoner**, Senior Pastor United Japanese Christian Church, Clovis, United Methodist Christian perspective

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"For God so loved the world that He gave His One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

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