

# THE DIOCESE OF LA CROSSE SESQUICENTENNIAL

1868-2018  
**150** years  
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Bishop William  
Patrick Callahan  
August 11, 2010

*Tenth* BISHOP OF LA CROSSE

**W**illiam Patrick Callahan was born to Ellen and William Callahan in Chicago on June 17, 1950. He attended St. Mary of Perpetual Help until his graduation in 1964. After graduation he attended St. Mary Minor Seminary and Junior College, Chicago. In 1969 he was accepted in the Novitiate of St. Bonaventure at Lake forest, Ill. In 1973 he earned a bachelor's degree in Radio and Television Communications from Loyola University. He earned a Master of Divinity degree from St. Michael's College at the University of Toronto in 1976 and was ordained a priest on April 30, 1977. Parish work was his first assignment. From 1978 to 1984 he was the vocations director for the Conventual Franciscans after which he returned to parish work. In 2005 he was appointed as spiritual director for the Pontifical North American College in Rome and served in that capacity until December 14, 2007.

On October 30, 2007 Pope Benedict XVI named him an

auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. He was named the tenth bishop of the La Crosse on June 11, 2010 and installed on August 11, 2010. Bishop Callahan is the first Conventual Franciscan to be named a bishop in the United States.

Bishop Callahan's coat of arms bears the traditional heraldic symbols of his office and that of the Diocese of La Crosse. A black cross with the crossed arms of St. Francis of Assisi and Christ, both of which bear the stigmata of the crucifixion joined by a crown of thorns on a red field are the symbols of his religious order, Conventual Franciscans. Above the cross are two gold fleur-de-lis representing the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph.

The wave of blue below the cross represents Lake Michigan of his home in Chicago. His motto is from the Stations of the Cross: Adoramus te, Christe We adore you, O Christ.

