

Parish Social Ministry Initiatives

In the Diocese of La Crosse

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable: "A basic moral test is how our most vulnerable members are faring. In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition recalls the story of the Last Judgment (Mt 25:31-46) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first." United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Sharing Catholic Social Teaching: Challenges and Directions*



Diocese of La Crosse

Office for Ministries and Social Concerns
ministries@diolc.org or 608.791.0161

Catholic Charities
info@cclse.org or 888.212.HELP (4357)

Mission Office
missions@diolc.org or 608.791.2676

Parish Social Ministry Initiatives

In the Diocese of La Crosse

Introduction

This directory is the fruit of a collaborative effort on Parish Social Ministry between the Office for Ministries and Social Concerns, Catholic Charities, and the Mission Office, all of the Diocese of La Crosse. It is an ongoing project, one which seeks to open a window onto the vast and ever-growing vineyard of love in action in our diocese. We want it to be a source of shared inspiration and ideas, as together we seek to embody the loving heart and hands of Jesus Christ in reaching out to our neighbor in need.

The directory is broken into:

- Diocesan-Wide Efforts
- Projects Common to Many Parishes
- Specific Parish/Deanery projects, by Deanery

There are many ecumenical efforts throughout our diocese in which our parishes collaborate with people of other faith traditions. This directory seeks to include these as they are reported.

To keep the directory up to date, we need regular input from the parishes and deaneries of the diocese. For the social ministry initiatives of your parish or deanery to be listed, the pastor or someone authorized by him should complete and submit the online form found at: <http://diolc.org/social-ministry-initiative-submission-form/>. For corrections or deletions, please contact the Office for Ministries and Social Concerns at ministries@diolc.org or 608-791-0161.

“Each individual Christian and every community is called to be an instrument of God for the liberation and promotion of the poor, and for enabling them to be fully a part of society.”

Pope Francis,
The Joy of the Gospel, no. 187

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Diocesan Wide Efforts

40 Days for Life

<http://diolc.org/social-concerns/respect-life/40-days-for-life/>

40 Days for Life is a focused pro-life national campaign with a vision to access God’s power through prayer, fasting, and peaceful vigil to end abortion. The mission of the campaign is to bring together the body of Christ in a spirit of unity during a focused 40 day campaign of prayer, fasting, and peaceful activism, with the purpose of repentance, to seek God’s favor to turn hearts and minds from a culture of death to a culture of life, thus bringing an end to abortion through prayer, fasting, community vigils and outreach.

Catholic Campaign for Human Development

<http://www.usccb.org/about/catholic-campaign-for-human-development/>

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development is the domestic anti-poverty program of the U.S. Catholic Bishops, working to carry out the mission of Jesus Christ "... to bring good news to the poor ... release to captives ... sight to the blind, and let the oppressed go free." (Luke 4:18) A

portion of the funds collected stays in the Diocese of La Crosse to fund local initiatives. Past recipients include warming shelters, aid for housing, and restorative justice program for crime victims and offenders.

Catholic Relief Services

<https://www.crs.org/>

Catholic Relief Services is the official international humanitarian agency of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. CRS examines the issues that are dramatically impacting the safety and well-being of poor and vulnerable people worldwide. The work is based on the principles of Catholic social teaching, primary among them the protection of the dignity of the human person. A portion of the funds raised in the Lenten Rice Bowl collection is used for Project Seed in the Diocese of La Crosse.

Project Milk

Office for Ministries and Social Concerns

ministries@diolc.org

ph.: 608-791-0191

<http://diolc.org/social-concerns/rural-life/project-milk/>

A program of the Diocese of La Crosse where milk is purchased from local dairy farmers, processed at Grassland Dairy into powdered milk. It is then shipped to Casa Hogar Juan Pablo II in Lurín, Peru where it is given to the orphanage to use and distribute as needed in and around Lurín, Peru.

Project Seed

Office for Ministries and Social Concerns

ministries@diolc.org

ph.: 608-791-0191

<http://diolc.org/social-concerns/rural-life/project-seed/>

The portion of funds raised in the Catholic Relief Services Lenten Rice Bowl collection that remains in the diocese funds Project Seed. Every spring, there are sales to provide area farmers with low-cost, high-quality seed. There is alfalfa, and clover ready for sale and non-GMO seed can be ordered. Comparable yields make this seed an attractive alternative. The Diocese of La Crosse also offers financial assistance to those in need, so no one is turned away. Donations to help support Project Seed are welcome and can be sent to the Diocese of La Crosse.

Catholic Charities

3710 East Ave. S
 La Crosse, WI 54601
 Ph 608-782-0710
 Fax 608-782-0702
 Toll Free 1-888-212-HELP (1-888-212-4357)
 info@cclse.org
www.cclse.org/

Many parishes support Catholic Charities of the Diocese of La Crosse by hosting collections for school supplies, winter coats, socks, donations to help with utility bills, and more. Our parishes also support Catholic Charities by donating their time at various shelters and programs.

Casa Hogar Juan Pablo II

Office for Missions
 Ph.: (608) 791-2676
 Email: mapel@diolc.org
<http://diolc.org/missions/>
www.homeajpm.org

Casa Hogar Juan Pablo II, a mission of the Diocese of La Crosse, Wisconsin, first opened its doors to homeless children in 1985, but was officially founded the following March of 1986 by Servant of God, Fr. Joe Walijewski. Currently, 64 children call Casa Hogar their home, where they are given faith, family, and a chance at the promising future they deserve. Using the Family Program based on the famous Boys Town® methods, Casa Hogar Juan Pablo II has become a leader in the treatment and care of orphaned, abandoned, and abused children of Peru. Over the years, our parishes have donated first aid supplies, clothing, eye glasses (partnered with Lions clubs), and most recently, guitars and bicycles! Project Milk is an important initiative that helps both Wisconsin farmers and Casa Hogar by purchasing Wisconsin milk, processing, and sending powdered milk to the children in Peru.

Jail/Prison Ministry

Office for Ministries and Social Concerns
ministries@diolc.org
 ph.: 608-791-0191

Several people in the Diocese help our local jails and prisons by leading bible studies and conducting worship services. If you are interested in becoming involved in this important ministry, contact the Diocese of La Crosse Office for Ministries and Social Concerns. For general information on jail and prison ministry see the website of the American Catholic Correctional Chaplains Association (catholiccorrectionalchaplains.org).

Service Mission Trips

Office for Missions

Ph.: (608) 791-2676

Email: mapel@diolc.org

<http://diolc.org/missions/>

We have many parishes who take trips to different areas in an effort to provide aid. Trips have been to Uganda, Haiti, Ukraine, Appalachia, tornado and flood stricken areas, and many more. Many parishes also have youth participate in the Mission America Trips sponsored by the Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry, www.diolc.org/yva.

Fortnight for Freedom

www.diolc.org/freedom

Religious Liberty is our first, most cherished freedom. It is the God-given freedom of individuals and communities to manifest their religious beliefs in teaching, practice and worship. Unfortunately, in our nation and around the world, we are seeing increasing violations of this freedom. The two weeks from June 21 to July 4 is a time of concerted prayer, education, and action in defense of religious liberty in our diocese and across the United States.

March for Life

Office for Youth and Young Adult

Chris Rogers

Ph.: (608) 791-2659

Email: crogers@diolc.org

The March for Life is an annual trip to Washington D.C. to participate in the National March for Life on or about January 22, the anniversary of Supreme Court decision Roe v. Wade legalizing abortion. Contact the Office for Youth and Young Adult Ministry for more information, www.diolc.org/yva.

Projects Common throughout the Diocese

Mother's Day Rose and Father's Day Carnation Sales

Roses are sold at the parish on Mother's Day and carnations on Father's Day. The proceeds for these sales go to the local pregnancy care centers or Respect Life groups.

Food Pantries

Our local food pantries are blessed to have so many generous parishes donate non-perishable food and personal care items. Contact your local food pantry for information.

Giving Trees and Gift Baskets

Most often held during Advent and Christmas; parishioners around the diocese donate gifts to families in need, elderly, shut-ins, and nursing homes. These acts of giving to others spread the love of Christ.

Hospital/Nursing Home/Homebound Ministry

This valuable ministry is more than delivering communion to those who are unable to attend Mass, it is caring for one another, connecting them to parish life and providing a sense of community. Many parishes also give Christmas gifts, prayer shawls or other items to those unable to attend Mass with their parish.

Baby Showers, Diaper Drives or Baby Bottle Collections

Many parishes hold baby showers and collect baby items to donate to area pregnancy care shelters. Leaving no wet behinds, diapers are collected for area shelters or are donated to local shelters and food pantries. Other parishes hand out empty baby bottles to parishioners asking them to fill them with loose change and donations are given to various pregnancy care centers or pro-life organizations.

Community Meals

Many of our communities host a community meal to anyone who would like to participate. These meals are provided at no cost and rely on volunteers.

Spiritual Adoption

https://www.nccw.org/Public/Commissions/Spiritual_Adoption_Program.aspx

While anyone can pray for the unborn at any time, a spiritual adoption program is a parish, religious education program or school wide program where participant pledge to pray for nine months for a baby in danger of abortion. Many will begin at the Annunciation on March 25 and run until the Nativity of Our Lord on December 25. Other programs will run the 9 months of a school year. Others will use whatever timing works best for their parish.

Projects by Deanery

Arcadia Deanery

OLPH Mission

411 South Washington Street

Arcadia, WI

Tel: 608-323-7116

www.holyfam.com

The mission thrift store at Our Lady of Perpetual Help provides clothing and small household items for those in Arcadia and the surrounding areas. It is staffed by volunteers who believe that giving of their time and talent carries out the commission of Christ, “whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.” (MT 25:40)

Chippewa Falls Deanery

Bloomer Clothes Closet

1005 9th Av

Bloomer WI 54724

715-568-1129

<http://clothescloset.bloomertel.net/>

Bloomer Clothes Closet is a not for profit organization run by volunteers. Clothing is donated by members of the community then given away for free or for a free-will donation. They stock children's, men's and women's clothing and shoes. They also accept bigger baby items such as high chairs and strollers.

Durand Deanery

St. Henry Watermark Mission

N460 County Road D

Eau Galle, WI 54737

715-283-4451

Contact: Gary and Rosey Asher

Email: rasher@wwt.net

St. Henry Watermark Mission is a faith-based disaster recovery organization. Our purpose is to

rebuild homes and lives of disaster survivors. For more information, or to contact us, our website is www.watermark-mission.org.

Eau Claire Deanery

Beacon House

309 E. Lake Street
Eau Claire, WI 54701
715-726-1936
Contact: Lou Hoeschen
Email: lou.hoeschen@gmail.com
www.beacon-house.org/

Beacon House is a shelter for homeless families and pregnant women. Join a Newman team or volunteer individually in making and serving meals, visiting with clients, helping children with homework, and staying overnight.

Bolton Refuge House

807 S. Farwell Street
Eau Claire, WI 54701
715-832-1507
Contact: Kay Magadance
Email: magadafk@uwec.edu
<http://boltonrefugehouse.org>

Bolton Refuge House addresses needs of victims of domestic violence and/or sexual assault. Volunteers are needed to help with clerical and reception work, yard work, maintenance, and children's services. Volunteers under 16 need adult supervision.

Chippewa Valley Free Clinic

816 Porter Ave.
Eau Claire, WI 54701
715-832-5983
Contact: Sue Tienor
Email: tienor@charter.net
www.cvfreeclinic.org

The CV Free Clinic provides health care to and advocacy for Chippewa Valley residents who have no reasonable health care alternative. Medical professional volunteers are needed during clinic hours such as pharmacists, pharm techs, doctors/NP's, and dentists. During non-clinic hours 15-20 volunteers are needed. These include administrative assistants (filing, mailings, data entry, general office help), office receptionists, social media specialists, meal preparers, technical writers, special project workers (fundraising/grant writing/ work projects), public relations assistants, and special events photographers.

Chippewa Valley Habitat for Humanity

2233 Golf Road
 Eau Claire, WI 54701
 715-308-7896
 Contact: Peter Raleigh
 Email: pbraleigh@icloud.com
<http://cvh4h.org/>

Habitat for Humanity builds homes so everyone has a decent place to live. Volunteer activities available: help organize the warehouse, build homes, landscape, minor house repairs, special projects, and office staff support.

The Community Table (TCT)

320 Putnam Street
 Eau Claire, WI 54701
 715-379-4110
 Contact: Laurie Hittman
 Email: jlhittman1@jlhitman.com
<http://thecommunitytable.org/>

TCT provides a daily meal for those in need of nourishment for body and for soul. Join a Newman team or volunteer individually to prepare/serve a meal and help with clean up.

Family Respite Care

Home Health Hospice (Mayo Clinic)
 715.838.3045 or 715.831-0100
 St. Joseph's Hospice, 800.726.3485
 Contact: Kathy Pinter
 Email: Kathy.pinter@gmail.com

Provide a variety of care activities (e.g. grocery shopping) for families with a member in Hospice Care. Requires some training.

Feed My People Food Bank

2610 Alpine Road
 Eau Claire, WI 54703
www.fmpfoodbank.org/

Feed My People provides food to hunger-relief agencies in West Central Wisconsin. Teams and individual volunteers are needed between the hours of 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and occasionally in the evening to repack bulk food, sort food donations, label cans, fill food orders, and drive truck to make deliveries. Volunteers must be 16 or older.

JONAH (Joining Our Neighbors Advancing Hope)

715-834-4899 (Betty)

715-835-5887 (Jacky)

Contacts: Betty Hurst & Jacky Miller

Emails: grandmaMybetty@gmail.com or jacchuck@yahoo.com

<http://jonahjustice.org>

JONAH is people of various faith traditions working together on local social justice issues to create positive living conditions for all and to strengthen our community. JONAH organizes its work through specific task forces. Here are examples of the kind of task forces JONAH promotes.

- The Criminal Justice Reform Task Force is focusing on the negative effects of solitary confinement and on mental health issues.
- The Eco-Spirituality Group works with others in the community to promote green practices.
- With the goal of safety for all, the Immigration Task Force is working with others in the state to restore driving privileges to non-documented immigrants.

Members are free to join any of the task forces, create a new task force or simply be a supporting member.

Advancing Hope Fund

715-456-5703

Contact: Ken Ripp

Email: rippsk@charter.net

The Advancing Hope Fund was founded with the idea of making no interest, no service fee loans to those in need. However, the goals of AHF are much more holistic than just handing people money. The fund stresses the need for the loan recipients to become involved in the lending circle – paying forward an agreed upon amount in return for the loan. Those funds are then lent out to new clients. Recipients are also matched with a “walking partner” who is there for emotional support, financial advice and to serve as a bridge to the wider community.

Sojourner House

618 South Barstow Street

Eau Claire, WI 54701

(715) 832-3296

Contact: Ken Ripp (Newman)

Email rippsk@charter.net

715-210-6337

Contact: Judy Peak (St. James)

Email: nursegoodbody@gmail.com
www.cclse.org

Sojourner House, a homeless shelter for men and women, needs help for the 5:30 to 8:30 a.m. shift and the 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. shift. Join a Newman team or volunteer individually in serving a prepared meal, registering guests, handing out bedding and securing guests' belongings.

St. Francis Food Pantry

1221 Truax Blvd.
 Eau Claire, WI 54703
 715-384-8866
 Contact: Jane O'Meara

Email: jane.omeara@gmail.com

St. Francis Food Pantry distributes food to the needy. Volunteers are needed to package bulk food, stock shelves, help with food distribution, and clean.

Literacy-Chippewa Valley

Building D02, Suite 301
 800 Wisconsin Street #70
 Eau Claire, WI 54703
 715-834-0222
 Contact: Donna Raleigh (Newman)
 Email: draleigh@uwec.edu

715-497-8724

Contact: Mary Fandel (St. James)
 Email: fandelmary@sbcglobal.net
<http://literacycv.org/>

Literacy - Chippewa Valley helps adults and their families move ahead by developing stronger literacy skills. Volunteers work 1:1, in small groups, or open lab tutoring for either English language learners or native English speakers. Tutor training is enjoyable and required. Other volunteer opportunities may include office work or helping with fundraisers.

Apple Pregnancy Care Center

2600 Stein Blvd.
 Eau Claire, WI 54701
 715-834-7734

www.applepcc.org

Apple Pregnancy Care Center is a non-profit organization funded by donations, and provides services absolutely free of charge. All of the services - from pregnancy testing and counseling to practical assistance - are provided with complete confidentiality. Many participated in their Life Walk fundraiser!

Lend a Heart - Lend a Hand

Parishes identify people in the area who could use a hand with the fall and spring yard work. The work is accomplished in one long day with the aid of youth groups, scout groups, local community clubs and anyone willing to lend a hand.

We All Love Our Pets Program of Eau Claire County Humane Association

715-833-0977

Contact: Katherine Schneider

Email: schneiks@uwec.edu

Volunteers deliver free pet food and supplies to low income disabled and elderly on a monthly basis. Volunteers need a big car, truck, or van and the ability to carry thirty pound pails of cat litter.

Graceful Passages

715-210-6337

Contact: Judy Peak

Email: nursegoodbody@gmail.com

www.gracefulpassages.org

We provide thoughtful, compassionate and authentic guidance to the living about dying—how to prepare for the last stage of life, how to have loving conversations with our family and friends, and how to navigate through the challenges of conscious living, aging and dying. This guidance is provided through educational offerings, individual or group settings, and through one-on-one coaching.

Sacred Heart Hospital Volunteers

715-210-6337

Contact: Judy Peak

Email: nursegoodbody@gmail.com

www.sacredhearteauclaire.org

At HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital, volunteers are vital members of our healthcare team. They are people of all ages, backgrounds and lifestyles, with one thing in common: a spirit of dedication and generosity to help others. The more than 300 people who actively volunteer here do so much throughout the hospital.

La Crosse Deanery

Front Door Ministry

While most parishes have a Charitable Works fund, Cathedral Parish has an organized aid program to network with different agencies and provide maximum aid. A more complete explanation is found on our [website](#).

Warming Center

Catholic Charities of La Crosse
413 South 3rd Street
La Crosse, WI
608-782-0710 x220

<https://cclse.org/la-crosse-warming-center/>

The La Crosse Warming Center's Mission is to work with the greater La Crosse community to better serve those experiencing homelessness with dignity and respect by providing a safe and warm place for 15 homeless adults, 18 years and older to get in out of the cold during the winter months. Our doors are open November 1 through March 31. We are moving to a new location on 3rd Street. The Center's hours are from 9 pm - 7 am, Monday-Sunday. The center offers open intake from 9 pm -10 pm. After 10pm the police, hospital or Salvation Army can refer clients. The Center does allow those individuals who are currently suffering from mental health and/or addictions to enter the facility as long as they are acting in a calm and respectful manor. To keep the doors open, hundreds of volunteers from area churches and the community are needed to staff the center. To volunteer or for more information, call Mary Fitzpatrick at Catholic Charities, 608.782.0710 x 220. Also see their website for a wish list and contributions toward the renovations of their new facility are greatly appreciated!

Place of Grace

919 Hood Street
La Crosse, WI 54601
Ph.: (608) 782-6224

Place of Grace offers hospitality three days a week and one Sunday a month. During each day the community gathers to share in a meal and builds relationships. Volunteers help prepare and serve meals, clean-up, play with children, talk with guests, and most importantly, provide general hospitality to those who visit Place of Grace.

Marshfield Deanery

Frederic Ozanam Transitional Shelter

505 East Depot Street

Marshfield, WI 54449

Director: Brittany Boyer

Ph.: 715-384-6555

www.stvincentsmarshfield.org

In March of 2014, St. Vincent de Paul Society of Marshfield opened a transitional housing shelter to provide housing for families who are in need of a safe place to stay and guidance to a better way of life. They strive to provide a temporary transitional home environment, transportation, food, job skill training, clothing and assistance in goal setting for permanent housing and medical attention for people in need.

Gifts of Love

Pattie Pflugradt, Coordinator

E-mail: maskipaski@solarus.net

Ph.: 715-207-8348

Gifts of Love is a group of ladies from Sacred Heart Parish in Marshfield, Marshfield Deanery Counsel of Catholic Women, La Crosse Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, and Immanuel Lutheran Woman's Guild. These ladies are dedicated to making NICU blankets, kimonos, incubator covers, hats, booties, sweaters, and many other needed items. Premature babies are often so tiny; they need extra tiny cloths or items to keep them warm. Our ladies do just that. They sew, crochet or knit items for them. Gifts of Love ladies make burial outfits and blankets for the little angels that are too tiny to live. For the mothers who miscarry or whose infants join God in heaven, they make memorial boxes. Grieving parents need special care too! And if a family needs a burial casket for a baby born to soon or is too sick to be with us, Gifts of Love make and donate a casket. This is all at no cost. If you or someone you know are in need of these items, please email (above) and they will get these items to you.

St Vincent de Paul Society Thrift Store

169 N Central Ave.

Marshfield, WI 54449

Store Manager: Dcn. Jeff Austin at 715-387-4425

Email: svdpmfld@frontier.com

www.stvincentsmarshfield.org

The St. Vincent de Paul Society Thrift Store is one of the largest and well stocked stores in Wisconsin with three floors for your shopping. They have a large selection of clothing, housewares, domestic items and furniture. They can always use volunteers as well as donations.

Prairie du Chien Deanery

We need your help!

We know great things are happening in this area, but we haven't heard about them yet!

Richland Center Deanery

Door of Hope Pregnancy Care Center

217 N. Main St.

Viroqua, WI 54665

608-637-8688

Door of Hope is a crisis pregnancy center (CPC) to serve residents of Vernon, Crawford, and Monroe counties. They care for women, couples and parents in crisis pregnancies, giving them knowledge and support to enable them to choose life for their babies.

Lydia's House

265 N. Church St

Richland Center, WI 53581

Ph.: (608) 475-9479

Lydia's House provides emergency overnight shelter for people in desperate need. They also have A Child's Place, which is a 90 day homeless shelter for persons with minor children; and A Family's Place which provides up to two years of transitional housing for a family in need. Area parishes have volunteered their time at Lydia's House.

Fortney Hotel Residents Sunday Meal Program

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish

400 Congress Ave.

Viroqua, WI 54665

608-637-7711

Contact: Fr. Joseph Arokiam

www.stmaryparish@mwt.net

In 2008 the social concerns committee of St. Mary parish identified the Fortney Hotel as an outreach opportunity to serve the marginalized and poor of Viroqua by providing hot, home cooked meals on an ongoing basis. This is an ecumenical outreach with the participation of other churches in the Viroqua area. The St. Mary Chapter of Pax Christi USA is now coordinating this ministry to the residents of the Fortney Hotel on the first Sunday of every month.

Saint Mary Quilters

Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish

400 Congress Ave.

Viroqua, WI 54665

608-637-7711

Contact: Fr. Joseph Arokiam

www.stmaryparish@mwt.net

Handmade quilts by our Parish women are given to a variety of people. All newly baptized children in our parish receive one. In our community, quilts are given to the homebound, the sick, the elderly, fire/natural disaster victims, Catholic Charities, and our local Door of Hope.

Food Pantry

Sacred Heart Parish

417 S. Oak Street

Lone Rock, WI 53556

Contact: Fr. Wesley Janowski

The Food Pantry in Lone Rock benefits students' families from Lone Rock and any Lone Rock citizens who are food challenged. Our parish collects year round for this cause.

Greenway Manor

Sacred Heart Parish

417 S. Oak Street

Lone Rock, WI 53556

Contact: Fr. Wesley Janowski

The Greenway Manor in Spring Green houses some of our former parishioners. Visits and volunteerism are a common project in our parish.

Christmas Donations for Passages

Sacred Heart Parish

417 S. Oak Street

Lone Rock, WI 53556

Contact: Fr. Wesley Janowski

Christmas donations are given to Passages (home for abused women and children), Pine Valley and Greenway Manor (nursing homes), and Catechism teachers for CCD.

Stevens Point Deanery

Family Crisis Center

Ph.: 715-343-7125

Many area parishioners support the Family Crisis Center which offers a safe place to stay for victims of domestic violence and their children. Staff assists domestic violence victims and their children in identifying alternatives to the problems they are experiencing. Families are also provided with assistance in completion of temporary restraining order petitions, obtaining child care, transportation, housing, etc. They also offer low-cost rental housing for families in need when they leave the Crisis Center.

No Child's Wet Behind

St. Bronislava, Plover

No child's wet behind is a diaper collection for the local pantry helping keep the area children dry and healthy.

Place of Peace

1948 Church Street

La Crosse, WI 54481

Ph.: (715) 496-0164

Email: placeofpeacesp@gmail.com

The Place of Peace is an area ministry based on the Catholic Worker Movement started by Dorothy Day. Each week, people of all walks of life gather together at our facility to share a common meal, prayers, conversation and their lives. Our cooks come from all over Stevens Point and Central Wisconsin and the menu varies widely. The Place of Peace also functions as a food pantry to those who show up on Thursday evenings and are in need of groceries.

St Vincent de Paul Society Thrift Store

2700 Post Road

Plover, WI 54467

Ph.: (715) 344-7395

<http://www.svdpusa.org/>

The St. Vincent de Paul Community Center of Portage County has been serving the Plover, Stevens Point and surrounding communities since 1988. Their Thrift Store provides a large selection quality goods for the whole family at affordable prices. The Emergency Food Assistance Program assists many eligible individuals sustain their food resources every month.

Thorp Deanery

Change of Seasons Project

Change of Seasons is a time for community volunteers to help our senior citizens with those "Change of Seasons" odd jobs. This happens each spring and fall in Neillsville and Loyal. It began with a collaboration of St. Mary's Justice and Peace Committee, Office of Aging and Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers of Clark County, many community volunteers and St. Anthony's and Trinity Lutheran Church in Loyal.

The day begins with a prayer and breakfast. Churches now take turns hosting. Some churches provide lunch. Names are submitted to Interfaith and the Aging Office. Volunteers are recruited from youth organizations and churches. Teams are set up and given names for their team to rake leaves, wash windows clean gutters or whatever job the elderly need done. There is no cost for the service.

Hunger Banquet

[Hunger Banquet Instructions](#)

In an effort to raise awareness on hunger in the world and to raise funds, Our Lady of Peace parish held a Hunger Banquet in which, based on current world demographics, 10% of the guests received a full dinner at a nice table, 30% received a small meal at card tables and the remaining 60% sat on the floor and dined on rice and beans while enjoying the guest speaker.

St. Mary's WRAP Project

St. Mary's Neillsville

Dr. Gregory Foster

drgreg@fosterprimaryeyecare.net

Each year the last week of October or first week in November is designated as WRAP Awareness Week. The Senior class in CCD program is engaged by their teacher during one of their class periods to discuss the problems that pornography causes in society. At all Sunday Masses at the beginning of WRAP Awareness Week a volunteer from the Senior Class of CCD program reads a short prepared statement (written by Justice and Peace Committee Chairperson) outlining the scourge of pornography on society and the need to make every effort to eliminate it from our lives. Message clearly defines the consumption of pornography as a sin against God. After Mass the Senior Class and members of Justice and Peace Committee distribute lengths of white ribbons for parishioners to tie on auto antennas or on rear view mirrors in support of the message. Also St. Mary's had white wrist bands made with the inscription "WRAP White Ribbon Against Pornography" to serve as a reminder to speak out against the sales, distribution, and consumption of pornography whenever the occasion arises.

Tomah Deanery

Helping Hands Board

St. Mary Immaculate Conception Parish started a Helping Hands board. The bulletin board, located in the back of church, is divided into “I Need a Hand” and “I can Lend a Hand.” The Social Concerns committee aids in connecting people with a need, with people that are willing to help out.

Diaper Collection

The school children of St. Mary Immaculate Conception School research the cost of diapers and the health risks of keeping soiled diapers on the children. They then collect diapers for the local food pantry. Every year they come up with a unique name such as “Give Cheeks a Chance,” and “No Child’s Wet Behind.” Over the past years, they have collected thousands of diapers keeping the Tomah area’s babies dry.

Our Lady of Guadalupe School, Uganda

St Mary Immaculate Conception, Tomah, and St Mary, Neillsville, have partnered with area Rotary clubs to construct water wells and aided the school in Uganda. These groups have also donated chickens to the school. The school then uses the eggs as a source of protein for the children as well as a source of income for the school.

St Vincent de Paul Society Thrift Store

620 McEvoy Street
Mauston, WI 53948
Ph.: 608-847-6235

The St. Vincent de Paul Society Thrift Store is clean and well stocked conveniently located just off Interstate I-90/94. They have a large selection of clothing, housewares, domestic items and furniture. They can always us volunteers as well as donations.

St. Patrick Parish, Sparta Food Pantry

319 W. Main Street
Sparta, WI 54656
608-269-2655

Ecumenical Food Pantry in downtown Sparta, WI, open for a few hours daily. St. Pat’s parishioners donate food and volunteer to assist clients. This food pantry operates as an emergency needs facility.

St. Patrick Parish, Sparta Second Harvest Mobile Food Pantry

319 W. Main Street

Sparta, WI 54656
608-269-2655

Second Harvest Mobile Food Pantry in a city warehouse once a month. Volunteer duties include product preparation, distribution, loading recipient's vehicles, clean-up, and preparing reports. It provides 40-50 pounds of food per household.

Wausau Deanery

St Vincent de Paul Society of Wausau

131 West Thomas Street

Wausau, WI 54401

Phone: 715-298-3028

Email: dhoppa@svdpwausau.org

<http://svdpwausau.org/>

Members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (or "Vincentians") are men and women who strive to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to individuals in need. We are young and old. Our members come in every shade of skin color. Some of us are wealthy, some are financially poor, but all of us are blessed with an awareness that our blessings (time, talent or treasure) are to be shared with our brothers and sisters in need.

Wausau Community Warming Center

540 South 3rd Ave.

PO Box 2186

Wausau, WI. 54402-2186

715-849-3311

<http://cclse.org/wausau-community-warming-center/>

Catholic Charities operates the center and works with other community organizations to ensure success. The Community Warming Center is an action step of the Wausau Housing and Homelessness Coalition, to collaboratively raise community awareness to end homelessness by maximizing and strengthening existing resources, developing new, relevant solutions and creating a seamless delivery of services to end homelessness in Marathon County. The shelter provides a clean, warm and safe environment for up to 25 adult men and women, accepts and encourages guests' ambitions or hopes, provides a nightly hot meal to our guests, and ensures each guest's personal dignity, safety and respect.

Open Door Ministry

Ph.: (715) 848-4044

The Open Door Ministry was begun in 2010 as a hand up to recently released prisoners. Marathon County Jail releases its prisoners before breakfast on their date of release, wearing the clothes they wore when they went in. Open Door Ministry meets them with a cup of coffee, a bite to eat, a chance to choose some new clothing, and a word of encouragement and hope.

Circle of Love

Church of the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ

621 2nd Street, Wausau, WI 54403

(715) 845-6715

info@eastsideparishes.org

<http://eastsideparishes.org/east/>

The Resurrection Parish, Wausau, sponsors soup lunches during lent. Many parishioners have helped to ease the loneliness of our shut-ins by making and delivering homemade bread and soup to Resurrection shut-ins the third Wednesday of each month. During Lent, the Circle expands this service to EVERY Wednesday and in addition offers a quick and delicious lunch from 11:30 to after 12:10 Mass (1:00). Those who are needy are invited at no cost – and those who can afford to pay are asked for a free-will donation. We carry on the work of the Circle of Love throughout the year on the profits of the “Lenten Soup Kitchen”, including soup to Salvation Army, Benedictine Bingo, etc.

Wisconsin Rapids Deanery**Deanery Social Justice Committee**

6741 Lenox Ave.

Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

715-424-5338

Contact: Joyce Lobner or Terri Sersch

tsersch@wctc.net

Fall Lecture Series

Two-part presentation regarding social concerns affecting our community

Lenten Collection

A collection among all deanery parishes to replenish our local Infant Pantry and Essentials Pantry. We also collaborate with other community endeavors as arise.

St. Vincent de Paul Parish

820 13th Street South
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
715-423-2111
Contact: Ann Ruesch
stvin@wctc.net

Social Justice committee is involved with the following programs:

- *Haiti Twin Parish
- *Home Delivered Meals in the Wisconsin Rapids area
- *Community Blood Bank
- *Right to Life
- *Food Pantry of Wisconsin Rapids area
- *Home visits to homebound
- *Neighborhood Table – community meal program

St. Alexander Parish

880 1st Street
Port Edwards, WI 54469
715-887-3012
deaconmarkq@solarus.net

St. Alexander's parish supports a Navaho mission in Arizona and holds a monthly collection for our local food pantry.

We Need Your Help!

Additions and Corrections

This directory is an evolving project requiring input from the local parishes. We realize there are initiatives going on in the diocese not listed here, or ones that have changed. For the social ministry initiatives of your parish or deanery to be listed, the pastor or someone authorized by him should complete and submit the online form at: <http://diolc.org/social-ministry-initiative-submission-form/>

For corrections or deletions, please contact the Office for Ministries and Social Concerns at ministries@diolc.org or 608-791-0161.