

work of faith + labor of love

ENDURANCE

in hope

DIOCESE OF LACROSSE

WE ARE THE DIOCESE

Diocesan
Annual
Appeal
2018-2019



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A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Hello,

May Christ give you peace!

Mary, Mother of Hope, pray for us!"

The Diocesan Annual Appeal is our commitment to invest in the charitable and missionary works we as a diocesan family believe we are called to support. A committee of laity and clerical representatives from all over our Diocese reviews the charitable and ministerial works annually. Our Diocesan Annual Appeal 2018 -2019 theme is "*Work of Faith, Labor of Love and Endurance in Hope*" from Paul's 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3.

Last March we began celebrating our Sesquicentennial as a diocesan community. For 150 years, our ancestors built parishes, tilled the land to nourish the body, built schools to feed the mind, and built hospitals to heal the body. They invested, hoped, loved, and prayed for a new way of life, grounded in Christ and the Catholic faith community, for themselves and their families. Today the investment of our time, talent, and treasure honor the shoulders we stand on and reminds the world that we the Church that Jesus Christ is our Hope, and is His Hope that brings peace to the soul.

The Diocese of La Crosse is the local parish, school, hospital, and other communities within the geographical boundaries of the 19 counties we serve. By being a vehicle in which we can invest in the Church's financial base, the Diocesan Annual Appeal helps significantly to advance the work of the Church, locally and beyond. Our collective investing is a missionary extension of Christ's hands reaching across space and time to those in need in our Diocese and throughout the world. Your individual and communal efforts are critical also ensure that the much-needed services provide hope to those broken, need, or lost.

In light of our continuing scandals in our church, people are understandably concerned about where the monies they invest in the Diocesan Annual Appeal is going. Rest assured, as it has been in the past; **Diocesan Annual Appeal Funds are not used for any legal remediation including but not limited to legal fees, victim settlements payments, or court cost, etc.**

Diocesan Annual Appeal monies are restricted funds and can only be used for what this case statement directs. Because the Diocesan Annual Appeal funds are restricted, they are kept in a separate financial institution and tracked in different accounting funds to ensure their use only for the purposes specified in the case statement.

Please, direct any inquiries about the Appeal its process to the Office for Stewardship and Development

+Peace and All Good,



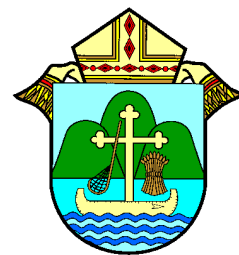
Jeff Reiter

Director of Stewardship and Development

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Diocesan Annual Appeal CASE STATEMENT 2018-19



VOCATIONS, PRIESTS, DEACONS, AND RELIGIOUS

SEMINARY EDUCATION AND RELIGIOUS FORMATION

- 26 seminarians
- 4 Regency
- 3 Journey

The responsibility, spiritually and financially, of providing sufficient priests for the Diocese of La Crosse belongs to all of us. There will be twenty-six men engaged in seminary studies for our Diocese at college and theological seminaries for the 2018-2019 school year.

The Holy Cross Seminary House of Formation is a program to help young men in the discernment of their vocational call, with an emphasis on the call to the priesthood. Throughout the year, there are discernment retreats offered for the middle school, high school, and college-age men. The Director of Vocations, also the Director of the Holy Cross Seminary House of Formation, is available for retreats and other teaching events throughout the Diocese.

CONTINUING EDUCATION OF CLERGY:

Our priests need ongoing intellectual formation and regular spiritual enrichment. To help priests more effectively respond to the needs of their people, educational programs, retreats, and sabbaticals are an absolute necessity. Furthermore, some priests are working on advanced degrees so they can assist the Bishop to continue the teaching mission of our Diocese.

DIACONATE FORMATION:

- 20 men in Deacon Formation
- 5 Deacons to be ordained in fall of 2018
- 5 Deacons to be ordained in fall of 2020
- 10 Deacons to be ordained in fall of 2022
- 58 Deacons ministering in the Diocese

These funds are for the education and formation of future deacons for our Diocese. Permanent deacons assist the Bishop and priests by their ministry of charity to those who are suffering or on the margins of society, as well as through teaching, proclaiming the Gospel, assisting at the altar, and carrying out other various apostolic works.

VOCATIONS PROMOTION:

These funds are used to support literature, technology, and materials that primarily promote vocations to the priesthood. They also support all vocational, discernment and the vocational portions of confirmation retreats and parish programs for middle school to adults.

INTERNATIONAL PRIESTS:

- 30 International Priests serve in Diocesan parishes

The Diocesan Annual Appeal funds in part the training and support of our international priests for service in the parishes of the Diocese of La Crosse. With the shortage of Diocesan priests, the international priests serve a vital role in providing our Catholic communities with the celebration of the Eucharist and other sacraments in addition to the administration of many parishes.

CLERGY HEALTHCARE:

The Diocese ensures fully funding of our priest's medical needs since insurance does not cover all of their medical needs. The Diocese is in need of more financial support due to rising health care costs and unfunded expenses, including some medications and long-term health care.

VICAR FOR CLERGY:

The Vicar for Clergy oversees the health and well-being of the 92 Diocesan priests, the 30 International Priests, the 44 Senior Priests, and the 58 permanent deacons.

OFFICE FOR CONSECRATED LIFE

The Office for Consecrated Life serves as a liaison between the Bishop and the men and women in consecrated life in the Diocese of La Crosse. Specific services include visiting with individual consecrated persons, consulting with people seeking canonical status, assisting the religious seeking ministry in the Diocese, coordinating the Retirement Fund for Religious, and promoting vocations in collaboration with the Diocesan Office for Vocations and Mater Redemptoris House of Formation to promote vocations to consecrated life.

PARISH MINISTRIES SUPPORT

The Offices of the Diocesan Curia assist the Bishop, parishes, schools, and various apostolates in providing for the essential pastoral needs of our people. Gifts to the Diocesan Annual Appeal for the support of these ministries are vital to the well-being of the local Church. The Diocesan Annual Appeal supports the Offices of the Diocesan Curia including:

OFFICE FOR CATECHESIS AND EVANGELIZATION

The Office for Catechesis and Evangelization serves the Bishop, clergy, parish and school staff as well as the laity in our life-long formation as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. The Office assists parishes and schools with in-services at the diocesan, deanery, and parish level with methods and content in handing on the Catholic Faith, based upon the Diocesan Religion Curriculum and Virtue Program. This office also offers and over sees opportunities for certification for Catholic school teachers and parish catechetical leaders and catechists in doctrine, Scripture, and methods to ensure their proper formation to teach the Faith. Adult resources, such as bulletin inserts and materials that correspond with Bible studies and Adult Faith Formation Study Programs, are developed and provided for ongoing faith enrichment. This office also coordinates the Hmong Ministry and Ministry for Persons with Special Needs (MPSN).

The Office for Catechesis and Evangelization maintains an audiovisual and resource library free rental use in the parishes and Catholic schools. This office also collaborates with other Diocesan offices on all matters about religious education, evangelization, the RCIA process, and adult faith formation to serve the needs of the parishes, Catholic schools and the Diocese as a whole.

QUASI PARISH MARY, MOTHER OF GOOD HELP HMONG MINISTRY:

- 3,500 people assisted

A good number of Hmong Catholics who reside in the Diocese of La Crosse. With the assistance of two priest chaplains, two part-time Hmong catechists in Wausau, and the Diocesan Coordinator in La Crosse; Hmong Catholics receive instruction in the faith, ongoing formation, to help become active members in parishes. Hmong are prepared for the reception of the Sacraments and given assistance for the sick and those in need. There is current outreach to the Hmong who has never heard of Jesus Christ and those who are Christian but who do not understand the basic Gospel message. Catholic resources such as a Rosary booklet and Stations

of the Cross are being translated into the Hmong language to foster a deeper relationship with Christ through prayer. Young people are encouraged to participate in parish youth ministry to grow in their faith. Your gift also provides tuition assistance to needy Hmong families with children in Catholic schools.

OFFICE FOR MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE

The Office for Marriage and Family Life assists parishes to establish and maintain the service to marriage through, marriage education to youth, marriage preparation for engaged couples, marriage-enrichment opportunities, and resources to those with troubled marriages.

The office also coordinates the *“Teaching the Way of Love Series”* which equips parents with the skills and confidence they need to talk with their children about topics such as human dignity, friendships, sexuality, chastity, dating, and God’s plan for human love.

The Office oversees several programs, including; Baptism preparation, by offering training to parish ministers in collaboration with the Office for Catechesis and Evangelization.

Natural Family Planning education, which assists married couples in following the Church’s teachings on love and life.

The Ministry of Consolation, which provides training to deaneries and parishes for supporting families and individuals during the time of loss.

Men’s Ministry, which provides resource materials and listings of regional men’s conferences.

Women’s Ministry, which provides support materials and listings of regional women’s conferences.

Separated and Divorced Catholics, which focuses on providing resources to couples who are separated (e.g., Retrouvaille, Catholic Counselors, Marriage Mentors, etc.) and inviting those who are divorced to stay connected with their church and explore a declaration of nullity.

NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING:

Over 1,000 individuals served by the Natural Family Planning program office annually

Over 2,000 parents and youth attend presentations annually

The Diocese of La Crosse offers Natural Family Planning (NFP) education to assist engaged and married couples plan their families and raise them in accord with God’s will. Under the Office for Marriage and Family Life, the NFP ministry provides classes and presentations on natural family planning, fertility awareness, marital chastity, and parenting. For more information about NFP and family life issues related to love and life, visit www.dioc.org/nfp or call 715.235.6226.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION AND MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT:

The Office for Marriage and Family Life coordinates with deaneries and parishes to provide marriage preparation, marriage enrichment, and marriage mentoring throughout the Diocese. In November 2009 the U.S. Catholic Bishops approved the pastoral letter *“Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan,”* which discusses the Church’s key teachings on marriage as both a natural gift and a sacrament.

It explains how marriage is a public commitment between a man and a woman intended for the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of children. The letter discusses several contemporary challenges to marriage including same-sex unions, divorce, contraception, and cohabitation, and how the Church addresses those challenges.

OFFICE FOR MINISTRIES AND SOCIAL CONCERNS

The Office for Ministries and Social Concerns directs formation for the permanent diaconate as well as programs of formation for the laity, including the Lay Formation Institute and the Leader of Prayer Program. It also coordinates pastoral care of the Hispanic community, implements the directives of the Diocesan Bishop consistent with the social teachings of the Church and collaborates with the U.S. Bishops’ programs for national and international relief and development. The Office also is working closely with Catholic Charities, the Diocesan Mission Office, and the diocesan Social Ministry Advisory Committee to foster initiatives of charity and social advocacy in parishes and deaneries throughout the Diocese. Finally, the Office administers grant programs for the continuing education of men and women involved in pastoral work.

LAY FORMATION:

- 39 people currently enrolled the Lay Formation Institute in spring of 2019 and will be commissioned (more than 800 commissioned since 1973).
- 200 people are enrolled in the Leader of Prayer program

Diocesan workshops toward growth in lay discipleship are ongoing, in collaboration with the Office for Catechesis and Evangelization and the Office for Sacred Worship.

Funds from the Diocesan Annual Appeal support the education and formation of future deacons for our Diocese. Permanent deacons assist the Bishop and priests by their ministry of charity to those who are suffering or on the margins of society, as well as through teaching, proclaiming the Gospel, assisting at the altar, and carrying out other various apostolic works.

HISPANIC AND MIGRANT MINISTRY:

- Over 1,500 people helped weekly

Many Spanish-speaking Catholics live and work in our diocese. To meet their spiritual needs, the Church provides Mass and other liturgical and pastoral services in their native language and makes available Spanish catechetical and devotional resources. The Office for Ministries and Social Concerns coordinates these pastoral efforts, complementing the legal and material aid provided to the Hispanic Community through Catholic Charities.

OFFICE FOR SACRED WORSHIP

The Office for Sacred Worship serves the Bishop, clergy, and laity of the Diocese. The Office for Sacred Worship seeks to deepen our understanding of the meaning of the celebrated rites, their manner of celebration, and their implications for daily life. It offers sacramental catechesis for all the members of the Diocese and promotes the liturgical formation of those who serve the liturgical assembly in the parish. The Office for Sacred Worship also directs the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), by supporting the activities of parish RCIA coordinators and hosting diocesan celebrations with the Bishop and the RCIA candidates.

TELEVISED MASS:

The televised Mass provides tremendous comfort to those thousands of temporarily or permanently homebound Catholics, whose age or infirmity prevents them from going to their parish church for Mass, by giving them the opportunity to be able to view the Sunday Mass in their home. Although many viewers of the televised Mass regularly contribute to help pay for production and airtime, the costs are much greater than the contributions. The Mass is closed-captioned for the hearing impaired.

OFFICE FOR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

- Over 3,500 youth participate in a Diocesan rally, retreat, or event

The Office for Youth Ministry and Young Adult Ministry assists parishes and high schools to lead their young people (ages 12-39) to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, ongoing growth in their Catholic faith, and the use of their gifts for the good of the Church and the world. Our first goal is to serve the parishes by assisting them in starting and continuing their youth-ministry programs. Our second goal is to provide opportunities for young people to experience and grow deeper in their faith. The Diocesan Annual Appeal helps support the many events coordinated through this office.

- The training conferences for youth ministers and teams

- Individual parish retreats
- Local, regional, and national conferences
- World Youth Day,
- Totus Tuus (a Catholic vacation bible school run by young adults)
- Three Adventure Camps,
- The Immersion Retreat
- Leaven2Heaven Youth Rally
- Young Adult Retreat
- National and international mission service trips

These opportunities are to energize and strengthen the faith of the young people so that when they come back to their parish youth-ministry programs, they can be good examples of living out their faith to their peers and other parishioners.

HIGH SCHOOL FAITH FORMATION:

Confirmed young people need high school programs to help them continue their faith journey in the Catholic Church, discern their vocation in life, and prepare for adult responsibilities.

PARISH MINSTRIES SUPPORT ALLOCATION \$1,395,955.

PARISH SERVICES SUPPORT

CHANCERY AND ARCHIVES

The Chancery Office provides consultation in areas of Church (canon) law. The Chancellor is the chief notary for the Diocese and is responsible for safeguarding official Curial documents. The Chancellor's office processes pre nuptial files for marriage, which includes granting permissions, dispensations, and declarations of nullity due to lack of canonical form. The Chancery Office prepares and edits the data for inclusion in the *Wisconsin Pastoral Handbook* and *Official Catholic Directory*.

The Diocesan Archives maintains a history of the parishes and institutions within the diocese. The Archivist provides research for genealogical searches from the sacramental registers and issues sacramental records from the data kept in the Archives.

OFFICE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Office for Communications and Public Relations seeks to communicate the good news of Jesus Christ, according to the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, to God's people of the Diocese of La Crosse. Daily, we strive to present the truth and presence of God by promoting the efforts of the Diocese through her parishes, clergy, religious and lay faithful using many forms of media and public relations.

The Office for Communications and Public Relations, responsible for communications to the Diocese's external and internal audiences, acts as the communications liaison with all the parishes of the Diocese and maintains a relationship with similar offices of the other Wisconsin (arch) Dioceses. The communications director, serving as the spokesperson and media contact, is also responsible for public relations, promotion, photography, video production and website communication. This individual also oversees the technical and database requirements necessary to maintain an effective electronic communications network.

CATHOLIC COMMUNICATIONS:

Communicating the mission to the faithful of the Diocese of La Crosse on a regular basis, we strive to provide a meaningful Catholic perspective. Through the help of the Diocesan Annual Appeal, we can reach more families through our print and electronic means. The two-part focus of our message is to inform and enrich those active in their Catholic faith and to inspire and awaken those who are not.

OFFICE FOR STEWARDSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT

Taking heart of the call by our Bishops that “once one chooses to become a disciple of Jesus Christ, stewardship is not an option,” the Office for Stewardship and Development aims to educate and support the different Stewardship efforts within the diocesan’s community. Christ reminds us that to be good and faithful Stewards; we must take a risk with our gifts and not be foolish or timid. (Mt 25:14-30). The Office for Stewardship and Development works to ensure the community has the necessary understanding, strategic planning, and tools necessary to cultivate the Time, Talent, and Treasure required to walk with the people of God’s on their journey to the compassionate heart of Lord Jesus Christ.

DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

The expenses incurred by the Diocesan Annual Appeal include salaries, promotion, printing, postage, video production, other supplies, and tools required.

OFFICE FOR TEMPORALITIES

The Finance Office and Diocesan Buildings and Grounds comprise the Office for Temporalities. The Finance Office assists the parishes and answers questions on their financial, payroll and accounting needs. The Office for Buildings and Grounds helps the parishes and schools with keeping in compliance with governmental regulations by assisting asbestos and other environmental matters. This office is the primary contact for the processing of construction and remodeling contracts.

LAY EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT

The Diocese of La Crosse Lay Employees’ Retirement Plan needs additional support to fund fully the modest retirement benefits given to the employees enrolled in this defined-benefit plan. The plan began in 1974 to extend greater financial security to those many dedicated lay employees and their families by providing some financial assistance upon their retirement. The plan was frozen December 31, 2006, but there are 500 active employees and over 1,700 eligible participants to receive benefits from the plan.

PARISH SERVICES SUPPORT ALLOCATION \$992,170

DIOCESAN FACILITIES: OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

ST. JOSEPH THE WORKMAN CATHEDRAL OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE:

Dedicated in 1962, St. Joseph, the Workman Cathedral, is the Mother Church of the Diocese of La Crosse. Due to the Cathedral's role in diocesan celebrations and liturgies, the Diocese assumes responsibility for a portion of the expenses of the Mother Church of the Diocese.

HOLY CROSS DIOCESAN CENTER BUILDING OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE:

The Holy Cross Diocesan Center is a multi-functional facility that houses and maintains the day-to-day functioning of the La Crosse Diocesan administration. Besides the Bishop's business offices and conference room, there are 99 rooms used by the Diocesan Curia and Catholic Charities. The top floor offers apartments and guest rooms for active and retired priests, as well as temporary lodging for the Seminary House of Formation. The development of several libraries is currently under way. The Center houses Christ the King Chapel, St. Martha's Kitchen and Refectory, and a gym. *Mater Redemptoris* (female) *House of Formation* and the Bishop's residence are also on the same 23-acre campus. The Center provides a venue for large groups and diocesan-wide conferences and events, like those accommodated in the:

Refectory (Dining Room): Events include ,Daily staff lunch, Priest Unity Days, Fall Clergy Conference, donor receptions for the Diocesan Annual Appeal, Jubilee Wedding Anniversary celebrations, new teacher formation and other in-services, school administrators' meetings, deacons' meetings, Casa Hogar Dinner, Lenten Luncheon and seminars for Catholic Charities, Seminarian reunions, plus most other annual conferences sponsored by offices of the Diocesan Curia.

Bishop's Common Room: Meetings held by Deacon Community Board, Catholic Hospital Administrators, La Crosse Deanery Special Religious Education, Rural Life Committee, Presbyteral Council, the College of Deans, St. Joseph Priest Fund, Pastoral Planning Committee and Subcommittees, bible studies, and Curia staff in-services.

Riverview Room and Owl Room: Meetings held by Catechesis and Evangelization, Consecrated Life, Vocations, Safe Environment, Diocese and Viterbo Collaborative Committee, Catholic Cemeteries, Catholic Charities, Catholic Residential Services, Home Study Course, St. Joseph Priest Fund, Youth Ministry and NET teams.

Christ the King Chapel: TV Mass filming, First Friday Masses, Masses for Hmong, Hispanics and MPSN (Ministry for Persons with Special Needs) and other Masses for special events, as well as daily Curia staff Masses.

Holy Cross Diocesan Center Crypt Chapel: Resident priests celebrate daily Masses and occasional retreats and days of recollection use the space.

Gym and Ball Fields: Aquinas High School, Western Technical College, a Catholic men's basketball league, and the Warriors Drum and Bugle Corps use the gym. Aquinas baseball and football teams for practices and games use the ball fields during respective seasons.

A maintenance engineer's home is attached to the steam heating plant that is all separate from the central facility.

The Center also supports the local community. Presently it is collaborating with the Western Healthcare Coalition of the State of Wisconsin as part of a mass fatality plan to provide a safe harbor for affected families needing assistance.

DIOCESAN FACILITIES: OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE ALLOCATION \$275,000

CATHOLIC EDUCATION

OFFICE FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

The Office for Catholic Schools assists the Bishop in planning, implementing, and evaluating the 66 Catholic-education programs in Diocesan Parish Schools and Unified School Systems. It conducts major workshops and in-service training for teachers, administrators, parents and other groups. The office also informs schools of national and state education policies, standards, and issues; administers a standardized testing program; provides curriculum assistance and on-site administrative services upon request, and assists schools by offering guidance on legal matters and other pressing issues. Most importantly, the Office for Catholic Schools helps to assure the Catholic identity of schools and the spiritual formation of administrators and teachers.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS DEVELOPMENT:

6,696 students in Catholic schools (2017-18)

Capital, infrastructure, and academic development are vital to ensuring that students in our diocese will continue to receive a quality Catholic education. Funds are used to provide training and assistance to improve our 66 Catholic schools.

DIRECT PARISH SUBSIDY FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS:

Grants to parishes that support schools

The Diocese of La Crosse takes pride in the strong tradition of quality Catholic education. Parishes that support schools frequently have to forego important projects and purchases to meet the financial needs of their schools.

Tuition assistance to families with children in our schools

There are annual tuition-assistance grants awarded to families based on financial need. In the 2017-2018 school year, \$100,000.00 was allocated from the Diocesan Annual Appeal to help families keep their children in our Catholic schools.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION ALLOCATION \$606,910

CHARITY, MISSIONS AND THE WIDER CHURCH

CATHOLIC CHARITIES:

Catholic Charities mission is to proclaim Christ's gospel of life and promote human dignity by alleviating poverty and strengthening individuals and families. The Diocesan Annual Appeal helps support Catholic Charities in their work with individuals, families, and communities to help them meet their needs, address their issues, eliminate oppression, and build a just and compassionate society. In 2016, 9,952 families and individuals received services from Catholic Charities. With your support, we offer a variety of services on a no-fee or very low fee basis to all who come to our door. Your gifts to the Diocesan Annual Appeal support our:

ST. LAWRENCE COMMUNITY SERVICES

- Over 5,000 families and individuals received charitable outreach assistance with utility, food, transportation, health related, housing, clothing and other basic human needs with over \$200,000 in direct client aid distributed in annually.
- Nearly 1,500 individuals and families reached through various financial literacy programs; helping to make a permanent change in their financial situation. Annually, families received over \$100,000 in housing assistance to keep them in their homes.

Catholic Charities certified and experienced staff provides charitable outreach, including assistance with rent, mortgage, food, and utilities, advocacy, and financial education and enrichment individually tailored to each client. Struggling families and individuals can receive an evaluation of their situation, develop a plan, and participate in financial education and case management.

DISASTER RECOVERY

Catholic Charities provides disaster relief and recovery services including emergency food, shelter, direct financial assistance and support throughout the Diocese. Catholic Charities reaches out to parishes and counties across the Diocese that are affected by natural disasters and other tragedies.

COMMUNITY HOMELESS FACILITIES

- Nearly 25,000 sheltered nights of service were provided to the many poor, hurting, homeless, and often "faceless" people in our communities.

- Over 400 homeless community members or those living on the edge of homelessness sought services through Franciscan Hospitality House.

Catholic Charities works to provide overnight shelter facilities for many poor, hurting, homeless, and often “faceless” people in our communities. Sojourner House in Eau Claire first opened its doors on November 1, 2011 to provide a year round, safe, clean place where adult men and women, regardless of what their ambitions or hopes are, can sleep overnight, shower, clean their clothing, and have food in the evening, as well as a nutritious breakfast, while ensuring their personal respect and safety.

The La Crosse and Wausau Warming Centers are open from November 1 through April 30. They offer a warm space, an evening meal, breakfast, and laundry and shower facilities to homeless adults 18 and over who may have been turned away from other local programs due to capacity or eligibility issues. The Franciscan Hospitality House is a day facility, which is open to those who are homeless or living on the edge of homelessness to offer legal advice, laundry, shower, foot care, phone access, and other basic needs.

BEYOND SHELTER PROGRAM

In 2016, Catholic Charities embraced the ‘housing first’ model in housing long-term homeless men and women in our Diocese. In Wausau, the first Beyond Shelter facility opened to house single homeless men. The House of Mercy soon followed serving homeless women and women with children in Clark County. Both of these facilities offer housing to those who are in need in our communities. We work with these residents by providing them a home with case supervision. The staff is available to connect them with local resources and work with them on a sustainable living situation.

BIRTHPARENT SUPPORT AND ADOPTION SERVICES

- Finds forever families through our birth parent, relative and international adoption programs.
- Birth parents are supported through pregnancy to live birth.
- Families enjoy family fun events, conferences, training, or received information from our Post-Adoption Resource Center.

Catholic Charities offers compassionate, free support to expectant birth mothers and fathers in all areas of the Diocese, whether they choose to parent their baby or make an adoption plan. This outreach helps fulfill our mission to proclaim the sanctity of human life to promote families, and the capacity of individuals to grow in community. For over 140 years, Catholic Charities Adoption services have been building families throughout west-central Wisconsin. Our

Catholic Charities Adoption Program is only one of two organizations in the state of Wisconsin that have received a Hague Accreditation allowing us to not only work with local families and children but to provide assistance with Intercountry Adoption services too.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION

- Helpline for victims of domestic abuse in Crawford County.
- Assistance and direct services in Crawford County.

In Crawford County, Catholic Charities staffs a domestic violence prevention program in cooperation with other community leaders, supporting those who are victims of domestic violence and provides the broader community with preventative educational resources. We recognize that peace and violence cannot dwell together, and where there is violence, God cannot be present. Catholic Charities engages in ministry to victims and families of domestic abuse to bring healing and restore lives so that God can be present.

ST. DAMIEN OUTREACH TO PERSONS WITH HIV/AIDS

- Pastoral care and practical support from Catholic Charities staff and volunteers.

The purpose of the St. Damien Outreach is to provide compassionate ongoing support and outreach to people who are affected and living with HIV/AIDS and those who love them. Catholic Charities engages in this program to fulfill our mission to protect human rights and dignity, to proclaim the sanctity of human life, and to stand in solidarity with those who may be marginalized by society.

IMMIGRATION ASSISTANCE

- Annually hundreds from a variety of countries received legal services in their quest for US citizenship or permanent residency. Catholic Charities provided a voice for those without a voice.

Catholic Charities provides direct legal assistance to all immigrants for naturalization, adjustment of status, immigration services under the VAWA program (Violence Against Women Act), and other immigration services. Also, we provide all immigrants general assistance and referrals for special needs.

REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE PROGRAM

- Nearly 500 clients annually throughout the southwestern part of the Diocese received assistance.

This program offers case management services to individuals who are living on a fixed income. Assistance with payment of financial obligations and monthly household budgeting are among the services provided in this program. Payments for monthly needs such as rent, utilities, groceries, and other personal necessities were provided.

DISABILITIES SERVICES

- Nearly 25,000 hours of service were provided to students with behavioral disorders, autism spectrum, and other developmental disabilities to help them stay in their homes and be successful in school.

The Disability Services Program focuses on individual dignity and strengthening families for those dealing with developmental and emotional disabilities, particularly those with Autism and Asperger's. The various program services include an Adult Support Program, School Support Services, and After School Support Services. Catholic Charities also collaborates with Bridges of Belonging and provides program supervision/support to The Dwelling Place. The Dwelling Place is a Christian-based home that serves four adult residents living with developmental disabilities.

SUPPORT OF THE WIDER CHURCH:

As Catholics, we belong to a Church much larger than our parish or diocese. Catholics in the Diocese of La Crosse are committed to supporting the work of the Wisconsin Catholic Conference, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, and the Holy See.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS:

By funding eleven special collections, the Diocesan Annual Appeal has reduced the number of collections being taken up in our parishes. These eleven collections are:

- Collection for Aid for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe (CCEE)
- Catholic Relief Services (CRS)
- Black and Indian Missions
- Catholic Communications Campaign (CCC)
- Catholic Home Missions Appeal (CHMA)
- Catholic University of America
- The Diocese of La Crosse Home Missions,

- Casa Hogar orphanage in Peru
- Diocesan Social Ministries
- Pontifical Good Friday Collections for the Holy Land
- Collection for the Church in Latin America (CLA)
- Peter's Pence Collection

WORKS OF CHARITY:

Natural disasters and personal tragedies are examples of situations that often require immediate assistance. Through this fund, the Diocese assists state and national Catholic apostolates that depend on charitable gifts for their survival. The Diocese of La Crosse has a policy that will not allow the use of parish, general diocesan funds, or funds designated for specific apostolates for payment on clergy sexual misconduct claims. The Works of Charity Fund has occasionally, and appropriately, provided funds for the treatment and care of victims of such sinful misconduct as they seek to heal.

CHARITY, MISSIONS AND THE WIDER CHURCH ALLOCATION \$1,260,000

For further information on this case statement or any additional questions regarding the Diocesan Annual Appeal, please feel free to contact:

Office for Stewardship and Development
 PO Box 4004, La Crosse, WI 54602-4004
 608-791-2653

Visit our website at <http://diolc.org/stewardship>