

WILLIAM PATRICK

By the Grace of God and



the Favor of the Apostolic See

BISHOP OF LA CROSSE

**DECREE**  
**PROMULGATING NORMS FOR THE COMPENSATION OF THE CLERGY**  
**IN THE DIOCESE OF LA CROSSE**

Having received the positive recommendation of the Presbyteral Council at its April 19, 2018 meeting and the Diocesan Finance Council, with this decree, therefore, I publish the revised norms to govern the compensation of the clergy in the Diocese of La Crosse. For ease of reference, the norms, which remain unchanged, are included in this decree. These norms are to be promulgated by being published in the Chancery Bulletin. They are to take effect on July 1 each year and are to be incorporated into the budgets of Diocesan institutions for the fiscal year beginning July 1, and ending June 30.

**1. BASE SALARY.** Every year effective July 1, a new schedule will be provided showing the base salary for priests per month based on the year of ordination. The base salary is paid from the funds of the parish(es) or institution(s) served by the priest. The current schedule is attached at the end of this decree. Each year beginning July 1, 2018, a 2% increase will be included in the base salary.

**2. MASS OFFERINGS.** The suggested amount of the Mass offering, as determined by the Bishops of the Milwaukee Province (cf. canon 952, §1), is ten dollars (\$10). A priest may retain for himself one Mass offering per day *on which he offers Mass*, except on Christmas when he may trinate and retain the three Mass offerings (cf. canon 951, §1). The offering given for a second or third Mass on a particular day is to be forwarded to the St. Joseph's Priest Fund. Pastors and parochial administrators are reminded of their strict obligation to celebrate the Mass for the people entrusted to their care, without an offering, on each Sunday and holy day of obligation. Pastors who serve more than one parish are obliged to offer only one Mass for all the people entrusted to their care on those days (cf. canon 534, §§1-3). All priests are reminded that the discipline of the Universal Church strongly recommends the daily celebration of the Mass as "the act of Christ and the Church in which priests fulfill their principal function." (cf. canon 904.)

Mass offerings are to be kept in a separate account called the Mass Offering Account (Stipend Account). Any interest realized on the monies in the account is to be placed in the Fund for Works of Charity. Offerings for Masses which cannot be celebrated within the time of one year are to be forwarded to the Diocesan Mission Office, so that the Masses can be offered by priests in the Diocese or in the missions who lack Mass offerings (cf. canons 953 and 956). If there are insufficient funds in the Mass Offering