

2018-2019  
DIOCESAN CASE STATEMENT  
\$5,675,035

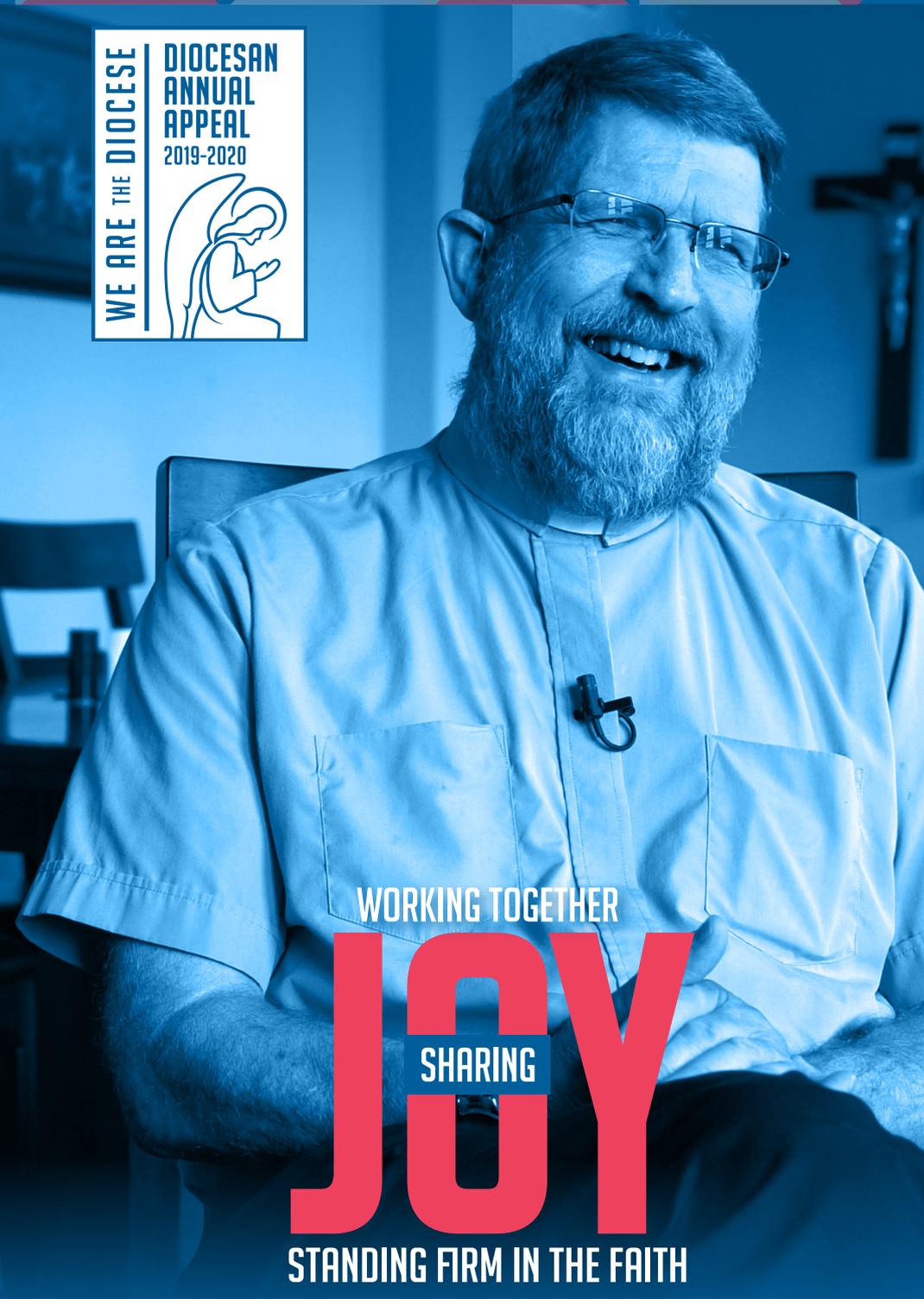
“  
NOT THAT WE LORD  
IT OVER YOUR  
FAITH; RATHER,  
WE WORK  
TOGETHER FOR  
YOUR JOY, FOR  
YOU STAND FIRM  
IN THE FAITH.  
”

2 CORINTHIANS 1:24

24.6%	Parish Ministries Support
22.2%	Charity, Missions & The Wider Church
20.2%	Seminarian, Priests, Deacons, and Religious
17.5%	Parish Services Support*
10.7%	Catholic Education
4.8%	Diocesan Facilities: Operations and Maintenance

\* includes cost of the Annual Appeal

WORKING TOGETHER  
**JOY**  
SHARING  
STANDING FIRM IN THE FAITH



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Diocese of LA CROSSE

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# DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS:

I often hear from young parishioners trying to discern how to live and express their faith in real and tangible ways. Some came to believe that the only way to serve the church is to become a Proclaimer of the Word at Mass or an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. While these are necessary and highly visible callings of ministry, they are not the only ones. Never should anyone walk away from Christ's Church, thinking there is no room for him or her in ministry. While we may encounter an abundance of individuals performing a particular ministry, we should not disillusion ourselves that we are not needed or wanted. There is much to do in the church and by His grace so many ways to offer ourselves; our time, talents, and treasure, we serve our Lord and each other.

Of course, the best way to discern what God is calling us to do is to begin by praying about it. Converse with God in quiet thought and reflection about how best to use your time, talents, and treasures; offer yourself in the fashion of Samuel, saying, "Here I am! Speak Lord; your servant is listening." You might be amazed how God could be calling you to minister – perhaps it is helping clean the church, ministering to the homebound, serving as a Catechist, or serving on a council or committee. Remember it was Christ who said, "The harvest is abundant; the laborers are few."

While our time and talents are a definite need, your financial treasure is the temporal foundation of the Church's ministry. It is a vital part of the fruitful Church's ministry as any other function. Today I am again asking you to consider prayerfully investing in the Diocesan Annual Appeal. Your investment in the Annual Appeal works together with the 38 other ministerial efforts; sharing the joy of the gospel and building up of the Kingdom. Keeping in mind that prayer is always the starting point, ask and listen; you will hear God's voice in your heart, directing you on how you are to join in the works of our faith.

*William Patrick Callahan*

Most Rev. William Patrick Callahan,  
Bishop of the Diocese of La Crosse

## WORKING TOGETHER



It is together each to its own accord that "sacred Tradition, Sacred Scripture and the Magisterium of the Church are so connected and associated that one of them cannot stand without the others. Working

together, each in its own way, under the action of the one Holy Spirit, they all contribute effectively to the salvation of souls." (CCC 95). So too is the Christian community lived. We each bring the unique gifts of God's grace, the body is not a single part, but many (1 Cor 12). United by our baptism, we strive together for God's holiness in a life of worship, work, and play.

## FIRMNESS IN FAITH



It is not enough to know the Good News of the Gospel; the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC 3) instructs us that all "Christ's faithful are called to hand it on from generation to generation, by professing the faith, by living it in fraternal sharing, and by celebrating it in liturgy and prayer." Living fraternally includes a life lived in the world, through shared activities, services, and fellowship. As our faith is an act of free will, we are to participate in a shared life, so we can bear witness to each other, nourishing and preserving the response to God's invitation. (CCC 166)

## SHARING THE JOY



Paul writes to the Galatians (5:22) reminding them that Joy is a fruit of the Holy Spirit, along with love, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. It is the Spirit, who leads us to such traits, which allow us to fulfill the law of loving thy neighbor. The Catechism of the Catholic Church (1657) indicates it is in the family we learn the joy of work, fraternal love, generosity, forgiveness divine worship in prayers and sacrificial service of giving of oneself.

The men in the diaconate call upon the manifestation of these gifts and learned virtues in their loving service



to the Church. By their example of service, they affirm the dignity of each person as a child of God, establish fraternity, and demonstrate a joyful life that comes from the intrinsic value of work.

## DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL 2019-2020 PRAYER



Holy and Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we thank you for Your gifts of time, talent, and treasures manifested in our daily lives.

We pray, Father, for the openness of heart; Jesus, we ask for the ability to recognize Your gifts in ourselves as well as in our brothers and sisters; Holy Spirit, we ask for Your guidance for us to live the life of stewardship for which we were created and called.

St. Joseph, we ask you as the Patron of our Diocese, intercede for us, be a model in our use of our time, talents, and treasures by living the command of Jesus, working together and sharing the Joy of the Gospel, for the building up of the Kingdom to Heaven here on earth.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, so gracious, our model of humility, help us and encourage us, strengthen us in our faith, so we may generously answer the Lord's call with a resounding yes to a life of service for which the Father created us, Jesus calls us, and the Holy Spirit guides us.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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[DIOLC.ORG/JOY](http://DIOLC.ORG/JOY)