



Chancery Bulletin - Vol. 5, No. 7.4 | July 28, 2020

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Officials

No officials this week.



Events

As of July 28

Tuesday, July 28
11:00am Tune-In Tuesdays
Sunday, August 2
Peace Day
Tuesday, August 4
11:00am Tune-In Tuesdays
Friday, August 7
Retrouvaille Marriage Help Weekend - Marathon - Aug. 7-9
Saturday, August 8
1:00pm St. Mark Parish June Bug 2020 - Rothschild
Tuesday, August 11
Anniversary of the installation of Bishop William Patrick Callahan as La Crosse's 10th bishop
11:00am Tune-In Tuesdays
Wednesday, August 12
11:00am Re-opening the Religious Education Program - ZOOM conference
1:00pm Protect and Heal Training - ZOOM conference
6:00pm Protect and Heal Training - ZOOM conference
7:00pm Re-opening the Religious Education Program - ZOOM conference
Saturday, August 15
Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary - Not a Holy Day of Obligation in 2020
2:00pm St. Peter Catholic School: Celebrating 150 Years - Tilden
Tuesday, August 18
11:00am Tune-In Tuesdays
Tuesday, August 25
11:00am Tune-In Tuesdays
Saturday, August 29
10:00am Overcoming Spiritual Discouragement - Virtual Conference

To get your parish events listed on the diocesan calendar, diolc.org/calendar, and in *Catholic Life* magazine, please send an email to datebook@diolc.org. Make sure you include the following details; date, beginning/ending times, event location, description, menu and cost, etc. If you have any questions, please call Pam Willer at 608.788.1524 for more information.

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Chancery Office
 Chancellor Very Rev. William Dhein – 608.791.2655 | wdhein@diolc.org

No items this week.

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Office for Catechesis & Evangelization

Director: Ann Lankford – 608.791.2658 | alankford@diolc.org

Reminder: For Parish Communications

Find FREEDOM from the obstacle of discouragement!

Back by popular demand, Father Timothy Gallagher will be presenting on his book, *Overcoming Spiritual Discouragement*, at the diocesan Virtual Conference on **Saturday, August 29th**. One of the greatest obstacles in life is spiritual discouragement or discouragement in general. Father Gallagher's warmth and style of speaking is for people of all states in life and all levels of formation.

Join with a group at your parish for this live-streamed ZOOM webinar, or watch comfortably in your own home with a few people, to discuss this most important topic necessary for growth in the spiritual life. If you are new to ZOOM, please email Ann Lankford at alankford@diolc.org to be part of a "practice run" in mid-August.

Cost for the Virtual Conference is \$15, which includes Father Gallagher's book being shipped to your home. Go to diolc.org/witness for an article that explains why you will want to participate, to download a brochure, and to register online. There will be 4 presentations. The first begins at 10 a.m. and the last is at 3 p.m. There will be an hour lunch break.

Here is the Facebook link for the conference: facebook.com/events/2216728398621141

Please share this on your parish Facebook.

For Parish Communications

Bulletin insert for the weekend of August 9

How God Guides Us through the Angels

This is the fifth in a series in examining the ways in which God guides us, with the focus in this bulletin insert on the holy angels. The parish may forward this link diolc.org/inserts for easy download and/or the actual bulletin insert to parishioners. Also available at the link are two, modern-day true stories of how God guided individuals through angels.

Re-opening Religious Education Programs this Fall – ZOOM meeting Wednesday, August 12

We are encouraging all parish faith formation programs to begin planning to resume in-person classes this fall, if your parish is able to do so, according to safety protocols, social distancing etc. A preparation sheet, entitled **Preparing for Fall 2020**, has been compiled to help with this process. Go to diolc.org/catechesis/catechetical-leaders-info. Based upon the parish plans for handling the noted aspects, it will be most helpful to discuss Best Practices, online resources and current recommendations. Join us for a one-hour ZOOM meeting on **Wednesday, August 12th at 11 a.m. or Wednesday, August 12th at 7 p.m.** Please send Ann an email at alankford@diolc.org for the specific time you will attend so the link may be sent directly to you. Note: As always, depending on the situation with COVID-19 in late summer, recommendations could always change.

Reminder: Parish Catechetical Leaders – Ongoing Catechist Formation

The spiritual life of the catechist is the most important aspect of catechist formation as they (and we) must be deepening our relationship with Jesus Christ to be authentic witnesses. Every person faces discouragement, which is the greatest obstacle to the spiritual life. Based upon his book, *Overcoming Spiritual Discouragement*, Father Gallagher will help us find freedom from this obstacle. You are invited to gather with your catechists at the parish on August 29th to hear from Father Gallagher – a spiritual master – by live-streamed ZOOM webinar. The discussion and lunch-time conversation are an important part of the Conference and an antidote to the isolation caused by COVID-19. The Virtual Conference with Father Timothy Gallagher is a great way to provide ongoing catechist training that is necessary.

Cost for the Virtual Conference is \$15, which includes Father Gallagher's book being shipped to your home. Go to diolc.org/witness to download a brochure, an article on why catechists – and any adult – would want to attend and to register online.

Planning for Fall – Catechetical Leaders

As plans for fall are being made, it is necessary to keep in mind that formation for children and young people is to be based upon an approved textbook by the US Bishops. Go to usccb.org/conformitylist.

Family Catechesis – July 29th

Sophia Institute has a family-based catechesis series entitled [A Family of Faith](#). If you are interested in being part of a webinar provided on Wednesday, July 29th at 11 a.m. by Sophia Institute for the Diocese of La Crosse to discuss this program please email Ann at alankford@diolc.org.

Reminder: First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion

For the benefit of second-grade children, it is recommended that First Confession be received during late fall or Advent or just after Christmas, and First Holy Communion be received in spring. If both Sacraments are received in close proximity, the preparation for one Sacrament will be greatly deficient, as children in second grade are unable to process the preparation for two Sacraments at one time. Further, when the second graders receive First Reconciliation in December or January, they can go to confession several times before receiving their First Holy Communion. This practice will help with developing the habit of going to confession on a regular basis.

Reminder: Year of St. Joseph Prayer Cards - Free

For the celebration of the Year of St. Joseph, Prayer Cards have been produced and are available for free to the parishes of the Diocese of La Crosse. Please contact Susan Skemp at sskemp@diolc.org or 608-791-2658 to place an order. The Prayer Cards are in packs of 100.

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Office for Communications

Director: Jack Felsheim – 608.791.2663 | jfelsheim@diolc.org

No items this week.

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Office for Consecrated Life

Director: Sr. Donna Krzmarzick, ISSM – 608.791.2690 | dkrzmarzick@diolc.org

No items this week.

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Office for the Diaconate

Director: Deacon Bryan Hilts – 608.791.2665 | bhilts@diolc.org

No items this week.

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Office for Marriage & Family Life

Director: Christopher Rogers – 608.791.2652 | crogers@diolc.org

Reminder: Retrouvaille Marriage Help Weekend: August 7-9, 2020

“Our Retrouvaille experience helped us so much to better deal with the problems we were facing.” Retrouvaille is a program for married couples who feel disillusionment, coldness or conflict in their marriage. Most don’t know how to change the situation or even communicate with their spouse about it. Visit www.HelpOurMarriage.org for this couple’s story and online inquiries. For information or to register for the next program in Central Wisconsin, see [website](#) or call (confidential) 1-877-922-HOPE(4673).

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Office for Ministries

Director: Christopher Ruff – 608.791.0161 | cruff@diolc.org

Attention: Leaders of Prayer in Need of 4-Year Commission Renewal

Parish Leaders of Prayer who were commissioned by Bishop Callahan in 2015 or earlier will need their 4-year commission renewed this year. Normally this would be done through a day-long conference at the Diocesan Center, but in light of the pandemic they are asked to participate in the Saturday, Aug. 29 virtual *Witnesses for Christ Conference* featuring Father Timothy Gallagher, O.M.V. on “Overcoming Spiritual Discouragement.” Go to www.diolc.org/witness to register for this conference, which will be held via live-stream ZOOM webinar. If you are a Leader of Prayer in need of renewal, you will also be contacted

with further instructions. If you are unable to participate on Aug. 29, email Christopher Ruff at cruff@diolc.org and other arrangements will be made.

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Office for Missions

Director: Fr. Woodrow Pace – 608.791.2676 | wpace@diolc.org

No items this week.

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Office for Sacred Worship

Director: Christopher Carstens – 608.791.0161 | ccarstens@diolc.org

Reminder: Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, August 15, 2020

The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary will be celebrated on Saturday, August 15, 2020 (it is not a holy day of obligation this year). Masses of anticipation on Saturday evening ought to use readings and orations from the 20th Sunday of Ordinary Time. Wedding Masses on August 15 must use readings and orations from the Mass for the Assumption, “with inclusion of the Nuptial Blessing and, if appropriate, the proper formula for the final blessing” (Order for Celebrating Matrimony, 34). Still, one of the readings may be taken from the Order of Matrimony (ibid.). Evening Prayer should be taken from EP II of the Assumption.

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Office for Safe Environment

Director: Teresa Brown – 608.791.2679 | tbrown@diolc.org

DIOCESE OF LA CROSSE GUIDELINES FOR REPORTING INSTANCES OF CHILD ABUSE

The Diocese of La Crosse, through its [policies and procedures](#), seeks to provide a prompt, appropriate and compassionate response to reporters of sexual abuse of a child by any diocesan agent (bishop, priest, deacon, employee, religious, vendor or volunteer). Anyone wishing to make a report of an allegation of sexual abuse should send that report to Mrs. Karen Becker, Complaint Intake Agent, at the Diocese of La Crosse, P.O. Box 4004, La Crosse, WI 54602-4004. Alternatively, you can contact Mrs. Becker at 608.791.0179 or intakeagent@diolc.org. The reporting form is available through the Diocese of La Crosse Office of Safe Environment or on the diocesan website at: diolc.org/safe-environment/reporting. **Individuals are also encouraged to take their reports directly to civil authorities.** Copies of the diocesan policy are available through your local parish and on the [diocesan website](#). If you have any questions about the Diocese of La Crosse and the

implementation of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, please contact Teresa Brown, Diocese of La Crosse, at 608.791.2679; or tbrown@diolc.org.

What is Protect and Heal? You might have started hearing the phrase Protect and Heal lately. The Diocese of La Crosse has updated our program name to Protect and Heal. The Safe Environment Office still exists, just the name of our training program has changed.

Reminder: Change in Letters of suitability

Beginning July 14, all letters of suitability will be created in the Office of Safe Environment. Please email or call in your request at least five business days prior to your event to ensure your letter arrives at your location in time. Your request should include the following:

- Where are you going, including the full church or event name and the address
- What diocese will you be in
- The date you will be at the event
- Who is the contact at the parish or event
- If it is a wedding, include the name of the bride and groom and the name of the deceased for a funeral.
- What will you be doing at the event? Celebrating Mass, hearing confession, speaking, etc.

If you have any question, contact: Teresa Brown, tbrown@diolc.org or 608-791-2679

Annual Protect and Heal Training using ZOOM:

Staff and volunteers must be background checked and trained before they begin working with students, whether it's in a classroom, field trip or sports field. I will be offering Protect and Heal Training through ZOOM on Wednesday, August 12. If you have not received an invitation and would like to train, please let me know. Training times will be at 1-2 p.m. or 6-7 p.m. This is open to all staff and volunteers. This will count as annual training.

Fingerprinting:

Who needs fingerprinting? All paid staff over the age of 18 and all coaches and janitors, regardless if paid or volunteers. All grandfathered staff, coaches and janitors must be fingerprinted by the end of 2020.

I have been receiving a lot of fingerprint cards without a release form. They can't be processed without this form. There is a new form that combines both the Basic Background Check form and the FBI Release for Authorization form. Please destroy any old forms and begin using the new form. The new form is called: Authorization and Acknowledgement of Criminal Background Check. It has the diocesan seal in the left corner and the Protect and Heal seal in the right corner and can be downloaded here: diolc.org/files/safe-environment/Criminal_Background_Check.pdf. Going forward fingerprint cards will not be accepted unless this form is sent with the cards.

Reminder: Online Meetings and Gaming: If you are doing religious education and/or youth ministry online, whether it be ZOOM Meetings, gaming, etc., there must always be two adults who have been background checked through the Diocese of La Crosse and gone

through the Diocese of La Crosse Protect and Heal Training present for the duration of the online meeting/gathering.

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Office for Catholic Schools

Superintendent: Thomas Reichenbacher – 608.788.7707 | treichenbacher@diolc.org

No items this week.

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Office for Social Concerns

Director: Christopher Ruff – 608.791.0161 | cruff@diolc.org

For Your Parish Communications:

Tell Congress to Support the School Choice Now Act!

The U.S. Bishops are calling on the faithful to contact their senators today to urge support of the Alexander-Scott “School Choice Now Act.” Catholic schools all over the country are under economic pressure because of the pandemic. This bill would provide one-time, emergency funding for scholarship-granting organizations in each state, as well as provide permanent dollar-for-dollar federal tax credits for contributions to scholarship granting organizations. Find the contact information for Wisconsin Senators Ron Johnson and Tammy Baldwin by visiting www.govtrack.us.

Reminder: Wisconsin Farmer Wellness Hotline

La Crosse Diocese farmers who are facing extreme stress and other challenges now have access to a free and confidential counseling resource: the Farm Center at the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Agency. This is a 24/7 Farmer Wellness Hotline; it can be reached at 1-888-901-2558. Licensed mental health professionals contracted by the department will provide immediate, in-the-moment care. In addition, long-term options are available.

Persons who prefer an in-person session can request to meet with a local provider through the Farm Center’s (1-800-942-2474) longstanding Counseling Voucher Program.

Reminder: 75th Anniversary of Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

August 6 and 9 mark the 75th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the first, and one hopes the last, time atomic weapons were employed in war. In observation of this 75th anniversary, the US Bishops invite Catholics in the United States to come together in solidarity in our personal prayers and Masses on Sunday, August 9. For information on the Church’s response to nuclear armaments, visit www.usccb.org/nuclear.

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Office for Stewardship & Development

Director: Jeff Reiter – 608.791.2653 | jreiter@diolc.org

Diocesan Annual Appeal Results:

The year served some mixed but promising results. Even with the COVID19 disruption, we see our parishioners find the importance of investing in our diocesan mission. Despite having one less mailing and parishes all but closed for the last quarter of the Appeal Year, it was another successful campaign to support the 38 different ministries of our diocese. Thank you to all, your leadership encouraging participation helps the Diocesan Annual Appeal fund our mission's work.

Diocesan Annual Appeal Year End						
	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	Last Year vs. ThisYear	% Change
Goal	\$5,559,952	\$5,563,760	\$5,675,035	\$5,675,035	\$ -	0.0%
Total Funds Received	\$5,893,102	\$6,162,869	\$6,166,772	\$6,171,524	\$ 4,752	0.1%
Total Parish Rebates	\$ 754,289	\$ 706,216	\$ 659,559	\$ 648,037	\$ (11,522)	-1.7%
# Parish Receiving Rebates	123	120	118	101	(17)	-14.4%
Total Parish Shortfalls	\$ (227,779)	\$ (163,233)	\$ (223,780)	\$ (330,293)	\$ (106,513)	47.6%
# Parish in Shortfall	34	38	42	58	16	38.1%
# Parishes under 80.0% of goal	14	14	14	22	8	57.1%
Pledges Unfulfilled		\$ (38,212)	\$ (20,217)	\$ (19,997)	\$ 220	-1.1%
# Unfulfilled		181	166	101	(65)	-39.2%
Total Investors	22,466	21,654	20,467	19,113	(1,354)	-6.6%
Retained	19,723	18,805	17,743	16,804	(939)	-5.3%
Retained %	87.79%	86.84%	86.69%	87.92%	1.228	1.4%
Reengaged	1,766	1,986	1,857	1,784	(73)	-3.9%
New	977	863	867	525	(342)	-39.4%
Electronic Giving			\$ 369,984	\$ 444,620	\$ 74,636	20.2%
% of Funds received Electronically			6.0%	7.2%	1.205	20.1%

The 2020-21 Diocesan Annual Appeal planning is moving forward. We are looking for some old video/film footage of all things Catholic from the early to the mid-20th century. If you have some footage you would like to share with us; we will digitize and return you both the digitized and original footage. Please contact our office if you have any or know of anybody willing to share.

In June, upon request, we sent out several hundred copies of our Estate Planning Guide. We have had a few dozen more requests for copies as well. This guide can help people save several hundred dollars in legal and financial estate planning costs. The increased interest in Planned Giving mirrors what we are finding on a national level since the COVID – 19 outbreak came to prominence. If you would like more information or ads for your bulletin, please contact our office.

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Office for Temporalities

Catholic Mutual Special Events Application

The special events application was updated to include an **exclusion** of coverage for claims resulting from an epidemic/pandemic. Please review the application by [clicking here](#). The new application should be used for all events going forward. All precautions should be taken to ensure the event taking place is following all Diocesan and County Department of Health protocols/guidelines.

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Office for Vocations

Director: Fr. Alan Wierzba – 608.791.2667 | awierzba@diolc.org

No items this week.

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Office for Vicar for Clergy

Director: Msgr. David Kunz – 608.791.2689 | pboyle@diolc.org

Change in Letters of suitability

Beginning July 14, all letters of suitability will be created in the Office of Safe Environment. Please email or call in your request at least five business days prior to your event to ensure your letter arrives at your location in time. Your request should include the following:

- Where are you going, including the full church or event name and the address
- What diocese will you be in
- The date you will be at the event
- Who is the contact at the parish or event
- If it is a wedding, include the name of the bride and groom and the name of the deceased for a funeral.
- What will you be doing at the event? Celebrating Mass, hearing confession, speaking, etc.

If you have any question, contact: Teresa Brown, tbrown@diolc.org or 608-791-2679

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Office for Youth & Young Adult Ministry

Director: Christopher Rogers – 608.791.2652 | crogers@diolc.org

Reminder: Director of Youth Ministry Needed— Stevens Point, WI

Will be responsible for planning and implementing a catechetical program for middle and high school students. This program serves three parishes in Stevens Point, Wisconsin: St. Joseph, St. Peter and St. Stephen Parishes. Applicants should enjoy working with youth, be organized, self-motivated, and proficient in computer and communications skills. This fulltime position requires nights and weekends which are balanced with regular agreed-upon office hours. Certification or experience in Catholic youth ministry preferred. A degree in Theology, Catholic Studies, or Education is a plus. For the right candidate, this position could be part-time with an emphasis on our high school Confirmation program. For more information, contact Father Jeffrey Hennes at St. Joseph Parish, 715-341-1617. Submit résumé and cover letter to pastor@pointcatholicfaith.org.

Reminder: Connecting High School Graduates with Newman Centers

The Newman Connection does fantastic work connecting high school graduates/incoming college freshmen with the Newman Center at their college. This year they are focusing more on digital sign-ups. Here is the student sign up form link: signup.newmanconnection.com They also have additional outreach resources for parishes found [here](#).

Reminder: Tune-In Tuesdays

We are excited to continue to offer a series of ZOOM Meetings we call “Tune-In Tuesdays.” Join us as we come together to network and share how we are doing, how our ministry is going and talk about ways we can support each other. Please follow this [link](#) to join us for Tune-In Tuesdays at 11:00am!

Reminder: Safe Environment– Online Meetings and Gaming

If you are doing religious education and/or youth ministry online, whether it be ZOOM Meetings, gaming, etc., there must always be two adults who have been background checked through the Diocese of La Crosse and gone through the Diocese of La Crosse Safe Environment Training present for the duration of the online meeting/gathering.

Reminder: LifeTeen Catholic Youth Ministry Convention Scholarship – Date Extended

For the past several years, through a generous grant, people from our diocese who work with young people have been able to attend this convention for free. There are a few more scholarships available. The convention has been postponed to September 16-19, 2020. If you have not attended this convention, or know of someone who has not attended this convention, please email Andrew Brueggen, LifeTeen Area Coordinator at youthdir@stpatsonalaska.com

Reminder: NET Retreats

The NET Team will be in our diocese October 29-November 10, 2020. For available dates and other details please click [here](#). If you would like to reserve a date, please contact our office ASAP as dates will fill up fast.

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Diocese of La Crosse | 3710 East Ave S | La Crosse, WI 54601 | 608-788-7700
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