



Chancery Bulletin - Vol. 5, No. 11.1 | November 3, 2020

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Officials

The Most Reverend William Patrick Callahan, D.D., Bishop of La Crosse, makes the following announcement:

St. Mary Church in Bangor, Wisconsin, has been relegated to profane but not sordid use by a decree issued on October 26, 2020. The full text of the decree is available [here](#).

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Events

As of November 3

Friday, November 6

Deacon Formation - Marathon - November 6-7

Lay Formation Institute - La Crosse - November 6-7

Saturday, November 7

8:00am Married Love: Two Becoming One Retreat - Marshfield

Tuesday, November 10

11:00am Tune-In Tuesdays

Friday, November 13

Immersion Retreat - Wisconsin Dells - CANCELLED

Saturday, November 14

8:00am Married Love: Two Becoming One Retreat - Tomah

Tuesday, November 17

11:00am Tune-In Tuesdays

Sunday, November 22

Solemnity of Christ the King

Tuesday, November 24

11:00am Tune-In Tuesdays

Sunday, November 29

First Sunday of Advent

Tuesday, December 1

12:00am Giving Tuesday

11:00am Tune-In Tuesdays

Friday, December 4

Deacon Formation - Marathon - December 4-5

Lay Formation Institute - La Crosse - December 4-5

Tuesday, December 8

Immaculate Conception of the BVM. Holy Day of Obligation (*unless obligation is lifted due to Covid-19)

11:00am Tune-In Tuesdays

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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Catechetical Leaders: Ongoing formation, Thursday, November 19th, 2 – 3 p.m.

Teaching from Your Encounter with Christ: An Evangelizing Catechesis

Each of us wants our teaching to be fruitful. We want participants to truly hear the Gospel as we teach, to take its life-changing content to heart, so that they might become authentic disciples of Jesus. How can the Gospel Message be proclaimed in ways that it can be heard? What approaches have the potential to stir up curiosity and a desire for God? How do we prepare them catechetically while also giving them opportunities to take little steps towards Jesus and an emerging life of discipleship? Join James Pauley, the author of a new book, *An Evangelizing Catechesis: Teaching from Your Encounter with Christ*, as we discuss helpful strategies for crafting a catechesis that leads others to encounter the Person of Jesus. Please register for this ZOOM webinar by emailing Paula Boyle at pboyle@diolc.org. Cost is free as the speaker fee are being covered by a donor.

For Parish Communications

Advent Virtual Parish Mission

Our parish will be participating in an Advent Virtual Mission. The focus will be **“Preparing for the Birth of the Christ Child through the Eyes of St. Joseph.”** There will be four presentations, one for each week of Advent. The length of the talks will be roughly 30-40 minutes with time for discussion to follow. The purpose of this mission is to bring people together to prepare for Christmas and strengthen our community. Call the parish office to register. You may participate by gathering at the parish or by watching at home. Each presentation will be available at diolc.org/advent.

The Presenters and Titles of the Presentations for each of the Four Weeks of Advent

- Week 1) St. Joseph: The Man Selected by God to be Closest to Mary and to Jesus. – Msgr. Joseph Diermeier
- Week 2) Joseph and Mary: A Holy Love Story – Msgr. Joseph Hirsch
- Week 3) That Holy Night, through Joseph’s Eyes– Father Woodrow Pace
- Week 4) “Joseph, Son of David...You are to Give Him the Name Jesus” – Bishop William Patrick Callahan

Parish Information for the Advent Mission

Each parish is to choose the day(s) of the week and time(s) that parishioners will gather in person over the four weeks, or view the presentations at home. These specific days and times help parishioners to be committed to participate. A suggested day and time is Sunday, at 7 p.m. For a poster to advertise the Advent Virtual Parish Mission go to diolc.org/advent. In the fillable box, type or write in the dates, times, and contact person for registration. The link to each presentation will be available on the Friday before the corresponding Sunday of Advent, and will be available throughout the rest of Advent. Please email the following information to Paula Boyle at pboyle@diolc.org so that the information of participating parishes may be advertised through Diocesan social media:

- Parish
- City
- Day(s) of the week and time(s) that the Advent Virtual Parish Mission will be held
- Contact person and email

For Parish Communication – new series

God’s Personal Word to You

The following words from Sacred Scripture reveal God’s love for you: He will never forget you; He knows you by name! You belong to Him.

“Can a woman forget her nursing child, or show no compassion for the child in her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands.”
(*Isaiah 49:15-16*)

Note to bulletin editors: There will be a Scripture passage provided each week for the bulletin. The choice of Scriptures will follow the order of the content of the “Good News.”

- God loves each person and He desire that we develop a deeper relationship with Him.
- We sin, which places barriers between us and God, and can even cause separation.
- Jesus gave his life to save us and be our bridge back to the Father.
- What is our response to God’s desire that we develop a deeper relationship with Him?

It is necessary to begin with God’s love, and not begin with the 2nd, 3rd or 4th bullet listed above.

Safe Environment Power Points – Grades 6th, 7th and 8th

See the information under [Youth and Young Adult Ministry](#) about the new power points for Grades 6th – 8th.

Catholic Schools and Parish Faith Formation

Parent Summaries – Theology of the Body

The Offices for Catechesis & Evangelization, Schools, Family Life and Ministries & Social Concerns are working to support Catholic Schools and Parish Faith Formation Programs in a fuller implementation of Theology of the Body in Middle School and High School. The principles contained in Pope St. John Paul II’s Theology of the Body provide a proper understanding of the beauty of God’s plan for life and love.

To retain the attention and partnership of parents as their children learn the foundational principles of Theology of the Body, the Curia Offices have developed one-page summaries for **parents**. The summary, for the particular session that their son or daughter is currently studying, is meant to be provided to the parents so that they can be engaged with the content and discuss it with their child. The downloadable, one-page summaries are available here: diolc.org/tob. A parent letter is also available at the link.

This formation will help young people to discover their true dignity as created in the image and likeness of God, to embrace their identity as male or female, and to know their purpose in life and their destiny in Heaven. It will foster family dialogue and the ability to identify and resist false teachings.

Bishop Callahan called for an implementation of Theology of the Body in Middle School and High School in a widely-publicized letter dated 2011. If your parish has not yet implemented TOB, plans are to be made in the spring for implementation in the fall 2021.

Boundaries for “walking with” Parents

Catechetical Leaders (DREs, CREs, Youth Ministers) as well as others in Parish and Catholic School leadership are a first-line presence that is key to helping a seeking, or lonely or struggling parent. Your willingness to be there with the parent in conversation is important. However, your role is not to be a counselor, spiritual director or psychologist.

1. In conversation, encourage the parent in some way.
2. Listen a lot and don't try to “fix” the situation.
3. Ask the Holy Spirit in your heart, very simply, what to say in this situation.
4. Give the parent assurance of your prayer, and then be committed to praying for her/him.
5. If the matter is serious and obviously needs additional pastoral attention and help, encourage them to speak with a priest with whom they feel comfortable.
6. Lead the person to Jesus in some small way.
7. There needs to be time limits with these conversations: There is a way to spend a reasonable amount of attentive time with a parent. In the back of your mind, have a time limit of what is possible for your schedule. You might set a time limit in the beginning, so that they don't feel rejected if you must end the conversation after listening for some time. You need to guard your time for your own personal needs and the peace that you want to take home to your family.

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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

Deacon Community Board Members:

Deacon Richard Sage – 3 year term

Deacon Ned Willkom – 3 year term

Deacon Jerome Ruesch – 2 year term

Deacon Robert Zietlow – 1 year term

Candidates Tony Biolo and Anthony Shay

Please feel free to contact any of these members or me with issues for the board. It is yet undetermined when the board will convene.

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Office for Human Resources

Director: Margaret Ebner – 608.791.2670 | mebner@diolc.org

No items this week.

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Office for Marriage & Family Life

Director: Christopher Rogers – 608.791.2659 | crogers@diolc.org

Reminder: Process for Training FOCCUS Facilitators

It has been exciting to hear about couples who are stepping forward, wanting to become FOCCUS Facilitators! The process for training FOCCUS Facilitators is as follows: each parish needs to contact FOCCUS directly to set up an account for your parish, if one has not already been set up, and then train your couples directly through FOCCUS. The contact person at FOCCUS is Max Allen. He is happy to work directly with your parish priest or contact person His contact information is: Email: mrallen@foccusinc.com or phone 402-827-3735 ext. 1317

Reminder: The Religious Alliance Against Pornography (RAAP) will be offering a free webinar on November 10 at 12 pm EST.

This webinar will be particularly important for family ministry leaders. Visit religiousalliance.org/webinars or click here to register.

Reminder: Teaching the Way of Love Newsletter

The first newsletter for this year's Teaching the Way of Love series is posted for either viewing or download. The link is twl4parents.com/newsletter.

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Office for Ministries

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

No items this week.

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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

No items this week.

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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.

I would like to create a resource binder to provide victims with efficient, seamless service in their home area of the diocese. This list would provide Community Resources and Agencies, both private and public, that would be able to serve victims and those in need.

If you have a Faith-based Agency, Health Care Facility or a Private Therapist's name and contact information in your area, please send the information to the Office of Safe Environment, Attn: Teresa Brown, so a reference binder can be created to serve those in need.

Reminder- All students, whether in Religious Ed or attending one of the Catholic Schools, still need Protect and Heal Training (Safe Environment) for the 2020-21 school year before March 1,

2021, even if they are being taught at home, unless their parent has filled out a declination form. If you have questions, contact the Office of Safe Environment.

Teachers who are teaching virtually also need to be current on their background check, annual and confidential questionnaire and training.

2020-21 Audit: The audit for the Office of Safe Environment is in person this year. That means the Audit Team will visit the Diocesan Center and a few schools and parishes. It is extremely important that you send your completed report to the Office of Safe Environment by the March 1, 2021 deadline to ensure we are prepared for the auditors. If you have questions or need help, please let me know and I will assist you in completing your report.

When you send the report, all staff and volunteers must have a training date and all background checks must be current. If a background expires before July 1, 2021, it must be renewed. All students must be trained unless there is a signed declination form.

All Schools, Parish and System should have received their spreadsheet and the report form. Parishes have been started and should be completed by next week.

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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

Let's unite our country in prayer on Tuesday Nov. 3, election day

Across the nation people are anxious, neighbors against neighbors, with polarizing statements all over social media and the airwaves. We hear the cry, “what can we do?” The lay organization Unite our Nation, based in Milwaukee, was inspired to ask Catholic Churches to open wide their doors to Christ by offering adoration on election day. So far, over 600 churches have answered the call. Visit uniteournation.net to see the list (the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse is participating).

For Your Parish Communications:

Praying for the Dead: A Spiritual Work of Mercy

November 2 is All Souls Day and the Church dedicates the whole month of November to praying for the repose of the souls of the departed. For some excellent information on this practice and on the Church's teaching about Purgatory, visit ewtn.com/catholicism/seasons-and-feast-days/all-souls-20378.

Act: Ethical vaccines; Ending mail-order abortion; Ending Federal Executions

Find out how to make your voice heard on important issues highlighted by the US Bishops. Visit votervoice.net/USCCB/home.

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Office for Stewardship & Development

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

2020-21 Diocesan Annual Appeal

This year's theme emphasizes the relevancy of the Church, our Christ-given Mission, and our community united through our Baptism to the Cross and Resurrection. The theme is "**His Church is Still Here, His Church Still Provides, His Church is You and Me.**"

United States Postal Service: We have had several parishioners report not getting their Appeal mailings as timely as expected. We have found that the mailing is reaching their homes up to five days later than expected. These reports correlate with the finding by the USPS Inspector General's report and published in the [Wall Street Journal](#) on October 22. Thus, we have moved up the registration deadlines and mail drop dates to help counter these issues.

Current Results: About 2/3rds of our parishes have now begun, and the early results are promising. If income is a form of applause, people believe in our Christ-given Mission, and it is worth investing in for today and future generations. For those 4,890 who supported the appeal last year, as of 11/02 and have given this year, the average investment is up by 17.5%. This increase equates to a plus \$302,203.48 YTD, which is a 25.2% increase YTD. We have also added 15 new investors (which is a little over two/week), and 32 more have reengaged.

Reminder: Kick-Off Weekend: Because our communities cannot come together as we ordinarily do, we are not limiting the weekends available for kick-off. Your parish community can choose the best weekend for your schedule. You must register your parish and tell us which weekend you want the mail to arrive by.

The next weekend available for sign up is November 22. Due to USPS delivery times, we have moved up the close of the Register by Date. You must sign up on the [Appeal portal](#) appeal.diolc.org by 11:59 pm on 11/06/2020 to have the materials delivered by the weekend listed as the Sunday Kickoff Date.

When registering, parishes must let us know which weekend (Sunday after Drop Date) you would like the mailings to arrive. If you have already kicked off and are just now signing up, please enter the next earliest date available. The mailings are placed into the postal mail stream on Tuesday before the weekend of choice, with the expectation the envelope will arrive in mailboxes on Friday or Saturday. Below is a chart for your reference

Register by:	Dropped in Mail	Arrive in Homes	Sunday after Drop Date
10/30/2020	11/9/2020	11/13/2020	11/15/2020
11/6/2020	11/16/2020	11/20/2020	11/22/2020
11/13/2020	11/23/2020	11/27/2020	11/29/2020
11/20/2020	11/30/2020	12/4/2020	12/6/2020
11/27/2020	12/7/2020	12/11/2020	12/13/2020
12/4/2020	12/14/2020	12/18/2020	12/20/2020
12/11/2020	12/21/2020	12/25/2020	12/27/2020
12/18/2020	12/28/2020	1/1/2021	1/3/2021
12/25/2020	1/4/2021	1/8/2021	1/10/2021
1/1/2021	1/11/2021	1/15/2021	1/17/2021
1/8/2021	1/18/2021	1/22/2021	1/24/2021
1/15/2021	1/25/2021	1/29/2021	1/31/2021

Please sign up as soon as you know which weekend you wish to start, even if you want to wait until later this year or into the first part of 2021.

Parish Materials – Parishes are mailed a supply of in-pew pledge cards, brochures, and prayer cards equivalent to 10% of their registered families. You will also get two of the thermometer posters. Unfortunately, there was not a priest poster done this year. If you need more than the 10% amount of materials, please complete the following form on the [Appeal Portal](#): Material Order form

We continue to update the [appeal portal](#) with new materials. Please check the portal regularly. DAA Video - The Appeal video is available on the [Appeal Portal](#) for download. DVDs of the Appeal video will be available by request only. Please contact Sarah Komperud at skomperud@diolc.org or 608- 791-2653 if you want a DVD hard copy mailed to you.

The Diocese of La Crosse is part of the **Amazon Smile Program** - Do you or your family, friends, and parishioners use Amazon for purchasing online? Join the Amazon Smile program and select the Diocese of La Crosse as your charitable partner. Portions of the proceeds from your purchases on many items qualify.

What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support the Diocese of La Crosse every time you shop, at no cost to you. AmazonSmile is available at smile.amazon.com on your web browser and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones. When you shop at AmazonSmile, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection, and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added benefit that AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases to the Diocese of La Crosse.

Make a difference this holiday. Shop for gifts at smile.amazon.com/ch/39-0807229 to generate donations for the Diocese of La Crosse

Planned Giving -Leaving a Legacy, Wills, Bequest, and Endowments Our Estate Planning Guide can help people save several hundred dollars in legal and financial estate planning costs. We have seen a significant increase in requests for this guide; this increased interest in Planned Giving mirrors what we find on a national level since the COVID – 19 outbreaks. If you would like more information or ads for your parish bulletin, please contact our office.

Our Planned Giving website is diolclegacy.org. People can find calculators, additional information, sign up for a newsletter and request copies of specific estate planning guides and information.

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Office for Temporalities

Diocesan Finance Officer: James Reider – 608.791.2668 | jreider@diolc.org

CARES Act COVID Reimbursement

Please see the information below. You need to track the earnings separately so they can be recorded correctly for 941 reporting purposes. You should also track the leave separately so that any one employee may not exceed 80 hours of covered leave. Note well there are two most likely scenarios – sick leave and FMLA leave. Note also you will have to read the new 941 instructions carefully to comply with the new reporting.

The important thing is to document and keep track of the hours paid for either qualified sick leave or qualified family leave, and that an individual reimbursement cannot exceed 80 hours paid of either.

Due to Congress's legislation in response to the Covid-19 Pandemic, Employers can offer their employees leave for COVID related reasons, and the government would reimburse them for that leave expense. This reimbursement takes the form of credits towards paid payroll taxes and is reported on Form 941.

As a result, there are significant changes to Form 941. These changes do not affect the first quarter 941. They only apply to Q2-4 of 2020.

There are four aspects of the legislation that affect Form 941.

1 – Qualified Sick Leave Wages is sick leave paid to employees for COVID related reasons. Ideally, these amounts would have been set up and tracked separately per KB 24946. These amounts will be used in the Worksheet 1 and will carry onto the 941 in a new Box 5a(i)

2- Qualified Family leave wages are a variation of FMLA paid to employees for COVID related reasons. Ideally, these amounts are set up and tracked in the same manner as the sick leave. These amounts will be used in the Worksheet 1 and will carry into the 941 in a new Box 5a(ii).

3- Deferred Employee Social Security Wages for participating employers are reported in Box 13b and line 24.

4- There are provisions for employee health care tax credits and employee retention credit to be reported. There were no specific adjustments for those to be done when running payroll, but adjustments will need to be made on Form 941 if those credits were taken.

<https://diolc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/f941.pdf> (Form)

<https://diolc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/i941.pdf> (Instructions)

PNQ Project, Accounting Software Pricing

We have solicited price quotes from ParishSOFT accounting (PSA) and from Intuit QuickBooks Online (QBO) for their respective parish accounting software. A sheet summarizing pricing for both options will be sent to parish pastors and finance personnel later this week via email. Parishes will need to select one software option before year end. The software implementation itself will not take place until next year, during 2021. However, a parish accounting software purchase decision must be made before this year's end to take advantage of significant price discounts. Parish leadership should prepare to evaluate and make an accounting software purchase decision before Monday, December 28, 2020.

October Health Enews

[Click here](#) to view the October Health Enews from Catholic Mutual Group.

Catholic Mutual Group Winter Snow Procedures

Numerous injuries occur each year on diocesan properties during the winter months. [Click here](#) for Ice and Snow Removal Procedures.

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Office for Vocations

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

Director of Vocation Recruitment: Fr. Nate Kuhn – 608.791.2666 | nkuhn@diolc.org

Please include the following intercession for vocations for your Sunday prayers of the faithful.

That families will strive to make their homes places where children can hear God call them by name.

To be added to your bulletin for NATIONAL VOCATIONS WEEK

November 1st-7th is National Vocations Awareness Week. It is a week in which we celebrate and promote vocations within the Church here in the United States. God calls every person to holiness, and living out one's vocation is our surest path to attain that eternal goal. Our hope and prayer is that all of God's faithful may be able to hear and willingly respond to His call to follow

Him in their vocation, whether that is the priesthood, consecrated religious life, holy marriage, or the dedicated single life. Please consider using this week as an opportunity to invite and encourage the people in your parish to pray for vocations, to include something in your parish bulletin about vocations, and incorporating a petition or an announcement at your Masses this coming weekend.

If you have any questions, are looking for additional resources, or know of someone who you think may have a vocation to the priesthood, please do not hesitate to contact me through the Office of Vocations or contact me directly: cell: (715)600-1789 or by email: nkuhn@diolc.org. God bless you!

Resources:

<https://diolc.org/priesthood>

- <https://www.usccb.org/committees/clergy-consecrated-life-vocations/national-vocation-awareness-week>
- Homily Helps for National Vocation Awareness Week
 - [English](#)
 - [Spanish](#)
- [Holy Hours for Vocations](#)
- [Prayers for Vocations](#)
- [Recommended Reading List for Discerners](#)
- [Vocation Discernment Tips](#)
- [Information on Different Forms of Consecrated Life in the Church](#)
- [DiocesanPriest.com](#)
- [National Religious Vocation Conference](#)

Contact the vocations office vocations@diolc.org or 608-791-2667 for more seminarian prayer books and/or posters.

Please consider adding a vocations paragraph to your parish bulletin. Below is an example - They will be changed each week. Feel free to use any or all of them. Contact Renee' at vocations@diolc.org if you'd like the full document emailed to you.

How does God speak to me?

Have you ever wondered how God may be speaking to you? Perhaps you are waiting to hear a loud, booming voice come from the heavens to tell you what to do or which way to go. While this isn't completely out of the question, often God takes a much subtler approach. In 1 Kings, we have the account of the Prophet Elijah standing at the entrance of a cave, waiting for the Lord to appear. As he waits, he encounters a strong, violent wind, a powerful earthquake, and a consuming fire, yet God was not revealing Himself in any of those powerful examples. Finally, as Elijah waited, he heard a soft, quiet whisper. At that, he knelt to the ground and prayed. God often speaks to us, not in grand and impressive ways, but in the silence. When we can still our hearts, that's when we begin to hear His voice, calling us into relationship and to follow Him. Sometimes that invitation is to follow the Lord as one who lovingly serves others in the

priesthood. If you or someone you know is interested in discovering more about this call to the priesthood, please contact me at: Fr. Nate Kuhn, Director of Vocational Recruitment for the Diocese of La Crosse, 3710 East Ave. S. PO Box 4004, La Crosse, WI 54602; or by phone at: 608.791.2667. God bless you!

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Office for Vicar for Clergy

Director: Very Rev. Woodrow H. Pace – 608.791.2689 | mberg@diolc.org

No items this week.

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Office for Youth & Young Adult Ministry

Director: Christopher Rogers – 608.791.2659 | crogers@diolc.org

Middle School Safe Environment PowerPoints are now available!

We are excited to announce that the Safe Environment PowerPoints for each grade (6th, 7th, and 8th) are now available on the diocesan website [here!](#) You will find them in the section titled “Diocese of La Crosse Protect and Heal Religious Education Plans” under the “Middle School” drop down box.

The Diocesan Pilgrimage for Life to Washington, DC is Cancelled

Due to COVID, we have prayerfully decided to cancel our annual Pilgrimage for Life to Washington, DC in January 2021. We are looking at some virtual and local options to connect people together to pray for all life. More information is coming soon.

Two Virtual Retreats: One for Youth in Grades 9-12 and one for youth in grades 7 and 8

We are very excited about the response for these retreats so far! It is going to be a great experience connecting parishes virtually together on these days. The first retreat will be held for youth in grades 9-12 on Sunday, November 15, 2020 (the original Sunday of the Immersion Retreat) from 12:30-3:30pm, and the second will be held for youth in grades 7-8 on Sunday, December 6, 2020 from 12:30-3:30pm. These retreats will be led by Young Life Catholic Retreats and will feature speakers and musicians from around the country to minister to our young people. Right now, the plan is to have each parish youth group gather at your parish (while following all COVID/Social Distancing protocols) to listen to powerful speakers, music, games that are virtually interactive with the other joining parishes, and small group discussions (that will be done at your parish). Prior to the retreat, you and your young people could attend Mass together, then gather to eat lunch together in a way that follows all safety protocols for serving food to groups (i.e. box lunches, sack lunch from home, etc.). Then, following the retreat, depending on the availability of your priest or deacon, you could spend time as a group together in Adoration. The cost for these retreats would simply be \$10 per person. If you applied for a BEET Grant for a youth event that has been cancelled due to COVID, those funds could be

reapplied to these retreats. Click [HERE](#) for a downloadable poster and the Group Registration Form!

Here are the diocesan Facebook links to these events.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/996054837567324/>

<https://www.facebook.com/events/403560010647418/>

Virtual Formation from the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM)

You can still sign up to participate and view past recordings in MOMENTUM: Moving Ministry Forward which is a multiphase event focused on rediscovering the purpose of programs, evaluating their effectiveness, and creating a strategy to impact the lives of young people and their families. Regardless if you have been in ministry for less than a year or more than 20 years, we now all share a common experience—normal is no longer normal. Now is the time chart a new course, or at least turn the sails. This event seeks to help you plant seeds for long term success in your ministry—learn how to draft your ministry blueprint, activate while adjusting accordingly, and empower a new generation of leaders. Click [here](#) for more information!

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 11:00 am!

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.

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