



Chancery Bulletin - Vol. 5, No. 12.3 | December 22, 2020

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A message from Bishop William Patrick Callahan

Christmas 2020

"The hinge of history is on the door of a Bethlehem stable."

(Ralph Sockman)

Brothers and Sisters,

There is joy for us to understand the paradox of the Incarnation and the Nativity of our Blessed Lord in a stable in Bethlehem. This special anniversary brings us close to our own simple humanity touched ever so completely with the personal love of God.

I pray for the fullness of God's blessing to each of you for Christmas peace and Happiness. My sincere best wishes are with all of you for a very happy and blessed Christmas!

Bishop William

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Officials

No items this week.

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Events

As of December 22

Friday, December 25

Christmas - Curia Offices Closed Dec. 24-Jan. 1

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord (The obligation to attend Mass on this day is lifted due to Covid-19)

Friday, January 1, 2021

Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Lord (The obligation to attend Mass on this day is lifted due to Covid-19)

Saturday, January 2, 2021

March for Life - Madison

Tuesday, January 5, 2021

11:00am [Tune-In Tuesdays](#)

Friday, January 8, 2021

Deacon Formation - Marathon - Jan. 8-9

Lay Formation Institute - La Crosse - Jan. 8-9

Saturday, January 9, 2021

5:30pm 14th Ukrainian Christmas Dinner - Chippewa Falls

Tuesday, January 12, 2021

11:00am [Tune-In Tuesdays](#)

Saturday, January 16, 2021

National Religious Freedom Day

8:00am Married Love: Two Becoming One Retreat - Stevens Point

Monday, January 18, 2021

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Jan. 18-25

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

11:00am [Tune-In Tuesdays](#)

Friday, January 22, 2021

Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

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

The Curia offices will be closed from Thursday, December 24, 2020 until Monday, January 4, 2021. We will not be publishing a Chancery Bulletin next week on December 29. We will resume the normal weekly schedule on Tuesday, January 5, 2021.

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Office for Catechesis & Evangelization

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

Bulletin Insert for the weekend of Dec. 27th

Epiphany Blessing of the Home may be used on the Feast of the Epiphany, which will be celebrated January 6th. The parish may consider providing blessed chalk. Click here for the bulletin insert (two sided): diolc.org/catechesis/bulletin-inserts/

Reminder: Welcome Card for Use on Christmas Eve/Christmas Day

A Welcome Card is being provided for use in the pew on Christmas Eve or Day for those people who would like to commit or re-commit to the parish. Click here: <https://diolc.org/catechesis/bulletin-inserts/>

Speaker Series – January 7th

Dr. Petroc Willey will be speaking on the six ways that Christ is to be the center of all teaching, which is called Christocentricity. Petroc does this by way of Sacred Art. I heard the presentation that he gave to the Archdiocese of Minneapolis/St. Paul and it is both beautiful and extremely helpful for teaching. Dr. Willey is a gifted speaker, who makes everything understandable. He is a Director of the Catechetical Institute and a Professor of Catechetics. Further, he is a consultor for the Pontifical Council for the New Evangelization. This presentation will be well worth your time, and will give you a spiritual lift in the Christmas Season. There is no cost for the ZOOM presentation on **Thursday, January 7th, 2-3 p.m.**, but **registration is necessary**. Send an email to Paula at pboyle@diolc.org All are welcome. Extend the invitation to catechists and Catholic School teachers.

BEET Grants

The BEET Grant process is now open. The grant application instructions and application for the upcoming 2021-2022 year are available here: <https://diolc.org/schools/beet-grant/>. Please read the instructions page to determine if your project meets the grant requirements. The 2021-2022 Bishop's Educational Endowment Trust (BEET Grant) information includes the Directions and the Application form in Word and in a pdf with fillable boxes.

The purpose of the Bishop's Education Endowment trust is to support and assist the mission of the Diocese of La Crosse in providing funds for all aspects of Catholic education in the Diocese and are based upon need. Fully completed applications are due on or before **Friday, February 5, 2021**. This is a firm date because of the lengthy process for the grants.

Questions regarding grant applications can be directed to Kimberly Huston at (khuston@diolc.org) or Ann at alankford@diolc.org.

Catechetical Leader: If the parish has not yet implemented Theology of the Body in Middle School and/or High School, consider submitting a grant, if there is a financial need, for a digital subscription from Ascension Press. This would allow parents the opportunity to watch the session that their son or daughter is studying. Go to:

<https://ascensionpress.com/pages/teen-faith-formation>

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Office for Communications

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

Bishop Callahan's Christmas Video Message and supporting graphics:

Bishop Callahan's recorded Christmas video message is available [here](#) for you to share on your Facebook page and link to your website. Christmas website and Facebook banners have also been created and are available for your use at the [diocesan media resources](#) page.

Jan/Feb Catholic Life

The Jan/Feb issue of *Catholic Life* Magazine will be delivered to your parishioners around December 30. The electronic version is available at catholicmagazines.org/magazine-archive/catholic-life/lc0121.

Reminder: E-Mail Spear Phishing into our parishes

We have again received reports of targeted attacks by a crafted fake Gmail address, attempting to represent your pastor. There are two things you, and everyone that receives the scam message, can do.

1. Report the Gmail address used to send the phishing message to Google as a violation of the Gmail Program Policies and/or Terms of Use using this link:

<https://support.google.com/mail/contact/abuse>

2. Report the phishing message by moving the message into your Spam folder and, if you are using Gmail, Open the message, Next to Reply, click More, and then click Report phishing.

<https://support.google.com/mail/answer/8253?hl=en>

It's good practice to remind your staff, volunteers and parishioners, especially now when so much is done electronically, that you will never request gift card codes, script codes or other monies to be sent through e-mail.

Thank you for your diligence and attention to these clever attacks.

Reminder: Professional Email communications

Given the many Email scams and counterfeits we see weekly, here are a few helpful guidelines to help expose forgery and improve the overall perception of your email communications.

1. It is recommended that all electronic communications coming from a diocesan office, parish or school be on a domain for the corresponding organization. Example: Secretary@allsaintsparish.org, or Info@allsaintsparish.org.

2. It is recommended that all clergy use an email with the diocesan domain diolclergy.org or one from their parish domain.

3. It is recommended that parish and school staff eliminate the use of free domains such as Gmail, Hotmail, Yahoo, or domains from their Internet provider and other such services when representing the diocese/parish/school via email correspondence. Adherence to this recommendation will establish an authenticity of the correspondence and reduce the potential for misrepresentation or impersonation.

We are happy to help clergy establish a diolclergy.org email address. Just send us a request and we will create the account for you. The diolclergy.org domain is part of the diocesan GSuite. Your diolclergy.org account will include the full range of G Suite functionality.

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Office for Consecrated Life

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

For Your Parish Bulletin

Thanks for giving to the Retirement Fund for Religious! “We are conscious of the great generosity of the many benefactors who support the Retirement Fund for Religious each year,” says a Catholic sister. “Support from the fund has been a tremendous blessing to our retired sisters.” Thank you for donating to last week’s second collection.

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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 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

No items this week.

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Office for Ministries

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

For your Parish Bulletin:

Diaconate Discernment Retreat Saturday, February 27

Are you a man at least 35 years of age who feels a yearning to give yourself more radically to the service of God and the Church – preaching the Gospel, serving those in need, assisting at the altar? If you think God may be calling you to be a deacon, talk to your pastor about attending the Diaconate Discernment Retreat at St. Mary’s Church in Altoona on February 27, 2021. Then contact Deacon Bryan Hilts, Director of the Office for the Diaconate at bhilts@diolc.org. A new deacon formation class will begin in the fall of 2021 and attendance at the Discernment Retreat is a prerequisite.

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Office for Missions

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

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joyeux Noël - Afirihyapa Oooh - Feliz Navidad

The above are some ways of saying **Merry Christmas** in languages native to priests serving in our diocese. I am sure there are more, but I hope that I have included these correctly, without saying something bad. I don’t want to be on anyone's naughty list!

As we close out the year 2020, from the Mission Office we wish you all many blessings during these Holy Days in which we celebrate the Nativity of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. By the will of our heavenly Father, the Son took on the flesh of human kind. Through His incarnation and by the power is His Holy Spirit we are intimately bound to Him and so to one another. No matter what our circumstance in life, regardless of our language or culture, even with the great diversity in the strength of our believe or state of sinfulness in our soul, the Christ child invites us to adore Him, born as King of kings, and Lord of lords. In our world, so much in need of healing, may the song of the angels ring loudly, “Glory to God in the highest. Peace to His people on Earth.” With the shepherds, may we as one human family come to adore and tell the good news of our Savior’s birth. Thank you to all who have helped this mission in 2020.

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Office for Sacred Worship

The Schedule for Diocesan Televised Christmas Masses is:

- Eau Claire, Channel 18, at 10:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve, and 6:30 a.m. on Christmas Day.
- La Crosse, Channel 19, at 10:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve, and 6:30 a.m. on Christmas Day.
- Marshfield (Public Access), Channel 990, at 10:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve, and 6:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on Christmas Day.
- Stevens Point (Public Access), Channel 984 and Channel 3, at Noon and 4:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve, and Noon and 6:00 p.m. on Christmas Day.
- Wausau, Channel 12, at 11:00 a.m. on Christmas Day.
- Wausau (Public Access), Channel 980, at 1:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve, and 7:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. on Christmas Day.
- Wisconsin Rapids (Public Access), Channel 985 and Channel 3, at 11:30 a.m. on Christmas Eve.

Livestream from the Cathedral at 7:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve (with Bishop Callahan), and 10:30 a.m. on Christmas morning. The Mass for Christmas is also available any time on the Diocesan Facebook page and website, www.diolc.org.

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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.

The Basic Background Check Form is also the FBI Release Form and needs to be sent with each set of print cards. Cards sent with the old form or without a form will not be submitted. When getting fingerprinted, always get 2 print cards filled out. If only one card is sent and there is an error, the person will need to go back to be reprinted and charged again. There is no extra charge to have 2 cards done.

Online Student Protect and Heal Training: Whether your Religious Education program is in person or online this year, all students still need to be Protect and Heal trained. Grades 1-8 have power points lesson plans and Grades 9-12 have a pdf lesson plan. They can be found here, on the diocesan Protect and Heal website in the Library. Scroll to the bottom of the page to find the appropriate training documents.

Schools and Parishes: Are you teaching your students remotely? If you have any questions regarding the use of social networking and technology, our guidelines are found here. You should never be communicating one on one with a student through email, phone call, Facebook or any other form of electronic communication. It is inappropriate for personnel to include minors and vulnerable adults within their own social circle, online or otherwise. Always email their parent to keep them in the loop. If a teacher needs to call a student, always inform the parent prior to the call and let them know when you will be calling and why you are calling the student. Always have 2 adults on an email with a student. That can be another teacher or their parent. When possible, do group chats and emails.

Be responsible: You are personally responsible for posted content and will be held accountable for such. Be selective – use the right medium for your message. Always identify yourself with your real identity and not a nickname. Respect the privacy of others. Don't publish personal information of others without their permission.

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.

Do you know who your child is texting? There are many excellent online resources such as: virtusonline.org, kidsafenetwork.com and netsmartz.org. Increase your knowledge and awareness and control access to the "virtual door" of your home. Learning to make the right choices can make a profound difference in protecting yourself and your children.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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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 Bulletin:

March for Life – Jan. 2 in Madison, Jan. 29 in Washington, D.C.

While the Diocese of La Crosse is not taking pilgrims to the March for Life this year, you can choose to participate in the March for Life in Madison on Jan. 2 or the march in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 29. For more information on both, visit prolifewi.org/marchforlife. If you plan to attend the March for Life in Madison, please email cruff@diolc.org or crogers@diolc.org and we will discuss a rendezvous point for pilgrims from our diocese.

For your Parish Bulletin:

Save the Date!

January 30 – Pro-Life Virtual Afternoon of Reflection: “Walking with Mom’s in Need”

Some people accuse pro-lifers of caring only about the child in the womb and not women in need. *Not true at all*, as you will see from this virtual afternoon of reflection on January 30, 2021, with keynote speaker Bob Perron, Executive Director of JMJ Pregnancy Center in Orlando, FL. You will also hear about the fourteen Pregnancy Care Centers in the Diocese of La Crosse and what you can do to help one near you. This afternoon of reflection will have broad appeal for families, adults and teens. More details coming soon!

For your Parish Bulletin:

U.S. Bishops’ Statement on Ethics of COVID-19 Vaccines

There are currently three vaccines that are likely to be made available in the coming months, those from Pfizer, Moderna, and AstraZeneca. Neither Pfizer nor Moderna used morally compromised cell lines in producing the vaccine. A confirmatory test, however, employing the commonly used, but morally compromised HEK293 cell line (from kidney cells taken from an aborted child in the Netherlands in 1972) was performed on both vaccines. Thus, while neither vaccine is completely free from any connection to morally compromised cell lines, in this case the connection is very remote from the initial evil of the abortion. The AstraZeneca vaccine is more morally compromised. The HEK293 cell line was used in the design, development, and production stages of that vaccine, as well as for confirmatory testing. Where possible, then, the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are to be used instead. Where that is not possible or would mean significant delay, the AstraZeneca vaccine may be used, in the same way that the Rubella vaccine is used because there is no alternative. To read the full statement on the vaccines, visit usccb.org/moral-considerations-covid-vaccines.

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Office for Stewardship & Development

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

No items this week.

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Office for Temporalities

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

Catholic Mutual Group Health Enews

The current edition of CMG Health Enews, “Christmas Traditions”, can be accessed by [clicking here](#).

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Office for Vocations

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 young men and women will listen to the Holy Spirit in their hearts and respond to the cry from deep within to vocations of marriage, priesthood or religious life.

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.

Have you ever wondered if the Lord is calling you to be a priest? To begin the conversation or to inquire about what it means to be a priest, please contact me: 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

Note to Priests and Deacons: Wishing you all a Merry and Blessed Christmas Day/Octave/Season! In the midst of the busy wonder of these high holy days, I pray you also find moments of joy and peace with the people you serve so well. I am praying that God (and sensible COVID practices) keep you healthy, happy and holy.

This message also comes with COVID apologies. So many canceled events can lead to unfed spiritual needs, for that I am sorry. No usual experience of Chrism Mass, Priest Unity Days, Ordination, Fall Ministry Conference, Christmas receptions at the Bishop’s residence and more in 2020 leaves us wanting for spiritual input and a shot of grace. I am working with St. Anthony Spirituality Center to make virtual options available for the annual retreat following

Easter. In the meantime, I invite you to consider setting some time aside for you and God. In addition to opportunities presented for you and your parishioners here in the diocese and listed in this bulletin, you might consider the following for your own personal participation.

[Lift Up Your Heart virtual conference will be held January 4-7, 2021](#). It is an annual event sponsored by the St. Paul Center which is both gathered and virtual for 2021. The speakers include Scott Hahn, John Bergsma, Ralph Martin, Lawrence Feingold, Fr. Rocky Hoffman and Fr. Boniface Hisks, OSB. Presentations are scheduled throughout each day from Monday evening through Thursday morning. Registration allows access to the talks, workshops and liturgies. You will also be sent handouts and other materials prior to the event. For the schedule, registration process and other information, please click the [link](#).

The registration cost for priests is \$69 and for deacons \$79. Clergy discounts require an account at [StPaulCenter.com](#). Because the Fall Clergy Conference 2020 was canceled, the registration cost of \$75 remains in your "continuing ed" account, unless you have already accessed the funds in this fiscal year. If you would like to attend the Conference (or any spiritual conference of your choice) those funds are available to you. Just send the paid conference receipt to Mary Lou Berg, and we will send you the reimbursement.

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Office for Youth & Young Adult Ministry

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

No items this week.

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