



Chancery Bulletin - Vol. 6, No. 1.1 | January 5, 2021

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Officials

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

The Reverend **Clayton R. Elmhurst**, Pastor of St. Mary Parish in Lyndon Station, has been granted a leave of absence for medical reasons following an automobile accident, effective January 1, 2021.

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Events

As of Jan. 5, 2021

Friday, January 8
Deacon Formation - Marathon - Jan. 8-9
Lay Formation Institute - La Crosse - Jan. 8-9
Saturday, January 9
5:30pm 14th Ukrainian Christmas Dinner - Chippewa Falls
Tuesday, January 12
11:00am Tune-In Tuesdays
Saturday, January 16
National Religious Freedom Day
8:00am Married Love: Two Becoming One Retreat - Stevens Point
Monday, January 18
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Jan. 18-25
Tuesday, January 19
11:00am Tune-In Tuesdays
Friday, January 22
Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children
Tuesday, January 26
11:00am Tune-In Tuesdays
Wednesday, January 27
Pilgrimage for Life - Jan. 27-31, 2021 - CANCELLED
Friday, January 29
March for Life - Washington, D.C.
Saturday, January 30
Pro-Life Virtual Afternoon of Reflection: "Walking with Mom's in Need"
Tuesday, February 2
Presentation of the Lord: World Day for Consecrated Life
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

Please see the important information below regarding paperwork for marriage matters.

The Matrimonial Tribunal handles only formal annulment cases. Kelly McCarthy can be directly reached at 608-791-2684 email: tribunal@diolc.org. When mailing materials, it's helpful to include "Matrimonial Tribunal" in the address. Formal annulment forms are available at <https://diolc.org/tribunal/>.

The Chancery Office handles marriage permissions, dispensations, and lack of form cases. Father Kurt Apfelbeck can be reached directly at 608-791-0177 email: kapfelbeck@diolc.org. When mailing materials, it's helpful to include "Chancery" in the address. Forms for the Chancery Office are available at <https://diolc.org/chancery/>.

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Office for Catechesis & Evangelization

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

Join us for the Speaker Series – Thursday, January 7th from 2 – 3 p.m.

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. Certification credit will be given.

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 Leaders: If your parish has not yet implemented Theology of the Body in Middle School and/or High School, consider submitting a grant, if there is 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>

Votive Mass of St. Joseph on Wednesdays

A long-standing tradition in the Church has designated each day of the week with a particular theme to be recognized at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Priests are encouraged to offer a Votive Mass in honor of St. Joseph every Wednesday, so long as the liturgical calendar allows (see GIRM 374-376 or the ordo). Prayer texts for the Votive Mass of St. Joseph can be found

in the Roman Missal. This Votive Mass of St. Joseph every Wednesday will help parishioners draw closer to our spiritual father. In light of the titles from the Litany of St. Joseph, “Head of the Holy Family,” and “Pillar of Families,” a suggested prayer intention at the Votive Mass could be for a strengthening of marriages and family life.

The Diocesan “Year of St. Joseph” has been extended to December 8, 2021

With the Apostolic Letter *Patris corde* (“With a Father’s Heart”), Pope Francis has proclaimed a “Year of Saint Joseph” from 8 December 2020, to 8 December 2021. This year recalls the 150th anniversary of the declaration of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church. The Holy Father wrote *Patris corde* against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, which, he says, has helped us see more clearly the importance of “ordinary” people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this, they resemble Saint Joseph, “the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence,” who nonetheless played “an incomparable role in the history of salvation.”

[Read more ...](#)

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Office for Communications

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

Attention Pastors, Parish Administrative Assistants and Secretaries: Parish Message Lines for the back cover of the March issue of Catholic Life magazine are due by Monday, January 11. The March issue is expected to arrive in homes by Saturday, February 13. Please direct any questions to Sr. Donna: dkrzmarzick@diolc.org

Reminder: Parish Social Media Checkup

In the next few months, we will be available to meet via ZOOM to review your parish social media presence. We can review your Parish/School Google My Business listing, Parish/School Facebook, Other Parish Listings, Exposure to Email scams, future usage of myParish app, Parish Website and other lingering questions. If you are interested in setting up a time, please contact our office.

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Office for Consecrated Life

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

Reminder: 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

The Deacon Community Board will meet (via Zoom) on Tuesday January 26, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. If you have agenda items, please contact Deacon Hilts.

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 Human Resources

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

We are pleased to announce that on Monday, January 4th, Claudia Weinberger began a new position as Staff Accountant/ Internal Auditor. She will be working with Jim Reider and Kurt Jereczek, and will eventually be working with the parishes.

Claudia has previously worked with a number of our parishes and Curia staff during her time working for a local accounting firm. Claudia is married, lives in Winona, MN and has two adult children.

At this time, we ask that the Parish Bookkeepers limit their questions for Claudia to Payroll and Quickbooks.

Contact information:

Claudia Weinberger
cweinberger@diolc.org
(608) 791-2695
Ext. 2265

Welcome Claudia!

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Office for Marriage & Family Life

Save the Date!

January 30 – Pro-Life Virtual Afternoon of Reflection: “Walking with Moms 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. Visit diolc.org/respect-life -- More details coming soon!

Heroic Men Website

If you haven't done so, check out the Heroic Men website [here](#), and let the Catholic men in your parish know about this great site. It is a 100% FREE Catholic streaming platform designed especially for men who want to discover (or re-discover) the truth, beauty and goodness of the Catholic faith. Offering more than 100 feature-length films, TV shows, documentaries and short films, Heroic Men seeks to source the best Catholic media available and bring it all to you, all in one place.

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: 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

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

No items this week.

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Office for Sacred Worship

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

Information on how to celebrate “Sunday of the Word of God” on January 24

On September 30, 2019, the feast day of Saint Jerome, Pope Francis instituted a new celebration on the Third Sunday of Ordinary time: the Sunday of the Word of God. Cardinal Sarah has recently issued a note from the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments that offers practical ideas on how pastors and the faithful can observe the day, celebrated next on January 24, 2021. See [here](#) for more information.

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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 above statement must be published in your Parish Bulletin at least once a quarter and 2 nonconsecutive bulletins must be sent in with your 2020-21 Safe Environment Report.

Reports are due in 55 days. All students need Safe Environment training or a signed declination must be sent with your report. All paid staff and volunteers need a current background check and training. If their background expires before June 30, it must be renewed when you submit your report. As of today, 9 parishes have sent complete reports. St. Mary's of Greenwood is the only school to submit a report and it is complete.

Are you Ministering Online to Youth? Create a Safe Environment for Minors.

- Be aware of your location - don't broadcast from a bedroom or a room with adult related items ie, a bar or graphic pictures on the wall.
- What type of attire do you have on? Always be professional. No pajamas.
- Consider your platform: Use Flocknote, Google Handouts or Zoom. Direct connections such as FaceTime is discouraged.
- Schedule online face-to-face contact with minors in advance through a group forum and with the knowledge & permission of parents or guardians.
- Avoid sharing personal contact information, instead provide minors with parish or group related email addresses or accounts.
- Arrange to host group meet ups and always provide parents with links/access to the meeting ups, emails, and other messages.

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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. 29 in Washington, D.C.

While the Diocese of La Crosse is not taking pilgrims to the March for Life in Washington, D.C. this year, you can still choose to participate in it either individually or through a trip sponsored by ProLife Wisconsin. For more information, visit prolifewi.org/marchforlife.

For your Parish Bulletin:

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

There are three COVID-19 vaccines that are either currently available (right now only for "emergency use"), or likely to be available in the coming months. They are 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

Christ Our Cornerstone Reminder: This weekend is the second of two diocesan wide commitment weekends for the Christ Our Cornerstone Campaign. There are several materials available to assist you in your appeal. If you have already conducted your commitment weekend, please consider encouraging your parish members to participate in this important effort to rebuild and revitalize our cathedral.

The parish depository of materials to be used to help promote this effort can be found at diolc.org/stewardship/cornerstone/. This page is similar to how the Appeal Portal supports the Diocesan Annual Appeal

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 continue to have several parishes reporting issues with parishioners reporting they are not getting their appeal mailings as timely as expected. We have found that the mailings are reaching their homes seven days and more later than expected. If you receive reports of parishioners not receiving mailings, please let us know who they are so that we can send them another packet. We cannot help if we do not have the names of individuals or families.

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

Mutual of America 403(b)

Mutual of America will be hosting six webinars over the next six months. The first webinar will be “Women and Retirement”. You’ll receive practical, useful information and insights you can use now to get better prepared for the kind of financial future you want and deserve.

There’s no cost or obligation to attend.

[Click here to Register for the Women and Retirement Event](#)

January 13, 2021 – Noon

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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 our parish communities will nurture marriage and religious vocations through their lives of prayer and service, giving witness to God's loving action in the world.

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.

What Are You Looking For?

The first question that Jesus asks in John’s Gospel is, “What are you looking for?” He is speaking to John’s disciples as they follow after Him, desiring to know who Jesus is and what His mission is all about. After the disciples respond, Jesus gives them an instruction, “Come and you will see!” Whether we can hear it or not, that same question is being asked to you. What are YOU looking for? So often, we find ourselves searching, not knowing exactly where to go or what to do in life. We seek things that will hopefully fill the emptiness and longing that we have in our hearts, but nothing seems to satisfy. The real answer to this can be found in Jesus’ response as He invites each of us to follow after Him, to get to know Him, and to follow the path He has placed before us. For some men, that path is a very special invitation to walk in Jesus’ footsteps as a priest. 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

Save the Date!

January 30 – Pro-Life Virtual Afternoon of Reflection: “Walking with Moms 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, Florida. 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. Visit diolc.org/respect-life -- More details coming soon!

Save the Date!

Virtual Confirmation Retreats

We will be offering two dates for Virtual Confirmation Retreats using the Young Life Catholic Retreat Team. They will be offered March 13, 2021 and April 10, 2021 from 10:00am-1:00pm on both days. More information is coming soon!

National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM) Annual Membership Meeting

If you are a member of the NFCYM, you will not want to miss the Annual Membership Meeting (AMM). This is an opportunity for members of NFCYM to participate in professional development, networking, and communal expressions of faith while working together on projects and identifying and taking concrete steps to bring the mission of NFCYM to life. Follow this [link](#) to register!

If you are not yet a member of the NFCYM and would like to learn more about becoming a member call our office and/or click [here](#).

Reminder: 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.

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

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