



Chancery Bulletin - Vol. 6, No. 2.2 | February 9, 2021

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Officials

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

The Reverend **Joseph M. O'Hara** has been granted a five-year leave of absence from active ministry in the Diocese of La Crosse, effective February 1, 2021.

The Reverend **Jerzy Rebacz**, Pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Ellsworth is appointed Pastor of St. James Parish, Amherst and St. Mary Mount Carmel Parish, Fancher, with residence at the parish rectory in Amherst, effective March 1, 2021.

The Reverend **David P. Olson**, after completing his term on the theological faculty at Mundelein Seminary and his sabbatical at the Oblate School of Theology, San Antonio, TX is appointed Pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Ellsworth with residence at the parish rectory, effective March 1, 2021.

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Events

As of Feb. 9

Tuesday, February 9
11:00am Tune-In Tuesdays
Thursday, February 11
Our Lady of Lourdes and the World Day of the Sick
Saturday, February 13
8:00am Married Love: Two Becoming One Retreat - Marshfield
Tuesday, February 16
11:00am Tune-In Tuesdays
Wednesday, February 17
Ash Wednesday
Saturday, February 20
Marriage - Virtual Lenten Men's Retreat
Sunday, February 21
2:00pm Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion - La Crosse - CANCELLED
Tuesday, February 23
11:00am Tune-In Tuesdays
Friday, February 26
Day of Prayer and Penance for Diocesan and Universal Church Needs
Saturday, February 27
Diaconate Discernment Retreat - Altoona
8:00am Married Love: Two Becoming One Retreat - Wausau
Tuesday, March 2
11:00am Tune-In Tuesdays
Friday, March 5
Deacon Formation - Marathon - March 5-6
Lay Formation Institute - La Crosse - March 5-6
Saturday, March 6
9:00am Spirituality Day 2021 - A Virtual Lenten Journey Through the Holy Land
Tuesday, March 9
11:00am Tune-In Tuesdays
Saturday, March 13
8:00am Married Love: Two Becoming One Retreat - Stevens Point
Sunday, March 14
10:30am Anniversary of the opening of the cause of Servant of God, Father Joe Walijewski - La Crosse
Tuesday, March 30
10:30am Chrism Mass - La Crosse
Thursday, April 1
Holy Thursday - Curia Offices Closed
Friday, April 2
Good Friday of the Lord's Passion - Curia Offices Closed

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

For Parish Communications

Bulletin Insert for the weekend of February 21

This is the seventh in a series on the ways that God guides us. God uses the gift of reason – the thinking process – to provide helpful direction for everyday life. To download the bulletin insert, click here: diolc.org/bulletin-inserts

For Parish Communications

Excellent lenten resources for Individuals and Families

- **33 Days to Merciful Love: A Do-It-Yourself Retreat** by Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC
in Preparation for Consecration to Divine Mercy. Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC, brings to light one of the most beloved saints in modern times, St. Thérèse of Lisieux. Topics include trust, the Little Way, the Offering to Merciful Love and spiritual darkness. The 33 days is a preparation for consecration to Divine Mercy. A book can be purchased at ShopMercy.org
- **Consecration to St. Joseph** by Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC
During this Year dedicated to St. Joseph, a six-week preparation beginning on February 15 and ends on March 19th on the Solemnity of St. Joseph would be a most-timely study during Lent. The book is arranged for the consecration with 10-15 minutes of reading per day. Books can be purchased by clicking here: A book can be purchased at ShopMercy.org
- **Discovering a Deeper Relationship with the Holy Spirit** with Fr. Dave Pivonka
This is 14-part series features Fr. Dave Pivonka, a regular host of Steubenville Youth Conferences. Shot in various locations from Niagara Falls to the California desert, the presentations invite viewers to an encounter, or a renewed encounter, with the Holy Spirit. The entire series is available for free on wildgoose.tv or if you prefer you can purchase the DVD set as well.

For Parish Communications:

Free Daily Lenten Reflections

Sign up to receive a daily email with a short video to help you connect in a stronger way with Jesus. This begins on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 17) and continues through the forty days of Lent.

1. Sign up for Bishop Barron daily Lenten reflections lentreflections.com/ or
2. Sign up for “Best Lent Ever” with Matthew Kelly at dynamiccatholic.com/bestlentever
3. Choose a Prayer Card for Lent in order to “Go Deeper” in your relationship with Jesus and your understanding of the prayer. Visit diolc.org/deeper for adult resources and diolc.org/prayer for children and young people resources.

Suggestions for the Parish during Lent

- Offer Mass in the evening one additional time during each week of Lent, so that those who work full time may attend.
- Offer the Sacrament of Confession one additional time during Lent.
- Provide parishioners with a good book to read for \$1 each. Titles this year include “I Heard God Laugh” which helps people to be committed to the daily habit of prayer or “Do Something Beautiful for God” that includes daily reflections from St. Mother Teresa. Go to dynamiccatholic.com/parishbookprogram

Lenten Resources

Catechetical leaders, catechists and Catholic school teachers are invited to check out the various resources for Lent.

diolc.org/catechesis/catechist-training-resources-for-teaching/lent-resources/

Virtual Formational Series – Thursday, February 25th

Msgr. Joseph Hirsch will be the speaker for the next Virtual Formational Series on Thursday, Feb. 25th at 2 p.m. Msgr. Hirsch’s presentation is entitled Sacrament of Reconciliation: God’s Sacrament of Healing for our Wounded World. This is a timely topic for Lent. Msgr. Hirsch gave this presentation to another Diocese and it was very well received, which deals with the common questions and struggles surrounding this Sacrament. This series is FREE but registration is necessary. Contact Paula Boyle at pboyle@diolc.org to register.

Save the Date: Saturday, June 5th for a Virtual Formation of the Theology of the Body

Formation will be provided for those who teach the following grades in Parish Programs: Grades 7th or 8th and Grades 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th. Brian Butler, a gifted speaker and one of the producers of Theology of the Body for Middle School and High School by Ascension Press, will provide virtual formation on Saturday, June 5th from 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. with an hour for lunch. DRE’s, CRE’s and Youth Ministers are encouraged to organize a group at the parish so that The Theology of the Body can be implemented in the fall. **Parents** are most welcome to be part of a parish group so they can “walk with” their child in this formation. Cost is \$10 per person. For further information and to register visit diolc.org/tob

- Download a poster and Save the Date Post Cards to advertise here: diolc.org/tob

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Office for Communications

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

Parish Divine Mercy Sunday events due February 19th

If your parish is planning a Divine Mercy Sunday event–April 11 this year–please send the information to datebook@diolc.org. In addition to adding it to the diocesan calendar, your parish event will also be featured in a special section of the April issue of Catholic Life magazine. All events received by February 19, will be published in the April Catholic Life magazine.

Email and Text message scams continue

We have recently received more reports of fraudulent emails and text messages being sent “from the pastor” or other parish staff or clergy member asking for iTunes Gift Card purchases or other gift cards, donations or money transfers. Please get the word out about these scams so your parishioners stay alert.

From what we are seeing, lists (available on the public internet) containing e-mail addresses and cell phone numbers are being used to make the relationship between a pastor and his parishioner or parish staff member. Please be careful not to publish e-mail addresses or cell phone numbers publicly (typically on a website or in your parish bulletin that gets posted to your parish website). Care must be taken to protect our e-mail addresses and the relationships they have to parishioners and parish staff.

Reminder: Bishop Callahan’s Lenten Video Message

Bishop Callahan’s Lenten video greeting is available [here](#). Please share his message on your parish Facebook and your parish website. youtu.be/tN3ivPPH3x0 We will also be using Facebook video cross posting. Lenten website and Facebook banners have also been created and are available for your use at the diocesan media resources page diolc.org/media_resources



Reminder: Promoting your parish Lenten meals

With Lent quickly approaching, it's time to start promoting your parish Lenten meals. We are again using the diocesan website to host the Fish Frynder, a place where people can find when and where a fish fry, or other parish Lenten meal is taking place throughout the diocese. To get your parish event listed, please contact Pam Willer at datebook@diolc.org. As we get requests, we will add them to the Fish Frynder page listing your parish, the location, the times and the detailed information about the dinner including food options, as provided. diolc.org/Fishfrynder Feel free to add the Diocese of La Crosse Facebook as a co-host of your Facebook Lenten meal event.

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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 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: National Marriage Week Feb. 7 to 14

This week we are celebrating National Marriage Week! This annual observance is a great prompt for everyone to reflect on the gift marriage is to our Church and our country, as well as an opportunity for couples to build up their own marriages. This year our theme is: **To Have, To Hold, To Honor**. Here's how you can join us:

- Spend a little dedicated time in prayer and reflection by participating in our **seven-day at-home retreat** (available in pdf in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)) focused on marriage. This year the retreat theme is “**To Have, To Hold, To Honor.**”
- Share our **National Marriage Week Flyer**, available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).
- Change your Facebook Cover Photo or share one of the images from our [Social Media Kit](#) (also in Spanish at PortuMatrimonio.org) (Coming soon!)
- Encourage your parish to celebrate **World Marriage Sunday** (February 14, 2021), with a [Preaching Resource](#) (also available in [Spanish](#)) for clergy or by sharing our flyer.
- Invite your diocesan or parish community to pray for marriage with these [Prayers of the Faithful for National Marriage Week](#) (also available in [Spanish](#)).
- Read Archbishop Cordileone's **Invitation to Celebrate National Marriage Week** (Coming Soon!).
- **Pray a rosary** for married couples and families with us! The rosary will be led by Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone, the head of the Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life, and Youth, and live-streamed on **Wednesday, February 10, at 2:00 pm ET** on the [For Your Marriage Facebook Page](#).
- **Conversation on Fatherhood and Spousal Love** – Tune in again on [Facebook](#) on **Friday, February 12, at 2:00 pm ET** for a live-streamed discussion between the associate director for Clergy, Consecrated Life, and Vocations, Fr. Daniel Hanley, and

the director of Laity, Marriage, Family Life, and Youth, Mr. Dominic Lombardi as they discuss their reflections on fatherhood and spousal love looking to Saint Joseph as their example.

Diocesan Website for Clergy and Marriage Ministers Regarding Marriage Preparation

FYI, here is the [link](#) that goes directly to the section of our website containing resources for clergy and marriage ministers. There are step-by-step instructions, downloadable guidelines, downloadable forms, and much more! Please let us know if we can assist you in this ministry.

For Your Parish Bulletin: Retrouvaille Marriage Help Weekend Coming Soon!

Whether your marriage has simply drifted apart, or has arrived at separation or divorce, Retrouvaille \Retro- vi\ offers hope. The next program begins with a weekend away at St. Anthony Spirituality Center in Marathon, WI, February 12-14. Fr. Joseph Redfern, a priest of our diocese, is on the presenting team, along with 3 couples who share their personal stories of healing and reconciliation. This highly successful program is fully confidential, affordable (all volunteer-run), and open to couples of all faiths or no faith background. Please follow these links to download and share the [Cover Letter to Churches](#), [Bulletin Announcements](#), and [Flyer to share with your parish](#). You can also follow this [link](#) to learn more about Retrouvaille.

Reminder: Save the Date! February 20, 2021 Virtual Men's Lenten Retreat

We will have a free virtual Lenten retreat for men talking about looking to St. Joseph as a model for being a great husband and father. The retreat will feature speakers Fr. Sam Martin and Mr. Pat Brueggen. To register please visit: <https://diolc.org/virtual-lenten-mens-retreat/>

Here is the Facebook link for this event:

[fb.me/e/cPMROcgmE](https://www.facebook.com/e/cPMROcgmE)

Please share this on your parish Facebook

Reminder: Teaching the Way of Love Newsletter

The next monthly newsletter article is now available from Teaching the Way of Love. This month's topic is "Let's Be Reasonable!" Click [here](#) for the article.

Reminder: 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

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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 30 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.

Here is the Facebook link for this event:

<https://fb.me/e/7RUt1pcug>

Please share this on your parish Facebook

For Your Parish Bulletin:

New Lay Formation Institute (LFI) class starts in the fall – Registration underway!

Registration is open for the next two-year Lay Formation cycle that begins in fall of 2021. Draw closer to Christ and deepen your knowledge of the Faith in a joyful community of learners! See complete information, schedule and application form at diolc.org/layformation. Discuss with your pastor and contact the Office for Ministries and Social Concerns at ministries@diolc.org or call (608) 791-0161.

New Leader of Prayer Class Begins in July 2021

Applications are now open for a new class of men and women who wish to serve as Leaders of Prayer for the Diocese of La Crosse. This is a three-part course of study by which lay persons are prepared and commissioned to serve their parishes by bringing Holy Communion to the sick; conducting a Liturgy of the Word on weekdays when a priest is unavailable (or on Sunday in care facilities or jails); and by leading parishioners in prayer at other times. Applicants must have completed the Lay Formation Institute and be sponsored by their pastor. For more information and to apply, visit diolc.org/ministries and click on "Leader of Prayer."

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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

Cancelled: Diocesan celebration of the Rite of Election, February 21

After receiving input from other dioceses around the country and in the state of Wisconsin, and after hearing from RCIA Coordinators from within the Diocese of La Crosse, Bishop Callahan has cancelled the diocesan celebration of the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion at the Cathedral this year. Instead, Bishop Callahan will delegate to each pastor with catechumens and candidates permission to celebrate the Rite in the parish. The Rite can take place either within or outside of Mass, usually on the First Sunday of Lent (February 21) or the week preceding or after. If only unbaptized catechumens will be elected, see the RCIA book at number 118; if only baptized candidates will be called, see the RCIA book at number 446; if both catechumens and candidates will participate, see the combined rite at RCIA, number 547. More information about the Rite of Election has been sent to parish RCIA coordinators. Please contact the Office for Sacred Worship (ccarstens@diolc.org or (608) 791-2674) with any questions.

Lenten Regulations

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17. Lenten regulations are as follows:

1. Catholics who have celebrated their 14th birthday are to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, all Fridays in Lent, and Good Friday.
2. In addition to abstaining from meat, Catholics who have celebrated their 18th birthday, until they celebrate their 59th birthday, are to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Those who are bound to this regulation may eat only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength according to one's needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted.

Distribution of Ashes on Ash Wednesday

The Congregation for Divine Worship in Rome recently released the following instructions for the distribution of Ashes during the present pandemic conditions: "The Priest says the prayer for blessing the ashes. He sprinkles the ashes with holy water, without saying anything. Then he addresses all those present and only once says the formula as it appears in the Roman Missal, applying it to all in general: 'Repent, and believe in the Gospel', or 'Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return'. The Priest then cleanses his hands, puts on a face mask, and distributes the ashes to those who come to him or, if appropriate, he goes to those who are standing in their places. The Priest takes the ashes and sprinkles them on the head of each one without saying anything."

The US Bishops' Committee on Divine Worship continues: "These changes minimize the necessity of physical contact between minister and recipient and remove the need for the

minister to speak while in close proximity to the recipient. The distribution of ashes via sprinkling is a common practice in some countries but is not well known here. Therefore, the Committee encourages ministers to provide some explanation to the faithful, to avoid unnecessary confusion.”

The faithful ought to be alerted to this alternative manner of distributing ashes in 2021. As the Bishops’ Committee on Divine Worship notes, while sprinkling ashes upon the top of the head is not customary in the United States, this legitimate manner of giving ashes is practiced in other countries around the world. The Ash Wednesday texts from the Missal themselves speak variously of ashes “put on our heads” “receive[d] upon our heads,” and “place[d] on the head.” The practice also recalls Old Testament accounts of “the Israelites gathered together while fasting and wearing sackcloth, their heads covered with dust” (Nehemiah 9:1).

Feast Day of Blessed James Miller: February 13

Blessed James Miller was declared “blessed” on Saturday, December 7, 2019 in Huehuetenango Guatemala. (Read Bishop Callahan’s tribute to his life, [here](#).) While there are no proper liturgical texts for Mass or the Liturgy of the Hours on his February 13 feast day (the anniversary date of his death), Blessed James may be celebrated using texts from the “Common of Martyrs: For One Missionary Martyr” at Mass and the “Common of One Martyr” at the Liturgy of the Hours. Readings at Mass may be taken from the weekday or from the similar sections of the Lectionary.

Prayer for the Intercession of Blessed Brother James Miller, FSC

February 13, 2021, will mark the second annual observance of the feast day of Blessed James Miller. A prayer for his intercession has been approved by Bishop Callahan:

“O Blessed Brother James Miller, you heard God’s call to become a Brother of the Christian Schools and so became a sign of faith to youth in the United States and in Central America. You placed your life and your trust in Divine Providence and, for spreading the faith, merited the crown of martyrdom. In a world that denies the dignity of the human person, obtain for us from Divine Providence an ever increasing love of God and our neighbor, especially the poor and oppressed. Obtain for us also the favor we are now asking for *[mention request]* and the grace and strength to be a witness to Christ’s love to all. Amen.”

Imprimatur: +William Patrick Callahan, OFM Conv., Bishop of La Crosse—February 7, 2020

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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](https://diolc.org). 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.

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Office for Catholic Schools

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

I hope everyone had a wonderful Catholic Schools Week. Thank you for supporting Catholic Education in the Diocese of La Crosse!

On February 16, 2021, we will participate in a primary vote for a variety of government positions. Here in La Crosse, most of the discussion is around the mayoral race. But, another post in the February 16th election is the state superintendent.

Currently, there are seven candidates running for state superintendent. The top two vote getters from February 16th will move on to the April 6, 2021 election. The winner on April 6th will be our new state superintendent.

The state superintendent runs the Department of Public Instruction (DPI). The superintendent mostly works with public schools, but he or she has a massive impact on Catholic Schools and private schools because DPI executes the Choice Programs in the state and they coordinate federal education programs like Title Funds and hot lunch. Although this is a critical leadership job for public schools, it is also a critical position for Catholic Schools.

Primary elections like the upcoming February 16th election often see low voter turn-out. In La Crosse they are anticipating less than 20% of the eligible voters to participate. I encourage you to take the time to vote on February 16th and again on April 6th.

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Office for Social Concerns

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

For your Bulletin:

Blessed Brother James Miller, Martyr and Witness to the Gospel – Feast Day Feb. 13

Saturday, Feb. 13 will mark the Feast Day of Blessed James Miller. A native of Stevens Point

and a De La Salle Christian Brother and missionary, Brother James was gunned down while repairing a wall at the school where he worked in Huehuetenango, Guatemala on Feb. 13, 1982. He was declared a martyr and beatified by Pope Francis on Dec. 7, 2019. Let us turn to Blessed James Miller as an example of fidelity to the Gospel and humble and fearless service on behalf of the poor and the vulnerable. To learn more, visit [heroes of faith](#).

For your Bulletin:

US Bishops' Pro-Life Response to Biden Administration Policies

The US Bishops have responded to two of President Biden's initial policy moves:

- President Biden overturned the Mexico City policy that had prohibited federal funds for global health from going to organizations that promote and/or perform abortions. Organizations like International Planned Parenthood are now eligible to receive our tax dollars as they promote abortion in developing countries.
- President Biden announced his intention to rescind the current rule that keeps abortion out of pre-pregnancy family planning services provided through Title X.

To read the responses of the US Bishops to these actions, and for much more, visit usccb.org/prolife.

Pastors: CCHD Collection

As noted in the past two Chancery Bulletins, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) national office was late in sending materials for their annual collection, but all parishes should have received them 2-3 weeks ago. If you have not yet taken up the CCHD collection in your parish, you are invited to please do so this weekend, using the envelopes shipped by their office. You may find this bulletin announcement helpful:

- **Bulletin Announcement for weekend of the Parish CCHD Collection:** This week our special collection will support the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. More than forty-six million people in the United States live in poverty today. This collection supports programs that empower people to identify and address obstacles as they work to make permanent and positive changes for their communities. Learn more about the Catholic Campaign for Human Development at usccb.org/committees/catholic-campaign-human-development.

Rice Bowl and Mite Boxes

Confusion sometimes arises regarding Mites Boxes and the Rice Bowl program. The **Mite Box program** is an outreach from the Missionary Childhood Association, one of the Pontifical Mission Societies represented in the Mission Office. It is a mandatory annual program in our Catholic Schools, CCD and Religious Education programs for children and youth. The **Rice Bowl program** (all parishes should have received materials) is sponsored by Catholic Relief Services (CRS). Rice Bowl is an elective program for parishes and families that has a Lenten focus but could also be held at another time of year if desired. In any case, it is not to conflict with or replace the Mite Box program. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the [Mission Office](#) or the [Office for Ministries and Social Concerns](#).

Reminder: Wisconsin Bishops Issue Statement on Morality of COVID-19 Vaccines

Many people have questions about the COVID-19 vaccines that are available or will soon be available. To read an assessment issued by the Wisconsin Bishops, visit www.diolc.org/respect-life and click on the tab for "COVID Vaccines – Ethics."

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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 Church's relevancy, 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." Our next direct mailing is scheduled to arrive in homes by the week's end before Holy Week (est. March 26). If you would like to include a letter from the Pastor or Parish Committee members, please send us a draft before March 5, 2021.

Stewardship Bulletin Reflections

Stewardship Bulletin reflections for weekends: [2/14 -2/28 Click here to download](#)

Stewardship Homily Reflections

Stewardship reflections to assist you in your homily development: [Click Here for the weeks 2/14 -2/28](#)

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. 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

Christ The Cornerstone Restoration Update:

Our \$6.1 million restoration need is well within reach! We hope you will join us in one final effort to bring this campaign to a successful conclusion.

- Total Restoration Need: \$6.1 million
- Overall Total Pledged: \$5.42 million (includes the \$3 million match from St. Ambrose Financial)

Bulletin and announce for your use. [Download Announcement.](#)

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Office for Temporalities

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

No items this week.

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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:

For an increase in vocations to Marriage, the Priesthood and Consecrated Life; especially that more young men and women will have the courage to follow a call from God to serve in the Church.

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.

Called to More

What if there was more? What if I could be more? Sometimes we can look around and think that there isn't anything more that can be offered to us, that this is the best I can get. We settle for something that leaves us feeling empty and hungering for more. Perhaps this is an opportunity to ask the Lord what He is calling you to do. As we turn to God in the midst of human mediocrity, we can find something that is eternally greater. Consider your vocation and where God may be leading you. Could it be a call to the priesthood? 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

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! 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) Membership

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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