



Chancery Bulletin - Vol. 6, No. 11.4 | November 23, 2021

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Officials

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Events

As of

Tuesday, November 23
Giving Tuesday
11:00am Tune In Tuesday Recurring Zoom Meeting for all DREs, CREs & Youth Ministers
Thursday, November 25
Thanksgiving - Curia Offices Closed - Nov. 25-26
Sunday, November 28
First Sunday of Advent
Tuesday, November 30
11:00am Tune In Tuesday Recurring Zoom Meeting for all DREs, CREs & Youth Ministers
Friday, December 3
12:00am LFI/Deacon Formation - La Crosse - December 3-4
Tuesday, December 7
11:00am Tune In Tuesday Recurring Zoom Meeting for all DREs, CREs & Youth Ministers
Wednesday, December 8
Immaculate Conception - Curia Offices Closed
Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Holy Day of Obligation
Tuesday, December 14
11:00am Tune In Tuesday Recurring Zoom Meeting for all DREs, CREs & Youth Ministers
Tuesday, December 21
11:00am Tune In Tuesday Recurring Zoom Meeting for all DREs, CREs & Youth Ministers
Saturday, December 25
Christmas - Curia Offices Closed - Dec. 24 to Jan. 2
Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord. Holy Day of Obligation
Saturday, January 1, 2022
Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God. NOT a Holy Day of Obligation in 2022
Tuesday, January 4, 2022
11:00am Tune In Tuesday Recurring Zoom Meeting for all DREs, CREs & Youth Ministers
Friday, January 7, 2022
12:00am LFI/Deacon Formation - La Crosse - January 7-9
Tuesday, January 11, 2022
11:00am Tune In Tuesday Recurring Zoom Meeting for all DRE's, CRE's, & Youth Ministers
Sunday, January 16, 2022
National Religious Freedom Day

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

Bulletin insert for the weekend of Nov. 28

Advent: Preparing Your Heart for Christmas

Taking time during Advent to prepare ourselves spiritually can result in a truly meaningful Christmas Day and Christmas Season - the celebration of the birth of the most important Person in all of history: Jesus Christ. Click here for the bulletin insert:

diolc.org/catechesis/bulletin-inserts

For Parish Communications

Daily Advent Reflections – 4 great choices. Choose from one of the following:

- **Chris Stefanick** – Living Joy. Sign up for a free 26-day Advent retreat with Chris Stefanick. With 26 days of joy-filled videos and daily reflections, made specifically to fit your busy schedule, we know that you can unlock the secret to Living Joy today. Visit reallifecatholic.com to register or text Joy to 44144.
- **Bishop Robert Barron** – Daily Gospel Reflections Sign up for free daily reflections by Bishop Barron by clicking here: dailycatholicgospel.com/sign-up-daily-gospel
- **Matthew Kelley** – Dynamic Catholic with Daily Gospel Reflections Sign up for free video meditations on the Gospel Reading for each day of Advent. Visit dynamiccatholic.com/advent.html
- **Praying with Scripture:** A beautiful way to prepare for the Birth of our Savior is to take a few minutes each day reflecting on a Scripture passage that describes the events leading up to Christmas. Go to diolc.org/deeper and click "Praying with Scripture" for a Prayer Card with 7 Scriptures or click on "Mysteries of the Rosary" for a Prayer Card with the five Joyful Mysteries.

Reminder: For Your Parish Bulletin

New Comic Book on the "Champion of the Poor"

A new action-packed, full-color comic book biography tells the inspiring life story of Father Joe Walijewski, priest of the Diocese of La Crosse and founder of the Casa Hogar orphanage in Peru. From his days as an impressionable young boy in Michigan, where he discovered a unique call to the priesthood, to his daring adventures as a missionary in South America, readers are immersed into the heroic actions of a courageous *Champion of the Poor*. Parishes and individuals are invited to pre-order now to receive the comic book in time to be a Christmas gift. To see sample pages and to pre-order, visit voyagecomics.com/fatherjoe

Catechetical Leader Information

Provide helpful information for Parents about Advent

Please see the bulletin insert in the announcements above that can be given to parents to help provide formation about Advent.

Prayer Cards during Advent

Advent is a good time to take extra time for prayer. Provide your catechists and students with prayer cards that help to make prayer more personal with a simple 5-step process. With regular use during the Parish Faith Formation, students will become familiar with the simple process, and the prayer cards may be sent home for Lent for family use. Visit diolc.org/prayer for a different Prayer Card for 12th grade through Pre-school.

Reminder: Safe Environment Power Points Updated

Prayer to St. John Bosco for All Ages from the Safe Environment PowerPoint

O Saint John Bosco, father and teacher of youth, you labored so much for the salvation of souls. Help us to respect ourselves and each person as a child of God. Be our guide in seeking the good of our souls and the salvation of our neighbor.

Teach us to love Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, Mary the Mother of Christ and our Mother, and our Holy Father the Pope. Obtain for us from God the grace to one day be gathered all together with you in Heaven. Amen.

The power points for grades Kindergarten through 12th grade have been updated, and are available here: diolc.org/safe-environment/library. Scroll to the bottom of the webpage. For each grade level, there are directions provided for:

- The power points to be shown to the students;
- The power point slides to be printed to show the students;
- The content page for each slide to be printed for the catechist.

Consider completing the Safe Environment training for all students during the month of November.

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Office for Communications

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

December Catholic Life

The December issue of Catholic Life magazine will be delivered to your parishioners by November 27. You can view the electronic version at catholiclife.diolc.org.

Bishop Callahan's Advent Video Message and supporting graphics:

Bishop Callahan has recorded his Advent video message for you to share with your parishioners on your Facebook page and link to your website. If you have a Crosspost relationship setup with the diocesan Facebook, you will receive the video in your video library and can share from there. <https://youtu.be/gJMo8NnuJNl>

Advent website and Facebook banners have also been created and are available for your use at the diocesan media resources page diolc.org/media-resources.

Novena to conclude the Year of St. Joseph

We have a diocesan novena to conclude the Year of St. Joseph. Each day, beginning on Monday, November 29, the specific prayer will be posted to the diocesan Facebook. Feel free to share these posts, or create your own. You can get the entire novena [here](#).

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Office for Consecrated Life

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

Retirement Fund for Religious

The annual collection in parishes for the national Retirement Fund for Religious is scheduled for the weekend of December 11-12. Religious in our Diocese and across the nation benefit significantly from this national collection. Please promote the campaign in your parish bulletin, pulpit announcements, and petitions at Mass (sample texts below).

Bulletin Announcements

Weekend before the collection (December 4-5)

Give in thanksgiving. "I shall always be grateful for my Catholic education" writes a donor. Please join in thanking the thousands of senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who worked tirelessly to educate the young and serve those in need. Next week's second collection is for the Retirement Fund for Religious, which helps hundreds of religious communities care for aging members. Please give generously.

Week of the collection (December 11-12)

Support aging religious. Our second collection is for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Many senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served for years for small stipends. Today, many religious communities do not have enough savings to meet retirement needs. Your gift helps pay for medications, nursing care, and other needs for tens of thousands of elderly religious. It also helps ensure younger members can continue the good works of their elders. Please be generous.

Week after the collection (December 18-19)

Religious give thanks. "'Thank you' hardly seems adequate to convey what it means to us," says a Catholic sister regarding the financial assistance her community received from the Retirement Fund for Religious. Prayer-filled thanks for your donation to last week's second collection!

For more information and further resources visit: [Retirement Fund for Religious](#)

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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

50th Jubilee Wedding Anniversaries

We are updating the timing of when we send Jubilee couples their certificates. Our goal is to send the certificates out to each couple around their anniversary date. Please submit the names of those couples celebrating 50th Jubilee Wedding Anniversaries in the year 2022 by December 31, 2021 by filling out [this form](#) and email to crogers@diolc.org. Our hope for 2022 is to return to in-person Jubilee Masses and dinners, and we will continue to look into the state of things as it relates to COVID to determine the best course of action. Therefore, couples will receive two mailings from us, the first will be the certificates around their anniversary, and the second will be an invitation to either an in-person Mass and dinner, or a virtual Mass depending on the state of COVID.

Reminder: NFP: Diocesan Marquette Instructor Taking a Leave of Absence

Please be advised that the diocesan Marquette instructor will be taking a leave of absence until further notice.

Reminder: 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.

Reminder: Process for Training 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

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

Wednesday, December 8: Celebrate the Immaculate Conception & Close of the Year of St. Joseph

Bishop William Patrick Callahan will preside at the 12:10 pm Mass on Wednesday, December 8, celebrating both the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (a holy day of obligation) and the Close of the Year of St. Joseph. Join us for this special celebration honoring both the Blessed Mother and her spouse, St. Joseph, either in person or via livestream at diolc.org/live.

Liturgical Calendar: Mary, Mother of God, January 1

Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God is not a Holy Day of Obligation in 2022.

Some Liturgical Dates and Notes for the Liturgical Year 2022

Please click [here](#) for a list of significant liturgical celebrations for the liturgical year 2022.

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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. Teresa Brown, Complaint Intake Agent, at the Diocese of La Crosse, P.O. Box 4004, La Crosse, WI 54602-4004. Alternatively, you can contact Mrs. Brown 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.

Background checks and print cards are being sent in with errors, causing delays in processing. Review the forms before they are mailed to ensure all information is completed.

Background forms:

- Full names must be used. Susan not Sue, Michael not Mike if that is their name.
- Cities need to be added to the address.
- Signatures need to be written, not computer generated.

Print cards:

- When it asks for the employer, use the Parish or School name and address,
- On the bottom of the card, when it asks the reason for prints, it is NCPA/VCA Employee Do not write in "for new hire," or "local" or "for employment."
- Are you using the most current print cards? The OCA number should be N10923. If it is not, you have old, outdated cards and they should be destroyed.

I have begun sending out 2021-22 Parish Spreadsheets and Report Forms to parishes. Reports can be mailed in as soon as they are complete. You do not need to wait until the March 1 deadline. Remember, all staff and volunteers must have a current background check. If the background check expires before June 20, 2022, it must be renewed. All staff, volunteers and students need training. Students that are taught at home or through Zoom must be trained. If a parent does not want their child trained, they must complete a declination form.

Safe Environment Power Points have been Updated.

The power points for Kindergarten through grade 12 have been updated are available at: diolc.org/safe-environment/library. Scroll to the bottom of the webpage. For each grade level, there are directions provided. Train the students now if they have not been, don't wait until Spring.

Proverbs 22:6

Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

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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:

Join our *Pilgrimage for Life* to Washington, D.C., Jan. 19-23

There has never been a more important time to join the March for Life in our nation's capitol, with the *Dobbs* case being heard by the Supreme Court and the possibility of *Roe v. Wade* being overturned. Deliberations will go on for many weeks, with a decision expected in June. Let us show the Supreme Court justices by our numbers and our passion that we stand strong for life. For the registration letter, tentative schedule, and details, visit diolc.org/yya and click on the [Pilgrimage for Life tab](#).

For Your Parish Bulletin:

Pray for *Dobbs*, Pray for our Supreme Court Justices by Name

Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health is the Supreme Court case that could overturn *Roe v. Wade*—the decision that made abortion legal in all 50 states. Nine justices stand between life and death for millions of innocent children and their mothers. The hearing begins Dec. 1, with a ruling expected in June. Fast and pray for God's grace to touch our Supreme Court justices. *Pray for them by name*: John Roberts, Samuel Alito, Amy Coney Barrett, Brett Kavanaugh, Clarence Thomas, Neil Gorsuch, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan, and Stephen Breyer. For more information and resources, visit PrayforDobbs.com.

Help Catholic Charities assist Afghan refugees

This season of giving and Thanksgiving is a beautiful time to help Catholic Charities assist thousands of Afghan refugees in need at Ft. McCoy, near Tomah. To find out how you can help by volunteering or donating – Visit www.cclse.org/afghanistan-refugee-assistance. See the statement of the Bishops of Wisconsin on *Welcoming Afghan Refugees* by visiting diolc.org/social-concerns.

Pastors and Social Ministry Representatives:

Be Sure to Explore the [Diocesan Directory of Parish Social Ministry Initiatives](#)

Is your parish reaching out to your neighbor in need? Then make sure your efforts are listed in our [Diocesan Directory of Parish Social Ministry Initiatives](#). Use [this form](#) for your entry. Perhaps you want to learn what other parishes and deaneries are doing for the poor, the hungry, the marginalized? Then explore the Directory to find out – you will discover beautiful ministries worth emulating!

Questions? Email Chris Ruff at cruff@diolc.org or call 608-791-0161.

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Office for Stewardship & Development

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

Diocesan Annual Appeal Update:

Reminder: In December, we will be sending out a year-end mailing for the Diocesan Annual Appeal to all LYBUNTS. Any Priest or Finance Council, with the Pastor's approval, who wishes to include a letter in the mailing should send a word document with your parish number in the file name to our office by the end of the business day 12/01/2021.

We continue to update the Appeal Portal with new materials. We will continue to update as more materials become available or requested at appeal.dioc.org.

Reminder: Parishes receiving cash for the Annual Appeal must deposit all money locally and then write a parish check to the Diocese with documentation identifying who made the donations. Please include the Family DUID for each gift.

Please throw away all previous year's pledge cards, the coding on the old forms is outdated.

Please do not hesitate to call Sarah Komperud with any questions you may have at 608-791-2653.

Stewardship Bulletin Reflections for Weekends:

- 11/28 [Click Here](#)
- 12/05 [Click Here](#)
- 12/12 [Click Here](#)

Stewardship Homily Reflections:

Stewardship reflections to assist you in your homily development:

- Click here for the weeks [11/28 – 12/12](#)

Planned Giving - Leaving a Legacy, Wills, Bequest, and Endowments:

We are in the midst of the most significant transfer of wealth ever known. The Wall Street Journal estimates that generational wealth transfer between 2018 and 2042 will be upwards of \$70 trillion. As those dollars get divided among a younger generation who are less connected to Church, it will be harder for parishes to maintain operational finances and satisfy their capital needs in the future. This forecast becomes readily apparent when we look at the confluence of the current trend of dissociation of denominational religion reflected in our declining Mass attendance and lower participation of the other Sacraments.

Compounding all this is the declining general population of those under 18 in our 19 counties. These trends do not bode well for those who fail to plan.

We have been given such treasures from our parents, grandparents, those whose shoulders we stand on today; now it is our turn to make sure future generations can enjoy the reverence and beauty of a well-maintained parish. Providing parishioners with information on Endowments, Trusts, and Bequest, are just a few ways a parish can help prepare for its future.

Our Estate Planning Guide can help people save several hundred dollars in legal and financial estate planning costs. We have sent out several hundred copies per individual request, and each parish has received a copy. If you would like additional copies, don't hesitate to get in touch with 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.

If you would like more legacy giving information or ads for your parish bulletin, do not hesitate to contact our office or Rick Jeric at the Catholic Foundation of West Central Wisconsin at 608.519.9892 or email: rjeric@cfwcw.org

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Office for Temporalities

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

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

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.

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

2022 Pilgrimage for Life

We are excited to announce that we are planning to travel to Washington, DC for the Pilgrimage for Life January 19-23, 2022. Please see [our website](#) to read the registration letter, tentative schedule, and details.

New Online Registration Process for All Diocese of La Crosse Office for Family Life Events

The program we are using is called Argenta, and I can tell you this is a company that understands what we are trying to do and has met every need. They are a team of people who want to make all of our lives easier and truly have gone above and beyond the call of duty for us. [Click here](#) for the "Welcome Letter" that explains the process. As an added bonus, the Argenta folks even created a "How-To" video just for us to help walk parish staff, parents, and participants through the online registration process. The link to the video is included in the letter.

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 a.m.!

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

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