

La Crosse Clergy Periodical

Announcements | Opportunities for Growth | Good News

Shrine Of Our Lady of Guadalupe, La Crosse

Evenings of Recollection held on First Thursdays will begin this Advent. One of the Norbertine Fathers will give a brief conference following themes from the liturgical calendar. Participants are welcome to join the public adoration beginning at 3 pm. The Holy Hour for priests will begin at 4 pm.

- December 1, 2022
- January 5, 2023
- February 2, 2023
- March 2, 2023
- May 4, 2023

Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Wausau

Evenings of Recollection will be held on these select Thursdays. Speakers and topics for the brief talks will vary. Registrations will be posted closer to the events.

- February 9, 2023
- March 16, 2023
- April 13, 2023
- May 18, 2023

Evenings of Recollection

The personal cost inherent in building the Kingdom of God in this world is addressed in many ways throughout the New Testament. Luke presents the teachings of Jesus on the subject through His ‘sayings of discipleship’ (Luke 14:25-35) which challenge us to self-emptying practices. St. Paul describes himself as “being poured out like a libation” (2 Timothy 4:6) as he examines his life’s work and looks to his final sacrifice.

The cost to us as priests living among our parishioners and working out in the general public is clear. A declining interest in religion and the practice of faith obscures and diminishes the reward that fervent parishioners can bring to a pastor’s heart. The increase of work and responsibility concentrated on one person can overwhelm the best of intentions. I could go on, but what is more vitally important is the fact that resources are needed for clergy to find healthy and holy ways to remain connected to Christ and to one another. The essential three are always present: prayer, spiritual direction and fraternity. But even when all these are habitual, they may not be enough to sustain us. Now is as good a time as any to seek more.

The idea for ‘Evenings of Recollection’ was initiated at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Plans then expanded to serve a wider geography within the diocese. At this point, two locations will offer this opportunity to priests. Then we will evaluate and plan according to feedback. The Shrine and Holy





Fr. Cryton and Fr. Jojo enjoy the bright evening lights of the city of La Crosse aboard the Mississippi Queen in October.

Highlights from the Fall Ministry Conference

Fall Ministry Conference 2022 addressed issues of health and holiness. A positive experience for many was articulated in the evaluation forms.

One evaluation stated, “Having the time to hang out and encourage each other on Monday evening was great!”

Another said, “I heard nothing but positive comments.”

A final stated, “Small group discussions were short and felt rushed.” It seems as though the conversations were fruitful and just needed more time.

Such gatherings are important for our camaraderie and fraternity. Mark your calendars for these events in 2023:

- Priest Retreat: April 24-28
- Priest Unity Days: June 22-24
- Priest Ordinations: June 24
- Fall Ministry Conf: Oct 16-17

Name of Jesus Parish in Wausau will host on the dates listed according to the following schedule for each evening:

4:00 Holy Hour with Confession	5:45 Benediction
4:15 Conference	6:00 Social
4:45 Contemplation	6:30 Dinner
5:30 Vespers	8:00 Conclusion

Feel free to participate in all or part of the evenings as you are able. The meal requires an R.S.V.P. which you can do at [this link](#) or through the Vicar for Clergy office at (608) 791-2689. Please include any dietary restrictions. Optional transportation to the Main Chapel will be provided at the Shrine. The first of these events is fast approaching so please R.S.V.P. by Nov. 27. We are grateful to the Shrine and Holy Name of Jesus Parish for hosting this pilot program and supporting the priests of the diocese in this way. May God keep us all in His grace and care.

Present opportunity through Viterbo University, La Crosse

In cooperation with the Fr. Joseph Walijewski Legacy Guild, Viterbo University is again hosting the Pastoral Leadership Development Program, Jan. - May, 2023.

The sessions for priests are led by Viterbo faculty members and other experts. They address topics such as Human Resources and Volunteer Management, Accounting and Financial Consideration, Organization and Management, and more.

May Fr. Joe’s zeal and spirit inspire many. Details will soon be available for 2023.

Future opportunities through Viterbo University, La Crosse

Created in God’s image, we are body, mind and spirit. St. John of the Cross describes the human person engaging intellect, memory and will. Psychology attempts to promote a balance using our physical and emotional well being. Our pursuit of health and holiness benefits from all these understandings.

To this end, we are in conversation with Father Conrad Targonski and Emilio Alvarez via Campus Ministry at Viterbo. Their expertise and experience is a helpful resource. Stay tuned for further developments.