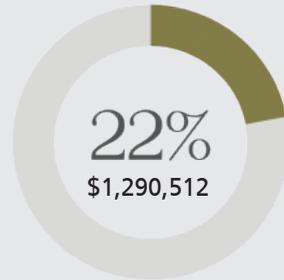




*“Where one alone may be overcome,
two together can resist. A three-ply cord
is not easily broken.”*

ECCLESIASTES

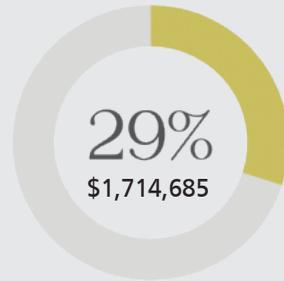
2021-2022 Diocesan Annual Appeal Disbursements \$5,788,535



Vocations, Priest, Deacons, Religious and Concentrated Life



Support for the Wider Church (Collections, Missions, and Works of Charity)



Parish Ministry Support



Parish Service Support



Catholic Schools



DIOCESE of LA CROSSE

P.O. Box 4004 | La Crosse, WI 54602
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“Where one alone may be overcome, two together can resist. A three-ply cord is not easily broken.”



2023 Diocese of La Crosse Annual Appeal
DIOLC.ORG/UNBREAKABLE



Loneliness and the lack of belonging have become a pervasive and heart-wrenching reality for many in the ever-changing landscape of the modern world. In May of 2023, U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy declared loneliness an epidemic in this country. The pervasive lonesomeness and the lack of unity often result in depression, physical health issues, violence, and increasing the risk of premature death by more than 60%. He added, "Our relationships are a source of healing ... that can help us live healthier, more fulfilled, and more productive lives."

People yearn for connection, belonging, and understanding in their solitude. At all times, but especially during challenging times, the Catholic Church and our Diocese of La Crosse are the visible beacon of Hope, and her ministries

and communities are the antidote—the Church's evangelistic works to awaken and deepen a relationship with Jesus Christ and one's neighbor.

Healing from loneliness requires a sense of community and togetherness. As Pope Francis reminds us in *Evangelii Gaudium*, we are to live "a fraternal love capable of seeing the sacred grandeur of our neighbor, of finding God in every human being." God calls us to live as a community that is the "salt of the earth and the light of the world, bearing witness to a new way of living together in fidelity to the Gospel."

This year's theme is from Ecclesiastes 4:12: "Where one alone may be overcome, two together can resist. A three-ply cord is not easily broken." As children of God, this is a compelling statement of the need for unity on our mutual paths as we strive for the heavenly reward. United by faith in the one God, we develop a firm and resilient union. The Catholic Church is a place of communion, forging bonds of Christ's love through shared faith and fellowship.

Our churches are welcoming places of worship where one readily feels acceptance, community, and belonging. When we gather in Christ's name and share our time, talents, and treasures, we encounter His divine presence and experience the profound comfort of knowing that we are never truly alone with God.

Supporting the Diocesan Annual Appeal with an open heart and a spirit of solidarity through prayer and financial support is an investment in the unity and joy of our Diocesan family, empowering us to extend His comforting reach to those most in need. The Diocesan Annual Appeal plays a vital role in our unity as a diocese, funding 38 ministries that nurture and deepen our faith, build solidarity, and open the doors to the banquet.

Through your support, we become the instruments of God's grace, empowering our diocesan family to unite, touch lives, mend hearts, and lift spirits. Together, we create a tapestry of faith woven with threads of compassion that uplifts the weary and inspires hope in the simple, those forgotten, or those who have lost their way.

Please, prayerfully, consider supporting the Diocesan Annual Appeal today!



Heavenly Father,
In unity, we gather before You,
seeking the success of our Diocesan
Annual Appeal. Reflecting on
Ecclesiastes 4:12, we recognize the
strength of solidarity between each
other and You, our Lord, a cord of
three that is not easily broken. God
created the world to be a place of
beauty, harmony, and unbroken
fellowship with Him.

Drawing from the inspiration
of Your servant, Father Joseph
Walijewski, may this year's appeal
flourish, enabling us to continue
Your mission of love and mercy
through our thirty-eight ministries,
reaching out to those feeling
isolated and comforting the
afflicted, teaching the faith,
and reflecting the spirit of
Christ's selfless love.

We place our trust in Your Divine
providence, knowing that with You,
we are never alone. In the name of
Jesus Christ, our Lord, we pray.

Amen.

*Bishop William Patrick Callahan, OFM Conv.
The Roman Catholic Diocese of La Crosse*