

Properly informing your students:

The retirement of Bishop Callahan and the appointment of Bishop Battersby

It was requested that we provide further details for informing children and young people that Pope Francis accepted the early retirement of Bishop William Callahan due to health reasons and appointed Bishop Gerard Battersby as the 11th Bishop of the Diocese of La Crosse. We want to provide further details so that students will be properly informed.

At the link you will find important details about Bishop Battersby's life, and at the bottom of the page, the **press conference** in which Bishop Callahan announced his retirement (starting at 8:00 min.) and the introduction of Bishop Battersby (at 14:30). diolc.org/bishop-battersby

Bishop Battersby will be installed as the 11th Bishop of the Diocese of La Crosse on May 20th at the Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman.

Who is a Bishop?

Jesus instituted the Apostles as the first bishops. Since that time, a bishop chosen by the Pope is a successor to the Apostles, also referred to as a modern-day Apostle. A bishop is the chief shepherd of the diocese deriving his authority from Christ. He is responsible for governing in humble service the local church, following the example which was given when Jesus washed the feet of His Apostles. Our Lord commanded His Apostles to teach all that He had taught. Consequently, a bishop is also the chief teacher and is fulfilling Our Lord's command when he exercises the teaching office.

A Note from Bishop William Patrick Callahan

In the announcement regarding his retirement, Bishop Callahan expressed the following:

May the Lord give you peace.

I write to inform you His Holiness, Pope Francis, has accepted my retirement request. I have enjoyed my time with all of you in my service to the Diocese and extend my gratitude for your support while I served as your Bishop. I will maintain a residence at the Diocesan Center and hope to assist as I continue as your Emeritus Bishop.

It is with joy that I also share with you that at this same press conference, I will introduce Bishop Gerard W. Battersby as my successor. Bishop Battersby will be installed as the 11th Bishop of the Diocese of La Crosse on 20 May 2024.

With personal good wishes and prayers, I am,

Very truly yours in Christ,

Bishop William Patrick Callahan