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2024-2025  
DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

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# Case Statement

SEPTEMBER 12, 2024



# 2024-2025 CASE STATEMENT

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# Diocesan Annual Appeal

CASE STATEMENT 2024-2025

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## DIOCESE OF LA CROSSE MISSION STATEMENT:

Called by Jesus Christ to "Seek first the kingdom of God," we are the Diocese of La Crosse, a sacramental people who worship God, teach the Catholic faith and serve the needs of the human person.

## DIOCESE OF LA CROSSE VISION STATEMENT:

We, the Catholic Diocese of La Crosse, living Christ's message "I am the vine, you are the branches," strive to awaken in each other a deeper connection with Christ through active parish life and authentic discipleship.

## MISSION STATEMENT OF THE DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

The Diocesan Annual Appeal is crucial in advancing the Lord's mission. It seeks financial and philanthropic gifts, providing an opportunity for sacrificial giving that is instrumental in achieving our shared mission.

## THE PRINCIPLE OF THE ANNUAL APPEAL

In the spirit of our mission as a Church, we are called to be co-workers with God in serving our community and the world. As articulated in 1 Corinthians 3:9, "For we are God's co-workers," this profound truth invites us to actively participate in evangelization, charity, and the care of the poor. The Annual Appeal allows each diocesan member to contribute to this mission, ensuring we can continue serving those in need and spreading the Gospel effectively.

### TRUST IN GOD'S PROVIDENCE:

Our trust in God's providence is foundational to our work. As Pope Benedict XVI reminds us, we are called to use the resources God has entrusted us to meet our brethren's legitimate expectations and needs, especially the most vulnerable among us. This trust empowers us to act generously and with purpose, knowing that our contributions can make a significant difference in the lives of others.

### THE MISSION OF EVANGELIZATION:

The Church's mission is to evangelize and bring the Good News of Christ to all. Pope Paul VI emphasized that evangelization is the grace and vocation proper to the Church. Our Annual Appeal supports various initiatives that promote this mission, including catechesis, outreach programs, and community engagement efforts. No matter how small, each contribution is unique and irreplaceable in building a just and peaceful society.

### CARE FOR THE POOR:

A central aspect of our mission is the preferential option for the poor. The Church teaches that our love for the poor is a constant tradition, and we are called to respond to their needs with compassion and action. The Annual Appeal funds programs directly assisting those in need, including food banks, shelters, and educational initiatives. As Pope Benedict XVI stated, we must be the first friends of the poor, acting as beacons of hope in our communities.

The Annual Appeal is not just a fundraising effort; it is a call to action for all members of our Diocese to participate in the mission of the Church. By contributing, you become co-workers in God's plan, helping to build a community rooted in faith, hope, and charity. Your role is integral to our mission, and together, we can ensure that our Church continues to provide light and

support for those who need it most. Let us respond generously to this call, trusting in God's providence and committing ourselves to the mission of evangelization and care for the poor.

May the Virgin Mary guide us in our efforts, and may our contributions reflect our commitment to living out the Gospel daily.



## HOW YOUR GIFT WILL BE USED

The distribution below of the 2024-2025 Diocesan Annual Appeal funds is an estimate based on today's proforma needs. The funds raised in fiscal 2024-2025 will be distributed in the budgetary year 2025-2026. Therefore, actual distributions will vary depending on cost, utilization, and other unforeseen factors.

<b>Office or Ministry</b>	<b>Proforma Distribution</b>
<b>Bishop, Clergy, and Religious Support</b>	<b>\$1,460,000</b>
Office of The Bishop	
Office for Vocations	
Vicar of Clergy	
Rebuild My Church	
Office for the Diaconate	
Office for Consecrated Life	
<b>Parish Ministry Support</b>	<b>\$1,340,000</b>
Office for Catechesis and Evangelization	
Office for Family Life	
Office for Ministries & Social Concerns	
Office for Sacred Worship	
<b>Parish Service Support</b>	<b>\$1,765,000</b>
Chancery and Archives	
Marriage Tribunal	
Office for Communications and Public Relations	
Office for Safe Environment	
Office for Stewardship and Development	
Office for Temporalities	
<b>Catholic Education</b>	<b>\$285,000</b>
Office of the Superintendent	
Catholic Schools Development	
Direct Parish Subsidy for Catholic Schools	
<b>Charity, Missions, and The Wider Church</b>	<b>\$1,150,000</b>
Catholic Charities	
Support for the Wider Church	
Special Collections	
Diocesan Works of Charity	

Your contribution, no matter the size, is significant and greatly appreciated. We want to express our heartfelt thanks for your past support through the Diocesan Annual Appeal. Your ongoing generosity is crucial in helping us continue our mission and serve the needs of the human person. We recognize the value of your support and the difference it makes in our community, and we need your continued support to ensure our operations continue.

The Offices of the Diocesan Curia, in their mission to provide for the essential pastoral needs of our people, greatly rely on the support of the Diocesan Annual Appeal. Your gifts to this appeal are vital and the lifeblood of the local Church, ensuring its well-being and continued service to the community. The Diocesan Annual Appeal supports the Offices of the Diocesan Curia, including:

## Bishop, Vocations, Priests, Deacons, and Religious

### THE OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Your support through the Diocesan Annual Appeal is instrumental in enabling the Bishop to fulfill his vital role within the Catholic Church. Your contributions directly empower him to act as a shepherd and leader for the particular Church entrusted to him, ensuring the Church's governance, teaching, and sanctifying functions are upheld.

#### THE FULLNESS OF THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY ORDERS:

The Bishop receives the fullness of the sacrament of Holy Orders, which integrates him into the episcopal college. This sacrament empowers him to act as a visible head of the particular Church entrusted to him; he is the foundation of unity sharing in the apostolic responsibility and mission under the authority of the Pope, the successor of St. Peter, guiding the faithful in their spiritual journey and ensuring their growth in faith and holiness. This role is rooted in the understanding that the Bishop acts as Christ's vicar, embodying the Church's pastoral mission.

#### TEACHING AUTHORITY:

As a teacher and herald of the divine Word, the Bishop is responsible for authentically teaching the Christian faith. He ensures that the liturgical celebrations reflect the genuine nature of the Church and encourages the faithful's participation in building up the Church. This teaching is carried out with apostolic honesty and is essential for the spiritual nourishment of the community.

#### SANCTIFYING ROLE:

The Bishop is the principal dispenser of the sacraments, particularly the Eucharist, which is central to the life of the Church. He is responsible for sanctifying the faithful through the administration of the sacraments and by fostering a deep understanding of the paschal mystery. The Bishop is a steward of the grace of the supreme priesthood, particularly in celebrating the Eucharist. He offers the Eucharist or ensures its offering through the priests and co-workers. This sacramental role is central to the life of the Church and is vital for the spiritual sustenance of the community.

With your generous support, the Offices of the Diocesan Curia assist the Bishop, parishes, schools, and various apostolates in providing for the essential pastoral needs of our diocese and beyond. Your gifts to the Diocesan Annual Appeal are not just vital but indispensable to the well-being of the local Church. You are an integral part of this mission, and your involvement is crucial.

#### **GOVERNANCE:**

Bishops govern their dioceses as representatives of Christ, exercising authority to edify their flock. This governance involves exercising authority for the edification of his flock. This governance includes regulating, directing, and encouraging the faithful and addressing any issues that may arise within the community. The Bishop's authority is meant to build up the People of God in truth and holiness, following the example of Christ, who came to serve rather than to be served, guiding, directing, and promoting the spiritual and pastoral life of the Church, ensuring that all activities align with Christ's mission.

#### **PASTORAL CARE:**

The Bishop is called to be a prophet of justice and peace, defending the rights of the lowly and marginalized. He is also called to pastor his people, helping them grow in communion with God and one another. He is tasked with caring for the spiritual and material needs of the faithful, particularly the marginalized and the poor. He looks with special love upon the poor and addresses their needs, ensuring that the Church's mission includes a preferential option for the poor.

#### **COLLABORATION WITH PRIESTS AND DEACONS:**

Bishops work closely with priests and deacons, who assist them in their ministry. Together, they form a presbyterate that supports the Bishop in teaching, sanctifying, and governing the Church.

#### **ECUMENICAL AND INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE:**

The Bishop's support for the ecumenical process and his championing of interreligious dialogue are crucial in fostering unity and concord among different faiths and communities. Your support of these aspects of his ministry is essential in a diverse and multiethnic society.

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## OFFICE FOR VOCATIONS

### SEMINARY EDUCATION AND RELIGIOUS FORMATION

- Twelve seminarians
- Eight participants in the Journey program

We share a spiritual and fiscal responsibility to provide priests for the Diocese of La Crosse. Twelve men are engaged in seminary studies for our Diocese at college and theological seminaries for the 2024-25 school year. We also have four men in the Journey Program from our Diocese, and your support is instrumental in their journey.

The House of Formation, which includes the Journey program, is crucial to our mission. Your contribution makes this program possible, and it plays a significant role in helping young men discern their vocational call, emphasizing the call to the priesthood. In addition, discernment retreats are offered throughout the year for middle school, high school, and college-age men, and your support makes these retreats a reality.

It's important to note that most of the funds from the Diocesan Annual Appeal go directly to supporting our seminarians. Your donations cover their tuition and formation fees and provide the necessary literature, technology, and materials for their studies. Your support makes their journey possible.

### VOCATIONS PROMOTION:

These funds support literature, technology, and materials that primarily promote vocations to the priesthood. They also support all vocational, discernment, and vocational portions of confirmation retreats and parish programs for middle school children and adults.

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### **VICAR FOR CLERGY:**

The Vicar for Clergy, a key figure in our Diocese, is crucial in ensuring the health and well-being of our 97 Active Diocesan priests, 31 International Priests, and 35 senior priests in cooperation with the Vicar for Senior Clergy. Your support directly contributes to their care and comfort, fostering a sense of community and shared responsibility. Your support is crucial in enabling the Vicar for Clergy to continue his vital work, significantly impacting the lives of our clergy and reinforcing your integral role in the Diocese's operations.

### **CONTINUING EDUCATION OF CLERGY:**

Our priests, the pillars of our faith, require ongoing intellectual formation and regular spiritual enrichment to serve our community better. Your donations allow them to attend educational programs, retreats, and sabbaticals, which are beneficial and necessary. Some priests are even pursuing advanced degrees to further our Diocese's teaching mission, a testament to their dedication and your support. Your contributions make us proud of the commitment and service of our clergy.

### **INTERNATIONAL PRIESTS:**

Our 31 International Priests are not just visitors but integral members of our Diocesan parishes. Your support through the Diocesan Annual Appeal funds their training and support for service in the Diocese of La Crosse parishes. Due to the shortage of Diocesan priests, these priests serve a vital role in maintaining our Catholic communities, celebrating the Eucharist and other sacraments, and administering our parishes. Your support is crucial in helping these priests serve our Diocese with dedication and commitment.

### **CLERGY HEALTHCARE:**

The Diocese ensures total funding for our priests' medical needs, as insurance does not cover them. However, the Diocese requires additional financial support due to rising healthcare costs and unfunded

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expenses, including some medications and long-term health care. Your support is crucial in meeting these challenges and ensuring our priests' well-being.

DRAFT

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## **REBUILD MY CHURCH INITIATIVE:**

The Rebuild My Church Initiative, a unique and historic collaborative effort inspired by Saint Francis of Assisi, one of the patrons of our Diocese, is a mission that you, our community members, clergy, and supporters, are integral to. This initiative, beginning with the Bishop and the priests and, in due time, extending to the whole Diocese, seeks to cooperate with the Holy Spirit in welcoming the healing and flourishing Jesus' will for His Church. Your support for this unprecedented initiative is not just important; it's crucial as we work towards the renewal and growth of our Church.

## **RENEWAL OF THE PRESBYTERATE:**

Bishop Battersby has prioritized "the Bishop and his Priests" this year. Ideally, priests have a strong trust in each other and their Bishop and an even stronger shared trust in Jesus. Burnout is a real risk in ministry today, but more so when there is no shared vision and mission. When "ministry" means working hard to maintain the status quo, it becomes empty and exhausting. This initiative is bolstering the mission and morale of our priests in many ways:

### **RESOURCES AND RETREATS FOR PRIESTS:**

The Rebuild, My Church Initiative is a journey of personal growth for our priests and a significant step toward their mental health and well-being. Through a regular e-newsletter, one-on-one meetings, deanery visits, and specialized retreats, the priest Director is not just helping our priests become healthier themselves but also enabling them to be more effective at pastoral accompaniment. Your support for this aspect of the initiative is crucial and greatly appreciated.

### **MENTAL HEALTH & TRAUMA-INFORMED RESOURCES:**

The priest Director has met individually with over 30 Catholic therapists and spent extensive hours offering formation to those interested. The long-term goal is a comprehensive network of Catholic therapists united with the Church's vision of the human person, each offering unique gifts and approaches. Therapy methods are not "one-size-fits-all." Our priests and lay faithful will need well-trained and trustworthy Catholic therapists as we enter a challenging and uncertain future.

### **SUPPORT AND RESOURCES FOR ABUSE SURVIVORS:**

Unfortunately, survivors of abuse (whether abuse from an ordained minister or domestic abuse) do not always receive loving care when they reach out for help. The priest Director occasionally meets with survivors and helps them connect with helpful resources. He continues learning from the latest training



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and resources. He is collaborating with the other members of the Diocesan Curia to improve the Diocese's ability to protect and heal in a way that brings complete restoration for everyone impacted by abuse.

DRAFT

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## OFFICE FOR THE DIACONATE:

With your support, the Office for the Diaconate plays a pivotal role in shaping the future of our Church. It oversees the Diocese's Deacons and formation men, ensuring they have the knowledge and skills to serve God and His Church. Your contribution directly impacts the growth and success of our Church, making you an integral part of our mission and a source of pride for the entire community.

- Sixty-one Deacons in Active Ministry
- Sixteen Senior Status Deacons
- Five Deacons were ordained in 2024.
- Fourteen men are in the Deacon Formation
- Six Men will be ordained in the Spring of 2026, God willing.

Deacons, ordained to serve God and His Church, are vital to our community. They assist the bishops and priests in their charity ministry, reaching out to those in need and on the margins of society. Their work, which includes teaching, proclaiming the Gospel, assisting at the altar, and carrying out various apostolic works, is a source of pride for us all. The funds we provide support the education and formation of future deacons for our Diocese and the continuing education of our current deacons.

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### **OFFICE FOR CONSECRATED LIFE:**

The Diocesan Annual Appeal, with your support, funds the Office for Consecrated Life, which serves the men and women in consecrated life in the Diocese of La Crosse. Your contribution is not just a donation; it is an investment in the future of our Church, ensuring the continued service and growth of our consecrated members.

DRAFT

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## PARISH MINISTRIES SUPPORT

### OFFICE FOR CATECHESIS AND EVANGELIZATION:

The Office for Catechesis and Evangelization, under the direction of the Bishop, participates in Jesus' mission to build up His Church, the Kingdom of God on earth. The office's primary focus is to form those who form others by assisting them in living out their baptismal call to holiness—to be one with Christ—and to bring His love to the world, especially those in most need.

The office provides formation through training, resources, and events to deepen a personal encounter with Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit, to develop this friendship with Jesus, and to live out the Catholic Faith based upon this friendship. The office serves parish and school staff as well as lay faithful in ongoing formation in the process of becoming committed disciples of Christ and His Church by helping to develop a life of prayer, teaching how to cooperate with the power of God's grace received in the Sacraments, and encouraging active participation in their parish community through small groups. The office offers authentic Catholic resources and assists clergy, parishes, and schools to provide in-services with Christ-centered, Catholic content at the diocesan, deanery, and parish levels. The office also affords and oversees opportunities for certification for Catholic school teachers, parish directors, and catechists in doctrine, Scripture, Catholic spirituality, and methods to equip them to teach the Catholic Faith correctly and in an evangelizing manner.

Working with parents and educators stresses that in handing on the Faith to children and youth, they are participating in God's Mission of spreading the "Good News" of God's saving love and building up the Church.

Evangelization resources are continuously developed at the request of parish leaders and school personnel. This ongoing process, often involving feedback and suggestions from the community, ensures that you are always supported and equipped with the latest resources. These resources can be stand-alone materials or correspond to noted Bible studies and Adult Study Programs. This office coordinates the Hmong Ministry and the Ministry for Persons with Special Needs (MPSN).

This office collaborates with other Diocesan offices to provide evangelization training for men in Diaconate formation, the Lay Formation Institute, and OCIA facilitators. This collaborative effort ensures that the discernment of spiritual gifts God gives at baptism is also part of this process. This cooperative effort fosters a sense of community and shared mission among our members, making you feel connected and part of a larger purpose.

With your generous support, the Offices of the Diocesan Curia assist the Bishop, parishes, schools, and various apostolates in providing for the essential pastoral needs of our diocese and beyond. Your gifts to the Diocesan Annual Appeal are not just vital but indispensable to the well-being of the local Church. You are an integral part of this mission, and your involvement is crucial.

The Office for Catechesis and Evangelization keeps a resource library that can be used for free rental by parishes and Catholic schools. Bible studies and Faith studies in small groups strengthen bonds of Christian friendship and the parish community. In addition, every person in the Diocese of La Crosse has free access to *Franciscan at Home*. This beautiful and robust online learning system seeks to form those who form others, with the spiritual life of the learner as the primary focus. The format of each workshop consists of a one-hour video, broken up into ten-minute segments, followed by an application task to accommodate the busy person. The workshops are geared toward parents, teachers, parish leaders, an RCIA team, those in leadership roles, and any interested adult in local small groups.

### MARY, MOTHER OF GOOD HELP PARISH, SERVES HMONG CATHOLICS:

- Three thousand five hundred people assisted.

A substantial number of Hmong Catholics reside in the Diocese of La Crosse. Mary, Mother of Good Help Hmong Parish in Wausau, with a full-time pastor and two part-time Hmong catechists, provides ongoing support and instruction in the faith. The Diocesan Coordinator in La Crosse also serves Hmong Catholics, ensuring they are formed to become authentic disciples and active members in their parishes. Hmong Catholics are prepared for the reception of the Sacraments. They are provided with assistance when sick and in need, underscoring their value and integral role in the community, making them feel appreciated and significant.

There is a growing outreach to the Hmong who are Christian but do not understand the basic Gospel message and to those who have never heard of Jesus Christ. Booklets of the Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet, and Stations of the Cross have been translated into Hmong to foster a deeper relationship of Hmong Catholics with Christ through prayer.

The Hmong community's faith continues to grow, with a daily conference call for Hmong families to pray together the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3 p.m. and the Holy Rosary at 8 p.m., which began with the outbreak of COVID-19. This initiative and encouragement of many young Hmong Catholics to participate in parish youth ministry inspire and motivate the community to continue growing in their faith. Your gift also provides tuition assistance to needy Hmong families with children in Catholic schools, further supporting their faith journey.

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## OFFICE FOR FAMILY LIFE:

The Office for Family Life seeks to accompany people of all ages in their faith journey by helping them recognize their relationship with Christ as the source of everything they are and do. Our primary focus is to provide opportunities and resources to empower individuals, couples, families, and parishes to strengthen their relationships with each other and our Lord. We believe in your potential and are here to support you as you live as disciples of Jesus Christ, reminding you that God calls you to be more than participants but to be courageous in living out your vocation by using the gifts and talents He has given you.

The Office for Family Life is a service Office. However, we are also a partnership office, pulling together individuals, families, clergy, and parishes to speak and live out the Gospel message. The way to sustain this ministry is to put our trust in God and faith that He will guide us; this is not limited to staff, gathering individuals, families, clergy, and parishes to speak and live out the Gospel message. The way to sustain this ministry is to put our trust in God and faith that He will guide us in this ministry. This need for faith is not limited to staff but to everyone. We can engage and are encouraged to trust God; our relationship with Him is central to every aspect of our lives.

At the Office for Family Life, we work with various ministries to meet the diverse needs of our community. These include Marriage Preparation for Engaged Couples, Marriage Enrichment, NFP (Natural Family Planning), Youth Ministry, Young Adult Ministry, Men's Ministry, Women's Ministry, Troubled Marriage Ministry, Divorce Ministry, and Bereavement Ministry. However, we always look for ways to expand our services to meet more needs.

### MARRIAGE PREPARATION:

The Office for Family Life works to collaborate and empower individuals at the parish and deanery level to prepare engaged couples for a lifelong, healthy, happy, and holy marriage to combat the societal trends attacking marriage. As a result, more than 450 couples were married in the Diocese last year. There are three principal areas of formation:

- A deanery-level retreat called Married Love: Two Becoming One allows engaged couples to learn from married couples who share the topics of Faithfulness, Permanence, and Openness to Life and hear from clergy on the Covenantal nature of marriage.

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- A parish-level pre-marriage inventory, FOCCUS, helps engaged couples discuss aspects of their relationship with trained facilitators.
- Trainers from within the Diocese offer Natural Family Planning instruction. This instruction on following the Church's teachings on love and life is not exclusive to engaged couples; more than five hundred individuals receive it annually.

The office also invests in remote preparation for marriage through age-appropriate presentations to young people on God's plan for love and life.

### **MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT:**

The sacramental union of man and woman in Holy Matrimony is a never-ending process of guiding one's spouse toward Heaven. Various conferences, evenings of reflection, and retreats are offered to assist people on this journey. Some of these opportunities are for couples, and some options are specific to the individual. However, ultimately, all are designed to strengthen the person and the couple's relationship with Christ.

### **YOUTH MINISTRY:**

The Office for Family Life assists parishes, middle schools, high schools, and Universities to lead their young people (ages 12-39) to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, ongoing growth in their Catholic Faith, and the use of their gifts for the good of the Church and the world. We serve the parishes by assisting them in starting and continuing their youth ministry programs. We also provide numerous opportunities for young people to experience and grow deeper in their Faith. The Diocesan Annual Appeal helps support the many events coordinated through this office.

- The training conferences for youth ministers and teams
- Individual parish retreats
- Local, regional, and national conferences
- World Youth Day
- Pilgrimage for Life
- Adventure Camps
- Diocesan Confirmation Retreats
- National and international mission service trips
- Other opportunities that arise are meeting young people and leaders.

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These opportunities energize and strengthen the young people's faith. Then, when they return to their parish youth ministry programs, they can be good examples of living out their faith to their peers and other parishioners. We believe young people must experience faith in their home, parish, and community. We understand that each of these three pieces of ministry feeds and nurtures the other.

### **HIGH SCHOOL FAITH FORMATION:**

Confirmed young people need opportunities to help them continue their faith journey in the Catholic Church, discern their vocation in life, and prepare for adult responsibilities. Our goal is to collaborate with parishes and schools to engage young people in the life of the Church by helping them see that they are not only the future of the Church but also collaboratively work with parishes and schools to engage young people in the life of the Church by helping them see that they are not only the future of the Church but are very much an active and vital part of the present-day Church.

### **YOUNG ADULT FORMATION:**

We understand that "Young Adult" involves a variety of states of life, including those attending college, those who enter the workforce immediately after high school, college, post-college, graduate students, young single adults, those who are engaged, young married adults, those whose vocation is living the single life, those who have a vocation to the religious life, couples who are new parents, etc. All of these require and deserve the intentionality to bring faith to them on their level. We are working to increase the number of intentional opportunities for ministry with young adults throughout the Diocese.



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## OFFICE FOR MINISTRIES AND SOCIAL CONCERNS:

### MISSION:

The Office for Ministries and Social Concerns seeks to participate in the mission of Jesus and His Church in many ways. The office directs the formation of men for the Permanent Diaconate and programs for the laity, including the Lay Formation Institute and the Leader of Prayer Program. It coordinates pastoral care of the Hispanic community, implements the Diocesan Bishop's directives consistent with the Church's social teachings, and collaborates with the U.S. Bishops' programs for national and international relief and development. The office also works closely with Catholic Charities, the Diocesan Mission Office, and the Diocesan Social Ministry Advisory Committee to foster charitable outreach and social advocacy initiatives in parishes and deaneries throughout the Diocese. Finally, the office administers grant programs for the continuing education of men and women involved in pastoral work.

### TEAM FOCUS:

- The Office for Ministries and Social Concerns works closely with the other Offices of the Diocesan Curia, especially the Offices for Catechesis and Evangelization, Sacred Worship, Catholic Schools, Family Life, and Communication, collaborating on our shared mission. Our Diocese's current focus has been on the three-year National Eucharistic Revival, which has turned especially to "Going Forth on Mission" in this third year of the Revival.
- The office has collaborated with the Office for Catholic Schools on a brief curriculum module on "Why We are Pro-Life." Using this resource, produced by Catholic Answers Press, a question-and-answer/discussion format is being implemented in our Catholic high schools to assist students in critical thinking about the dignity of human life in the womb. Part of our mission and theirs is to promote a Culture of Life.

### DEACON FORMATION:

Funds from the Diocesan Annual Appeal support the education and formation of future deacons for our Diocese.

- Fourteen men are in Deacon Formation for our Diocese this year, while five were ordained in May 2024. In addition, fourteen men in formation are enrolled and paid for by the Dioceses of Madison and Superior.

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Permanent deacons assist the bishops and priests through their ministry of charity to those suffering or on the margins of society and through teaching, proclaiming the Gospel, helping at the altar, and carrying out other apostolic works.

## LAY FORMATION:

- The Office for Ministries and Social Concerns is working, through special sessions and resources, to equip our Leaders of Prayer to be true "Eucharistic Missionaries" in their parishes as they assist their pastors, bringing Holy Communion to the sick and the homebound, celebrating Liturgies of the Word with Communion in settings like nursing homes and jails, and more. Close to one hundred Leaders of Prayer had their four-year commission renewed in August 2024.
- The office also focuses on the two-year Lay Formation Institute, helping the participants discern their spiritual charisms or gifts and embrace the mission and method of evangelization in the service of Christ and the Church in their parishes and beyond. There are currently twenty-one students in the second year of the program.

## SOCIAL MINISTRY:

- In August of 2024, the office hired a part-time Diocesan Liaison for Parish Social Ministry, whose mission it is to meet with the deanery representatives on the Diocesan Social Ministry Advisory Committee and critical parish leaders and volunteers in the ministry of charity, serving as a resource and support for those efforts, and building a vibrant network.

### HISPANIC AND MIGRANT MINISTRY:

- Over two thousand people helped weekly.

Many Spanish-speaking Catholics live and work in our Diocese. To meet their spiritual needs, the Church provides Mass and other liturgical and pastoral services in their native language and makes Spanish catechetical and devotional resources available. There are also a growing number of rallies, retreats, and pilgrimages for both youths and adults from the Hispanic community, and they were engaged as active participants in this year's Eucharistic Pilgrimage in significant ways. The Office for Ministries and Social Concerns coordinates these pastoral efforts, complementing the legal and material aid provided to the Hispanic Community through Catholic Charities.

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## OFFICE FOR SACRED WORSHIP

The Office for Sacred Worship serves the Bishop, clergy, and laity of the Diocese to unite all in Faith through the sacred liturgy. It seeks to deepen our understanding of the celebrated rites' meaning, celebration manner, and daily life implications. A key aspect of its mission is to offer sacramental catechesis for all the Diocese members, ensuring that we are all well-informed about our faith. It also plays a significant role in promoting the liturgical formation of those who serve the liturgical assembly in the parish, equipping us with the knowledge and skills to participate actively in our liturgical celebrations. The Office for Sacred Worship also directs the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) by supporting the activities of parish OCIA coordinators and hosting diocesan celebrations with the Bishop and the OCIA candidates.

### TELEVISED MASS:

As in past years, the televised Mass provides tremendous comfort to thousands of temporarily or permanently homebound Catholics. However, the costs of production and airtime are substantial, and more than the contributions from viewers, while appreciated, are needed to cover these expenses. Your financial support is crucial to ensure the continuity of this vital ministry. Even after the COVID-19 outbreak, this ministry continues to be critical to our spiritual and communal health, uniting homebound members of the Diocese with a more prominent Catholic family of Faith. In addition, the Mass is closed-captioned for people who are hard of hearing.

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## PARISH SERVICES SUPPORT

### CHANCERY:

The Chancery Office plays a crucial role in assisting Pastors, parishes, and individuals in canonical matters, particularly in the context of sacraments. It processes prenuptial files, grants, permissions, dispensations, and declarations of matrimony nullity due to a lack of canonical form. The Chancery Office also maintains official directories for parishes and clergy.

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## ARCHIVES:

The Diocesan Archive is crucial in preserving our rich history and assisting parishes by keeping historical documents. The Archivist responds to requests for genealogical searches and helps those seeking certificates of the sacraments they have received. The Chancery Office also prepares and edits the data for inclusion in the Wisconsin Pastoral Handbook and Official Catholic Directory, ensuring our history is not lost but cherished.

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## MARRIAGE TRIBUNAL

The Marriage Tribunal, a court within the Catholic Church, is dedicated to carefully examining petitions from those seeking to have their marriage declared null and void. The Tribunal's primary goal is to seek the truth and determine whether all the elements of freedom and consent were present from the beginning of the marriage. Many people have found peace and healing through the marriage nullity process.

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## OFFICE FOR COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

### MISSION STATEMENT:

Facilitate Encounters with Christ

### VISION STATEMENT:

A diocese where Christ's message is communicated effectively and precisely.

The Office for Communications and Public Relations exists to evangelize and share the good news of Jesus Christ, grounded in the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, with the people of the Diocese of La Crosse. Our daily mission is to make God's truth and presence known by amplifying the Diocese's efforts—through the active participation of her parishes, clergy, religious communities, and lay faithful—across various media and public relations platforms.

As the primary communications hub, our office manages internal and external communications for the Diocese, with a solid commitment to evangelization. We actively assist parishes in creating encounters with Christ, offering support in photography, software procurement, and developing tools and training to enhance parish outreach. Our mission is to serve the parishes, equipping them to evangelize more effectively.

Additionally, the communications office fosters collaboration with communications offices in other regional (arch)dioceses, ensuring a unified and collective approach to spreading the faith. The communications director, who serves as the spokesperson and media contact, is responsible for all aspects of public relations, including the development and dissemination of press releases and statements, coordinating interviews with local media, building and maintaining trust with media entities, marketing and promotion, photography, video production, print publications, and digital communications. This role also oversees the technical infrastructure and database management essential for maintaining a dynamic and effective electronic communications network.

### CATHOLIC COMMUNICATIONS:

Our office is dedicated to evangelizing by conveying the mission of the Diocese of La Crosse from a rich Catholic perspective. Supported by the Diocesan Annual Appeal, we reach over 53,000 Catholic households through our print publication, *Catholic Life*, its companion website, and a vibrant social media presence. Our communications strategy is twofold: to inform and enrich those actively engaged

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in their Catholic faith and to inspire and reawaken those who may have drifted away, drawing them back into a relationship with Christ and His Church.

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## OFFICE FOR SAFE ENVIRONMENT

In a collective effort, the Diocese of La Crosse is committed to creating a safe environment for children and vulnerable adults entrusted to our care in our parishes and schools. The Office for Safe Environment oversees the training programs following the United States Council of Catholic Bishops Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.

Our comprehensive Safe Environment program ensures a secure environment by rigorously screening and training all clergy members, employees, and volunteers who work with children and young people as part of their ministry. We also provide online and in-person educational programs and resource materials to educate those who work with our youth. Even parent volunteers at diocesan schools and parish sites undergo training and screening, leaving no stone unturned in our commitment to safety.

Every student attending one Catholic school or Religious Education Program is also given youth training.

Clergy, employees, and volunteers are annually trained to recognize and respond to signs of abuse and review reporting procedures to maintain an environment for children and vulnerable adults to learn and worship in a safe and welcoming place.

In the 2023-24 year, more than 2950 paid staff and 4150 volunteers were trained in a safe environment at our parishes and schools. In addition, 13,539 students were taught and trained. Our clergy also completed training during Priest Unity Days, Fall Ministry Days, and Dinner with the Bishop/Deacons and Wives.

The Safe Environment program follows the local audit required by the USCCB and the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. Auditors conduct an on-site audit every three years. On September 3-4, 2024, La Crosse will have StoneBridge Business Partners conduct our audit. They will visit three schools, four parishes, and offices at the Diocesan Center that work with children and a safe environment.

Creating and maintaining a safe environment is not just a commitment of the parishes and schools of the Diocese of La Crosse but a shared responsibility of our entire community. We all strive to keep all

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of God's children safe and protected while in our care, reinforcing the importance of our collective efforts in this crucial task.

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## OFFICE FOR STEWARDSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT

Taking heart of the call by our Bishops that "Once one chooses to become a disciple of Jesus Christ, stewardship is not an option," the Office for Stewardship and Development aims to educate and support the different stewardship efforts within the diocesan's community. Christ reminds us that to be good and faithful stewards, we must take a risk with our gifts and not be foolish or timid. (Mt 25:14-30). Therefore, the Office for Stewardship and Development works to ensure the community has the necessary understanding, strategic planning, and tools to cultivate the Time, Talent, and Treasure required to walk with the people of God on their journey to the compassionate heart of the Lord Jesus Christ.

### DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Your involvement in the Diocesan Annual Appeal is crucial and deeply appreciated. The expenses incurred, including salaries, promotion, printing, postage, video production, other supplies, and tools required, are all part of our collective effort to support the community.

### PLANNED GIVING

We are creating a lasting impact through planned giving for generations to come. Your contributions are not just financial but a testament to your commitment to baptizing all the nations, even after your time on earth has passed.

### ASSISTING PARISHES AND OTHER OFFICES IN THE CURIA

The Office of Stewardship and Development is dedicated to guiding and assisting parishes and other Offices with their fundraising needs. Whether through data analysis, strategic executions, or assisting with coordinating campaigns, events, or appeals, we are driven by the understanding that money is not a mission but a means to achieve our shared goals.

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## **OFFICE FOR TEMPORALITIES**

The Office for Temporalities, a cornerstone of our community, encompasses finance, Human Resources, Diocesan Buildings and Grounds, Shared Services, Parish Administrative Support Services, Parish Auditing, and Holy Cross Diocesan Center Maintenance. It's a vital part of our shared responsibility and commitment to the well-being of our community. Your involvement makes you an integral part of this interconnected network, and your support directly impacts the services we provide to our parishes and the community at large.

Your donations directly empower the Office for Temporalities to support our parishes, making a tangible difference in our community's well-being. Your contributions are not just financial but a lifeline for our parishes, empowering us to continue our mission. You are an integral part of our community's well-being.

## **LAY EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT**

The Diocese of La Crosse Lay Employees' Retirement Plan, which needs your support, provides modest retirement benefits to the employees enrolled in this defined benefit plan. Your financial contributions are not just a lifeline for our dedicated lay employees and their families, but they also demonstrate the value and importance of their service. The plan was frozen on December 31, 2006, but 227 Active Employees, 220 Deferred Vested employees, and 956 benefits from it, and your support is crucial to their well-being.

## **ST. JOSEPH THE WORKMAN CATHEDRAL OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE:**

Dedicated in 1962, St. Joseph the Workman Cathedral is the Mother Church of the Diocese of La Crosse. Due to the Cathedral's role in diocesan celebrations and liturgies, the Diocese assumes responsibility for some of the expenses of the Mother Church of the Diocese.

## **HOLY CROSS DIOCESAN CENTER BUILDING OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE:**

The Holy Cross Diocesan Center is a multi-functional facility that houses and maintains the day-to-day operations of the Administrative Offices of the Diocesan Curia. Besides the Bishop's business offices and conference rooms, ninety-nine other rooms are used by the Diocesan Curia and Catholic Charities

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administration. Catholic Charities runs a disabilities service program for adults and adolescents in their center space. In addition, to provide further assistance to veterans, the Center for Veterans Affairs, which aids homeless vets, offices here. The top floor offers apartments and guest rooms for active and retired priests and occasional lodging for the Seminary House of Formation. The Center also houses Christ the King Chapel, St. Martha's Kitchen and Refectory, and a gymnasium. In addition, the Center provides catering services by which it can now serve full meals for up to one hundred individuals sponsored by its clientele, in both formal and informal style. The Mater Redemptoris facility and the Bishop's residence are also on the same 23-acre campus. Finally, the Center provides a venue for large groups and diocesan-wide conferences and events, like those accommodated in the:

#### REFECTORY (DINING ROOM):

This area includes daily resident priest lunch, Priest Unity Days, Fall Clergy Conference, donor receptions for the Diocesan Annual Appeal, Jubilee Wedding Anniversary celebrations, new teacher formation and other Diocesan Catholic Schools in-services, school administrators' meetings, deacons' meetings, the annual Casa Hogar Dinner, Lenten Luncheon and seminars for Catholic Charities, Seminarian reunions, plus a host of other annual conferences sponsored by the Administrative Offices of the Diocesan Curia.

#### BISHOP'S COMMON ROOM:

This room facilitates meetings held by Catholic Hospital Administrators, La Crosse Deanery Special Religious Education, Rural Life Committee, Presbyteral Council, the College of Deans, St. Joseph's Priest Fund, Pastoral Planning Committee and Subcommittees, Deacon Community Board, Catholic Charities Board, and other meetings, as well as activities such as Bible studies and Curia staff in-services.

#### RIVERVIEW ROOM:

This room holds meetings held by Catechesis and Evangelization, Consecrated Life, Vocations, Safe Environment, Diocese and Viterbo Collaborative Committee, Catholic Cemeteries, Catholic Charities, and Family Life. Residents occasionally use it, and the adjacent kitchen makes it convenient.

#### CHRIST THE KING CHAPEL:

This chapel is a backdrop for filmed TV Masses. It is a place for the First Friday Mass, Masses for the Hmong and Hispanics, MPSN (Ministry for Persons with Special Needs), and other Masses for special events and *daily* Curia Staff Masses.

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**HOLY CROSS DIOCESAN CENTER CRYPT CHAPEL:**

Provides a place for resident priests to celebrate daily Masses, with occasional retreats and days of recollection held by others.

**THE GYMNASIUM AND BALL FIELDS:**

During their respective seasons, Aquinas uses the ball fields. Aquinas High School, Western Technical College, and the Warriors Drum and Bugle Corps also use these facilities. In addition, Aquinas uses the ball fields during respective seasons for baseball and football practices and games.

A full-size priest home is attached to a steam heating plant, separate from but dependent upon the central facility.

The Center also supports the local community upon request. As part of a mass casualty plan, it collaborates with the La Crosse County Health Department to provide a safe harbor for affected families needing assistance. Your support ensures that we can continue to be a beacon of hope and help for our local community in times of need, and your involvement in this vital service is a source of pride and responsibility.

Finally, it is essential to remember the natural habitat. Nestled on the shores of the Mississippi, the Center provides lush and beautifully manicured grounds where countless forms of wildlife seek refuge. Turtles find safety to lay eggs, away from endangering automobile traffic, deer, fox, raccoon, beaver, and raptors of every kind, all within earshot of a vast choir of songbirds nesting in its trees. Countless hours of maintenance service are required to keep all of this in check.

The Offices of the Diocesan Curia, in their mission to provide for the essential pastoral needs of our people, greatly rely on the support of the Diocesan Annual Appeal. Your gifts to this appeal are vital and the lifeblood of the local Church, ensuring its well-being and continued service to the community. The Diocesan Annual Appeal supports the Offices of the Diocesan Curia, including:

## CATHOLIC EDUCATION

### OFFICE FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

The Office for Catholic Schools assists the Bishop in planning, implementing, and evaluating the 63 Catholic education programs in Diocesan Parish Schools and Unified Catholic School Systems. In addition, it conducts major workshops and in-service training for teachers, administrators, parents, and other groups. As a beacon of knowledge, the office also plays a crucial role in informing schools of national and state education policies, standards, and issues; administers a standardized Religion testing program; provides curriculum assistance; and assists schools by offering guidance on legal matters and other pressing problems. Most importantly, the Office for Catholic Schools helps assure schools' Catholic identity and the spiritual formation of administrators and teachers.

#### CATHOLIC SCHOOLS DEVELOPMENT:

*6,737 students in Catholic schools (2023-24)*

Capital, infrastructure, and academic development are vital to ensuring that students in our Diocese will continue to receive a quality Catholic education. Therefore, funds are used to provide training and assistance to improve our 63 Catholic schools.

#### DIRECT PARISH SUBSIDY FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS:

##### GRANTS TO PARISHES THAT SUPPORT SCHOOLS

The Diocese of La Crosse takes pride in its strong tradition of quality Catholic education, which is upheld by the parishes that support our schools. We sincerely appreciate and recognize these parishes' sacrifices, often foregoing important projects and purchases to meet their schools' financial needs. Their commitment to Catholic education is a testament to their dedication and is deeply valued.

##### TUITION ASSISTANCE TO FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN IN OUR SCHOOLS

Annual tuition assistance grants are awarded to families based on financial need. In the 2023-24 school year, \$121,444.00 was allocated from the Diocesan Annual Appeal to help families keep their children in our Catholic schools.

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## Support For The Wider Church

### **CATHOLIC CHARITIES:**

Catholic Charities' mission, as God's co-workers, is to proclaim Christ's Gospel of life and promote human dignity by alleviating poverty and strengthening individuals and families. Catholic Charities receives a portion of their annual budget through the Diocesan Annual Appeal. These funds assist them in working alongside individuals, families, and communities to help them meet their needs, address their issues, eliminate oppression, and build a just and compassionate society. In 2023, Catholic Charities experienced increased demand for services due to the ever-increasing cost of living affecting all Americans. However, as God's co-workers, they continued to offer numerous services on a no-fee or very low-fee basis to all who reached out for help. Gifts to the Diocesan Annual Appeal support them.

### **ST. LAWRENCE COMMUNITY SERVICES:**

As God's co-workers, Catholic Charities certified and experienced staff provide charitable outreach, including assistance with rent, mortgage, food, utilities, advocacy, and financial education and enrichment individually tailored to each client. As a result, struggling families and individuals can receive an evaluation of their situation, develop a plan, and participate in financial literacy and case management. In 2023, over \$271,551 in financial assistance and charitable outreach was provided for utility, food, transportation, health-related issues, housing, clothing, and other basic human needs for 1,164 individuals.

### **REPRESENTATIVE PAYEE PROGRAM:**

Over 440 clients annually throughout the Diocese received assistance. This program offers case management services to individuals living on a fixed income. As God's co-workers, assistance with payment of financial obligations and monthly household budgeting are among the services provided in this program. In addition, payments for monthly needs, such as rent, utilities, groceries, and other personal necessities, were provided.

### **COMMUNITY HOMELESS FACILITIES:**

Over 27,000 sheltered nights of service were provided to the many poor, hurting, homeless, and often "faceless" people in our communities in 2023.



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As God's co-workers, Catholic Charities provides overnight shelter facilities for many poor, hurting, homeless, and often "faceless" people in our communities. Sojourner House in Eau Claire first opened its doors on November 1, 2011, to provide a year-round, safe, clean place where adult men and women, regardless of their ambitions or hopes. In 2021, we realized future expansion would be needed moving forward to provide our guests with a place to sleep overnight, shower, clean their clothes, have food in the evening, and have a nutritious breakfast while ensuring their respect and safety. In 2022, we embarked on an ambitious building project at the Sojourner House to increase the comfort of our guests and provide them access to more services in the greater community. In 2023, we finished our renovations at Sojourner.

In 2023, our Wausau Warming Center moved into the new Community Partners Campus and transitioned to a 365-day-a-year facility. With these increased services came a rebranding of the facility, now known as the Good Shephard Shelter. The La Crosse Warming Centers remain open from November 1 through May 30. As God's co-workers, our facilities offer a warm or cool space, three meals, and laundry and shower facilities to homeless adults eighteen and over who may have been turned away from other local programs due to capacity or eligibility issues. We also focus on providing these guests access to our different programs.

#### **BEYOND SHELTER PROGRAM:**

In 2016, Catholic Charities embraced a long-term housing program for homeless men and women in our Diocese. In Wausau, the first Beyond Shelter facility opened to house single homeless men, and with the community's support, it has grown to three homes. The House of Mercy in Loyal soon followed, serving homeless women and children in Clark County. 2018, they received funding to open a Beyond Shelter Home in La Crosse. As God's co-workers, these facilities offer housing to those in need in our communities. They work with these residents by providing them with a home with case supervision. The staff can connect them with local resources and work with them to overcome barriers to a more sustainable living situation. In 2023, we are excited to add more homes for families and individuals in our community experiencing specific needs.

#### **FAMILY SERVICES PROGRAM:**

This program finds forever families through their birth parent, relative, and international adoption programs. Ninety-five families received adoption finalizations in 2023. It is currently the only Hague

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Accredited Adoption Agency for international adoptions in Wisconsin. Supports Birth parents through pregnancy to live birth with a free, confidential helpline available 24/7. Families enjoy fun events, conferences, and training or receive information from their Post-Adoption Resource Center.

As God's co-workers, Catholic Charities offers compassionate, free support to expectant birth mothers and fathers in all areas of the Diocese, whether they choose to parent their baby or make an adoption plan. This outreach helps fulfill their mission to proclaim the sanctity of human life, promote families, and strengthen individuals' capacity to grow in the community. For almost 150 years, Catholic Charities Adoption services have been building families throughout west-central Wisconsin.

### **IMMIGRATION ASSISTANCE:**

In 2023, their Immigration staff, as God's co-workers, provided services to 153 immigrants from many different countries throughout Wisconsin. In addition, Catholic Charities provided a voice for those without a voice.

Catholic Charities Immigration Program focuses on family and humanitarian-based immigration services and assists those needing assistance across the Diocese. This program is recognized by the United States Board of Immigration Appeals and has board-accredited staff members. Their Immigration program also provides client access through a contracted Immigration Attorney.

As God's co-workers, Catholic Charities provides direct legal assistance to immigrants for naturalization, adjustment of status, immigration services under the VAWA program (Violence Against Women Act), and other immigration services. They also provide all immigrants with general assistance and referrals for individual needs. We also continue to support our Afghan families in this country with housing and other necessities.

### **DISABILITIES SERVICES:**

Over 23,000 staffing hours focused on individual dignity and strengthening families for those with developmental and emotional disabilities and mental health and substance abuse concerns. As God's co-workers, these services were provided to students with behavioral disorders, autism spectrum, and other developmental disabilities to help them be successful in school. The program's primary purpose

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is to give parents, caregivers, or school personnel quality services to prevent out-of-home placements of participants with developmental disabilities.

The various program services include an Adult Support Program, School Support Services, and After-School Support Services. Catholic Charities also collaborates with Bridges of Belonging and provides program supervision/support to The Dwelling Place, a Christian-based home serving four adult residents with developmental disabilities.

The Live By Program is another Disability Services Program that grew through 2023. It is a place for people in recovery and a collaboration between Catholic Charities and La Crosse County.

As God's co-workers, individuals with mental health and substance use issues are provided a safe and sober living environment while on the path to full independence. Individuals pay low-income-based rent and are provided a private room with shared communal areas, such as the kitchen and living room, to socialize with other tenants. Tenants can gain a positive rental history for future housing. The Live By is a stepping-stone for individuals to achieve their housing with the confidence that they can independently live once they have acquired the proper skills.

#### **VOLUNTEERS ACROSS THE DIOCESE:**

In 2023, 631 dedicated volunteers, as God's co-workers, provided 23,620 hours of service through various programs and offices across the Diocese to assist Catholic Charities in offering help and hope. Many Catholic Charities programs and projects are dependent on the generosity of volunteers. Even when they had to comply with 24/7 care in each Community Homeless facility, volunteers helped keep their doors open. As God's co-workers, this could not have been done without regular volunteers assisting our staff and guests. They are thankful to the men and women who contribute time and engage in the efforts to serve those in need across our Diocese.

The Offices of the Diocesan Curia, in their mission to provide for the essential pastoral needs of our people, greatly rely on the support of the Diocesan Annual Appeal. Your gifts to this appeal are vital and the lifeblood of the local Church, ensuring its well-being and continued service to the community. The Diocesan Annual Appeal supports the Offices of the Diocesan Curia, including:

## CHARITY, MISSIONS, AND THE WIDER CHURCH

### SUPPORT OF THE WIDER CHURCH:

As Catholics, we are part of a Church that extends beyond our parish or Diocese. Our commitment to supporting the Wisconsin Catholic Conference, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, and the Holy See is a testament to our unity and collective responsibility.

### SPECIAL COLLECTIONS:

The Diocesan Annual Appeal has reduced the number of collections in our parishes by funding eleven special collections. These eleven collections are:

- Collection for Aid for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe (CCEE)
- Catholic Relief Services (CRS)
- Black and Indian Missions
- Catholic Communications Campaign (CCC)
- Catholic Home Missions Appeal (CHMA)
- Catholic University of America
- The Diocese of La Crosse Home Missions,
  - Father Joseph Walijewski Legacy Guild
    - Beatification
    - Casa Hogar Orphanage in Peru
  - Diocesan Social Ministries
- Pontifical Good Friday Collections for the Holy Land
- Collection for the Church in Latin America (CLA)
- Peter's Pence Collection

With your generous support, the Offices of the Diocesan Curia assist the Bishop, parishes, schools, and various apostolates in providing for the essential pastoral needs of our diocese and beyond. Your gifts to the Diocesan Annual Appeal are not just vital but indispensable to the well-being of the local Church. You are an integral part of this mission, and your involvement is crucial.

## WORKS OF CHARITY:

While the Diocese of La Crosse has a policy that prohibits the use of certain funds to pay clergy sexual misconduct claims, we are committed to supporting the victims of such misconduct. The Works of Charity Fund has occasionally provided funds for treating and caring for these victims as they seek to heal.

For further information on this case statement or any additional questions regarding the Diocesan Annual Appeal, please feel free to contact:

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608-791-2653

Visit our website at <http://diolc.org/stewardship>