



AS THE FATHER HAS SENT ME, SO I SEND YOU. - JOHN 20:21

2025-2026 DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Case Statement



SEPTEMBER 16, 2025

2025-2026 CASE STATEMENT

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Diocesan Annual Appeal

CASE STATEMENT 2025-2026



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 not just a fundraising initiative, but a transformative force that propels the Lord's mission forward. It seeks financial and philanthropic gifts, providing an opportunity for sacrificial giving that is instrumental in achieving our shared mission. Your contribution, no matter the size, has the power to make a significant difference.

THE PRINCIPLE OF THE DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

“As the Father has sent me, so I send you” (John 20:21). The Annual Appeal is not just a call for donations, but a collective response to this commission. It transforms gratitude into missionary stewardship, allowing the Gospel to be shared, the poor to be cared for, and parish life to flourish. By trusting in God’s providence and giving back the gifts He has given us—time, talent, and treasure—we, as the Church in the Diocese of La Crosse, can form, accompany, and send disciples in every community. This is the practical engine of our diocesan shift from maintenance to mission, and you are an integral part of it.

HOW DOES YOUR DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL GIFT FORM AND SEND MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

- **Stewardship that evangelizes:** Formation and resources that cultivate generous hearts and households, uniting sacrificial giving with everyday witness to Christ.
- **Evangelization and catechesis:** Parish-ready tools, leader training, and OCIA support that guide people from encounter to discipleship and to mission.
- **Worship that sends:** Liturgical formation and parish support so Sunday reverence overflows into weekday charity and proclamation.
- **Accompaniment for families, youth, and vulnerable populations:** Marriage preparation, family life, youth and young adult ministry, and safe-environment training that fosters a credible culture of care.
- **Mercy to the Margins:** Catholic Charities and parish outreach that address urgent needs, restore dignity, and invite people into the life of the Church.
- **Leadership for mission:** Vocations, diaconate, and lay formation that develop pastors and lay leaders capable of shepherding renewal in parishes and communities.
- **Communication that reaches:** Parish-focused, multi-platform communications that share the story of Jesus and invite people home.

ADVANCING BISHOP BATTERSBY’S VISION — PIVOTING FROM MAINTENANCE TO MISSION

- **From fundraising to formation:** The Appeal forms stewards and witnesses, not just donors—aligning generosity with evangelization.
- **From programs to people:** Resources follow individuals—helping parishes accompany seekers, heal wounds, and commission disciples.
- **From silos to a shared mission:** Diocesan offices work together so worship, catechesis, charity, and communications align toward sending.
- **From maintenance to apostolic boldness:** Prudent planning and stewardship unleash energy for outreach, invitation, and mission across the Diocese.

WHAT YOUR DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL GIFT MAKES POSSIBLE

- **Vocations and Diaconate:** Seminarian education, discernment retreats, and diaconal formation that prepare mission-ready clergy and deacons.

- **Catechesis and Evangelization; Catholic Schools:** Parish toolkits, leader certification, and school support that combine academic excellence with Catholic identity and evangelizing mission.
- **Family Life and Youth Ministry:** Marriage preparation and enrichment, youth and young adult evangelization, and pathways to becoming missionary disciples in every stage of life.
- **Safe Environment and Tribunal/Chancery:** Providing training, screening, canonical, and pastoral services that protect, heal, and reconcile, thereby strengthening trust for evangelization.
- **Rebuild My Church and Parish Renewal:** Listening, planning, and coaching to help parishes become fully alive on mission.
- **Catholic Charities and the Wider Church:** Engaged in works of mercy, immigration and family services, housing and stability initiatives, and solidarity with the universal Church.
- **Communication and Public Relations:** Parish-focused digital tools, creative services, and outreach that extend the Church's voice.
- **Temporalities, Cathedral, and Holy Cross Campus:** Stewardship of people, places, and systems that facilitate sacraments, formation, and diocesan mission.

Your participation in the Diocesan Annual Appeal is a concrete “yes” to Jesus’ mandate— “As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” Trusting in God’s providence, we become co-workers in His plan: forming missionary disciples, helping the poor, and shining Christ’s light in every part of our Diocese.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary guide our generosity, and may our gifts bear fruit in faith, hope, and charity for those who need it most.

HOW YOUR GIFT WILL BE USED

The distribution below of the 2025-2026 Diocesan Annual Appeal funds is an estimate based on current projected needs. The funds raised in fiscal 2025-2026 will be allocated in the budget year 2026-2027. Therefore, actual distributions may vary depending on specific restricted gifts, ministry costs, utilization, and other unforeseen factors.

Office or Ministry	Proforma Distribution	%
Bishop, Clergy, and Religious Support	\$890,000	14.8%
Office of The Bishop		
Office for Vocations		
Vicar of Clergy		
Office for the Diaconate		
Office for Consecrated Life		
Rebuild My Church		
Parish Ministry Support	\$1,000,000	16.7%
Office for Catechesis and Evangelization		
Office for Family & Youth Ministries		
Office for Ministries & Social Concerns		
Office for Sacred Worship		
Tribunal		
Parish Service Support	\$1,900,000	31.7%
Chancery Office		
Archives Office		
Office for Communications and Public Relations		
Office for Safe Environment		
Office for Stewardship and Development		
Office for Temporalities		
Catholic Education	\$950,000	15.8%
Office of the Superintendent of Catholic Schools		
FOCUS Campus Ministry		
Charity, Missions, and The Wider Church	\$1,260,000	21.0%
Catholic Charities		
Support for the Wider Church		
Total Annual Appeal Need	\$6,000,000	100%

Your contribution, regardless of its size, plays a significant role in our mission. We sincerely thank you for your previous support through the Diocesan Annual Appeal. Your continued generosity is crucial for the Church in West Central Wisconsin to fulfill its mission and support those in need. We value your support and the positive effect it has on our community. Your support is vital as we shift from maintenance to mission.

Bishop, Vocations, Priests, Deacons, and Religious

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

“As the Father has sent me, so I send you” (John 20:21). The Bishop, as the chief shepherd and primary evangelizer of the Diocese, plays a crucial role in our mission. He teaches, sanctifies, and governs to ensure that every parish becomes a place where people encounter Christ, form disciples, and are sent out on mission. Through the Diocesan Annual Appeal, the Office of the Bishop energizes this diocesan-wide shift from maintenance to mission—setting a clear vision, coordinating ministries, and accompanying clergy and laity. As a result, the entire Church moves together in the Lord’s sending.

HOW DOES YOUR DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL GIFT FORM AND SEND MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

- **Apostolic teaching that evangelizes:** Pastoral letters, preaching, and diocesan catechetical priorities from the Bishop emphasize our parishes' focus on conversion, discipleship, and witness.
- **Shepherding visits that strengthen mission:** Parish visits, confirmations, and encounters with families, youth, and leaders inspire local communities to live the Gospel and “go forth.”
- **Ordinations and clergy mission:** Episcopal leaders in calling, ordaining, assigning, and accompanying clergy ensure that parishes have pastors and deacons formed to lead missionary renewal.
- **Diocesan liturgies that send:** Chrism Mass, Rite of Election/OCIA rites, and other episcopal celebrations gather the Church together in community and commission disciples for service and evangelization.
- **Clear, unified communication:** Teaching and pastoral messaging from the Bishop equips the faithful to explain the faith, invite others, and embody the Church’s mercy in daily life.

ADVANCING BISHOP BATTERSBY’S VISION — PIVOTING FROM MAINTENANCE TO MISSION

- **From central office to missionary catalyst:** The Bishop’s vision has shepherded direction (e.g., through successful listening, planning, and missionary priorities) so structures support evangelization — not the other way around. Your support and participation are crucial in this transformative process.
- **From silos to community:** The Bishop unifies chancery offices, parishes, and schools in a shared effort of encounter, accompaniment, and sending.
- **From upkeep to apostolate:** Under the Bishop’s oversight, resources, personnel, and policies are aligned to reach the lost, heal the wounded, and form credible witnesses.

WHAT YOUR DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL GIFT MAKES POSSIBLE

- **Pastoral visits and confirmations:** Travel, scheduling, and coordination that bring the Bishop to parishes—strengthening communion and commissioning the faithful.
- **Diocesan-wide planning for mission:** Bishop-led initiatives that listen, discern, and implement mission-first priorities across the Diocese.

- **Ordinations and episcopal liturgies:** Preparation and celebration of the Chrism Mass, ordinations, and diocesan rites that nourish sacramental life and send the Church to serve.
- **Teaching and evangelization resources:** Pastoral letters, formation days, leader gatherings, and communications that translate the Bishop's vision into parish practice.
- **Leadership accompaniment:** Support for clergy and lay leaders through retreats, mentoring, and councils—so local shepherds can effectively lead missionary communities.

Your participation in the Diocesan Annual Appeal is a concrete “yes” to Jesus’ mandate— ‘As the Father has sent me, so I send you’—and to the Bishop’s call to pivot from maintenance to mission. By supporting the Office of the Bishop, you help ensure that our entire diocesan family is taught, united, and sent out to witness Christ in every parish, household, and community. Your contribution is not just financial support, but a vital part of our shared mission and community.

OFFICE FOR VOCATIONS

“As the Father has sent me, so I send you” (John 20:21). The Office for Vocations forms and sends future priests who, in turn, form missionary disciples in every parish. Through the Diocesan Annual Appeal, your contribution is not just financial support but a catalyst for transformative missions of hope. Your funding fuels the human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral formation that prepares priests to preach the Gospel, accompany people toward conversion, and lead parishes from maintenance to mission-driven work. You are not just a donor, but an integral part of our mission, empowering us to shape the future of our Church.

HOW DOES YOUR DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL GIFT FORM AND SEND MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

- **Comprehensive priestly formation:** Your gift sustains tuition and fees for seminarians—an essential investment that makes priestly formation possible for our Diocese and strengthens parish mission for decades to come.
- **Beyond the classroom—mission-ready experiences:** Your funding for counseling when needed, clinical chaplaincy, mission trips, and summer spiritual studies is not just an investment in priestly formation, but in the personal growth and development of our future priests. These experiences equip them with pastoral charity and evangelizing zeal, shaping them into the leaders our parishes need.
- **A culture of discernment:** Your support for overnight retreats, seminary visits, and evenings with the bishop and priests is instrumental in fostering a culture of discernment. These experiences provide welcoming, impactful spaces where young men can hear the Lord’s call and respond, and your contribution is what makes these opportunities possible.
- **Hospitality and outreach that evangelize:** Travel, meals, and materials aren’t incidental; they are evangelizing bridges that help prospective seminarians encounter Christ and His Church.

ADVANCING BISHOP BATTERSBY’S VISION — PIVOTING FROM MAINTENANCE TO MISSION

- **Your support through the Diocesan Annual Appeal is transformative.** It advances us from merely keeping up with costs to actively fostering evangelizing shepherds for our parishes. Your donation is not just a financial contribution, but a catalyst for change in our approach to priestly formation and mission work.
- **From theory to apostolic practice:** Counseling, chaplaincy, mission work, and summer studies form priests who can accompany, preach, and lead renewal—not just run programs.
- **From recruitment to accompaniment:** Retreats and visits foster lasting relationships and vocational clarity, exemplifying the diocesan shift toward encounter, accompaniment, and sending.

WHAT YOUR DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL GIFT MAKES POSSIBLE

- **Your support for 13 seminarians (2025–26) is crucial.** It covers tuition, fees, and formation costs—about \$52,000 per seminarian annually—so men can dedicate themselves to prayer,

study, and pastoral development. Your donation directly impacts the number of future priests we can support, making your role in our mission even more significant.

- **Mission-shaped formation beyond just tuition:** Access to counseling, hospital chaplaincy training, cross-cultural mission trips, and summer spiritual studies that foster pastoral maturity and prepare missionaries.
- **High-impact discernment events:** Overnight retreats, seminary visits, and diocesan evenings with the bishop and priests—supported by hospitality, travel, and promotional materials that make them fruitful.

Your participation in the Diocesan Annual Appeal says a concrete “yes” to John 20:21 and Bishop Battersby’s call to shift from maintenance to mission—ensuring the Diocese of La Crosse continues to call, form, and send priests who will lead our people to Christ and rebuild His Church today.

VICAR FOR CLERGY OFFICE

Jesus sends His Church on a mission—and He does so through her priests. The Vicar for Clergy Office safeguards the health, holiness, and ongoing formation of our presbyterate, enabling pastors to preach, celebrate the sacraments, and mentor missionary disciples in every parish. In close partnership with the Vicar for Senior Clergy, this office supports 97 active diocesan priests, 31 international priests, and 35 senior priests, fostering fellowship and ensuring faithful pastoral care throughout the Diocese of La Crosse.

HOW DOES YOUR DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL GIFT FORM AND SEND MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

- **Healthy, holy priests on a mission:** Your compassionate support for the Diocesan Annual Appeal helps cover medical needs not fully met by insurance, including rising costs, certain medications, and long-term care. This enables our priests to stay present at the altar, in the confessional, and at the margins where missionary discipleship begins, fostering a sense of care and compassion in our community.
- **Ongoing formation that evangelizes:** Your support helps priests continue their education, attend retreats, take sabbaticals, and pursue advanced studies, ultimately enabling them to preach more effectively, lead evangelizing parishes, and accompany families on the path of discipleship.
- **Welcoming and equipping international priests:** With a shortage of diocesan clergy, 31 international priests serve as vital members of our parishes. The Diocesan Annual Appeal funds their training, including language and cultural adaptation. It provides ongoing support, such as housing and healthcare, transforming cultural bridges into pathways for evangelization and ensuring the vitality of sacramental life.
- **A stronger presbyterate for a more effective mission:** Your support fosters practical care and fraternal support, which in turn fosters unity among our priests. This unity multiplies their ability to invite, accompany, and send parishioners as missionary disciples, making you an integral part of our supportive community.

ADVANCING BISHOP BATTERSBY'S VISION — PIVOTING FROM MAINTENANCE TO MISSION

- **From maintenance to apostolate:** Investments in priestly well-being and formation enable pastors to lead evangelization, not merely administer schedules.
- **From scarcity to sentness:** Your support transforms constraints into missionary momentum. Training and supporting international priests expands sacramental access and outreach, turning scarcity into abundance and fostering a sense of hope and optimism in our mission.
- **From strain to spiritual fatherhood:** Healthcare and ongoing support reduce burnout and renew zeal—so priests can form, mentor, and send lay leaders into daily mission.

WHAT YOUR DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL GIFT MAKES POSSIBLE

- **Care and accompaniment:** for 97 active priests and 35 senior priests (including the Vicar for Senior Clergy), along with training and assistance for 31 international priests serving our parishes.
- **Continuing education:** programs, retreats, sabbaticals, and advanced degrees that directly enhance evangelization and pastoral leadership.
- **Clergy healthcare:** support for needs not fully covered by insurance, including unfunded medications and long-term care, ensuring priests can stay present with their people.

Your participation in the Diocesan Annual Appeal is a concrete “yes” to John 20:21 and Bishop Battersby’s call to pivot from maintenance to mission—ensuring that the priests who shepherd us are equipped to form and send out missionary disciples throughout the Diocese of La Crosse.

REBUILD MY CHURCH INITIATIVE

“As the Father has sent me, so I send you” (John 20:21). Rebuild My Church translates this commissioning into a diocesan roadmap that forms missionary disciples and revitalizes parish life at every level. Inspired by Saint Francis’ call to “go and rebuild my Church,” the initiative moves us decisively from upkeep to a Spirit-led mission—listening, discerning, and acting so that each parish becomes a place of encounter, accompaniment, and evangelization. Building on two years of priestly renewal, the initiative now engages the entire Diocese through a comprehensive pastoral planning process, which will commence with 40 Listening Sessions in the fall of 2025.

HOW DOES YOUR DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL GIFT FORM AND SEND MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

- **Diocesan-wide listening and discernment:** Launch and sustain the 40 Listening Sessions to identify local needs and co-create mission-focused parish plans.
- **Parishes fully alive on mission:** Support the seven indicators—Thriving Sunday Mass, Healthy Leadership, Discipleship, Accompaniment, Missionary Outreach, Lifelong Formation, Stewardship—so evangelization becomes the parish way of life.
- **Foster a culture of accompaniment:** Train mentors and ministry leaders to warmly welcome newcomers, walk alongside seekers, and invite baptized Catholics into more profound conversion.
- **Missionary outreach that extends beyond walls:** Providing support, inviting others, and bearing witness in neighborhoods, campuses, and works of mercy.
- **Priest renewal for apostolic leadership:** Offer retreats, formation, and practical support so pastors can model missionary discipleship and lead with clarity and courage.
- **Mental health and trauma-informed care:** Build a trusted network of Catholic therapists and formation opportunities to enhance resilience for mission.
- **Healing and protection for survivors:** Enhance diocesan pathways of accompaniment, collaboration, and training to ensure our witness is credible, compassionate, and safe.

ADVANCING BISHOP BATTERSBY’S VISION — PIVOTING FROM MAINTENANCE TO MISSION

- **From maintenance to mission:** Parish energy shifts from preserving structures to sending out disciples, guided by local discernment and the seven indicators.
- **From programs to people:** Ministries become relational—encounter, accompaniment, and sending—so every parishioner discovers and shares their gifts.
- **From isolation to collaboration:** Parishes cooperate across regions, multiplying impact and stewarding resources for evangelization instead of duplicating efforts.

WHAT YOUR DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL GIFT MAKES POSSIBLE

- **Listening Sessions (Fall 2025):** Venue, facilitation, materials, communications, and follow-up that turn parish insights into mission-driven plans.
- **Parish coaching and toolkits:** Assessments, leader training, and resources to develop the seven indicators in clear, measurable ways.

- **Priest retreats and resources:** Continuous formation and wellness support to help pastors lead evangelizing communities with renewed zeal.
- **Catholic therapist network:** Formation, convenings, and resource creation to expand trauma-informed, faith-aligned care for clergy and laity.
- **Survivor accompaniment and safety training:** Enhanced collaboration, education, and healing pathways that protect, restore, and build trust.

Your participation in the Diocesan Annual Appeal is a concrete “yes” to John 20:21 and to Bishop Battersby’s call to shift from maintenance to mission—making sure our parishes become communities that encounter, accompany, and send disciples who rebuild the Church in our time.

Learn more about the Rebuild My Church initiative by scanning the QR code or by going to www.diolc.org/rebuildmychurch



OFFICE FOR THE DIACONATE

“As the Father has sent me, so I send you” (John 20:21). Deacons serve as living signs of Christ the Servant—standing at the altar and reaching to the margins—so the Gospel touches people where they live, work, and suffer. Through the Diocesan Annual Appeal, the Office for the Diaconate supports ordained deacons and men in formation by providing the necessary formation and guidance needed to preach, teach, assist at the altar, and lead charitable works that nurture and send out missionary disciples in every parish.

HOW DOES YOUR DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL GIFT FORM AND SEND MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

- **Servant leadership at the heart of parish life:** Deacons embody diakonia through the Word, the altar, and charity—bridging parish and peripheries. Hence, the Church’s worship flows into service and evangelization.
- **Accompaniment on the margins:** Through jail, hospital, homebound, and poverty outreach ministries, deacons transform parish concern into active charitable service, inviting others to join them.
- **Ongoing formation for mission:** Diocesan Annual Appeal support teaches both candidates and ordained deacons theology, spirituality, and pastoral skills—so their preaching, catechesis, and leadership meet real needs and inspire others on mission.

ADVANCING BISHOP BATTERSBY’S VISION — PIVOTING FROM MAINTENANCE TO MISSION

- **From programs to people:** Deacons accompany the poor, the homebound, the incarcerated, and the overlooked, turning the parish into a field hospital that reaches those in need.
- **From maintenance to mobilization:** Ministries of the Word, altar, and charity inspire parishioners to serve, evangelize, and lead more disciples, and are sent in the spirit of John 20:21.
- **From “keep it running” to “go and proclaim”:** By placing trained servant leaders at the center of parish life, the office helps communities transition from just maintaining to active outreach.

WHAT YOUR DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL GIFT MAKES POSSIBLE

- **A Growing Diaconal Mission Field:** Thanks to your generous support, 59 deacons in active ministry and 17 senior-status deacons serve throughout the Diocese—expanding evangelization and pastoral care. Your contribution is a vital part of this growing mission field, and we are proud to have you as part of this journey.
- **A healthy pipeline for the future:** Thanks to your support, 17 men are currently in formation; 6 men are expected to be ordained in spring 2026 (God willing); 5 deacons were ordained in 2024—evidence of sustained momentum. Your role in this process is crucial, and we are grateful for your contribution to the future of our Church.
- **Strong initial and continuing formation:** tuition, faculty, retreats, spiritual direction, supervised field experiences, and continuous education that keep preaching, pastoral care, and leadership missions prepared.

- **Mission deployment aligned with parish needs:** Support that connects deacons to local priorities—so each parish can form and send more missionary disciples.

Your participation in the Diocesan Annual Appeal is not just a financial contribution, but a concrete “yes” to Jesus’ mandate— “As the Father has sent me, so I send you”—and to Bishop Battersby’s call to shift from maintenance to mission. By supporting the Office for the Diaconate, you play a crucial role in developing servant leaders who inspire missionary discipleship throughout the Diocese of La Crosse.

OFFICE FOR CONSECRATED LIFE

“As the Father has sent me, so I send you” (John 20:21). Consecrated women and men serve as living signs of Jesus’ sending. Through the Diocesan Annual Appeal, the Office for Consecrated Life empowers those in consecrated life to witness, teach, pray, and serve within our communities. Your gift is not just support—it is a catalyst for the future of the Church, crucial in sustaining the service and growth of consecrated members in their missions of hope throughout the Diocese of La Crosse.

HOW DOES YOUR DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL GIFT FORM AND SEND MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

- **Forming missionary disciples:** A consecrated religious life is a total surrender to Christ. The office provides spiritual and pastoral accompaniment to inspire missionary energy in parishes and apostolates through prayer, community life, and apostolic works.
- **Mobilizing the entire Church:** By providing resources and connecting consecrated communities with pastors, parish leaders, and ministries, the office transforms personal charisms into collective evangelization efforts—pivoting us from just maintaining activities to actively reaching people for Christ.
- **Sending in the spirit of John 20:21:** As Jesus was sent, so are we. The office helps consecrated men and women go out—whether to schools, hospitals, those on the margins, or into parish life—so worship becomes a testimony and service turns into proclamation.

ADVANCING BISHOP BATTERSBY’S VISION — PIVOTING FROM MAINTENANCE TO MISSION

- **From solitude to shared mission:** The gifts of consecrated life are integrated with parish and diocesan priorities, multiplying evangelization.
- **From programs to people:** Providing accompaniment, mentoring, and collaboration with consecrated religious to form parishioners and help them live as missionary disciples in everyday life.
- **From the status quo to sending:** The public witness and apostolic works of the consecrated inspire vocations and commission the baptized to serve.

WHAT YOUR DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL GIFT MAKES POSSIBLE

- **Ongoing formation and spiritual accompaniment:** Encouragement and resources to help consecrated women and men deepen their relationship with Christ and mentor others in discipleship.
- **Witness & vocations:** Support for the public witness of consecrated life that inspires youth and adults to hear the Lord’s call and live as missionary disciples in their particular state of life.
- **Communion and collaboration:** Strengthening ties among religious communities, pastors, and diocesan offices is a key part of our mission. Your support ensures that these ties are substantial, allowing charisms to be shared and multiplied for the sake of evangelization and works of mercy. You are an integral part of this community.
- **Care & sustainability:** Your support provides the practical and pastoral assistance that helps consecrated members persevere in their mission—whether newly assigned or aging. It ensures

that their lifelong “yes” continues to bear fruit, highlighting the ongoing nature of our mission and the importance of your continued support.

Your participation in the Diocesan Annual Appeal says a concrete “yes” to Jesus’ mandate in John 20:21 and Bishop Battersby’s call to pivot from maintenance to mission—allowing consecrated women and men to train, inspire, and send out missionary disciples across the Diocese of La Crosse.

PARISH MINISTRIES SUPPORT

OFFICE FOR CATECHESIS & EVANGELIZATION

“As the Father has sent me, so I send you” (John 20:21). Jesus’ words define our path: encounter Him, be converted, become His disciples, live in community, and be sent on a mission. The Office for Catechesis & Evangelization exists to form those who form others—so parishes don’t just maintain programs but send out missionary disciples into homes, neighborhoods, and workplaces throughout the Diocese of La Crosse.

HOW DOES YOUR DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL GIFT FORM AND SEND MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

- **Formation that begins in encounter and leads to mission:** Training, resources, and events help parish and school leaders foster a personal relationship with Jesus through the Holy Spirit, grow in prayer, cooperate with sacramental grace, study the faith in small groups, and actively participate in parish life—so that growth in Christ naturally overflows into evangelization.
- **Equipping the “formers of the faithful”:** Curated, faithful resources; in-services at diocesan, deanery, and parish levels; and certification for teachers, parish directors, and catechists in doctrine, Scripture, spirituality, and methods—so the faith is taught accurately and evangelically.
- **Parish-ready evangelization tools:** Practical resources—standalone or aligned with trusted Bible and adult study programs—developed with parish leaders and school personnel, plus a free lending library for parishes and schools.
- **On-ramp for busy disciples:** Franciscan at Home—free for everyone in the Diocese—offers one-hour workshops (10-minute videos with a practical application task) to form parents, teachers, parish leaders, OCIA teams, and any adult seeking deeper formation.
- **Collaborative evangelization across ministries:** Providing training and support for men in diaconate formation, couples, Lay Formation Institute participants, and OCIA facilitators, including discernment of spiritual gifts—so leaders can serve effectively and help those who are distant find their way home.
- **Reaching the margins—Hmong Ministry & Special Needs:** Coordinating the Hmong Ministry (including Mary, Mother of Good Help Parish in Wausau with a full-time pastor and two part-time Hmong catechists), providing translated prayer resources, and supporting daily family prayer by phone (Divine Mercy at 3 p.m.; Rosary with formation at 8 p.m.); overseeing the Ministry for Persons with Special Needs; and offering tuition assistance to help Hmong families access Catholic schools.

ADVANCING BISHOP BATTERSBY’S VISION — PIVOTING FROM MAINTENANCE TO MISSION

- **From programs to people:** Our focus on encounter, conversion, discipleship, communion, and mission transforms the mundane task of 'keeping things running' into a profound journey of accompanying individuals into a missionary life grounded in Jesus and His Church.
- **From content to commissioning:** Leaders learn what the Church teaches and how to evangelize—so every formation moment concludes with sending, in the spirit of John 20:21.

- **From silos to collaboration:** Our coordinated work with parishes, schools, and diocesan offices identifies charisms, mobilizes gifts, and makes evangelization the shared effort of the entire Church, making you an integral part of our team.

WHAT YOUR DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL GIFT MAKES POSSIBLE

- **Leader formation and certification:** Courses, in-services, and mentoring that build confident catechists, teachers, and parish leaders.
- **Parish evangelization toolkits:** Ready-to-use studies, small-group guides, and lending-library resources that invite, accompany, and send.
- **Franciscan at Home access for everyone:** Flexible, top-notch online training—perfect for busy parents, teachers, and ministry leaders.
- **Cross-ministry training:** Evangelization formation for diaconate, marriage, LFI, and OCIA leaders, including discernment of spiritual gifts.
- **Hmong & Special Needs support:** Language-appropriate catechesis, daily prayer outreach, parish-based accompaniment, and tuition assistance that open doors to encounter Christ and live the mission.

Your participation in the Diocesan Annual Appeal transforms Jesus' mandate— "As the Father has sent me, so I send you"—into a plan of action for the diocese: developing leaders, supporting parishes, and sending out missionary disciples who live and witness Christ every day. That is the core of our pivot from maintenance to mission—and your gift makes it possible.

OFFICE FOR FAMILY LIFE & YOUTH MINISTRY

“As the Father has sent me, so I send you” (John 20:21). Jesus sends His Church through families and young people—the everyday domestic churches where faith is first proclaimed, learned, celebrated, and shared. The Office for Family Life & Youth Ministry, with its transformative power, accompanies individuals and families at all ages and stages, fostering a living friendship with Christ and helping households to witness the Gospel within their parishes and the broader community. Working with clergy and parish leaders, the office aims to move us beyond merely running programs to forming and sending out missionary disciples, advancing Bishop Battersby’s call to shift from maintenance to mission.

HOW DOES YOUR DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL GIFT FORM AND SEND MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

- **Marriage preparation** that evangelizes includes deanery retreats (Married Love: Two Becoming One), parish FOCCUS inventories, and diocesan Natural Family Planning (NFP) formation, all of which prepare couples for a lifelong, holy mission as husband and wife. Last year, over 450 couples celebrated their marriage in the Diocese; more than 500 individuals received NFP formation annually, transforming their homes into centers of evangelization.
- **Marriage enrichment and accompaniment:** Conferences, evenings of reflection, and retreats strengthen spouses in prayer, virtue, and sacramental love—backed by ministries for troubled marriages, divorce, and bereavement—so couples can witness Christ to their children, neighbors, and parishes.
- **Youth Ministry (ages 12–39):** encounter → discipleship → mission: We train parish leaders and teams and host experiences that ignite conversion and send young people back to their Conferences, evenings of reflection, and retreats that strengthen spouses in prayer, virtue, and sacramental love—supported by ministries for troubled marriages, divorce, and bereavement—so couples can witness Christ to their children, neighbors, and parishes. Parishioners serve as witnesses through various events, including parish retreats, local, regional, and national conferences, World Youth Day, Pilgrimage for Life, Adventure Camps, Diocesan Confirmation Retreats, and mission service trips. Ministry is integrated across home, parish, and community—each reinforcing the other.
- **High school and young adult formation:** After Confirmation, teens and young adults are accompanied in discerning their vocation and taking responsibility within the Church today—through parish collaboration and diocesan initiatives tailored to different life stages.
- **Men’s and women’s initiatives:** Focused gatherings help adults discover their gifts and lead as missionary disciples in family, workplace, and parish ministries. These initiatives are designed to foster personal growth and empowerment, making each feel valued and important in the Church's mission.

ADVANCING BISHOP BATTERSBY’S VISION — PIVOTING FROM MAINTENANCE TO MISSION

- **From events to sending:** Every retreat, course, and gathering aims at commissioning—in the spirit of John 20:21—so participants return to parishes and neighborhoods as apostles.
- **From siloed efforts to collaboration:** As a service and partnership office, Family Life & Youth Ministry connects pastors, parish teams, and families, transforming individual gifts into

collective evangelizing efforts. This collaborative approach ensures that everyone feels included and part of a larger mission.

- **From maintaining pace to fueling missionary momentum:** By forming marriages, empowering parents, and engaging youth and young adults, the office multiplies everyday witnesses who bring Christ to the margins of daily life.

WHAT YOUR DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL GIFT MAKES POSSIBLE

- **Marriage foundations for mission:** Deanery retreats, FOCCUS preparation, and NFP instruction that ground marriages in sacramental love and evangelizing purpose. Last year, these programs helped over 450 couples celebrate their marriage in the Diocese, and more than 500 individuals received NFP formation, transforming their homes into centers of evangelization.
- **Youth & Young Adult Evangelization:** Providing training and support for parish youth ministers and teams, along with diocesan retreats, pilgrimages, camps, conferences, and mission trips that ignite faith and send.
- **Pastoral accompaniment for families:** Ongoing marriage enrichment and ministries for troubled marriages, divorce, and bereavement—walking with families in mercy and hope.
- **Expanded young adult outreach:** Deliberate opportunities throughout the Diocese so every stage of life can find a path to missionary discipleship.

Your participation in the Diocesan Annual Appeal transforms Jesus' mandate— "As the Father has sent me, so I send you"—into a family-by-family action plan for the Diocese of La Crosse. By supporting the Office for Family Life & Youth Ministry, you help our parishes form, strengthen, and send disciples who witness Christ in homes, schools, workplaces, and the public square—a real pivot from maintenance to mission.

OFFICE FOR MINISTRIES & SOCIAL CONCERNS

“As the Father has sent me, so I send you” (John 20:21). Bishop Battersby is urging every parish in the Diocese of La Crosse to pivot from a focus on maintenance to one on mission. The Office for Ministries & Social Concerns, as a key player in this pivot, is responsible for building a community of missionary disciples (deacons, lay leaders, and parish teams) who worship Jesus in the Eucharist and then serve the margins in His name. Our work, building on the Eucharistic Revival, transforms personal devotion into evangelizing charity in parishes, deaneries, and communities across the Diocese.

HOW DOES YOUR DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL GIFT FORM AND SEND MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

- **Permanent Deacon Formation — missionary servants for the margins:** We form men whose identity is rooted in diakonia—the Church’s servant-love expressed through Word, altar, and charity. Deacons bridge parish and peripheries, carrying the Gospel to the suffering, poor, incarcerated, and overlooked—and encouraging parishioners to join them. This year’s goal is to have 17 La Crosse candidates in formation; additionally, the program trains 9 Madison and 8 Superior candidates (funded by their respective dioceses), demonstrating excellence and stewardship.
- **Lay Formation Institute — everyday apostles for every parish:** A two-year journey of study, prayer, and fellowship equips Catholics to evangelize in their communities. Graduates return prepared to lead OCIA, teach the faith, accompany seekers, and strengthen councils and ministries—pivoting parish life from “keep it running” to “let’s reach people.” Reach this year: 30 first-year participants.
- **Leaders of Prayer — advancing the Church’s presence:** We train and commission leaders to bring Christ into nursing homes, jails, and the homes of the sick and homebound—demonstrating pastoral charity and multiplying evangelizing efforts where clergy are unable consistently to be. Reach this year: approximately 100 commissions renewed last year; 14 new Leaders of Prayer commissioned on August 23, 2025, after three weekends of training.
- **Parish Social Ministry — from programs to people:** A part-time Diocesan Liaison visits each deanery, connecting parish leaders and volunteers involved in charity work. We guide parishes to shift from isolated efforts to a culture of accompaniment, helping the baptized identify needs, organize responses, and personally reach out to those on the margins. Impact: A fruitful model of support, encouragement, and practical collaboration among deaneries.
- **Hispanic & Migrant Ministry — accompaniment in a native language:** We assist with Mass, sacraments, formation, retreats, and pilgrimages in Spanish, complementing the legal and material aid provided by Catholic Charities. Language-appropriate pastoral care opens doors for evangelization, leadership growth, and parish integration—enabling families to both receive and become missionaries within our communities. Reach each week: 2,000+ people served.

ADVANCING BISHOP BATTERSBY’S VISION — PIVOTING FROM MAINTENANCE TO MISSION

- **From structures to sent people:** We don’t just maintain programs; we form disciples who carry Christ. Your support is crucial in this transition. A part-time Diocesan Liaison visits each deanery, connecting parish leaders and volunteers involved in charity work. We guide parishes to move from isolated efforts to a culture of accompaniment, helping the baptized identify needs,

organize responses, and personally reach out to those on the margins. Impact: A fruitful model of support, encouragement, and practical collaboration among deaneries, reaching into prisons and nursing homes, farm fields and factories, kitchens and classrooms.

- **From devotion to deployment:** In close collaboration with the Offices for Catechesis & Evangelization, Sacred Worship, Schools, Family Life, and Communication, Eucharistic devotion transforms into evangelizing action—parishes that go and make disciples.
- **From duplication to collaboration:** We work with Catholic Charities, the Diocesan Mission Office, the Social Ministry Advisory Committee, and USCCB relief initiatives. Your contribution is part of this collaborative effort, which utilizes grants for ongoing education and expands parish capacity without duplicating efforts.

WHAT YOUR DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL GIFT MAKES POSSIBLE

- **Deacon formation and discernment:** Faculty, retreats, spiritual direction, and supervised field experiences that shape missionary deacons—while stewarding resources that also serve neighboring dioceses.
- **Lay Formation Institute cohorts:** Tuition assistance, faculty stipends, retreat days, and parish practicums—so more lay leaders are equipped to evangelize locally.
- **Leaders of Prayer training and commissioning:** A three-weekend formation, along with resources and ongoing support, to expand prayer and pastoral care when clergy are not always available.
- **Parish Social Ministry liaison:** Deanery visits, training, and network-building that help parishes transition from isolated activities to coordinated acts of support and works of mercy.
- **Hispanic & Migrant Ministry:** Mass and sacraments, catechesis, retreats, pilgrimages, and leadership training in Spanish—supporting evangelization that reaches over 2,000 people every week.

Your participation in the Diocesan Annual Appeal fuels missions of hope—forming deacons, equipping lay leaders, multiplying prayer and pastoral care, and welcoming our Hispanic brothers and sisters. Your generosity helps our local Church pivot from maintenance to mission, so every parish becomes a place where missionary disciples are formed, accompanied, and sent.

OFFICE FOR SACRED WORSHIP

“As the Father has sent me, so I send you” (John 20:21). The Office for Sacred Worship, in its mission to serve the bishop, clergy, and faithful, plays a crucial role in ensuring that the Church’s liturgy forms and sends out missionary disciples. By deepening our understanding of the rites, their meaning, celebration, and impact on daily life, the Office helps our worship become actions of witness, charity, and evangelization. Its mission includes sacramental catechesis for everyone, the liturgical formation of parish ministers, and diocesan leadership for the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) through support for parish coordinators and participation in diocesan events alongside the bishop and candidates. Your active participation in these activities is what makes our church community vibrant and alive.

HOW DOES YOUR DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL GIFT FORM AND SEND MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

- **Liturgy that inspires:** Resources and guidance to help parishes celebrate the rites with beauty and fidelity, so Sunday worship serves as a springboard for weekday mission.
- **Sacramental catechesis for all ages:** Teaching and materials that connect what we celebrate to how we live, empowering parishioners to witness Christ in family, workplace, and community.
- **Formation for those who serve the assembly:** Training and support so parish liturgical ministers can serve with competence and charity, strengthening prayer that leads to evangelization.
- **OCIA leadership and accompaniment:** Diocesan coordination that helps parish OCIA teams and diocesan rites with the Bishop—welcoming seekers, forming sponsors, and preparing new Catholics to be sent on mission.

ADVANCING BISHOP BATTERSBY’S VISION — PIVOTING FROM MAINTENANCE TO MISSION

- **From performing rites to forming apostles:** Liturgical catechesis and faithful celebration move us beyond “keeping things running” to engaging in encounter, conversion, and sending.
- **From activity to accompaniment:** By forming ministers who welcome and guide, parishes become communities where people are known, formed, and sent. This transformation is a testament to the warmth and care that our church community provides, making everyone feel valued and integral to our mission.
- **From siloed efforts to diocesan collaboration:** OCIA leadership and diocesan celebrations unite parishes in a shared mission of evangelization and initiation. This shift is a reflection of the strength and unity of our church community, where we work together towards a common goal.

WHAT YOUR DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL GIFT MAKES POSSIBLE

- **Televised Mass ministry:** Production, airtime, and closed captioning that bring Sunday worship to thousands of homebound Catholics—uniting them with the larger diocesan family. Viewer contributions help, but do not cover the full costs; Diocesan Annual Appeal support sustains this vital outreach.

- **OCIA support and diocesan celebrations:** Providing coaching and resources for parish coordinators and diocesan rites with the Bishop, who welcome catechumens and candidates into full sacramental life—and into mission.
- **Liturgical formation and catechesis:** Workshops, guides, and parish support that strengthen the “Ars Celebrandi”, form ministers, and connect sacramental life to everyday discipleship.

Your participation in the Diocesan Annual Appeal is a concrete “yes” to John 20:21 and Bishop Battersby’s call to pivot from maintenance to mission—so that our worship truly sends us forth to rebuild the Church in our time.

TRIBUNAL

“As the Father has sent me, so I send you” (John 20:21). The Diocesan Tribunal serves the Church’s mission by seeking truth in justice and mercy—rendering judgments about rights, obligations, and a person’s status in the Church (including petitions for a declaration of nullity of marriage). For instance, a couple who have been divorced and wish to remarry in the Church may seek a declaration of nullity. By clarifying and healing complex situations like this, the Tribunal helps people return more fully to sacramental life and parish mission—so disciples can be accompanied, reconciled, and sent.

HOW DOES YOUR DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL GIFT FORM AND SEND MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

- **Evangelizing justice and mercy:** Supports expert canonical discernment that seeks truth and healing in light of Sacred Scripture, the Church’s Magisterium, and the Code of Canon Law—opening paths for renewed participation in the sacraments and parish life.
- **Pastoral accompaniment throughout the process:** Offers communication, hospitality, and guidance that help people navigate petitions (including marriage nullity) with confidence, dignity, and hope—so wounded disciples can be restored and re-engaged in mission.
- **Partnership with parishes:** Enhances collaboration with pastors and advocates so that those approaching the Tribunal experience a united, compassionate Church that welcomes them back into worship, formation, and service.

ADVANCING BISHOP BATTERSBY’S VISION — PIVOTING FROM MAINTENANCE TO MISSION

- **From bureaucracy to accompaniment:** Moves beyond “paperwork” to personal encounter, walking with people toward truth, healing, and a renewed missionary life in the Church.
- **From case resolution to apostolic sending:** Clarifies status so disciples can return to the sacraments, serve, and share the Gospel—becoming credible witnesses in family, workplace, and community.
- **From a standalone office to a diocesan mission:** Coordinates with clergy and parish leaders to ensure Tribunal ministry actively fosters a culture of discipleship and mercy throughout the Diocese.

WHAT YOUR DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL GIFT MAKES POSSIBLE

- **Justice in the truth of the Gospel:** Canonical expertise, research, and formation that ground judgments on Scripture, the Magisterium, and Canon Law, ensuring integrity and credibility in the Church’s witness.
- **Accessible, compassionate pathways:** Clear communication, attentive guidance, and a welcoming experience for those seeking a declaration of nullity or other determinations—so no one walks alone.
- **Parish training and collaboration:** Resources and workshops for pastors, deacons, and lay advocates to accompany people locally and reintegrate them into sacramental and missionary life.

Your participation in the Diocesan Annual Appeal sends a concrete “yes” to John 20:21 and to Bishop Battersby’s call to shift from maintenance to mission—helping the Tribunal heal, reconcile, and send missionary disciples who rebuild the Church in our time. Your support directly contributes to the healing and reconciliation of our community, making a significant difference in the lives of many.

PARISH SERVICES SUPPORT

CHANCERY

“As the Father has sent me, so I send you” (John 20:21). In every mission field, the sacraments are the Church’s vital life source. The Chancery serves pastors, parishes, and the faithful through practical and canonical work that enables encounters with Christ—processing prenuptial files, permissions, and dispensations; issuing declarations of matrimony nullity for lack of canonical form; and maintaining the official directories of parishes and clergy. These behind-the-scenes services help ensure our sacramental life is celebrated faithfully and fruitfully, so evangelization can flourish.

HOW DOES YOUR DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL GIFT FORM AND SEND MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

- **Freeing pastors for evangelization:** By navigating complex canonical requirements, the Chancery reduces administrative burdens so pastors can spend more time accompanying people and proclaiming the Gospel.
- **Forming missionary households:** Your generous donations enable us to carefully review prenuptial files, permissions, and dispensations, helping couples enter marriage confidently grounded in the Church—prepared to live and testify as missionary disciples. Your support directly contributes to the formation of these missionary households.
- **Clearing paths to the sacraments:** Your support allows us to provide timely assistance with declarations of matrimony nullity due to lack of canonical form and other determinations. This helps the faithful return to full sacramental life and parish mission, making your contributions instrumental in facilitating these spiritual journeys.
- **Strengthening diocesan unity:** Your contributions help us maintain accurate clergy and parish directories, connecting shepherds with their flock and facilitating collaboration. This fosters a sense of community and unity across the Diocese, making your support crucial in this mission.

ADVANCING BISHOP BATTERSBY’S VISION — PIVOTING FROM MAINTENANCE TO MISSION

- **From bureaucracy to relationships:** Canonical expertise becomes pastoral accompaniment that restores people with the sacraments and sends them on mission.
- **From case management to culture change:** Consistent processes and guidance to form parish teams that serve with clarity, mercy, and a mission-first focus.
- **From fragmentation to community:** Up-to-date directories and coordinated workflows help parishes collaborate, multiplying evangelization.

WHAT YOUR DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL GIFT MAKES POSSIBLE

- **Accessible canonical guidance:** Support for pastors, parish staff, and individuals—especially regarding the sacraments—so that pastoral decisions are faithful, prudent, and mission-minded.
- **Prompt processing:** Permissions, dispensations, prenuptial investigations, and assistance with lack-of-form nullity—removing obstacles so people can encounter Christ in the sacraments.

- **Accurate diocesan directories:** Ongoing maintenance that supports communication and collaboration among clergy and parishes—fuel for coordinated evangelization.

Your participation in the Diocesan Annual Appeal brings Jesus' mandate—"As the Father has sent me, so I send you"—to life by providing concrete support for the sacramental and canonical foundations of our mission. By supporting the Chancery, you help our local Church pivot from maintenance to mission, ensuring that everything from marriage preparation to parish coordination serves one purpose: forming and sending missionary disciples throughout the Diocese of La Crosse.

ARCHIVES

“As the Father has sent me, so I send you” (John 20:21). The Diocesan Archives, a beacon of hope, safeguards the living memory of our local Church. It is a place where disciples can be identified, accompanied, and sent. By preserving historical, genealogical, and sacramental records—and by serving the Curia, parishes, and individuals with prompt research—the Archives plays a pivotal role in helping people reconnect with the Church’s sacramental life and story, an essential step in missionary renewal throughout our Diocese.

HOW DOES YOUR DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL GIFT FORM AND SEND MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

- **Safeguarding sacramental identity:** Careful stewardship of baptism, confirmation, and marriage records helps individuals obtain the documentation they need to return to the sacraments, complete OCIA, prepare for marriage, or pursue canonical processes—so they can fully live and share the Gospel.
- **Pastoral research that accompanies:** Responsive research for the Diocesan Curia, parishes, and individuals provides clarity, heals family stories, and often becomes an entry point back into parish life and evangelization.
- **Welcoming seekers through genealogy:** Thoughtful responses to genealogical and sacramental record requests encourage conversation, prayer, and connection—transforming a search for ancestors into a path of grace today.
- **Enhancing parish record stewardship:** Guidance and shared best practices assist parishes in effectively managing their registers, safeguarding dignity, privacy, and mission.

ADVANCING BISHOP BATTERSBY’S VISION — PIVOTING FROM MAINTENANCE TO MISSION

- **From storage to story and sending:** Beyond just securing boxes, the Archives bring records to life through careful preservation, organization, and interpretation. This process allows people to reconnect with sacramental life and serve as witnesses in their families and communities.
- **From isolated files to diocesan collaboration:** The Archives provide research support for the Curia and parishes, ensuring that archival work directly serves pastoral needs. This collaboration strengthens a culture of discipleship and accompaniment, fostering a sense of unity and shared mission within the Diocese.
- **From barriers to bridges:** The Archives' transparent processes and compassionate communication transform potential barriers, such as complex record requests, into welcoming, healing, and meaningful pastoral encounters. For example, a genealogical record request can become an opportunity for prayer and connection, turning a potentially daunting task into a path of grace today.

WHAT YOUR DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL GIFT MAKES POSSIBLE

- **Preservation and secure access:** Proper conservation, organization, and enhanced access (including digitization where appropriate) so sacramental and historical records continue to serve evangelization and pastoral care.

- **Timely research services:** Ability to respond to Curia, parish, and individual inquiries with accuracy and compassion—especially for genealogical and sacramental record requests.
- **Parish records support:** Tools, training, and consultation to assist parishes in properly stewarding their registers, safeguarding individuals, and advancing their mission.

Your participation in the Diocesan Annual Appeal is not just a donation; it is a concrete “yes” to John 20:21 and Bishop Battersby’s call to pivot from maintenance to mission. Your support ensures that our shared memory becomes a launchpad for renewed sacramental life and missionary discipleship throughout the Diocese.

OFFICE FOR COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

“As the Father has sent me, so I send you” (John 20:21). Our mission is clear and bold: to create encounters with Christ. Through the Diocesan Annual Appeal, the Office for Communication and Public Relations spreads the Gospel with clarity, credibility, and broad outreach—arming every parish to evangelize in a digital age. Appeal funding has allowed a decisive shift from a centralized print model to a parish-centered, multi-platform evangelization partnership for the entire Diocese.

HOW DOES YOUR DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL GIFT FORM AND SEND MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

- **Parish empowerment at scale:** Thanks to the appeal, 42 parishes have been equipped to launch FlockNote, and 69 have been onboarded into Catholic Social Media. This direct parish-to-household communication strategy, which invites, accompanies, and sends, is a tangible result of your support.
- **Multi-platform evangelization:** A new Digital Evangelist & Marketing Specialist role (funded by the Diocesan Annual Appeal) provides parish training, campaigns, reels, podcasts, and radio content that have reached tens of thousands and engage seekers where they are online.
- **Storytelling that forms witnesses:** Photography, video, and on-site coverage—our “have camera, will travel” service—helps parishes capture sacramental moments and share them broadly so worship becomes a public witness.
- **Direct diocesan engagement:** A newsletter funded by the Diocesan Annual Appeal now has an average open rate of 54%, enhancing formation and mission across audiences.
- **Concise printing with broader impact:** Catholic Life continues to serve 53,000 households with higher-quality, thematic issues—while resources shift toward parish-focused digital tools that engage younger and previously unengaged audiences.

ADVANCING BISHOP BATTERSBY’S VISION — PIVOTING FROM MAINTENANCE TO MISSION

- **From central office to local parishes:** We shifted from speaking solely on behalf of the diocesan center to empowering parishes to communicate independently through platforms, training, and creative resources. This shift has made each parish an integral part of our mission, fostering a sense of involvement and shared responsibility.
- **From print-only to multi-platform:** Recognizing that 96% of the magazine’s readers were 50+, we diversified channels to reach younger Catholics and the unaffiliated. This shift was made with your needs and preferences in mind and considered in our communication strategies.
- **From cost to catalysis:** By reducing the frequency of Catholic Life from 9 issues to 4 and consolidating staff roles, we saved over \$150,000. This financial stewardship allowed us to reinvest in parish services and digital evangelization, catalyzing our mission.
- **From 7% to 54%:** Over three years, the portion of the office budget allocated to parish-facing services increased from 7% to 54%, aligning resources with the mission.

WHAT YOUR DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL GIFT MAKES POSSIBLE

- **Platforms and training for parishes:** Expansion of FlockNote and Catholic Social Media parish cohorts; advanced coaching to help leaders sustain digital evangelization.
- **In-house creative production:** Podcasts, radio shows, videos, graphics, webpages, and social campaigns created with notable cost savings and broader reach.
- **High-impact campaigns:** Examples like Padres vs. Grannies reached over 52,000 people and generated more than 1,300 clicks to Casa Hogar—part of hundreds of thousands of annual digital impressions.
- **Equipment & field support:** Portable photo/video kits for parish events; mailing of Bishop Battersby and Pope Leo portraits to parishes lacking print capacity.
- **Catholic Life (optimized):** Four high-quality issues each year support beloved storytelling while freeing funds for mission-critical parish services.
- **Next-step growth (upcoming year):**
 - Enhance parish digital skills with extra training and advanced tactics.
 - Expand podcast, radio, and video outreach to engage younger audiences and those on the peripheries.
 - Improve the diocesan newsletter and start new campaigns that engage people with parish life.
 - Invest in creative storytelling—photography, videography, and social media that showcase the truth, beauty, and goodness of parish life.
 - Maintain careful stewardship, strengthening infrastructure, increasing in-house production, and utilizing technology to expand impact at lower costs.

Your participation in the Diocesan Annual Appeal embodies Jesus' command— "As the Father has sent me, so I send you"—into a concrete communication strategy that forms, equips, and sends out missionary disciples. Supporting the Office for Communication & Public Relations helps our Diocese shift from simply maintaining operations to actively pursuing mission. This way, every parish can reach hearts, share the story of Jesus, and invite more people to experience life with Him.

OFFICE FOR SAFE ENVIRONMENT

“As the Father has sent me, so I send you” (John 20:21). Mission requires trust. The Office for Safe Environment fosters trust by promoting healthy relationships and ensuring that our parishes and schools are safe environments in which to worship, work, and learn. Following the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People (2002), the office provides training and background screening for clergy, staff, volunteers, and parent helpers—so the Church’s care is trustworthy, and our evangelization is convincing. This is how safety work becomes disciple-making work: it rebuilds confidence, heals memories, and clears the way for people to meet Christ and be sent.

HOW DOES YOUR DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL GIFT FORM AND SEND MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

- **Whole-church formation for vigilance and care:** Annual safe-environment education—online and in person—equips clergy, staff, volunteers, and parents to recognize warning signs, respond appropriately, and follow reporting procedures that safeguard children and vulnerable adults.
- **Every student is formed to speak up:** All students in our Catholic schools and Religious Education programs participate in annual youth training, fostering a culture where children understand their dignity and know how to seek help.
- **Screening that strengthens witness:** Thorough background checks and clear standards for those who serve with youth ensure that ministry settings reflect the Gospel we proclaim.
- **Clergy equipped for pastoral leadership:** Priests and deacons participate in ongoing formation at Priest Unity Days, Fall Ministry Days, and other gatherings—integrating safe-environment practices into parish life and mission.

ADVANCING BISHOP BATTERSBY’S VISION — PIVOTING FROM MAINTENANCE TO MISSION

- **From compliance to culture:** Beyond “checking the box,” the office helps every parish foster relationships of accountability and care. Your support is crucial in this endeavor, ensuring that evangelization proceeds from integrity. You are empowered to help us foster a culture of accountability and care, making you an essential part of our mission.
- **From policies to people:** Your support is instrumental in forming adults and youth who know how to protect, accompany, and speak up. You are transforming safety into a daily Christian witness, making you a vital and influential part of our mission.
- **From isolated efforts to diocesan communion:** Consistent resources, support for parishes and schools, and collaboration with diocesan leadership align safety with our mission-first priorities.

WHAT YOUR DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL GIFT MAKES POSSIBLE

- **Comprehensive formation and screening:** In 2024–25, over 2,700 paid staff and 4,200 volunteers completed Safe Environment training; 12,838 students (grades 1–12) received youth training—demonstrating a culture where protection is everyone’s responsibility.
- **Charter compliance and external audits:** Annual audits and triennial on-site reviews verify fidelity to the USCCB Charter; the Diocese has maintained compliance since audits started.

- **Accessible parish and school support:** Year-round assistance, updated educational materials, and a mix of online and in-person delivery so every community can meet standards and foster trust.

Your participation in the Diocesan Annual Appeal fulfills Jesus' mandate—"As the Father has sent me, so I send you"—by creating a tangible culture of care that protects the vulnerable, strengthens families, and builds the Church's credibility to preach the Gospel. By supporting the Office for Safe Environment, you play a crucial role in our Diocese's pivot from maintenance to mission, ensuring that safety and holiness go hand in hand as we form and send out missionary disciples. Your support has a direct impact on the safety of our church community, making you an integral part of our mission.

OFFICE FOR STEWARDSHIP & DEVELOPMENT

“As the Father has sent me, so I send you” (John 20:21). Once we decide to follow Jesus, stewardship is not optional—it is the disciple’s way of life. The Office for Stewardship & Development teaches, prepares, and supports our diocesan family to receive, cultivate, and share God’s gifts for mission. Inspired by the Parable of the Talents (Mt 25:14-30), we encourage the faithful to take bold, faith-filled risks with their time, talent, and treasure, so that generosity becomes a way of life that forms the foundation of our evangelization and the Diocese as it pivots from maintenance to mission.

HOW DOES YOUR DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL GIFT FORM AND SEND MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

- **Forming stewards and not just donors:** Workshops, resources, and parish coaching focus on prayer, Scripture, and Catholic social teaching—helping households grow as missionary disciples who share Christ through generosity.
- **Mission storytelling that inspires witness:** Appeal communications, video production, and parish-ready materials connect gifts to changed lives—turning “fundraising” into faith-raising.
- **Strategic planning and tools for parishes:** Data analysis, goal setting, and calendar alignment assist pastors and leaders in stewarding people and resources toward evangelizing priorities.
- **Planned Giving as a long-term mission:** Wills, bequests, and legacy guidance help families make enduring gifts that will carry the Gospel to future generations.

ADVANCING BISHOP BATTERSBY’S VISION — PIVOTING FROM MAINTENANCE TO MISSION

- **Pivoting From Maintenance to Mission.** This vision is about transitioning from maintaining our current church activities and structures to actively engaging in the mission of spreading the Gospel and forming disciples.
- **From transactions to transformation:** We go beyond simply “meeting a budget” to forming stewards whose generosity fuels evangelization and works of mercy.
- **From scarcity to apostolic boldness:** In the spirit of Matthew 25, we courageously invest God’s gifts, trusting the Lord to multiply them for mission, with your active participation.
- **From siloed efforts to a unified mission:** Stewardship unites all of us—parishes, schools, and diocesan ministries—around the common goals of encounter, accompaniment, and sending.

WHAT YOUR DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL GIFT MAKES POSSIBLE

- **Diocesan Annual Appeal activities:** Staff, printing, postage, digital tools/CRM, video production, promotion, and donor care that support a clear, compelling invitation to mission.
- **Planned giving services:** Education, consultations, and resources to help families create legacies (such as bequests, beneficiary designations, and other options) that support the Church’s mission for decades.
- **Parish and curia support:** Coaching, campaign and event coordination, appeals strategy, and analytics that enable pastors and leaders to focus on forming disciples.
- **Year-round stewardship formation:** Retreats, small-group resources, and parish toolkits that foster a culture of gratitude, service, and sacrificial giving.

Your participation in the Diocesan Annual Appeal is a concrete “yes” to Jesus’ mandate—“As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” By supporting the Office for Stewardship & Development, you help our local Church form generous disciples, fund our mission, and spread the Gospel to every parish, household, and community throughout the Diocese of La Crosse.

OFFICE FOR TEMPORALITIES

“As the Father has sent me, so I send you” (John 20:21). Mission requires solid foundations. The Office for Temporalities supports that mission by stewarding the people, places, and processes that bring the Gospel to life in parish communities. Covering Finance, Human Resources, diocesan buildings and grounds, Shared Services, Parish Administrative Support Services (PASS), Parish Auditing, and Holy Cross Diocesan Center Maintenance, this office helps pastors and ministries focus more on their mission—allowing sacramental life, evangelization, and works of mercy to flourish.

HOW DOES YOUR DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL GIFT FORM AND SEND MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

- **Freeing pastors for people:** PASS, Finance, HR, and Auditing support reduce administrative burdens, so clergy and parish leaders can spend more time accompanying families and evangelizing.
- **Spaces that send:** Well-maintained churches, chapels, and gathering spaces (including the Cathedral and the Holy Cross campus) host confirmations, OCIA rites, retreats, trainings, and events that form and commission disciples.
- **Credible stewardship:** Transparent financial management and audits foster trust—converting generosity into fuel for mission in every parish.
- **Hospitality for ministry:** Reliable facilities, technology, and shared services allow diocesan offices and Catholic Charities to serve the poor, form leaders, and coordinate outreach across the Diocese.

ADVANCING BISHOP BATTERSBY’S VISION — PIVOTING FROM MAINTENANCE TO MISSION

- **From fixing things to shaping people:** Operations focus on strengthening sacramental life, evangelization, and leadership development— not just maintaining buildings.
- **From silos to collaboration:** Centralized services foster scale and consistency, enabling parishes to share resources and advance together on mission.
- **From short-term fixes to long-term testimony:** Your proactive planning, campus care, and sustainability practices protect our ability to serve and send for decades, showing your long-term commitment to the mission of the Church.

WHAT YOUR DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL GIFT MAKES POSSIBLE

- **Lay Employees’ Retirement Plan stewardship:** Caring for those who have served the Church. The frozen plan (effective December 31, 2006) supports 227 active employees, 220 deferred vested employees, and 956 beneficiaries, a concrete sign that the Church accompanies its workers with justice and gratitude. This plan ensures that our dedicated employees, who have devoted their lives to serving the Church, are well cared for in their retirement years.
- **St. Joseph the Workman Cathedral—operations and maintenance:** Support for the Mother Church where diocesan liturgies (Chrism Mass, ordinations, major celebrations) gather the faithful and send them forth.

- **Holy Cross Diocesan Center—operations and maintenance:** Providing daily support for the Curia and Catholic Charities across more than 99 rooms, including offices, conference spaces, Christ the King Chapel, Crypt Chapel, St. Martha’s Kitchen and Refectory, and a gym—fueling training sessions, retreats, leader meetings, formation days, TV Mass productions, and more.
- **Mission & ministry venues:**
 - Refectory: Priest Unity Days, clergy conferences, donor gatherings, Jubilee Wedding celebrations, Catholic Schools in-services, Casa Hogar Dinner, and diocesan formation events.
 - Bishop’s Common Room & Riverview Room: Councils, boards, deanery meetings, Bible studies, and ministry collaborations (Catechesis & Evangelization, Consecrated Life, Vocations, Safe Environment, Family Life, Catholic Charities, and partners).
- **Fields and facilities for the community:** Gym and ball fields used by Aquinas, Western Technical College, and the Warriors Drum & Bugle Corps—strengthening Catholic education and community ties.
- **Emergency readiness & community care:** Holy Cross partners with the La Crosse County Health Department as a family-assistance site in a mass-casualty response—placing our campus at the service of mercy.
- **Creation care and campus stewardship:** Mississippi-shore grounds maintained safely and beautifully—providing habitat for wildlife and a welcoming space for prayer, formation, and hospitality—through consistent, year-round upkeep.

Your participation in the Diocesan Annual Appeal brings Jesus’ mandate—“As the Father has sent me, so I send you”—to life by forming, equipping, and sending out missionary disciples. By supporting the Office for Temporalities, you play a crucial role in shaping the future of the Church, ensuring that every dollar, building, and system serves one purpose: to keep the Church on mission in every parish and community of the Diocese of La Crosse.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION

OFFICE FOR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

“As the Father has sent me, so I send you” (John 20:21). Our Catholic schools are about more than just buildings and schedules—they are dedicated to forming and sending out missionary disciples. Through the Diocesan Annual Appeal, the Office of the Superintendent empowers principals, teachers, staff, students, and families to answer Jesus’ commissioning and to support Bishop Battersby’s call to shift from maintenance to mission. Serving 64 diocesan parish schools and unified Catholic school systems, the office helps plan, implement, and evaluate Catholic education so that academic excellence remains inseparable from Catholic identity and evangelizing purpose.

HOW DOES YOUR DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL GIFT FORM AND SEND MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

- **Developing missionary educators:** Workshops and in-service training for teachers, administrators, and parents ensure classroom leaders are also shepherding students into a living relationship with Christ and a life of service in His Church.
- **Strengthening Catholic identity:** Standardized Religion assessment, curriculum support, and guidance on Catholic identity help schools teach the faith clearly and confidently—so worship at the altar becomes a witness in the world.
- **Freeing leaders to focus on their mission:** Monitoring state and national policies and advising on legal and operational issues removes obstacles, allowing principals and pastors to dedicate more time to forming disciples and reaching families.

ADVANCING BISHOP BATTERSBY’S VISION — PIVOTING FROM MAINTENANCE TO MISSION

- **From compliance to calling:** Operational burdens are lifted so leaders can focus on evangelization, discipleship, and family outreach.
- **From subject mastery to integrated formation:** At our schools, academic rigor and Catholic identity move in tandem, forming whole persons who know, love, and follow Jesus.
- **From isolated classrooms to a missionary network:** Best practices and shared resources across 64 schools and systems amplify our impact and foster a culture of encounter, accompaniment, and sending, showing the strength of our Catholic community.

WHAT YOUR DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL GIFT MAKES POSSIBLE

- **6,883 students (2024–25):** Your contribution to the Diocesan Annual Appeal will directly impact these students, providing them with daily formation where faith and learning come together—an ever-present mission field.
- **Catholic Schools Development funds:** Your donations will provide training and support to strengthen academic growth and maintain school strength, ensuring that evangelization can flourish in our schools.

- **Direct Parish Subsidy for Catholic Schools:** Your donations will provide concrete support for parishes that sacrifice to sustain Catholic education, honoring their crucial role in shaping young disciples.
- **Tuition Assistance:** In 2024–25, \$96,504.00 from the Diocesan Annual Appeal supported families in keeping their children in Catholic schools—ensuring access to formation that unites classroom excellence with the call to missionary discipleship.

Your participation in the Diocesan Annual Appeal fuels a concrete “yes” to John 20:21— “As the Father has sent me, so I send you”—by supporting the people, programs, and resources that make our schools places where students encounter Christ, grow as disciples, and are sent to serve. In doing so, you help bring Bishop Battersby’s vision to life, pivoting from maintenance to mission in every classroom, parish, and community throughout the Diocese.

FOCUS CAMPUS MINISTRIES

“As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” (John 20:21)

FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students) is forming missionary disciples on four campuses in the Diocese of La Crosse—UW–Stout, UW–Eau Claire, UW–Stevens Point, and UW–La Crosse. Through the Diocesan Annual Appeal: Fueling Missions of Hope, our local Church sends trained missionaries to accompany students in Bible studies, mentorship, prayer, and sacramental life—so they encounter Jesus Christ and learn to share the Gospel with peers.

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HOW DOES YOUR DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL GIFT FORM AND SEND MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

- **Peer-to-peer evangelization:** Missionaries invest in authentic friendships, lead small-group Scripture studies, and demonstrate daily discipleship—so students become evangelizers of their peers.
- **Accompaniment into the heart of the Church:** Students are encouraged to engage in prayer, the sacraments, and parish life, developing habits that extend beyond graduation into families, workplaces, and parishes throughout the diocese.
- **Leaders for mission:** One-on-one mentoring prepares students to lead small groups, share testimony, and serve—multiplying missionary disciples on campus and in our parishes.
- **Credible witness of mercy:** Pastoral care and healing communities help students trust the Church and the Gospel message, making evangelization believable among peers.

ADVANCING BISHOP BATTERSBY’S VISION — PIVOTING FROM MAINTENANCE TO MISSION

- From chaplaincy-only to evangelizing movement: Your Appeal support is crucial in shifting us from merely maintaining programs to actively sending missionaries who seek out the lost and invite them to conversion on secular campuses.
- **From chaplaincy-only to evangelizing movement:** Your Appeal support shifts us from merely maintaining programs to actively sending missionaries who seek out the lost and invite them to conversion on secular campuses.
- **From isolated efforts to diocesan strategy:** We align campus outreach with the broader Church, connecting local generosity to a mission that enhances Catholic witness in public life and beyond. Your support helps us move from isolated efforts to a coordinated, impactful strategy, making you a key part of our mission.
- **From hesitation to hope:** By nurturing communities of prayer, integrity, and mercy, students develop the confidence to go forth as witnesses—renewing parish life both now and after graduation. Your support helps transform students from hesitant to hopeful, inspiring them to live out their faith with confidence.

WHAT YOUR DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL GIFT MAKES POSSIBLE

- **Missionary presence on four campuses:** Supports FOCUS teams at UW–Stout, UW–Eau Claire, UW–Stevens Point, and UW–La Crosse—placing intentional disciples at the core of student life.

- **Discipleship pathways:** Include Bible studies, mentorship, retreats, RCIA accompaniment, and leadership development that prepare students to live out and share their faith.
- **Participation in the broader Church's mission:** Connects our campus evangelization with diocesan, statewide, national, and universal efforts—enhancing Catholic unity and outreach. Your support is a vital part of this larger mission, making you an integral part of the Church's outreach.

Your participation in the Diocesan Annual Appeal is a concrete “yes” to Jesus’ command: “As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” By supporting FOCUS Campus Ministries, you help our diocesan family form, unite, and send out missionary disciples—from our pews to our campuses and to the ends of the earth. We are deeply grateful for your past support and look forward to your continued partnership in this vital mission.

Support For The Wider Church

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

“As the Father has sent me, so I send you” (John 20:21). Catholic Charities, the Church’s evangelizing charity in action, can proclaim Christ’s Gospel of life, promote human dignity, and strengthen families, thanks to the support from the Diocesan Annual Appeal. In a year marked by rising needs, your gift helps keep essential services low- or no-fee, turning compassion into a tangible mission across our 19 counties.

HOW DOES YOUR DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL GIFT FORM AND SEND MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

- **Mercy that evangelizes:** Parish-connected outreach (rent, utilities, food, advocacy, financial education) addresses urgent needs and opens doors to prayer, accompaniment, and community—where healing can grow into discipleship.
- **Stability that restores vocation:** Our housing, case management, and representative payee services are not just about providing a roof over someone's head. They are about helping our neighbors regain stability—so parents, students, and workers can live their baptismal mission.
- **Families and newcomers are welcomed:** Hague-accredited adoption services, pregnancy support, and immigration legal assistance safeguard life, reunite families, and integrate newcomers into parish and community life.
- **Accompaniment for the vulnerable:** Disability services and sober living support preserve dignity and empower participants—and volunteers—to serve others as missionary disciples.

ADVANCING BISHOP BATTERSBY’S VISION — PIVOTING FROM MAINTENANCE TO MISSION

- **From programs to people:** Case management and mentoring focus on building trustful relationships, not just transactions—so charity becomes a way to connect, support, and empower.
- **From crisis to commissioning:** As lives stabilize, clients, volunteers, and parish partners are encouraged to give back, embodying John 20:21 through service and witness.
- **From silos to collaboration:** At Catholic Charities, we believe in the power of partnerships. We work with parishes, schools, civic agencies, and diocesan offices to maximize impact and prevent duplication—mission first.

WHAT YOUR DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL GIFT MAKES POSSIBLE

- **St. Lawrence Community Services:** provided \$276,882 in direct aid to 1,981 individuals, covering rent, utilities, food, transportation, and health needs—plus advocacy, financial literacy, and customized case plans.
- **Representative Payee Program:** 310 clients received budgeting support and payment management for rent, utilities, groceries, and essentials—restoring order and peace of mind.
- **Community Homeless Facilities:** 32,372 nights of shelter provided (2024); Sojourner House renovations completed, and a \$300,000 “Leap of Faith” campaign launched; Good Shepherd

Shelter in Wausau now operates 365 days a year with weekday Day Services; La Crosse Warming Center remains seasonal with added day services.

- **Beyond Shelter:** Long-term housing with case supervision in Wausau, Loyal (*House of Mercy*), and La Crosse—23 families housed in 2024—connecting residents to resources for sustainable independence.
- **Family Services Program (Adoption):** 46 adoption finalizations in 2024; the agency is Wisconsin’s only Hague-accredited provider for international adoptions; provides 24/7 confidential support for expectant parents and offers robust post-adoption resources.
- **Immigration Assistance:** Served 248 immigrants in 2024 with BIA-recognized, accredited staff and access to a contracted immigration attorney (including naturalization, adjustment, VAWA, referrals, and more).
- **Disability Services & Recovery Supports:** 10,402 staffing hours in 2024 across Adult, School, and After-School programs; partnerships (e.g., Bridges of Belonging, The Dwelling Place); and the Live By Program sober-living collaboration with La Crosse County.
- **Volunteers:** 937 volunteers dedicated 21,662 hours—an army of hope that keeps doors open and extends Christ’s mercy to the margins.

Your participation in the Diocesan Annual Appeal brings Jesus’ mandate— “As the Father has sent me, so I send you”—to life, enabling acts of mercy that form, restore, and send out missionary disciples. By supporting Catholic Charities through the Diocesan Annual Appeal, you help our Diocese pivot from maintenance to mission, ensuring the Gospel reaches those in greatest need—one neighbor, one family, one community at a time.

CHARITY, MISSIONS & THE WIDER CHURCH

“As the Father has sent me, so I send you” (John 20:21). Our Diocese is sent not only to local parishes but also to the universal Church and those on the margins around the world. Through the Diocesan Annual Appeal, we participate in Christ’s mission beyond our borders—supporting the Wisconsin Catholic Conference, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Holy See, and essential works of charity—so disciples are formed, united, and sent in solidarity.

HOW DOES YOUR DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL GIFT FORM AND SEND MISSIONARY DISCIPLES

- **Unity with the universal Church:** Your support for the Wisconsin Catholic Conference, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, and the Holy See is crucial. It helps these organizations carry out their missions, which in turn strengthen the Church's witness in public life and its global evangelization efforts.
- **A culture of generosity within the parish:** By combining various second collections, the Diocesan Annual Appeal allows pastors to dedicate Sundays to worship and mission while still fueling essential national and global outreach..
- **Credible mercy to the wounded:** Works of charity, including counseling and care for survivors) fosters a culture of protection, healing, and trust that makes evangelization believable.

ADVANCING BISHOP BATTERSBY’S VISION — PIVOTING FROM MAINTENANCE TO MISSION

- **From scattered asks to strategic sending:** The Diocesan Annual Appeal simplifies collections so parishes can focus on preaching, forming, and sending, while still supporting urgent needs across the broader Church.
- **From local-only to catholic (universal):** Your collaboration with national and global organizations transforms your local generosity into a powerful worldwide mission impact, a source of pride and inspiration for our parish community.
- **From hesitation to hope:** Your compassionate support for survivors reflects the Gospel’s mercy, restoring their confidence to go forth as witnesses, and instilling a sense of hope in our parish community.

WHAT YOUR DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL GIFT MAKES POSSIBLE

- **Support of the wider Church:** Your continued collaboration with the Wisconsin Catholic Conference, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, and the Holy See is not just a sign of unity and shared responsibility but a testament to your integral role in the mission of the Church.
- **Eleven special collections funded by the Diocesan Annual Appeal (reducing second collections in parishes):**
 - Collection for Aid for the Church in Central & Eastern Europe (CCEE)

- Catholic Relief Services (CRS)
- Black & Indian Missions
- Catholic Communications Campaign (CCC)
- Catholic Home Missions Appeal (CHMA)
- Catholic University of America
- Diocese of La Crosse Home Missions, including:
 - Fr. Joseph Walijewski Legacy Guild (Beatification; Casa Hogar in Peru)
 - Diocesan Social Ministries
- Pontifical Good Friday Collection (Holy Land)
- Collection for the Church in Latin America (CLA)
- Peter's Pence Collection
- **Works of Charity:** Your contributions to the Diocesan Annual Appeal fund a variety of essential works of charity. While certain restricted diocesan funds, such as those collected through the Appeal, cannot be used for clergy sexual misconduct claims, the Works of Charity Fund has occasionally provided assistance with treatment and care for survivors as they seek healing—an expression of the Church's pastoral compassion.

Your participation in the Diocesan Annual Appeal is a concrete “yes” to Jesus’ mandate— “As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” By supporting Charity, Missions, and the Wider Church, you help our diocesan family unite, accompany, and send out missionary disciples—from our pews to the ends of the earth.

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