

Dear <<Salutation>>,

Grace and peace to you in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ!

On the evening of the Resurrection, the Lord stood among His disciples and said, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” (John 20:21). In these words, Jesus entrusts His mission to all of us. Now, more than ever, I invite our entire Diocese to make a deliberate pivot to mission—renewing our parishes, schools, families, and hearts so that everyone can encounter Jesus Christ more profoundly.

Our Diocesan Annual Appeal is a concrete way we come together to enable this shift. Your participation in this mission is vital as we strive to spread the Gospel of hope throughout our Diocese.

This year’s theme—Fueling Missions of Hope—reminds us that the Holy Spirit’s work among us is “fueled” by the prayers, sacrifices, and generosity of Christ’s faithful. Your self-gift and financial encouragement empower ministries that:

- Form and support our seminarians, deacons, and priests;
- Strengthen evangelization, parish and school faith formation, and campus ministry;
- Equip parish leaders and households to become missionary disciples;
- Accompany families, youth, and the vulnerable with pastoral care;
- Extend Christ’s mercy through outreach that serves those in crisis.

It’s important to remember that no single parish can undertake these efforts alone. But when each of us offers a prayerful, sacrificial gift—regardless of the amount—our collective offering becomes hope made visible: a classroom where a child learns to pray, a visit to someone who is suffering, a vocation nurtured, a heart returning to the Lord. This is how, together, we pivot to mission. Your contribution, regardless of its size, is a vital part of this collective effort, uniting us in our shared mission.

As your bishop, I am asking each household to take three simple missionary steps this year: Pray—intercede daily for one person, Give—your time and talent, and make a generous, sacrificial gift to the 2025–2026 Annual Appeal if you are able; your gift directly fuels evangelization and works of mercy, and Witness—invite someone to Mass, accompany a neighbor in need, and share joyfully the reason for your hope in Jesus Christ. These steps serve as a roadmap for your participation in our mission.

Please consider making a generous gift this year. You can use the enclosed envelope to send your gift or visit diolc.org/stewardship to make a secure online donation or learn how to give an RMD/QCD, stock, or harvest gift. Every gift is an act of missionary discipleship that extends the light of Christ farther than any of us could reach alone.

Please be assured of my daily prayers for you and your loved ones. May the Risen Lord’s peace dwell in your homes, and may the Holy Spirit send us anew to our neighbors with the hope of the Gospel.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

<<signature>>

+Bishop Gerard W. Battersby
Bishop of La Crosse