

Spring Educator Gathering

March 6, 2026

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church and McDonell Catholic Schools in Chippewa Falls

8:00 Rosary (optional)
8:30 Mass
9:30 Chalice of Mercy Presentation
10:35 Move to first break out
10:45 First break out
12:00 Lunch
1:00 Second break out
2:15: Move to church or chapel
2:20: Closing Prayer
2:30: End

Main Morning Session – 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Valentyna Pavsyukova, renowned speaker, Chippewa Falls resident, and founder of [Chalice of Mercy](#), will talk about her work in Ukraine and the hope she is finding in the many people she encounters. Through her mission, she seeks to awaken hope and love, to reflect God's Light in a land that has known too much darkness. The initiatives of Chalice of Mercy are carried out in close collaboration with the Catholic Kharkivsko-Zaporizhzhyska Diocese.

The main hope of Chalice of Mercy is not only to help temporally in all these projects, because all these works are meaningless by themselves if they don't talk about a bigger love: The love of the Heavenly Father who sent His only Son for us to know how much we belong to God who is unceasingly calling us to holiness and how much united we are with one another.

Break-out Sessions (You will pick two)

Servant of God Sister Thea Bowman, FSPA – “Going Home Like a Shooting Star”

Born in Canton Mississippi and a professed Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration in La Crosse, Sister Bowman used her powerful voice to educate, evangelize, and call the Church to greater racial inclusion. Through her gifts of preaching, music, and teaching, she challenged Catholics to confront racism while encouraging her African American brothers and sisters to embrace and share their “fully functioning” personhood. She proclaimed this message with boldness and grace until her death in 1990.

Blessed Solanus Casey, OFM Cap. – “Thank God Ahead of Time”

Presented by Jack Felsheim

Blessed Solanus Casey, a Wisconsin native whose humble witness of gratitude, trust in God, and service to the poor still speaks powerfully to us today. By learning about his life and the times he lived in, you will be inspired and equipped with practical ways to bring his spirituality—especially the call to “Thank God Ahead of Time”—into your classroom and school community.

Servant of God Father Joseph Walijewski – “A Pencil in our Lord’s Hand”

Presented by Father Kyle Laylan

A priest of the Diocese of La Crosse, “Padre Jose” as his Peruvian parishioners would lovingly call him, was inspired to provide shelter for the many abandoned children he encountered while serving in the streets near Lima. His life of heroic virtue has inspired many to see the face of God in everyone they meet. Many know him by his lasting mission Casa Hogar.

Venerable Father Samual Mazzuchelli, OP – “God’s Builder”

Presented by Pat Conley

Born in Milan in 1806 and a descendent from a prominent Italian family, young Samual joined the Dominican Order of Preachers and came to America at age 22. He served the native tribes and new immigrant settlers in the area around the southwest part of Wisconsin, building more than 24 churches and civic buildings (St. Gabrial in Prairie du Chien is one) before his death in 1864.

Venerable Bishop Frederic Baraga – “The Snowshoe Priest”

Traveling the length and breadth of the Great Lakes, this Slovenian born priest ministered to the Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. He established a mission at LaPointe in 1835 on the northern shores of Wisconsin and ministered to many in the territory later to be part of the Diocese of La Crosse. His legacy includes a three-volume diary and 20 Native American books, some of which are still in use today.

Blessed Brother James Miller, FSC – “Brother. Teacher. Missionary. Martyr”

Presented by Father Tom Lindner

Born on a farm near Stevens Point, he found his calling as a Christian Brother and was recognized for his ability to repair and maintain the school where he was assigned in Minnesota. Later, his assignment would take him to Central America to work and teach at one of the Brothers’ schools, eventually leading to his murder at the hands of the Guatemalan military.