DIOCESE *of* LACROSSE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

November 9, 2026
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Vatican Theologians Unanimously Affirm Cause of Father Joseph Walijewski

Statement of the Most Reverend Gerard W. Battersby

With gratitude to Almighty God, I am pleased to announce that I have been informed that the Theological Congress of the Vatican's Dicastery for the Causes of Saints has concluded its review of the Cause for Canonization of Father Joseph Walijewski. This marks a significant milestone and an important step forward in the advancement of his Cause.

The nine members of the Theological Congress carefully examined the documentation and theological considerations associated with the life, heroic virtue, reputation for holiness, and intercessory power of our Servant of God, Father Joseph Walijewski, and unanimously returned a favorable vote, affirming the merits presented for their consideration. This positive outcome allows the Cause to proceed to the next stage of the process, which involves consideration of the *Positio* by the Cardinals and Bishops who are members of the Dicastery. While additional steps remain, the favorable vote of the Theological Congress represents a noteworthy affirmation and source of encouragement.

Receiving this news on November 6 was especially providential as we gathered that evening to celebrate the legacy of Father Joseph Walijewski and the work of Casa Hogar Juan Pablo II. It is a moment of thanksgiving for all who have worked diligently and prayed for the advancement of his Cause. We are grateful for the dedicated work of the theological experts, the dedication of those who have promoted the Cause, and the many faithful whose prayers continue to accompany this journey.

We give thanks to God, whose grace was evident in Father Joe's priestly ministry and continues to bear fruit today through the lives he touched and the mission he inspired. I invite the faithful to continue praying for the successful advancement of the Cause according to God's holy will.

Most Reverend Gerard W. Battersby
Bishop of the Diocese of La Crosse

Information on the canonization process: frjoesguild.org/faq

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