



Chancery Bulletin - Vol. 11, No. 5.2 | May 12, 2026

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Officials

The Most Reverend Gerard W. Battersby, D.D., Bishop of La Crosse, makes the following announcements:

Deacon **Kevin V. DeCook**, serving as Deacon at Notre Dame Parish in Chippewa Falls, is also appointed to serve at Holy Ghost Parish and St. Charles Borromeo Parish both in Chippewa Falls, St. Bridget Parish in Springfield and St. Peter Parish in Tilden, effective July 1, 2026.

Deacon **Mark A. Grunwald**, serving as Deacon at Holy Family Parish in Prairie du Chien, is also appointed to serve at St. Wenceslaus Parish in Eastman and Sacred Heart Parish in Wauzeka, effective July 1, 2026.

Deacon **Sean D. Hanson**, serving as Deacon at Holy Ghost Parish and Notre Dame Parish, both in Chippewa Falls, and St. Bridget Parish in Springfield, is also appointed to serve at St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Chippewa Falls and St. Peter Parish in Tilden, effective July 1, 2026.

Deacon **William J. Holzhaeuser**, serving as Deacon at Holy Spirit Parish in Stevens Point is also appointed to serve at St. Joseph Parish and St. Stephen Parish, both in Stevens Point, effective July 1, 2026.

Deacon **Michael E. Horgan**, serving as Deacon at St. Joseph Parish and St. Stephen Parish, both in Stevens Point, is also appointed to serve at Holy Spirit Parish in Stevens Point, effective July 1, 2026.

Deacon **Richard A. Letto**, serving as Deacon at Holy Spirit Parish in Stevens Point, is also appointed to serve at St. Joseph Parish and St. Stephen Parish, both in Stevens Point, effective July 1, 2026.

Deacon **Daniel J. Rider**, serving as Deacon at St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Chippewa Falls and St. Peter Parish in Tilden, is also appointed to serve at Notre Dame Parish and Holy Ghost Parish, both in Chippewa Falls, and St. Bridget Parish in Springfield, effective July 1, 2026.

Deacon **Anthony F. Shay**, serving as Deacon at Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Viroqua and St. Mary Parish in Coon Valley, is also appointed to serve at St. Aloysius Parish in Hillsboro and St. Jerome Parish in Wonewoc, effective July 1, 2026.

Deacon **Michael J. Schaefer**, serving as Deacon at St. Mary Help of Christians Parish in Colby, is also appointed to serve at St. Louis Parish in Dorchester and St. Bernard Parish in Abbotsford, effective July 1, 2026.

Mr. **Emilio B. Alvarez**, upon ordination to the Diaconate, will be appointed to serve as Director of Campus Ministry at Viterbo University, effective June 6, 2026.

Mr. **Patrick C. Brueggen**, upon ordination to the Diaconate, will be appointed to serve as Deacon at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Holmen, effective June 6, 2026.

Mr. **Jonathon P. Burbach**, upon ordination to the Diaconate, will be appointed to serve as Deacon at Queen of the Apostles Parish in Tomah, effective June 6, 2026.

Mr. **Patrick C. Conley**, upon ordination to the Diaconate, will be appointed to serve as Deacon at St. Bernard-St. Hedwig Parish in Thorp and Holy Rosary Parish in Owen, effective June 6, 2026.

Mr. **Randall J. Myszka**, upon ordination to the Diaconate, will be appointed to serve as Deacon at St. John the Baptist Parish in Edgar and Holy Family Parish in Poniatowski, effective June 6, 2026.

Mr. **James P. Nowicki**, upon ordination to the Diaconate, will be appointed to serve as Deacon at St. Anthony de Padua Parish in Athens and St. Thomas Parish in Milan, effective June 6, 2026.

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Chancery Office

Chancellor Rev. Msgr. William Dhein | wdhein@diolc.org

No items this week.

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Rebuild My Church

Director: Fr. Derek Sakowski | dsakowski@diolclergy.org

For Your Communications, May 23-24:

There are two basic modes by which the Church engages the wider society in its mission to build the Kingdom of God: an apostolic mode and a Christendom mode. Different circumstances in society demand different strategies. Watch this video from Prime Matters for a deep dive on both of these strategies: [Christendom and Apostolic Modes of Engagement](#).



For Your Communications, May 16-17:

May is Mental Health Awareness Month. Let us look to our Blessed Mother and St. Joseph to teach us how to prioritize the things that matter most. This article from CatholicPsych breaks down elements of St. Pope John Paul II's encyclical on St. Joseph the Worker: [Lessons from JP II on St. Joseph](#).



You can [stay updated by clicking here](#) or by scanning the QR code to the right.

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Office for Catechesis & Evangelization

Director: Ann Lankford | alankford@diolc.org

Training for Accompanying Aging Populations | June 8 - 11, 2026 | 12 pm - 3 pm

Whether you serve aging parishioners navigating memory loss, support families caring for elderly loved ones or simply want your parish to be a place of belonging across every season of life, the National Catholic Partnership on Disability (NCPD) is offering a summer intensive designed for every parish. This year, the focus is accompanying aging populations.

Any adult who is interested in receiving this online training will be asked to pay \$10, with the ministry for persons with special needs through the Office for Catechesis and Evangelization covering \$65 of the total cost of \$75.

Too often, older adults, and persons who love them, feel unseen or unsupported in their faith communities. This intensive is a chance to change that—equipping parishioners with practical tools and a deeper theological foundation to meet aging populations where they are. Don't miss this helpful training. For more information, [click here](#). Contact Ann Lankford at alankford@diolc.org to register.

(Reminder) Bulletin Insert: 250th Anniversary!

Consecrating Our Country to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

You are invited to join in a historic moment. As part of the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the birth of our nation, the bishops of the United States will consecrate our country to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The consecration, which is a "setting apart" and blessing for us and our nation, will take place on June 11th, 2026. A bulletin insert that provides further details, explains the consecration and includes the Act of Consecration, is available in a PDF and JPG by [clicking here](#).

(Reminder) Bulletin Announcement: A New Series

A new series for the weekly bulletin will include a Catholic word or phrase that many people may have an idea of what it means, but a clear and simple definition would be helpful for deeper understanding. The first entry:

A Catholic Phrase to Understand Better: The "Good News"

The "Good News" is that God has come to us in the Person of His Son. Jesus came to save us from sin and, by the power of the Holy Spirit acting through the Church, to re-unite us with Himself as His adopted sons and daughters called to live with Him

forever in Heaven.

Catechetical Leader Information:

Word of Life Textbook Series: Recording Available

If you would like to listen to the webinar - interactive discussion with two presenters from the Augustine Institute, please contact Beth at bjohnson@diolc.org. It is helpful to hear what makes this textbook series different and why it is bearing good fruit with children.

(Reminder) Clergy:

If a pastor would like information on the benefits to be offered in hiring a new catechetical leader for 30 hours or more, please contact Ann at your earliest convenience.

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Office for Communications

Director: Erik Archer | earcher@diolc.org

Parish [Roundtable Registration Open](#):

Locations have been selected and we're only now waiting to confirm a few parish hosts. The schedule and confirmed locations are below. Please register by May 21st to help us build prep-packets and allow the hosting parishes to adequately prepare.

Register by [clicking on this link](#).

Tuesday, Jun 2nd: Morning - St. Patrick in Onalaska at 9:00am

Wednesday, Jun 3rd: Morning - Immaculate Conception in Eau Claire at 10:30am / Afternoon - Holy Family in Arcadia at 2:00pm

Thursday Jun 4th: Morning - St. Michael in Wausau at 10:15am / Afternoon - St. Wenceslaus in Milladore at 1:30pm

Friday, Jun 5th: Morning: St. Joseph in Kendall at 10:30am

You may see this question on the survey: The bulletin has gone to print. You immediately notice an error. This is: A) Tuesday. B) A tradition older than the parish itself. C) Fine. It keeps the homily interesting and Father on his toes when he has to weave in a public correction. D) The third this month, which has now already been offered to Our Lady of Perpetual Revision

As always, we are grateful to all those who make space and time to join their fellow parish secretaries for time together and a chance to share thoughts and wisdom.

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Office for Consecrated Life

Director: Sr. Donna Krzmarzick, ISSM | dkrzmarzick@diolc.org

No items this week.

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Office for the Diaconate

Director: Deacon Robert Riedl | rriedl@diolclergy.org

No items this week.

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Office for Marriage & Family Life

Director: Christopher Rogers | crogers@diolc.org

Update 50th Wedding Anniversary Update for Parish Staff

Please note we have updated the time for the Legacy of Love Anniversary Mass and Celebration happening on June 21, 2026 at St. Bronislava from 1:00pm to 2:00pm. The Masses on July 19 and August 9 will still begin at 1:00pm.

For Your Parish Bulletin:

(Reminder) "Legacy of Love: Celebrating Decades of Married Life."

We are pleased to introduce a new way of celebrating wedding anniversaries in our diocese! Couples celebrating milestone anniversaries 10th, 20th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th, 70th, or 80th will be invited to participate in "Legacy of Love: Celebrating Decades of Married Life." This free event will begin with Mass and include pictures with Bishop Battersby followed by a simple reception. Each couple is invited to bring two guests with them.

Couples can register by following this [link](#), using the QR code to the right, calling Laura Boden at 608.791.2680 or emailing her at lboden@diolc.org.



(Reminder) Mass and Reception Dates:

June 21, 2026: **2:00pm (Updated Time)** at St. Bronislava Catholic Church, Plover

July 19, 2026: 1:00pm at St. Olaf Catholic Church, Eau Claire

August 9 2026: 1:00pm Holy Cross Diocesan Center, La Crosse

Couples celebrating their 50th, 60th, 70th, 80th anniversary will also receive a special packet by mail, including a certificate and a letter of congratulations. We look forward to honoring the beautiful witness of married life with you!

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Office for Ministries

Director: Christopher Ruff | cruff@diolc.org

No items this week.

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Office for Missions

Director: Father Woodrow Pace | wpace@diolc.org

No items this week.

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Office for Sacred Worship

Director: Christopher Carstens | ccarstens@diolc.org

No items this week.

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Office for Safe Environment

Director: Teresa Brown – 608.791.2679 | tbrown@diolc.org

DIOCESE OF LA CROSSE GUIDELINES FOR REPORTING INSTANCES OF CHILD ABUSE:

The Diocese of La Crosse, through its [policies and procedures](#), seeks to provide a prompt, appropriate and compassionate response to reporters of sexual abuse of a child by any diocesan agent (bishop, priest, deacon, employee, religious, vendor or volunteer). Anyone wishing to make a report of an allegation of sexual abuse should send that report to Mrs. Teresa Brown, Complaint Intake Agent, at the Diocese of La Crosse, P.O. Box 4004, La Crosse, WI 54602-4004. Alternatively, you can contact Mrs. Brown at 608.791.0179 or intakeagent@diolc.org. The reporting form is available through the Diocese of La Crosse Office of Safe Environment or on the diocesan website at: diolc.org/safe-environment/reporting. Individuals are also encouraged to take their reports directly to civil authorities. Copies of the diocesan policy are available through your local parish and on the [diocesan website](#). If you have any questions about the Diocese of La Crosse and the implementation of the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, please contact Teresa Brown, Diocese of La Crosse, at 608.791.2679 or tbrown@diolc.org.

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Office for Catholic Schools

Superintendent: Thomas Reichenbacher | treichenbacher@diolc.org

No items this week.

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Office for Social Concerns

Director: Christopher Ruff | cruff@diolc.org

No items this week.

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Office for Stewardship & Development

Director: Jeff Reiter – 608.791.2653 | jreiter@diolc.org

Diocesan Annual Appeal:

With the 2025-26 diocesan annual appeal closing in just weeks, if your parish is under goal, it is important to remind parishioners of their responsibility to support the ministries funded by the appeal.

Our final mailing of the appeal year will be sent out on May 22. The following criteria will be used as in years past: Parishes over goal will have only their LYBUNTS mailed, and any parish that was under goal on May 11, 2026, will have those who have not yet participated in this year's appeal mailed.

The [appeal portal](#) offers many tools and resources to help you promote the diocesan annual appeal. Funds received and postmarked after June 30th will be applied to next year's diocesan annual appeal.

Reminder: do not send parish funds to cover shortfalls. This practice distorts the reality of the appeal efforts and results. Parishes that are short will receive a billing from the finance office in August.

Stewardship Bulletin Reflections: [05/17/2026](#) - [05/24/2026](#) - [05/31/2026](#) - [06/07/2026](#)

Spanish Stewardship Reflections: [05/17/2026](#) - [05/24/2026](#) - [05/31/2026](#) - [06/07/2026](#)

Hmong Stewardship Reflections: [05/17/2026](#) - [05/24/2026](#) - [05/31/2026](#) - [06/07/2026](#)

Stewardship Homily Reflections: [05/17/2026-06/07/2026](#)

Stewardship Prayers of the Faithful For May 2026: [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Hmong](#)

(Reminder) Planned Giving Reflection:

May carries us deeper into the joy and mission of the Easter season. We hear Christ call His disciples to love one another as He has loved us, to trust that He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, the Advocate who remains with the Church. This month also leads us to the Ascension of the Lord, Pentecost Sunday, and the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity. In a month traditionally dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, we are reminded of her faithful “yes” to God and her quiet trust in His providence, inspiring us to deepen our faith and trust in God's plan.

As Catholics, we understand stewardship as our grateful response to all that God has given us. May's readings remind us that Christian stewardship flows from Easter faith. Because Christ has risen, we live with hope. Because He has gone before us to prepare a place, we entrust our lives and future to Him. Because the Holy Spirit has been poured into our hearts, we are strengthened to give generously, serve faithfully, and help carry the Church's mission forward. And because Mary teaches us to place everything in God's hands, we are invited to consider how our blessings can continue to bear fruit for others, even beyond our lifetime, fostering gratitude and community.

Legacy or Planned Giving is a meaningful way to live out this Easter faith and Marian trust. A bequest, endowment, or other planned gift is a final act of discipleship, gratitude, and confidence in God's providence. It enables parishioners to continue supporting the Church's mission, the care of souls, and charitable works even after they are called home to the Lord. In this way, planned giving becomes a lasting witness that everything we have comes from God and can continue to serve His people for generations to come.

The Diocese of La Crosse's Office for Stewardship and Development aims to educate and support stewardship across the diocesan community, assist parishes with their fundraising needs, and promote planned giving to make a lasting impact for future generations. Parishes and staff are encouraged to contact the Office for Stewardship and Development at 608.791.2653 or visit [here](#) for resources on legacy and planned giving, parish support, and stewardship materials. We are here to help you confidently plan a meaningful legacy that supports our shared mission.

(Reminder) Planned Giving Bulletin Insert:

If you wish for a different one than the one below, more ads and inserts can be found on the [appeal portal](#) or by contacting our office

(Reminder) Legacy Giving:

An Easter Act of Stewardship:

Throughout May, the Church celebrates the joy of Easter and the hope found in Christ's Resurrection. This month includes the Fifth and Sixth Sundays of Easter, the Ascension, Pentecost, and the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity. These days remind us that the Risen Christ calls us to love generously, trust in God's providence, and share our gifts to build His Church.

As disciples, we are called to live grateful, generous lives. One meaningful way to do this is through legacy or planned giving. A bequest or planned gift is a lasting expression of faith—a way to support your parish and the Church's mission for future generations, demonstrating that God's blessings can continue to bear fruit long after we are called home.

For more information about Legacy or Planned Giving, contact your parish office or the Office for Stewardship and Development at 608.791.2653, or visit [here](#).

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Office for Temporalities

Diocesan Finance Officer: Andy Brannon | abrannon@diolc.org

No items this week.

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Office for Vocations

Director of Vocations: Father Steven Weller 608.791.2666 | sweller@diolc.org

No items this week.

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Office for Vicar for Clergy

Director: Father Samuel Martin | smartin@diolc.org

No items this week.

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Office for Youth & Young Adult Ministry

Director: Christopher Rogers | crogers@diolc.org

No items this week.

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Events

As of May 12.

Sunday, May 17

All Day

Solemnity of the Ascension

11 AM – 3 PM

St. Olaf Parish Fun Fest - Eau Claire

St. Olaf Catholic Church, 3220 Monroe St,

Eau Claire

3 – 4 PM

Prism Concert "In Praise of Mary" - La Crosse

Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, 5250 Justin Rd., La Crosse

Friday, June 5

All Day

Married Love: Two Becoming One Retreat (Day 1/2)

St Mary's Catholic Church

To have your parish events listed on the diocesan calendar, diolc.org/calendar, and in *Catholic Life* magazine, please send an email to datebook@diolc.org. Make sure you include the following details: date, beginning/ending times, event location, description, menu and cost, etc. If you have any questions, please email Pam at pwiller@diolc.org for more information.

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