



## DIOCESE *of* LACROSSE

### OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

1 June 2021  
Year of St. Joseph

Dear Brothers in Christ,

May the Lord give you peace.

I extend my deep gratitude to each of you for the dedication, creativity and ministry that you have provided to the Diocese of La Crosse and the people of God over this past 14 months. I appreciate your efforts in making it possible for the faithful to stay connected to our Lord during this challenging time of the pandemic. We are blessed that the doors of churches are open and over the next weeks will have several opportunities to gather in prayer and celebration as we return to full worship.

On Thursday 24 June 2021 I invite you to join me for the Chrism Mass. The Mass will be at 10:00 am at St. Joseph the Workman Cathedral. This opportunity to come together in unity as brothers is especially significant this year. These past months of intentional physical distancing reminds us how Christ's loving touch transforms us through the sacraments. The blessing and consecration of the sacred oils invokes the Holy Spirit into our parishes to strengthen, heal and consecrate God's people. After the Chrism Mass we will join together for Priest Unity Days, more information on this will be sent to you from the Office of Clergy.

On Saturday 26 June 2021 I invite you to join me in celebration at 10:00 am at the St. Joseph the Workman Cathedral. With gratitude to God the Father we will ordain three deacons to the priesthood: Arturo Viguera Estrada, Timothy Matthew Reither and Eric Joseph Mashak. Ordained by the power of the Holy Spirit the new priests join our fraternity and begin their lives of generous service to the faithful of the Diocese.

Mass is our intimate encounter with Jesus. As we come together for these two special Masses I am happy to be receiving word that many parishes are experiencing an increase in weekend Mass attendance. On 14 June 2021 each household in the Diocese will receive a letter from me. The letter will announce that it is with open arms and a grateful heart that we will lift the current dispensation of the Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation for the Diocese of La Crosse

beginning on 26-27 June 2021. I invite, encourage and request the faithful, who are able and well, and who have not already done so, to return to in-person participation in the celebration of the Mass. Although the pandemic is not completely behind us, with the current positive trends it is vital for our spiritual lives to return to a regular reception of the sacraments, especially Sunday Mass. I do ask that we remain vigilant as we come together in helping everyone stay healthy and at peace.

I invite you to pray with me as we celebrate, united as one body, renewed in God's presence.

In the loving hearts of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, I am,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William Patrick Callahan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning.

+Bishop William Patrick Callahan