



DIOCESE *of* LACROSSE

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

4 February 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

May the Lord give you peace.

Throughout this pandemic we have seen where the discussion of wearing masks has become for some, a discussion about the execution of theological knowledge and for others a discussion about virological knowledge. We must not make the decision to wear a face mask about the right knowledge. Instead, we must call for consideration of another's experience as a way of showing Christ's love.

This past week the Wisconsin legislatures have taken up the task of the legality of the mask mandate, not only in the Senate and Assembly, but it is also being argued before the Wisconsin Supreme Court. As we await any decisions from Madison we are reminded that some form of mandate is also in place in many of our local communities. No matter what the decision might be or whether a local mandate is in place in your community in the Diocese of La Crosse I am asking that we continue to follow the guidelines for the Public Celebration of Masses. The guidelines not only include social distancing and reduced occupancy rates but also require face coverings be worn by all faithful participating in Masses, parish functions, and in our Catholic schools.

We are reminded throughout scripture the important message of caring for others. How well we endure in sacrificially serving the vulnerable is one of the greatest indicators of how deeply we have understood what Christ has done for us. Let us continue our work in Christ showing his love by caring for one another.

With personal good wishes and prayers, I am,

Very truly yours in Christ,

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Most Reverend William Patrick Callahan
Bishop of La Crosse