

Diocese of La Crosse

Diocesan Annual Appeal



Your Gift...God's Work...It Matters

CASE STATEMENT 2009-2010

	<u>2008-2009</u>	<u>2009-2010</u>	<u>Increase (Decrease)</u>
Appeal Disbursements	\$4,584,000.....	\$4,584,000.....	-0-
Appeal Expenses.....	<u>203,939.....</u>	<u>203,939.....</u>	<u>-0-</u>
Total Appeal Goal.....	\$4,787,939.....	\$4,787,939.....	\$ -0-

VOCATIONS, PRIESTS, & DEACONS..... \$872,000

Seminary Education & Religious Formation: \$385,000

23 seminarians

The responsibility, spiritually and financially, of providing sufficient priests for the Church belongs to all of us. There will be twenty-three young men engaged in seminary studies for our Diocese at college and theological seminaries in the Fall of 2009.

Ten young men are planning to attend the Holy Cross House of Formation during the Fall of 2009. The Holy Cross House of Formation provides a seminary program for high school-age seminarians.

Mater Redemptoris Convent House of Formation provides a similar program for young women ages 17-25 years old, with over 20 young women who have religious life and about 400 who have made a retreat or visited the House of Formation to learn about the Consecrated Life.

Vocations Promotion: \$12,000

These funds are used to help provide for posters, website development, and brochures for promoting vocations to the priesthood at a number of discernment retreats, rallies, and camps during the year for young people from middle school to adult.

Continuing Education of Clergy: \$85,000

Our priests need ongoing intellectual formation and regular spiritual enrichment. In order to help priests respond more effectively to the needs of their people, educational programs, retreats and sabbaticals are an absolute necessity. Funding is also needed to allow for the education of two priests in Canon Law to assist the Tribunal Office and with other needs of the Diocese. Furthermore, there are a number of priests working on advanced degrees so they can work with the Bishop to further the teaching mission of our Diocese.

Saint Joseph's Priest Fund: \$135,000***53 retired priests***

Many of our Diocesan priests serve well into their seventies, and some into their eighties. Many priests who receive the status of senior priest continue to help in parishes, hospitals, nursing homes and other community support services. Our senior priests deserve to live in security, free from financial worry. This fund provides senior priests with medical insurance and a monthly benefit for food, housing and essentials.

Diaconate Formation: \$55,000***21 men in Deacon Formation with several more to begin in the fall of 2009***

These funds are used for the education and formation of deacons for our Diocese. Permanent deacons assist the Bishop and priests by their ministry of charity to those who are suffering or on the margins of society through teaching, proclaiming the Gospel, assisting at the altar, and carrying out other various apostolic works.

International Priests: \$120,000***35 international priests serve in Diocesan parishes***

The training and support of our international priests for service in the parishes of the Diocese of La Crosse is not fully funded. With the shortage of Diocesan priests, the international priests serve a vital role in providing our Catholic communities with the celebration of the Eucharist and other sacraments in addition to the administration of many parishes.

Clergy Healthcare: \$80,000

The Diocese must ensure that all of our priest's medical needs are fully funded since insurance does not cover all of their medical needs. The Diocese is in need of more financial support due to rising health care costs and unfunded expenses, including some medications and long-term health care.

CHARITY, MISSIONS & THE WIDER CHURCH\$1,427,000**Catholic Charities: \$540,000**

Catholic Charities' mission is to proclaim Christ's gospel of life and promote human dignity by alleviating poverty and strengthening individuals and families. The Diocesan Annual Appeal enables Catholic Charities to provide many of its services on a reduced fee or no fee basis and to reduce its reliance on fluctuating government funding sources. Catholic Charities is working to expand its charitable works throughout the Diocese of La Crosse and to build closer partnerships with parish communities. Our gifts to the Diocesan Annual Appeal support:

Emergency Services***5,205 clients helped in 2008***

Persons living in poverty or facing severe life crises turn to Catholic Charities for help because often they have nowhere else to turn. In 2008, Catholic Charities had a 33%

increase in the number of people who came seeking help. Catholic Charities engages in this outreach to fulfill their missions to assist the poor and vulnerable thereby strengthening individuals and families by helping to make accessible those things required for human decency.

Birthparent Support and Adoption Services

119 adoptions

28 birth parents supported

3,539 persons participated in post-adoption services

Birthparents who face an unexpected pregnancy turn to Catholic Charities for counseling and information to help ensure that they make an informed decision about what is best for the child. These services are offered whether the birthparents decide to parent or to create an adoption plan. These services are free, confidential and are extended by professionals to all who seek help. This outreach fulfills our mission to proclaim the sanctity of human life; to promote families, and the capacity of individuals to grow in community.

Financial Counseling

1,160 new financial counseling sessions

370 people attended free educational sessions in the community

106 new debt management participants

179 housing counseling sessions

Financial difficulties can develop quickly and can be devastating to a family. Catholic Charities helps clients learn about credit and finances, develop a household budget, and manage their debt. Catholic Charities provides housing counseling to low-income individuals seeking to become first-time homebuyers, those facing foreclosure of their principal residence, and the elderly wanting to ensure comfort within their own homes. Catholic Charities Financial Counseling Services help create life choices that are more financially healthy and to assist people to achieve personal and societal well-being.

Domestic Violence Prevention

66 victims received direct services

63 crisis calls were received

64 information and referral calls were received

27 community and classroom events reached approximately 1,288 people

In Crawford County, Catholic Charities staffs a domestic violence prevention program. In cooperation with other community leaders, Catholic Charities supports those who are victims of domestic violence and provides the broader community with preventative educational resources. We recognize that peace and violence cannot dwell together, and where there is violence, God cannot be present. Catholic Charities engages in ministry to victims and families of domestic abuse to bring healing and restore lives so that God *can* be present.

HIV/AIDS Ministry Project***Providing services to people in the Marshfield, Stevens Point, Wausau, and Wisconsin Rapids Deaneries***

The purpose of the HIV/AIDS Ministry Project is to provide ongoing spiritual support, education, and outreach with and for persons living with HIV/AIDS and their families and friends in Central Wisconsin. Implementing the 1993 Pastoral Letter, "A Call for a Compassionate Presence," Catholic Charities engages in this program to fulfill our mission to protect human rights and dignity, to proclaim the sanctity of human life, and to stand in solidarity with those who may be marginalized by society.

Works of Charity: \$150,000

Natural disasters and personal tragedies are examples of situations that often require immediate assistance. Through this fund, the Diocese also assists state and national Catholic apostolates, which depend on charitable gifts for their survival. The Diocese of La Crosse has a policy that will not allow the use of parish, general Diocesan funds, or funds designated for specific apostolates for payment on clergy sexual misconduct claims. The Works of Charity Fund has occasionally and appropriately provided funds for the treatment and care of victims of such sinful misconduct as they seek compassion and healing.

Special Collections: \$532,000

By funding eleven special collections, the Diocesan Annual Appeal has reduced the number of collections being taken up in our parishes. These eleven collections are:

- Latin America
- Aid for the Church in Eastern Europe
- Peter's Pence
- American Bishops' Overseas Appeal
- Catholic Campaign for Human Development
- Diocese of La Crosse Home Missions, including Casa Hogar orphanage in Peru and Holy Cross Parish at Santa Cruz, Bolivia
- Catholic Home Missions
- Catholic University of America
- Holy Land
- Black and Indian Missions
- Catholic Communications

Support of the Wider Church: \$180,000

As Catholics, we belong to a Church much larger than our parish or Diocese. Catholics in the Diocese of La Crosse are committed to supporting the work of the Wisconsin Catholic Conference, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, and the Holy See.

Casa Hogar/Holy Cross Parish Lay Missionaries and Priests: \$25,000

The Mission Office of the Diocese of La Crosse coordinates support for Holy Cross Parish in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, where Father Robert Flock is pastor, and Casa Hogar Juan Pablo II, an orphanage in Lurin, Peru, founded by Father Joseph Walijewski and currently directed by Father Sebastian Kolodziejczyk. Lay people, including college and high school-age students, have participated in this missionary work.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION & FORMATION \$985,000**Bishop's Education Endowment Trust: \$82,000**

95 parishes and 27 parish schools have been awarded grants
7 Diocesan Catholic K-12 school systems have been awarded grants

The Bishop's Education Endowment Trust (BEET) provides parishes and schools with the opportunity to promote Catholic identity through Youth and Adult programs in Catechesis and Evangelization. This trust also funds special projects for our parish schools that they would otherwise have to forego. Each year the earnings from this trust are disbursed throughout the Diocese through a competitive grant application process. Last year \$108,030 was awarded. Since 2003 over \$558,000 in grants have been awarded to the above listed parishes and schools.

Catholic Schools Development: \$50,000

8,640 students in Catholic schools

Capital, infrastructure, and academic development are vital to ensuring that students in our Diocese will continue to receive a quality Catholic education. Funds are used to provide training and assistance to improve our 70 Catholic schools.

Direct Parish Subsidy for Catholic Schools: \$345,000

\$245,000 grants to parishes that support schools

\$100,000 tuition assistance to families with children in our schools

The Diocese of La Crosse takes pride in its strong tradition of quality Catholic education. Parishes that support schools frequently have to forego important projects and purchases to meet the financial demands of the schools. Since 2001, 56 parishes have received over \$1,408,000 in grants to help fund these expenditures.

Annually, about 75 families are awarded tuition assistance grants based on financial need. Since 2001, \$730,000 has been awarded to help these families keep their children in our Catholic schools.

Televised Mass: \$45,000

Through the televised Mass, thousands of temporarily or permanently homebound Catholics in our Diocese are able to view the Sunday Mass. This spiritual service is a tremendous comfort to those whose age or infirmity prevents them from going to their parish church for Mass. Although many viewers of the televised Mass contribute regularly to help pay for production and airtime, the costs are much greater than the contributions.

Lay Formation: \$35,000

More than 2,000 have participated in the Diocesan Faith Alive faith-sharing program

314 people enrolled in the Lay Formation Institute

26 enrolled in the Leader of Prayer Program

Many lay people of our Diocese work with our priests and deacons in various spiritual, educational and charitable ministries. The religious formation and education of the lay people help them in their parish and charitable ministries. Their service to the Church and their contributions are essential to the pastoral life of our parishes and other institutions.

Hmong Ministry: \$50,000***3,512 people assisted***

Over a thousand refugees from Laos have settled within the boundaries of our Diocese. These Catholic Hmong families are provided instruction in the faith, given assistance with sacramental celebrations, given assistance to the sick and those in need, and young people are encouraged to grow in their faith. Tuition assistance is also provided to needy Hmong families with children in Catholic schools.

Hispanic and Migrant Ministry: \$55,000***About 600 people assisted weekly***

Many Spanish-speaking Catholics live and work in our Diocese. To meet their spiritual needs, the Diocese provides Mass and other liturgical services in their native language and makes available Spanish catechetical materials. The Office of Ministries and Social Concerns helps coordinate these efforts, and is taking steps, in collaboration with Catholic Charities of the Diocese of La Crosse, to address a broad range of needs in the Hispanic community.

Golden Wedding Anniversary Celebration: \$10,000

Three regional Masses, held throughout the Diocese, are celebrated by Bishop ListECKI to commemorate Golden Wedding anniversaries.

Natural Family Planning: \$21,000***Over 1,700 individuals access NFP services annually******Over 2,500 parents and youth attend presentations annually***

The Diocese of La Crosse offers Natural Family Planning (NFP) that assists married couples plan their families in accord with God's will. Under the auspices of the Office of Family Life, 21 certified instructors provide classes and presentations on fertility awareness, marital chastity, and natural family planning. For more information about Natural Family Planning, visit the NFP and Parent Place web pages on the Diocesan website.

Marriage Preparation & Marriage Enrichment: \$20,000

The Office of Family Life coordinates with deaneries and parishes to provide marriage preparation and marriage enrichment throughout the Diocese. In 2010, the Office anticipates the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Letter on Marriage.

Ministry with Persons with Special Needs: \$5,000***Over 150 individual people with special needs assisted******Over 350 teachers and catechists trained***

The Ministry offers assistance to schools and parishes, and provides training and resources so people with special needs will feel welcome in every parish and school. The MPSN program received national recognition through the national Catholic Office for Persons with Disabilities in 1996. Representatives from the Diocese of La Crosse have presented the model of success for ministry with people with special needs to national gatherings.

Support of Scout Chaplains: \$5,000

Boy and Girl Scout Councils provide young people with moral guidance, spiritual support, and positive adult role models during the formative years of their lives. Summer camps, where chaplains provide spiritual guidance and counseling, are an important part of the Scouting experience.

High School Faith Formation: \$12,000

Confirmed young people need high school programs that will help them continue their faith journey in the Catholic Church, discern their vocation in life, and prepare for adult responsibilities.

Communication and *The Catholic Times*: \$250,000

Upon the recommendation of the Presbyteral Council and the Diocesan Finance Council, the Bishop has approved a change of the funding strategy for communicating with parishioners. The Diocesan Annual Appeal subsidizes half of *The Catholic Times*' subscription costs and operating expenses. The purpose of this change is to create equity among all 165 parishes in regard to the funding of the paper and to make *The Catholic Times* available on the Diocesan website.

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE \$255,000**St. Joseph the Workman Cathedral Operations & Maintenance: \$75,000**

Dedicated in 1962, St. Joseph the Workman Cathedral is the Mother Church of the Diocese of La Crosse. Due to the Cathedral's role in Diocesan celebrations and liturgies, the Diocese assumes responsibility for a portion of the expenses of the Mother Church of the Diocese.

Holy Cross Diocesan Center Building Operations & Maintenance: \$100,000

25 apartments for retired and active priests

270 events and meetings held per year

The Holy Cross Diocesan Center is a multi-functional facility that houses the offices of the Diocesan Curia, Catholic Residential Services, the Catholic Charities Offices, and Holy Cross Seminary House of Formation, Christ the King Chapel, St. Martha's Kitchen, Refectory, 25 apartments for active and retired priests, guest rooms, a gym, and Elm Grove Day Care. Having a centralized location for Diocesan offices and the capacity to accommodate large groups is cost efficient, both in terms of money saved not having to rent space and staff hours saved by not having to travel between locations for meetings and events.

In the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2010, \$100,000 will be designated to help cover increased energy and building upkeep costs and to help make up for a decrease in endowment income due to very low interest rates, which are the result of the economic downturn. During this fiscal year, the facility is being used for more than 270 meetings, conferences, events and activities, including:

Refectory (Dining Room): Priest Unity Days, Diocesan Annual Appeal donor receptions, Jubilee Wedding Anniversary celebration, new teacher formation and in-service, school administrators meetings, deacons meetings, Casa Hogar Dinner, Catholic Charities' Lenten luncheon, Place of Grace dinner, Ecumenical Scout awards banquet, Catholic Charities seminars, Catholic Residential Services meetings, Seminarian reunions, NET retreats, and Tri-State AA quarterly meetings.

Bishop's Common Room: Meetings held by Aquinas Foundation Board, Deacon Community Board, Catholic Hospital Administrators, La Crosse Deanery of Special Religious Education, Rural Life Committee, Presbyteral Council, Pastoral Planning Committee and Subcommittees. Bible study. Curia staff in-services.

Riverview Room and Owl Room: Meetings held by Catechesis & Evangelization, Consecrated Life, Vocations, Safe Environment, Diocese & Viterbo Collaborative Committee, Catholic Cemeteries, Catholic Charities, Catholic Residential Services, Home Study Course, St. Joseph Priest Fund, Youth Ministry and NET teams.

Christ the King Chapel: TV Mass filming. First Friday Masses. Masses for Hmong, Hispanics and MPSN (Ministry for Persons with Special Needs).

Gym and Ball Field: The gym is used by Aquinas High School, Western Technical College, a Catholic men's basketball league, and the Warriors Drum and Bugle Corps. The ball field is used for Aquinas baseball and football games and practices.

Buildings and Grounds - Consultative Services for Parishes and Schools: \$80,000

854 parish and school buildings

This Office assists the Bishop and pastors of the 165 parishes to execute the many facets of facilities administration. This Office plays a key role in helping the Diocese comply with governmental regulations regarding its 854 buildings by providing parishes with direct assistance regarding asbestos and other environmental matters. It also provides professional consultation on building design, construction management and administration, real estate transactions, and the management of mechanical and electrical systems. This office is the primary contact for the processing of construction and remodeling contracts for parishes and schools. These consultation services provide direct and substantial monetary savings to our parishes and schools.

MINISTRIES, SERVICES & ADMINISTRATION.....\$1,045,000

The Offices of the Diocesan Curia assist the Bishop, parishes, schools, and various apostolates in providing for the essential pastoral needs of our people. Gifts to the Diocesan Annual Appeal for the support of these ministries are vital to the well being of the local Church. Specific programs directed by these offices have been itemized in this Case Statement. The Offices of the Diocesan Curia that are supported by the Diocesan Annual Appeal are:

Office of Buildings and Grounds

This office is described above under *Buildings and Grounds - Consultative Services for Parishes and Schools*.

Office of Catechesis and Evangelization***18,192 students in religious education***

This office oversees and promotes certification in doctrine, scripture, and methods for catechists and Catholic schoolteachers. In addition, the office promotes and helps with training in the implementation of the religious education curriculum, including sacramental preparation through inservices at the Diocesan, deanery, and parish level. Furthermore, the work of the office includes facilitating catechetical and catechumenal ministry on behalf of the Hmong and Hispanic communities. An audiovisual and resource library for catechesis and evangelization is maintained for all the above ministries. Lastly, the office of catechesis collaborates with other Diocesan offices on all matters pertaining to religious education, evangelization, catechumenal ministry and adult faith formation to serve better the needs of individual parishes, and the Diocese as a whole.

Office of Catholic Schools

The Office for Catholic Schools assists the Bishop in planning, implementing, and evaluating the Catholic education programs in the 70 elementary and secondary schools in the Diocese. It conducts major workshops, conventions and in-service training for teachers, administrators, parents and other groups; informs schools of national and state education policies, standards and issues; administers a standardized testing program; provides curriculum assistance and on-site administrative services on request; and assists schools by offering guidance on legal issues and other serious matters. Most importantly, the Office for Catholic Schools helps to assure the Catholic identity of schools and the spiritual formation of teachers.

Office of The Catholic Times

Our Diocesan newspaper, *The Catholic Times*, helps the Bishop to communicate with the faithful of the Diocese and the public. It helps unite the Diocese by covering the activities of its 165 parishes as well as Diocesan-wide events. It also provides news of the Church in the United States and around the world, and brings a Catholic perspective on local, regional, national and world events.

Office of the Chancery and Archives

The Chancery provides consultation in areas of Church law. Dispensations and permissions for marriage and declarations of nullity based on Lack of Form are processed in this office. As the chief secretarial service of the Diocesan Curia, it publishes the monthly Chancery Bulletin and is responsible for safeguarding official Curial documents.

Office of Communications and Public Relations

Those who serve the Lord must communicate His message to the world. The Office of Communications and Public Relations seeks to communicate God's message in both the best and worst of times and help others find God's presence in that message. The goal is to present the truth and presence of God in all situations through media relations, public relations, and effective communication.

Office of Consecrated Life

The Office of Consecrated Life director acts as a resource person for the Bishop, Major Superiors, and individuals, as well as maintains communication with the Deans in order to help integrate consecrated life more fully into the pastoral activities of the Diocese and the parishes. Specific services include facilitating dialogues between the Bishop and Major Superiors and individual consecrated persons; consulting with persons seeking canonical status; assisting religious seeking ministry in the Diocese; coordinating the Retirement Fund for Religious Appeal; promoting vocations; and proposing programs of enrichment.

Office of Family Life

The Office of Family Life coordinates marriage preparation programs, plans marriage-enrichment opportunities, and assists those with troubled marriages in connecting to the resources available in the Diocese.

In anticipation of those choosing the vocation of married life, the office also coordinates the “Family Life Series” which provides parents and their children the opportunities to talk about topics such as chastity, dating, and other skills which help our children prepare themselves to be faith-filled mothers and fathers.

The Office oversees several programs including;

- ✧ Natural Family Planning program which assists married couples in following the Church’s teachings on love and life.
- ✧ Ministry of Consolation which provides trainers to deaneries and parishes for supporting families and individuals during the time of loss.
- ✧ Men’s Ministry which provides resource materials and listing of regional men’s conferences.
- ✧ Women’s Ministry which provides resource materials and listing of regional women’s conferences.
- ✧ Separated and Divorced Catholics focuses on providing resources to couples who are separated (e.g. Retrouvaille, Catholic Counselors, etc) and inviting those who are divorced to stay connected with their church and explore annulment.

Office of Ministries and Social Concerns

The Office of Ministries and Social Concerns directs programs of formation for the laity and assists the Director of Deacon Formation in overseeing the diaconate program. It implements the pastoral directives of the Diocesan Bishop consistent with the social teachings of the Church and oversees programs for the Campaign for Human Development and Catholic Relief Services. It administers grant programs for the continuing education of lay persons giving service within the Diocese and coordinates the Ministry Referral Service.

Office of Missions

The Office of Missions directs activity for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, the Society of Saint Peter the Apostle, and the Holy Childhood Association. It coordinates the Mission Cooperative programs for visiting missionaries, World Mission Sunday, and the Lenten Mite Box program in the Diocesan parishes.

Office of Sacred Worship

The Office of Sacred Worship serves the Diocesan Bishop and, in his name, the entire diocesan church, both ordained and lay, in deepening the liturgical life of the Diocese. Although the primary collaborators of the Diocesan Bishop in the liturgical apostolate are his priests and deacons, the Office of Sacred Worship assists the Bishop by seeking to deepen the faithful’s understanding of the meaning of the rites being celebrated, their manner of celebration, and their implications for daily life. It offers sacramental catechesis for all the members of the diocese, as well as promotes the liturgical formation of those who serve the liturgical assembly. The work of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is also directed through the Office of Sacred Worship by hosting Diocesan celebrations with the Bishop and candidates for reception into the full communion of the Church, as well as supporting the activities of parish RCIA coordinators. The Office of Sacred Worship does things according to the Church’s Magisterium, especially as it is articulated by the Second Vatican Council and set forth in the Church’s liturgical books and the Code of Canon Law.

Office of School Financial Management

The Office of School Financial Management offers guidance, support and professional expertise for our schools and school systems as they work to maintain our award-winning level of secular education with a strong religious education component to the students and their families in the Diocese of LaCrosse.

Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry

Over 3,500 youth participate in a Diocesan rally, retreat, or event

The Office of Youth Ministry assists parishes and high schools in effectively leading their young people to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, ongoing growth in their Catholic faith, and the use of their gifts for the good of the Church and the world. Some of the programs funded through the Diocesan Annual Appeal include training conferences for youth ministers and teams; individual parish retreats, local, regional, and national conferences; World Youth Day; Totus Tuus (a Catholic vacation bible school run by young adults); Adventure Camp (3 separate week-long camps for Junior and Senior High Students in Northern Wisconsin); national and international mission service trips; and MilkFast (a way for teens to contribute to Project Milk).

Total Annual Appeal Expenses.....\$ 203,939

The expenses incurred by the Diocesan Annual Appeal include salaries, printing, postage, video production, etc. Less extensive expenses are the donor receptions and appreciation.

For further information on this case statement, or any additional questions on the Diocesan Annual Appeal, please feel free to contact:

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