



DIocese of LA CROSSE

May 8, 2008

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OFFICE OF THE
BISHOP
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Dear Pastors, Priests, Religious, Deacons and Faithful of the Diocese of La Crosse:

Three years ago we were confronted with the challenges presented by changing demographics, diminishing vocations and extended resources. In response to these challenges, priests, deacons, religious and lay men and women formed and fashioned a plan to meet the obvious problems presented by these challenges. These individuals love their faith, appreciate their Diocese and care about the future being handed to the next generations. In the plan they conceived a sensitivity to the gifts of the past, a recognition of those committed to the present and an understanding of preparing for the future which was interwoven in the work they produced. Taking initial drafts, extensive consultation was sought in order to give the various drafts the widest level of presentation.

Today I am accepting the work of our Pastoral Planning Committee, a work which gives us a future to build on should we need to utilize its insights. Having a plan still demands that we fashion our procedures and protocols for implementation. This will begin with Phase 2 as we address the particularities of implementing the accepted Pastoral Plan. I have asked Monsignor Richard Gilles, Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia, to chair the committee which will handle the various details of implementation. He will be seeking the assistance of various individuals whose strength and skills will assist the committee in addressing the problems posed by this Pastoral Plan.

I wish to publicly thank Father David Kunz, who has chaired the first phase of this important work, bringing to fruition the Plan accepted today. In this point of our history in the Diocese, our gratitude goes to all who have collaborated with Father Kunz, clergy, religious and lay. Their contribution will be seen in the strength and vitality presented by a Church that carries out the commissioning mandate of our Lord Jesus Christ, utilizing the great resources given to us for the sake of our faithful.

As your Bishop I am proud of the vision offered to us through the work of the Pastoral Planning Committee. We are a Church strengthened by the faithfulness and dedication of those who so generously serve our Lord.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Jerome E. Listecky

Most Rev. Jerome E. Listecky
Bishop of La Crosse

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