



## *From the Pastor*

September 6, 2026

Dearest Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

This week I share a letter received on Tuesday from our bishop. Please read it carefully and bring it to prayer.

*Fr. Michael*

[mklos@diolclergy.org](mailto:mklos@diolclergy.org) ~ 608-632-2316

My dear Co-workers in mission,

Come Holy Spirit, enkindle in our hearts the fire of your love. Greetings. I just want to offer a note of encouragement as we move into the next phase of our renewal efforts in the diocese. In the weeks coming more information will be available to show how we are making the pivot to mission so dear to our hearts. Mission and the renewal it entails is not and should not be hard. It must follow the pattern laid out for us in the Acts of the Apostles, we don't need new programs or employing buzz words like pivot to mission as a substitute for substantial progress. Recently I asked that a mass of the Holy Spirit be regularly said in our parishes. Also, I asked that every Prayer of the Faithful would conclude with the prayer: Come Holy Spirit. I did this not out of a quaint piety but because it is only in the Holy Spirit that true renewal and successful mission will be carried out. We don't need new programs we need to employ the structures and patterns given to us. Yesterday as I was praying, an inspiration came to me and I was moved to ask St. Michael the Archangel, the Guardian Angel of this Diocese, my Guardian Angel and the Angelic Hosts to remove any obstacles that inhibit renewal in this Diocese. Well I guess that was from the Holy Spirit because I received almost immediate confirmation of the appropriateness of this request. Therefore, I commend to you and make this request of each of you in the sphere of your authority. I ask each of us to implore their angels to remove any obstacle to renewal in your life, in the life of the parish, in the lives of your parishes families. I ask that each of us in the sphere of the authority that is ours, as bishop, as priest, as deacons and religious, as parents to make this same prayer to the angels and patrons of your parish, including the patrons of the names you bear. For instance I would also include the intercession of St. Gerard, St. William, St. Lawrence, as my patrons along with my Guardian Angel. If you are a pastor of a parish your parish and supporting me in the diocese you would ask the same intercession of the angels in removing obstacles. My brothers and sisters we need the aids God gives us and we must not neglect the powerful intercession of our allies, the angels and saints. I am filled with hope that renewal is what the Holy Spirit intends for the Diocese of La Crosse. Please join me in being fully engaged in this renewal effort. We do not repudiate what has gone before we build on the foundation laid by others. Thank you in advance for your assistance in helping me make this part of Wisconsin given to us, a garden of holiness and love in Jesus Christ. In the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Chaste Heart of St. Joseph I am your bishop and brother.

+Bishop Battersby



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## *On Living the Vocation to the Holiness*

Since the beginning of 2026, Pope Leo XIV has been giving a series of catechesis during his Wednesday audiences on the principal documents of the Second Vatican Council. He began with *Dei Verbum*, the Constitution on Sacred Scripture. Next came *Lumen Gentium*, the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church. Currently he is reviewing *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy.

This series of catechesis is important. Through it, Pope Leo is communicating to us that the touchstone for his pontificate is not any particular predecessor – it is the Second Vatican Council which stands in continuity with all the councils before it. In very simply reviewing the principal documents of the council he is also communicating that we need to be attentive to what the council fathers, in union with the successor of Peter, actually gave us – versus any so called “spirit of Vatican II”.

This requires of all of us a re-reading of the documents. After all, there’s a lot of supposition and mis-remembering that can happen over the course of years. I once had the experience of a religious sister in my parish trying to convince people that I was going against the council by introducing Latin and Gregorian Chant into the liturgy. If one reads the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, one discovers that she was, in fact, wrong. Indeed, both Latin and chant are put forward as things to be preserved in the liturgy.

I would commend to all who are interested in the life of the Church a reading of Pope Leo’s catechesis. They are readily available at: <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/audiences/2026.index.html>

In the coming weeks I will be discussing the liturgical life of our parishes in this column. My touchstone will be *Sacrosanctum Concilium* and the General Instruction on the Roman Missal (GIRM). While there are a number of documents on the proper implementation of the constitution, these are the principal documents directing the proper celebration of the Mass. Indeed, the GIRM is the “end point” gathering all the practical aspects of these documents into a “rule book” for the Mass.

I invite your questions and comments as we make this journey together.

### **Relief for Flood Victims in Nepal**

Catastrophic flooding in Nepal has killed hundreds of people, while more than 1000 remain missing or unaccounted for. Communities along the river have suffered severe damage, and thousands of homes have been struck. With roads, bridges, power lines and communications destroyed or damaged, reaching some of the hardest-hit areas remains extremely difficult. Families affected by the disaster urgently need safe shelter, food, clean water, hygiene supplies and other essential household items as search, rescue and emergency relief efforts

continue. You can help with a targeted donation to Catholic Relief Services. Visit [crs.org](https://crs.org) to learn more and to donate, or scan the QR code.



### **Missionary Discipleship Small Groups**

***Do you desire to grow in your Christian life?***

***Have you reached a “plateau” in your spiritual walk and don’t seem to make much progress on your own?***

Missionary Discipleship Small Groups help Catholics to become more fruitful disciples of Christ by: establishing a stronger prayer life; gaining a deeper understanding of Scripture; receiving the Sacraments regularly; and growing in Christian Fellowship. We meet at Immaculate Conception Parish, Father Klink Hall, Mondays, 630-8:00 PM, **September 21-May 24**, in separate groups for men and women. For information, contact Deacon Greg Power by phone or text: (715) 828-2746 or by email: [gpower@diolclergy.org](mailto:gpower@diolclergy.org)