



**REBUILD  
MY CHURCH**  
DIOCESE *of* LA CROSSE

We are beginning a serious process of renewal and conversion, personally and institutionally, throughout the 19 counties of our diocese. We trust Jesus, the Good Shepherd, to guide us to more abundant life.

You are invited to attend a listening session at a location near you!

*Information and Signup:*



[www.diolc.org/rebuildmychurch](http://www.diolc.org/rebuildmychurch)

## Rebuild My Church Initiative



The Diocese of La Crosse has 156 parishes served by 87 priests (*53 are under the age of 70, and 29 are international/extern*). The 19 counties of the diocese have a population of 900,357 total people, of which 124,030 (13.8%) identify as Catholic. The 2024 Mass counts showed only 42,288 (*about 34%*) attend Mass, so nearly two-thirds of self-identified Catholics are not regularly participating in the celebration of the Eucharist, which is the heart of Catholic worship and identity. This issue is even more pronounced when we consider the 183,619 children in the diocese. 7,715 attend a parish religious education program and 5,230 are enrolled in Catholic schools. This means only 7% of children in the diocese are getting any sort of Catholic formation and education. The problem we face as Church is not a shortage of priests, it is a shortage of people, leading to the need for restructuring our parishes to best use our pastors and resources.

So many people are living in our diocese with no relationship to Jesus Christ and have no faith community to support them. With more than 700,000 people in the diocese not identifying as Catholic, and many others who do not affiliate with any faith tradition, there is a vast “mission field” waiting to be reached to fill our parishes. The numbers call for a pastoral conversion, a shift from inward focus to outward mission, from maintaining what we are doing to actively seeking and forming new disciples. The Church’s mission is to proclaim the Gospel to all people, inviting them into a transformative relationship with Jesus Christ and a community of faith.

The Diocese of La Crosse stands at a crossroads. We have a strong foundation for faith, but the future depends on the willingness of its leaders and faithful to chart a new path marked by a bold evangelization, a compassionate outreach, and a renewed sense of mission. Forty 90-minute ‘Town-hall’ style meetings will be held across the diocese over the next few months to consider the possibilities and opportunities of how best to engage the evangelizing mission of the Church and provide optimal pastoral care for Catholics, while not overtaxing the aging and declining priest population. How do we best use the resources we have? What changes need to take place? **This is your opportunity for input.** There is an optional short online survey to give your feedback on these issues prior to attending a meeting. Please go to [www.dioc.org/rebuildmychurch](http://www.dioc.org/rebuildmychurch) to sign up or use the QR-code on the back of this page. The local area meetings are:

7:00pm Tues. Sept. 9 Newman HS Wausau  
6:30pm Sat. Sept. 13 Sacred Heart, Polonia  
11:00am Sun. Sept. 14 Newman HS Wausau  
6:30pm Tues. Sept. 16 St. Paul, Mosinee  
6:30pm Thurs. Sept. 25 St Agnes, Weston  
6:30pm Sat. Sept. 27 St. Anthony, Athens  
1:00pm Sun. Oct 19 - eve OLP, Marshfield

*Times and Dates Subject to Change - Always Double Check with the Website!*