



DIOCESE *of* LACROSSE
OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR
OFFICE OF THE MODERATOR OF THE CURIA

May 9, 2024

Dear brother priests, deacons, other parish staff,

I pray this find you all well and excited about the installation of the Eleventh Bishop of the Diocese of La Crosse, The Most Reverend Gerard Battersby. It truly was a joy filled celebration made all the more special by the presence of so many clergy.

I am writing today to inform you that earlier this year the bishops of the province discussed and decreed a change in our offering amounts for the Mass connected to these sacraments which will go into effect on July 1, 2024. The new fee structure is as follows

Mass Stipend \$20 (formerly \$10)

Funeral Stole fee \$75 (formerly \$50)

Wedding Stole fee \$100 (formerly \$75)

Quinceanera Stole fee* \$100

* Over the past several decades, Quinceaneras have become a regular event within many parishes and often require a significant investment of time and planning for clergy.

As this new fee structure is implemented, we must always remember those who may be unable to afford the payment. *Canon 952.1* reminds us, "It is for the provincial council or a meeting of the bishops of a province to define by decree for the entire province the offering given for the celebration and application of Mass, and a priest is not permitted to seek a larger sum. Nevertheless, he is permitted to accept for the application of a Mass a voluntary offering which is larger or even smaller than the one defined."

Canon 848 remind us of our preferential treatment of the poor when it states "The minister is to seek nothing for the administration of the sacraments beyond the offerings defined by competent authority, always taking care that the needy are not deprived of the assistance of the sacraments because of poverty."

These new fees will apply only to the sacraments requested on or after July 1, 2024 all previous requests will be fulfilled at the former level. As always these fees are to be directed to the works of charity fund of the parish to assist those in need.

A new decree on the compensation for the clergy of the Diocese of La Crosse will be promulgated shortly after Bishop Battersby takes possession of our diocese. If you have further questions please contact me at wdhein@diolc.org or 608-791-2654

Very Rev. William A. Dhein

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Moderator of the Curia/ Chancellor