



The Diocese of La Crosse Welcomes Bishop Gerard Battersby as the 11th Bishop for the Diocese of La Crosse

“It is with joy that I received the news that the Holy Father had named me the 11th Bishop of the Diocese of La Crosse, Wisconsin,” Bishop Battersby said. “When I was baptized, ordained a priest and consecrated a bishop, I received a call within a call, an invitation to follow. The Risen One has bid me to follow him to western Wisconsin, to the banks of the mighty Mississippi. I leave with hope and anticipatory joy.”
— Bishop Battersby

Bishop Battersby was born on May 15th, 1960. In 1993, he entered Sacred Heart Major Seminary and received a Master of Divinity degree in 1998. After ordination to the priesthood, he served in parish ministry for ten years. Bishop Battersby then served as director of graduate seminarians and graduate pastoral formation at Sacred Heart Major Seminary, Detroit. In 2011, he was appointed Vice-Rector and Dean of Seminary Formation and was ordained to the Episcopacy as an Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit and Moderator of the South Region in January 2017.

“I have had the privilege of serving as a bishop in west-central Wisconsin for fourteen years,” said Bishop Callahan. “During this time, I have been blessed with numerous wonderful memories. I am grateful for the meaningful prayers and reflections that have connected my heart and soul with joy and gratitude and I am especially thankful for the three years I spent serving in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, where I received fraternity and support from Cardinal Tim Dolan, Archbishop Jerry Listeki and the Milwaukee presbyterate. In 2010, I was called by His Holiness, Pope Benedict, to become the Tenth Bishop of La Crosse and I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to work with some of the best priests and deacons in the Church in this capacity.”

“Throughout my ministry, I have been fortunate to have the steadfast support of my Franciscan community since I was ordained as a priest in 1977. Looking back, it is a great blessing and I simply say, ‘thank you’ to all the wonderful people who have been part of my journey, especially the priests, deacons, religious, and holy women who have been so kind to me over these 14 years. Their friendship and mentorship have taught me to be mindful of what it means to be brothers and sisters of Christ and sons and daughters of God.”

“As I move forward, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has made my time in the Diocese of La Crosse so meaningful. I look forward to continuing my service to Bishop Battersby and spiritual service to brother priests and deacons in La Crosse. I am grateful for the opportunity to remain in this wonderful community for as long as God allows, and I will cherish the memories and experiences I have had here. Thank you for allowing me to fulfill God’s call among you. Be assured of my daily prayer and happy memories.”

Bishop Battersby will be installed as the Bishop of the Diocese of La Crosse on May 20th at the Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman.



Watch the Press Conference and learn more about Bishop Battersby at:
diolc.org/bishop-battersby



DIocese of LA CROSSE