



The Worker

SAINT JOSEPH ^{THE} WORKMAN

Cathedral

Diocesan Sesquicentennial Events Conclude with October 7 Mass and Reception

Bishop William Patrick Callahan will be the main celebrant at the 10:30 a.m. Sunday, October 7, Mass at the Cathedral, then will greet guests at a reception to be held at the La Crosse Center, in the final scheduled events marking the sesquicentennial of the Diocese of La Crosse.

The reception will feature displays from all of the diocese's areas of ministry. And a new book on the history of the diocese will make its debut. The book, "The Canoe, The Crosier and The Cross," covers the history of the diocese from the first missionaries to the present day.

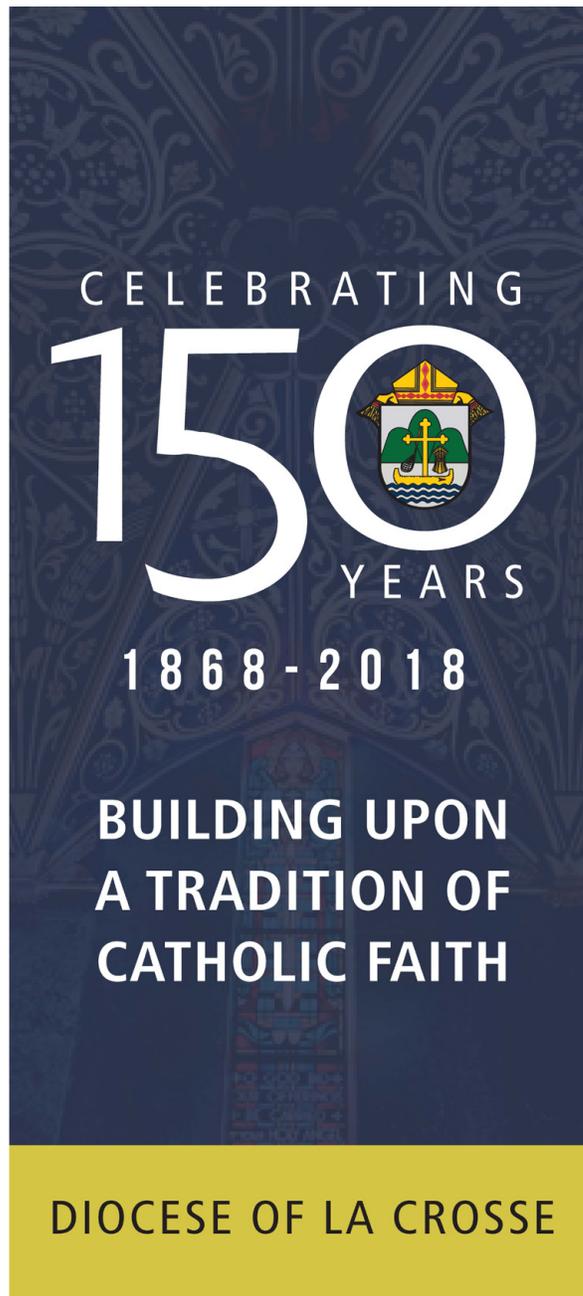
More information about the Mass and reception, and a link to RSVP for this FREE event are available at <http://diolc.org/150>.

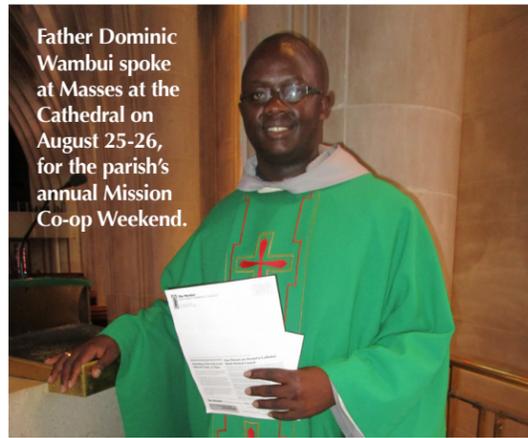
The events for this year's sesquicentennial celebration kicked off with a Mass on March 3 at St. Gabriel Catholic Church in Prairie du Chien, the oldest church in the diocese, commemorating the actual day the diocese was started in 1868 by a decree of Pope Pius IX.

Bishop Callahan, who was the celebrant at the Mass in Prairie du Chien, subsequently visited each of the deaneries that cover the 19 counties in the diocese for special Masses and celebrations in honor of the sesquicentennial.

Although the October 7 Mass and reception conclude the scheduled events of the sesquicentennial celebration, the diocese will continue to celebrate this important time in its history and the blessings that have come to all in western and north central Wisconsin as it and they continue building upon a tradition of Catholic faith.

Banners bearing the words "Celebrating 150 Years 1868-2018" and "Building Upon a Tradition of Catholic Faith" to mark the sesquicentennial have been put on lamp posts near the Cathedral for the months of September and October. ✠





Father Dominic Wambui spoke at Masses at the Cathedral on August 25-26, for the parish's annual Mission Co-op Weekend.

Priest From Kenya Says Mission Donations are Needed

There is a "great need" for donations to support the work of the Conventual Franciscan Friars order throughout the developing work and for the friars' various ministries in Kenya, Father Dominic Wambui said during a visit to the Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman.

Father Wambui, a priest and friar from Kenya, spoke at Masses at the Cathedral on August 25-26, for the parish's annual Mission Co-op Weekend.

He is a member of the Conventual Franciscan Friars order, as is Bishop William Patrick Callahan. In Kenya, among other things, the friars operate two schools, a health center and a rescue center for girls. The larger of the two schools has about 250 students and like the health center is in a semi-arid area about 200 miles from Nairobi.

"There is a great need," Father Wambui said in an interview with The Worker. "Because we have to subsidize their school fees. We have to feed them. And we cannot do it alone. We have limited resources and we partner with so many well-wishers. We continue to call for these donations so that we can carry out our mission to bring some hope and consolation" to people who need it.

Father Wambui accepted monetary donations at the Mission Co-op Weekend. The donations will go to two main areas – the formation and education of friars throughout the developing world, and for the various ministries of the friars in Kenya. Father Wambui serves as treasurer for the friars in Kenya and lives and ministers at St. Catherine of Alexandria parish in Nairobi. He previously lived and ministered at the National Shrine of Mary, Mother of God.

Father Wambui planned to speak at three or four parishes on weekends during his trip to the United States, which began August 15 and ended in early September. The weekend before he was in La Crosse, he spoke at a parish in the Diocese of Madison. And after his visit to La Crosse, he was scheduled to speak in the Archdiocese of Dubuque in Iowa.

"This is my first visit" to La Crosse, Father Wambui said. "I have loved being here. Monsignor Stoetzel has been very hospitable." ✂

Saint Joseph Artwork to be Featured at October 14 *Open House* in Undercroft

The public is invited to an open house and reception from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sunday, October 14, to showcase several pieces of art featuring St. Joseph as saint, father, husband and worker, and a framed Prayer to St. Joseph, that are being installed in the Undercroft by the Cathedral's Parish Council of Catholic Women.

The artists have been invited to talk about their works during the event. And brunch food items will be served after the 7:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Masses.

PCCW has made other improvements to the Undercroft in the last few years, such as painting the ceiling and doors and replacing paneling.

The artwork and the artists include:

- A wooden relief of St. Joseph the saint, created by artists Mike Martino of La Crosse and Michael J. Sponholtz of Mishicot, WI, who also have created lilies and a carpenter's square from wood for the Undercroft as part of the artwork project. (St. Joseph is often shown holding two symbols – a carpenter's square and lilies.)
- An icon of St. Joseph the father, painted by Sandy Perpich.
- A cross-stitch textile panel depicting Joseph and Mary, to show Joseph the husband. It was cross-stitched by Therese Boisvert and designed by Martino.
- A print of St. Joseph the worker, donated by local artist Arlene Zei and her husband, Paul. It was one of the prints that hung outside meeting rooms at the Diocese of La Crosse Fourth Diocesan Synod held in 1986, which Zei attended.

Also on display will be a print of the Prayer to St. Joseph that parishioner Sue Gilbert is having framed.

The PCCW held a da Vinci Dinner – an Italian feast and silent auction – on April 21 in the Undercroft to raise money for the new artwork.

"There was no Catholic identity in the Undercroft, and the PCCW women felt it needed to be there," PCCW President Rita Deniger said of the reason for the artwork project. She said the artwork also highlights and gives tribute



La Crosse artist Mike Martino displays the wooden relief of St. Joseph, and the lilies and a carpenter's square, that he and artist Michael J. Sponholtz of Mishicot, WI, created as part of the artwork project for the Cathedral Undercroft.



to the namesake of the mother church of the Diocese of La Crosse. "We also wanted to highlight the beautiful artistic talent of Catholics in our area," Deniger added.

"Saint Joseph is the Cathedral's patron saint," PCCW Art Renovation Committee member Zei said. "We thought we should pay tribute to him" through the artwork. Other committee members include Deniger, Perpich, Pat Stellflue and Eleanor St. John.

"I'd like to emphasize the teamwork involved in this project," Martino said, adding that good examples are the wooden relief of St. Joseph and the lilies and carpenter's square that he and his artist friend Sponholtz created. PCCW Art Renovation Committee members had considerable input into what the two pieces should look like, he said.

Martino created designs and patterns that Sponholtz then used to cut the wood and assemble the pieces, before Martino applied oil and put on the finishing touches, such as a halo over St. Joseph's head and gilding. Martino also created a design and pattern that Boisvert used to create the cross-stitch textile panel depicting Joseph and Mary.

"It's great," Martino said of the PCCW's artwork project. "It's been an interesting project." ✂

PCCW to Hold Annual Christmas Bazaar and Bake Sale

The Parish Council of Catholic Women will hold its annual Christmas Bazaar and Bake Sale from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, December 1, in the Undercroft of the Cathedral.

There is free parking in the church lot and elevator access to the Undercroft.

The sale will have Christmas decorations and wonderful gift items, said Ruth Wettstein, one of the event's organizers. "There will also be several unique items for the raffle," she said. Donations can be brought to the Undercroft anytime and left next to the elevator.

"People will again be able to purchase delicious and beautiful cookies, breads and candies," Wettstein said. Bake sale items should be brought to the Undercroft anytime during the day on Friday, November 30.

Anyone with questions can call Wettstein at 608-785-0062. ✂

Men's Club Will Again Hold Pancake/Omelet Breakfasts

The Cathedral Men's Club plans to once again hold Pancake/Omelet Breakfasts on Sundays in the Cathedral Undercroft during the fall and winter months, with each breakfast raising funds for a particular cause.

The first breakfast will be on October 28 and will raise money for Cathedral Elementary School, club President Geoff Wilhelmy said. Two other breakfasts have been scheduled – February 10 for a cause yet to be chosen, and March 17 to raise money for the Aquinas High School Junior Prom. The breakfasts will be from 7:30 a.m. to noon. Prices once again will be \$3 for a pancake breakfast, \$4 for an omelet breakfast, and \$12 for a family.

Jack Horsfall cooks the pancakes, Jim Noelke makes the omelets, Joe Noelke makes the batter for the pancakes and Wilhelmy brings in the supplies and collects the receipts. Aquinas Middle School and High School students are volunteer servers at the breakfasts. ✂





Deceased parishioners to be remembered at November 4 Mass

Cathedral parishioners who have died since November 1, 2017, will be remembered during the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, November 4. Their names will be read at the time of the intercessions, Monsignor Charles Stoetzel said.

“In the Church, the month of November is to pray for our beloved dead,” Monsignor Stoetzel said of the Remembrance of the Deceased Members of the Parish at the November 4 Mass. “Even though individually we are to pray for them and the Church every day, November is devoted to this as the Church year comes to an end.”

The Catholic Church will celebrate All Souls Day on November 2. Monsignor Stoetzel said the remembrance with reading of names is being held on the Sunday closest to All Souls Day so that family members can attend with parish members and visitors. ✂

Veterans to be Honored After November 11 Masses

Military veterans will be honored at a reception at the Cathedral after morning Masses on Sunday, November 11, which is Veterans Day.



The parish’s Family Life Committee will host the Veterans Day Hospitality Sunday reception and serve refreshments in the Gathering Area after the 7:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Masses, committee member Carol Ballas said.

“If you have a photo of yourself or a loved one, or any memorabilia from your time in the military, please consider sharing it with us,” Ballas said.

“There will be a display table set up at the reception for all to enjoy. Please contact me at 608-498-9713, or the rectory office, at least two weeks before the reception” if you were in the military and have something you’d like to share at the table.

A special blessing will be offered for veterans at all the Masses that weekend. ✂

