



# The Worker

SAINT JOSEPH <sup>THE</sup> WORKMAN | *Cathedral*

## Father Jerzy Rebacz Succeeds Monsignor Stoetzel as Cathedral Rector

The Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman has a new rector who grew up in Poland and who has become proficient in English while living in Wisconsin the past 12 years. Bishop William Callahan appointed Father Jerzy Rebacz as the parish's rector, effective July 16.

He succeeded Monsignor Charles Stoetzel, who after eight years as the Cathedral's rector became pastor of Holy Family Parish in Prairie du Chien. That appointment by Bishop Callahan also was effective July 16. Before he became rector of the Cathedral in July 2011, Monsignor Stoetzel had been serving as pastor of Saint John the Baptist Church in Marshfield and Christ the King Parish in Spencer. Ordained a priest in 1980, his first assignment was as associate pastor of the Cathedral and religion instructor at Aquinas High School.

Bishop Callahan also appointed Father Rebacz as judicial vicar for the Diocese of La Crosse effective July 2.

Father Rebacz had been pastor of St. Joseph and St. Stephen parishes in Stevens Point, before moving to La Crosse for his two new positions.

As judicial vicar of the diocese, Father Rebacz's main responsibility is to head the Diocesan Matrimonial Tribunal, which deals with the annulment process.

Father Rebacz is a native of Poland. Most of his family moved to the United States to escape economic hardships, and settled in the Chicago suburb of Rosemont, Ill. Father Rebacz frequently came to Chicago to visit his relatives.

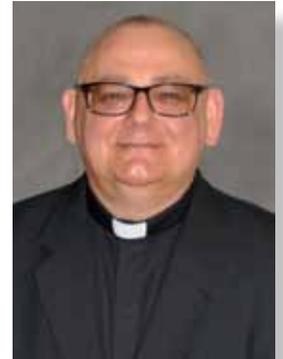
Father Rebacz was ordained a priest in 1996 in Poland and then served as an associate pastor before being sent to study law at the Catholic University of Lublin in Poland. He earned master's degrees in theology and in canon law, as well as a doctorate of juridical science with specialization in canon law.

While teaching law at a university in Poland, he took a one-year sabbatical in 2007 and came to St. Therese Parish in Rothschild, Wisconsin, to learn the English language. The pastor of that parish, Father Janusz Kowalski, and his parishioners had been offering Polish priests a program to come to the parish to learn English.

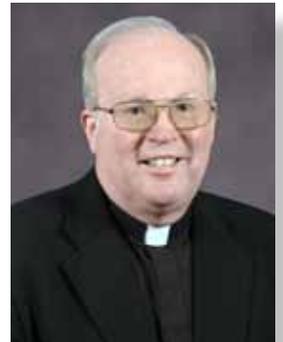
After a year in Rothschild, Father Rebacz served as pastor of St. Florian Parish in Hatley, Wisconsin, from 2007 until 2010.

In 2010, he became pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Stevens Point. Soon after that, he also was named pastor of nearby St. Stephen Parish.

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Father Jerzy Rebacz



Monsignor Charles Stoetzel



The Cathedral's new rector, Father Jerzy Rebacz, visits with parishioner Charlie Peters during a Hospitality Sunday reception hosted by the Parish Council of Catholic Women on September 8.



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During his time in Stevens Point, Father Rebacz decided to seek incardination into the Diocese of La Crosse from both his bishop in Poland and Bishop Callahan. In April 2013, he was incardinated as a priest of the Diocese of La Crosse in a ceremony at Bishop Callahan's residence.

Father Rebacz's hobbies include reading – especially science, philosophy and law – as well as hunting, cooking and spending time with friends.

Watch for an interview with Father Rebacz on his first months as rector of the Cathedral, in the next issue of *The Worker*.

Meanwhile, here are Monsignor Stoetzel's answers to some questions from *The Worker*, just before he left for his new post in Prairie du Chien:

**Q: What is your new title and the name of the church in Prairie du Chien?**

**A:** I will be pastor of Holy Family Parish. The parish is a merger of two former parishes – St. Gabriel at 506 N. Beaumont Road and St. John Nepomucene at 710 S. Wacouta Avenue. Both churches and facilities are being used.

**Q: How do you feel about leaving the Cathedral parish? Why?**

**A:** It is difficult to leave an assignment because of the ties that one establishes. Wherever I have been assigned, I saw it always that this is my family and the ones I am responsible to serve. So just as it is hard to say goodbye to a family member you will see seldom or never again, it is hard to say goodbye leaving the parish. However, when one is ordained a priest, one knows that he is to be obedient to the bishop and go where there is a need.

**Q: How do you feel about becoming pastor of the Prairie du Chien parish?**

**A:** I look forward to my new assignment. There are always uncertainties and nervousness, but I am ready. I had told people throughout my years here that I wanted to get into a rural area before I retire, and I did not want to make the Cathedral parish my last one. I grew up on a farm, so I wanted to get back to the rural area. I can retire in five years (in 2024) but might remain for several more, depending on my health and if the parishioners want me to continue. My assignment to Holy Family Parish should be my last one, but I will never know fully until then.

**Q: What are some highlights of your years as the Cathedral parish's Rector?**

**A:** Celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Cathedral parish and the 50th anniversary of the Cathedral church, celebrating the 150th anniversary of the diocese, celebrating the sacraments and seeing especially the student parishioners growing up and going off to further education. These are a few of the highlights.

**Q: Is there anything else you'd like to mention?**

**A:** I want to thank the Lord and the bishop for my assignment. I was very privileged to be assigned and serve at the Cathedral. Even though I will be in my next assignment, I will still be very appreciative for the prayerfulness and dedication of the faithful at the Cathedral parish. I will remember and pray for you. ✕

## Donations Are Sought to Install Concrete Floors in Rural Churches in Ghana

At Masses on the weekend of August 24-25, Father Augustine Bentil, a native of Ghana, encouraged Cathedral parishioners to donate money that will be used to put in cement floors in rural churches in his diocese in that nation.

People can continue donating at any time. Checks can continue to be made payable to Cathedral Parish with "Ghana Mission Appeal" in the memo line, and should be directed to the Cathedral office. If a donor wishes to keep supporting the mission beyond this year, information can be obtained from Father Bentil at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Galloway.

Father Gus, as Father Bentil prefers to be called, is a priest from the Diocese of Sekondi-Takoradi in Ghana. He spoke at the Cathedral parish's annual Mission Co-op Weekend.

It costs an average of about \$2,000 to put a concrete floor in a rural parish in his diocese in Ghana, Father Gus told parishioners during the weekend Masses.

"The major parishes in the cities have concrete floors and some have tiles and all that," he said later in an interview. "It is the smaller, rural parishes that have not had (concrete floors). Since we began this appeal to help them have concrete floors, we've done about 64 churches in the rural areas. That's over about the last four years."

It will take a few more years to put concrete floors in the rest of the churches that don't have them, he estimated.

The Diocese of Sekondi-Takoradi covers about one-fourth of the nation of Ghana, he said.

Father Gus has been a pastor in parishes in the Diocese of La Crosse for the past 14 years. "I am



Father Augustine Bentil, a native of Ghana who prefers to be called Father Gus, spoke at the Cathedral at Masses on August 24-25 for the parish's annual Mission Co-op Weekend.

temporarily ministering here in the Diocese of La Crosse," he said.

He has been pastor of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Galloway and St. Ladislaus Catholic Church in Bevent, in Marathon County, since 2011. Both are in the Wausau Deanery of the Diocese of La Crosse.

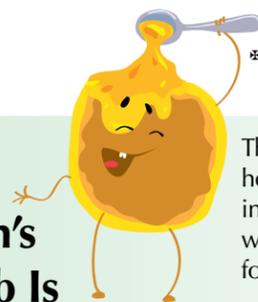
Before that, Father Gus was a pastor in parishes in Milladore and Blenker in the Marshfield Deanery and in Junction City in the Stevens Point Deanery.

Father Gus said he has been to the Cathedral several times for events and other things. "The building is awesome, amazing, with all of the stone work," he said of the Cathedral. "It is beautiful." ✕



## CATHEDRAL Christmas BAZAAR

### 2019



## Men's Club Is Again Holding Pancake & Omelet Breakfasts

## 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 7, in the Undercroft of the Cathedral. There is free parking in the church lot and elevator access to the Undercroft.

The sale will feature many Christmas decorations and wonderful gift items, as well as handmade greeting cards, 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, December 6. Anyone with questions can call Wettstein at 608-785-0062.

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The Cathedral Men's Club is once again holding 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 was held on September 29. The others will be on November 3, February 16 and March 15.

The first three breakfasts are raising money for Cathedral Elementary School, and the March 15 breakfast will raise money for the

This year's bazaar also will have a special section featuring the works of creative parishioners such as crafters, artists, photographers, woodworkers and seamstresses, said Pat Stellflue, another organizer.

"Now is the time to start making the things you love to create and are willing to donate to our bazaar," she said. "We would also like to request that you submit a price for us to mark your creations, so we properly recognize your wishes in the sale of the items."

Stellflue also said, "If you have talents that are not in the form of a product such as babysitting, yard work, painting, legal services, tutoring, etc., please consider offering a few hours of those talents for us to sell." Parishioners can call Stellflue at 608-792-9858 to donate their time and talent. ✕

Aquinas High School Junior Prom.

The breakfasts are from 7:30 a.m. to noon. Prices once again are \$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 club President Geoff Wilhemy brings in the supplies and collects the receipts.

Aquinas Middle School and High School students are volunteer servers at the breakfasts. ✕

## Father Roblez Baltazar Assists at Parish While Staying in Rectory



Father Roblez Baltazar

Father Juan Pedro Roblez Baltazar, a native of Mexico, is helping at the Cathedral parish, while staying in its rectory and studying English at Western Technical College in La Crosse.

Father Roblez Baltazar grew up in Mexico and at age 14 entered seminary to explore the priesthood. He completed 16 years of formation in the Archdiocese of Guadalajara. He came to the Diocese of La Crosse on the recommendation of a seminary classmate in Mexico.

Father Roblez Baltazar was ordained a priest by Bishop William Callahan on June 24, 2017, at the Cathedral. He began his priestly ministry as associate pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Sparta and St. John the Baptist Parish in Summit Ridge.

He was released from those responsibilities effective this past July 2, so that he could undertake full-time English language studies. "I'm so glad about this," Father Roblez Baltazar said of studying English at Western Technical College, while living in the Cathedral rectory.

He said he expects to spend the rest of his priestly ministry in the Diocese of La Crosse. "That's the reason why I need to learn the culture and the language," he said.

Father Roblez Baltazar helps at the Cathedral parish by doing such things as celebrating and concelebrating Masses, and hearing confessions. "I like it," he said of La Crosse and the Cathedral parish. "It's a nice change for me. In each parish I've been in, it's been a nice place, with beautiful hills and nice people. I'm happy to be here, to build relationships with the people, and to practice my English," he said. ✕



### Deceased parishioners to be remembered at November 3 Mass

Cathedral parishioners who have died since November 1, 2018, will be remembered during the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, November 3. Their names will be read at the time of the intercessions.

The Remembrance of the Deceased Members of the Parish will be held then because, In the Church, the month of November is to pray for our beloved dead. 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. At the Cathedral, the remembrance with reading of names is 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 10 Masses

Military veterans will be honored at a reception at the Cathedral after morning Masses on Sunday, November 10, which is the day before 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 or any memorabilia of yourself or a family member serving in the military, please consider sharing it with us," Ballas said. "There will be a display table for all to enjoy. Please contact me at 608-498-9713 at least two weeks before the reception" if you have something you'd like to share at the table.

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

