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24 March 2024 + Palm (Passion) Sunday

*In case you did not hear, on Tuesday, March 19, the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Husband of Mary, Pope Francis appointed a new bishop for our diocese. His name is Bishop Gerard Battersby. Here is a bit of information regarding our new Bishop-Elect.*

*Bishop Battersby was born on 15 May 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. In 2008 he received a Licentiate in the New Evangelization. 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. In January 2017 he was ordained to the Episcopacy as an Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit and Moderator of the South Region.*

*Bishop Callahan extends his joyful welcome to our new Bishop Gerard, and invites you to either attend or watch the livestream of his installation on Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. It will be in our Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman in La Crosse. We don't have a specific time yet as the event is being planned. I will give you more information as I receive it. Most of you know that Bishop Callahan's health has been in decline for a couple of years now; nothing critical, but his ability to keep pace with all that is required of a bishop on a day to day basis. You might remember that he had some issues a few years ago that limited his walking and a shake began in one of his hands. Bishop Callahan will remain with us as Bishop Emeritus, living in an apartment at Holy Cross Diocesan Center.*

*We offer our deepest gratitude to Bishop Callahan for the years of service he gave to our diocese over the past years. Perhaps now that he will no longer have to deal with the stresses that come with the responsibilities of a diocesan bishop, his health might even improve. He will be 75 years of age this coming year, an age when he would have sent his resignation to Pope Francis anyway. I am so happy the Holy Father took into consideration his current health.*

*Remember that we now enter into Holy Week. Deacon and I will be in La Crosse on Tuesday for the annual Chrism Mass, when the sacred oils for catechumens, the sick are blessed, and the Holy Chrism is consecrated. Wednesday evening, I will be hearing confessions at St. Joseph Church. The Sacred Triduum of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil are all held at St. Joseph Church in Boyd. There is a shift in location for the Easter Sunday Masses. The usual 8:30am Mass will take place at St. Rose of Lima in Cadott, but the 10:30am Mass will take place at Holy Family in Stanley. Please make note of these changes. All of the services in Boyd will be broadcast on our radio station for those who are not able to attend.*

*Have a blessed week as we prepare to commemorate and celebrate our Lord's passion, death, and resurrection!*