



Tuesday, April 8, 2025

Dear Lay Pastoral Staff, Priests, Deacons, and Parish Directors of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee:

We are excited to introduce the new **Lay Initiative**, an Archdiocesan office dedicated to forming and supporting those who feel uniquely called to serve on pastoral staffs in our parishes.

We recognize the beauty, complexity and vastness of the lay vocation as encompassed in baptized persons – married and single – who work in every corner of our world. Distinctly, the Lay Initiative will focus on accompanying laity “who feel themselves called to work with their pastors in the service of the ecclesial community for its growth and life, by exercising a great variety of ministries according to the grace and charisms which the Lord is pleased to give them.” (Saint Paul VI, *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 73).

To cultivate this aspect of the lay vocation, we must gain a deeper understanding of the lay ministry landscape in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Conducting a survey is our first step in seeing who is out there and what the needs are. The Lay Initiative is focused on what is commonly known as the “pastoral staff” of a parish – those laity (along with some religious and permanent deacons) who are entrusted with a key ministry area in the parish. In parishes with schools or those supporting system schools, the pastoral staff would include the principal. In most cases, these positions are paid, but we recognize that in some parishes, such pivotal positions are served by volunteers. We invite all pastoral staff, deacons, priests, and parish directors to complete [THIS SURVEY](#) to help us build the foundation of the Lay Initiative.

Additionally, all pastoral staff who serve in a key ministerial role in their parish are invited to attend our **Lay Initiative Inaugural Event** on **Tuesday, June 10 at 9:30 am**. Join us for mass followed by a reception with remarks from Archbishop Grob. You can find more information and register [HERE](#).

Pastors and Parish Directors: Please ensure that your pastoral staff has received this letter and encourage them to complete the survey and attend our inaugural event.

We stand on the shoulders of those who helped establish strong ministries of administration, catechesis, evangelization, liturgy and music, outreach, pastoral care, stewardship, and so much more in parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. We are excited to collaborate with you in identifying the local needs, challenges, and opportunities for lay ministry in our parishes.

Please reach out to us with any questions, and please pray for this new initiative, knowing that we are also praying for you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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