

APOSTOLATE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES - DIOCESE OF MADISON

LOVE, CARE, AND COMPASSION
FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES SINCE 1967

Dear Sisters & Brothers,

How time passes quickly as we are already at the mid-point of the Summer Season. I hope you are doing well with whatever is happening in your lives right now. As people of faith, we are reminded that the Lord is always attuned to our lives, inviting us to believe and trust in Him! In that spirit, I share this Scripture passage from St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians, a special prayer for you, one filled with encouragement and hope.

I bow my knees before the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name.

I pray that, according to the riches of His glory, God may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through His Spirit.

And that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith,
as you are being rooted and grounded in Love.

I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth, and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to Him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than we can ask or imagine, to Him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.

(Ephesians 3: 14-21)

Though it was a rather windy day on June 6th, it was a joy to gather with so many of you at Devil's Lake State Park for Mass with Bishop Hying, the cookout thanks to local Knights of Columbus groups, and the generous help of many volunteers, young and older!

Peace be with you all!

Msgr. Larry Bakke, Chaplain

UPCOMING LITURGICAL FEASTS

JUL 22: ST MARY MAGDALENE

JUL 25: ST JAMES, APOSTLE

AUG 6: THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

AUG 10: ST LAWRENCE

AUG 15: THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (HDO)

AUG 24: ST BARTHOLOMEW, APOSTLE

SEPT 14: THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS

SEPT 21: ST MATTHEW, APOSTLE

OCT 18: ST LUKE, EVANGELIST

OCT 28: SS SIMON AND JUDE, APOSTLES

NOV 1: ALL SAINTS (HDO)

NOV 2: ALL SOULS

APOSTOLATE SAVE-THE-DATES

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3 (9A-5P)

ST DYMPHNA MASS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6 (10 AM)

DAY AT DEVIL'S LAKE

THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 2025

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

34TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ADA
(Americans with Disabilities Act)

JULY 26TH

WELCOME LAURA



In May, Laura Sokup started as the Apostolate's Mental Wellness Program Coordinator. Originally from the Eau Claire area, Laura graduated from the UW Madison Social Work Masters Program. While in college and grad school, Laura was involved in campus ministry. She is excited to be in a position where she can use both her education and the Catholic faith on a daily basis to further the mission of the Apostolate in aiding mental health ministries.

The Mental Wellness Program Coordinator position was created after examining the needs of the diocese through many lenses. Through this process, we saw that there are unmet needs pertaining to mental health and wellness as well as opportunities for equipping parishes to meet some of those needs. Laura will be focusing on developing networks of resources and options for parishes to offer at little or no cost to the parish itself. Our ministry is excited to assist in making these offerings possible through the generosity of our donors.

If you are interested in learning more about mental health ministry and how the Apostolate is ready to support you, please contact Laura (info below).

PRAY FOR OUR MINISTRY

As Easy as 1, 2, 3...

Apostolate for Persons with Disabilities and Mental Health Ministry:

Offering compassion and support for those affected by disabilities or mental health challenges.

1 / *SELECT A DAY OF THE WEEK:*

Choose a day of the week to pray or fast for this ministry. The Lord says in Jeremiah 29:12, "Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen."

(Ex. On Mondays I will say three Hail Marys, or on Tuesdays I will fast from social media).

2 / *INVITE A SAINT:*

Ask a Saint to join you in praying for this ministry. Saints' prayers are powerful, which is why we eagerly invite a community of Saints into this prayer network. (Ex. St. Dymphna, please join me in praying for this ministry).

3 / *PRAY IT FORWARD:*

Please send this to at least one other person. As St. Francis said, "Start with what is necessary, then what is possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible." We believe lives will be transformed by the help of your prayers and those of the Saints.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT CATHOLIC MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY

VISIT [HTTPS://CATHOLICMHM.ORG](https://catholicmhm.org)



He heals The
Brokenhearted
and
binds up
their
Wounds. Psalm 147:3

Apostolate Contact Info

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Admin. Coordinator: Kayla Schiesser (608) 821- 3050
kayla.schiesser@madisondiocese.org

Mental Wellness Coordinator: Laura Sokup (608) 821-3053
laura.sokup@madisondiocese.org

Chaplain: Monsignor Larry Bakke

702 S High Point Rd., Suite 225
Madison, WI 53719

Website: APDMadisonDiocese.com
Email: APD@MadisonDiocese.org
Phone: (608) 821-3050

Thank you to all who joined us for our first annual "Day at Devil's Lake State Park" on June 6th! It was a beautiful, windy day out at the lake. We were blessed by many volunteers and donors who made this day possible. We hope to see you all again next year!



SAVE THE DATE FOR NEXT YEAR!

APD'S Day at

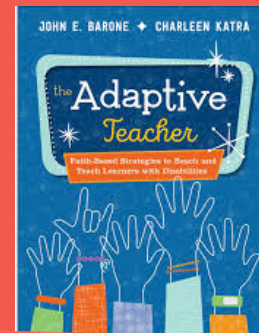
Devil's Lake State Park

Thursday, June 5th, 2025

TESTIMONIES FROM FAMILIES WHO RECEIVED SACRAMENTAL PREP ASSISTANCE FROM THE APD

This past year we were struggling with great uncertainty over our daughters' preparedness to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist. Unfortunately, the conventional approach to catechesis and Sacramental preparation wasn't quite meeting her needs. While she had a great love of Jesus, there were gaps in her ability to comprehend the more intrinsic aspects of the Sacraments. Through a dear friend, we were connected with the Apostolate for Persons with Disabilities to discuss different options available to us. Through the APD we received 2 adaptive kits for these Sacraments, which are geared towards children with special needs. The kits provide dynamic visual and tactile aids, which offer a beautiful space for her greater understanding of these more challenging concepts. Bringing the Mass to life in a new way, our daughter is more engaged and participates more fully thanks to the greater understanding she has gained. Our family has been incredibly blessed not only by the resources offered by the APD but the heart of their mission. We have experienced first hand that our family has a special place in the Body of Christ and we feel tremendously loved and cared for by our Diocese's work through the Apostolate.

-Dave and Danielle Chodorowski



These are just some of the resources we can provide as we work with you and your family.

*kits available in English and Spanish



Our youngest child has a developmental disability, and when he was in the second grade, First Communion preparation was not accessible for him. He was not ready to attend and participate in the religious education program offered at our church, and frankly wasn't ready to receive Communion in an appropriate and meaningful way. However, a couple of years later, he had gained the maturity to receive Communion and we began to pursue means for preparation. Despite his readiness, we struggled to find a good fit, as our only option was to place him in a class with much younger children, and attend along with him for support, which none of the other children needed. Not only would he stand out, the volunteer teacher wasn't experienced in working with children with disabilities and did not know how to adapt materials to his needs. So, we continued to work on our own with him and his love for church grew. In the years to follow, we would reach out every so often to our pastoral associate and religious education director to inquire about our boy receiving First Communion. Each time we were received with tremendous support that was quickly followed by a void of knowledge as to how to proceed. Then in 2023, we were referred to the Apostolate for Persons with Disabilities, where we were assisted in navigating next steps. Since our son had now also missed out on Confirmation, the Apostolate Director, Megan, assured us that both Sacraments could be received at the same time. She helped us find materials that were at our son's reading and comprehension level, and coordinated the process with our priest. Ultimately, we prepared for about 6 weeks at home, and then celebrated both sacraments in a private Mass with our immediate family. It was a joyful day, and we are so grateful for all of the guidance and support we received. We encourage any family in the diocese who has a child with a disability to reach out to the Apostolate for help.

-Mom of a young adult

Do these stories make something stir in your heart? The Apostolate is looking for individuals who are passionate about aiding in the inclusion and participation of people with disabilities and/or promoting the mental wellness of thier community to be disability liaisons and mental health advocates. We are so grateful to those who have stepped into these roles in some of our parishes and look forward to continuing to work with you to further embrace the mission of discipleship that we are all called to through disability and mental health ministires.

What do these ministries look like?

Our mission at the Apostolate for Persons with Disabilities is to provide parishes with the training, tools, resources, and support they need to promote mental wellness in the community and ensure that all members of the community have the ability to grow and live as Catholic disciples. We recognize that each community is different and the needs throughout the diocese differ greatly. This is why we rely on priests, staff, and volunteers to share with us the needs of their pastorate so that together, we can recruit/train liaisons and advocates who, along with a team of volunteers, are supported to accompany individuals within their own community.

Below are some ideas for ways that your parish can extend an invitation to people with disabilities to engage in the life of the parish.

Mass

- Altar Server
- Gift Bearer
- Carry in book of Gospels
- Cross Bearer
- Usher
- Hand out bulletins
- Stuff bulletins
- Check pews after Mass
- Lector
- Choir
- Light candles
- Put out candles
- Sacristan
- Welcome Committee

Roles in the Parish

- Committee Members
- Event planning
- Parish Council
- Finance Council
- Cleaning crew
- Janitorial staff
- Gardening crew
- Liturgical decorations
- Rosary Altar Society
- Prayer Warrior
- Peer Mentor

Projects/ Volunteer

- Make cards for elderly parishioners, veterans, the sick, etc.
- Fundraising
- Cook a meal
- Bake for an event
- Parish festival volunteer
- Event set up or clean up
- Bake or Craft Sale to raise money for Disability Ministry

We invite you to pay attention to what is going on at the church you regularly attend over the next couple of weeks and ask the following questions: *Are events accessible and welcoming to all? Are there a variety of people who represent different populations participating and serving in the roles above? Are there resources readily available and is it clear and evident where someone who is in need of support should go?*

Disability and Mental Health Ministries are wonderful opportunities to positively impact the entire community in your church. Contact us today to explore the possibilities!

There is still time to sign up!

Mental Health First Aid is being offered for FREE on Saturday, August 3rd from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm at Holy Name Heights. Course fee, instructor fees, a light breakfast, lunch, and snacks are all included.

To register or for more information, please email
Laura.Sokup@madisondiocese.org

If this date doesn't work, contact us to be added to our interest list for future course offerings!

*let
go
and
let God*



**OUR NEXT OFFERING OF
THE 4 PART SERIES:
ADDRESSING OUR SUICIDAL
LOSSES WITH THE HELP OF
OUR CATHOLIC FAITH.**

**AT HOLY NAME HEIGHTS
702 S. HIGH POINT RD.
MADISON, WI 53719**

**WHETHER YOUR LOSS WAS RECENT OR A LONG
TIME AGO, YOU ARE WELCOME TO JOIN**

**DATES
MONDAYS
SEPT 30TH
OCT 14TH
OCT 28TH
NOV 11TH
(EVENINGS)**

SAINT DYMPHNA HEALING MASS

Sunday, October 6th, 2024

10 am

at the Holy Name Heights Oratory

702 S. High Point Rd. Madison, WI 53719

Please join us for Mass celebrated by Bishop Hying, Anointing of the Sick for all who wish to receive the Sacrament will follow. There will be a light reception afterwards.

All are welcome to attend.

St. Dymphna, Pray for us.



Mass Intentions and Memorials

Alice & Larry Hanson
Anita Raml
Barbara Ellingson
Bert & Anna May Krantz
Clara Niesen
Cyril Ripp
Dustin Helt
Evelyn Straka
George Brey Jr.
Georgia Benkart
Gerald J. Maly
Jack Laufenberg

Jackie Stram
James Enders
Jerry & Rahn Ripp
Joanne Kaing
John & Florentine Ruhland
Kelly Campion
Lisa LaRose Sandstrom
Mary Geske
Mel Niesen
Msgr. Thomas Campion
Nancy Niesen
Patrick Zaffino

Paul J. Bernards
Phil Marklein
Ray Hellenbrand
Rintaro Arakane
Ted Bakke, Jr.
Vern Ziegler
Vincent Endres
William Campion

Deceased of the Campion/Burk
Families
Deceased of the J.W. Donovan Family
Deceased of the Krantz/Rodenschmit
Families
Deceased of the Monson Family
Deceased of the Wels & Meyers
Family
Deceased of the Ben & Mary Minter
Family

**Note that starting July 1st, the
requested Mass intention stipend
increased to \$20/Mass**

**Please join us in
praying for these and
all who have died**

March - June 2024

Donors

Thank you to all who have generously donated to the Apostolate!

Barbara Bir
Barbara Ziegler
Bob & Mary Ross
David & Danielle Chodorowski
Duane & Joan Wilcox
Evelyn Straka Family
Frank Ward
Georgia Benkart Legacy Fund
as a component fund at
Madison Community Fund
Geraldine Laufenberg
Gilbert Mitchell

Gordon E. Acker
Greg Niesen
Helen Kelly
John Cuva
Karen Marklein
Kathleen & Thomas Schoeneberg
Larry & Carole Skivers
Luana C. Wels
M. Linda Donovan
Marie Chaidez-Cepeda
Marlyn Klongland & Jo Ann
Klongland

Mary K. & Steven R. Vogel
Mary M. Hefferan
Mary Stein
Mary Vogel
Milke Brandenburg
Patricia Matlock
Patrick & Carol Wilbur
Robert J. & Susan E. Simon
Sheila Ruhland
Terry Hicks
The Monson Family

Donation Form

*Please note that this form is for **donations only**. To request a TV Mass, please call the Apostolate.*

All donations may be sent to:

*Apostolate for Persons with Disabilities.
702 S. High Point Rd., Suite 225,
Madison, WI 53719*

If your donation is in memory of a loved one,
please indicate the name of the person below.

Memorial for: _____ **Given by:** _____

☐

please check this box to have donation kept anonymous

**If your request is more complex, please include a letter with your phone number to ensure that we process the request correctly. All donations are tax deductible. Call the Apostolate with any questions.*



APOSTOLATE FOR
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
702 S. High Point Rd. Suite 225
Madison, WI 53719

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
MADISON WI
PERMIT #2783

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



The Apostolate for Persons with Disabilities is an office in the Diocese of Madison, Wisconsin which strives to promote the full inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities in the life of the Church.

In this issue...

- Mental Health Coordinator Welcome
- Devil's Lake Thank You
- Parish Ministries
- Upcoming events

Our next Newsletter will be coming out in November 2024!

Television Mass Schedule

Sundays

6 am on WISC-TV Channel 3
7 am on TVW and Direct TV 14

Bl. Carlo Acutis, pray for us!



Thank you to

WISC-TV Channel 3

*for your ongoing generosity
in providing the weekly Mass
to our viewing audience*