



DIOCESE *of* LACROSSE
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

30 July 2020
Year of St. Joseph

Dear Brothers,

May the Lord give you peace.

As we have all come to realize the challenges of daily life during a pandemic are not simple. We continue to minister to the people of God while fulfilling a responsibility to safeguard human life and the common good. I, like all of you, long for the return to some semblance of normalcy, but, once again, we are reminded that the virus continues to change our world and we are responsible for the safety of all who enter our Churches and participate at the Mass.

Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers issued a new public health emergency today which includes a statewide mask mandate. Beginning this Saturday, 1 August 2020, all individuals over the age of 5 are required to wear a mask in all enclosed spaces except their personal residence. Anyone who violates the order will be subject to a \$200 fine. The order is in effect until 28 September 2020. Evers cited that although the virus is still heavily concentrated in urban areas rural counties that had previously avoided the disease are now experiencing a rise in cases. Given our reverence for life and human dignity I call on the Catholic faithful to comply with these regulations. Be strong and let your heart take courage.

Very truly yours in Jesus and Mary, I am,

+ William Patrick Callahan
Bishop of La Crosse