



**CATHOLIC
FOUNDATION**
OF WEST CENTRAL WISCONSIN

PILLARS OF SUPPORT

Pillar ('pi-lər), noun — a supporting, integral, or upstanding part

The Catholic Foundation of West Central Wisconsin maintains seven primary pillars of support in its assistance to the nineteen counties of the Diocese of La Crosse. Along with other endowments and funds, these pillars of support allow the Catholic Foundation to fulfill its mission of assisting the faithful in leaving a legacy of faith, hope, and love in West Central Wisconsin.

PILLAR 1: Catholic Education

Understanding that Catholic education is a formative process centered on Jesus Christ, the Teacher, and ordered to the cultivation of wisdom and virtue, which leads to human flourishing, the Catholic Foundation of West Central Wisconsin, through its funds, supports teachers' supplies and professional development, classroom needs, tuition grants, and opportunities to support and improve student experiences, such as extracurricular activities, technology, and facility improvements in the nineteen counties of the Diocese of La Crosse.

PILLAR 2: Catholic Vocations

Understanding that a vocation is a gift that is accomplished in the free response to a unique call, the Catholic Foundation of West Central Wisconsin, through its funds, supports the promotion, education, formation, and ongoing needs of those in formation to become priests, deacons, and consecrated men and women in the nineteen counties of the Diocese of La Crosse. Additionally, the Foundation also assists ordained clerics of the diocese in ongoing formation and in extraordinary needs.

PILLAR 3: Catholic Evangelization

Understanding that evangelizing means bringing the Good News of Jesus into every human situation and seeking to convert individuals and society by the divine power of the Gospel itself, the Catholic Foundation of West Central Wisconsin, through its funds, supports activities such as parish faith formation programs, parish missions, retreats, and conferences, as well as religious publications and media outreach. The Foundation's support of evangelization in the nineteen counties of the Diocese of La Crosse seeks to proclaim salvation in Jesus Christ and to encourage a response in faith.

PILLAR 4: Catholic Social Concerns

The Catholic tradition teaches that human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met. This belief is the basis of the social concerns pillar of the Catholic Foundation of West Central Wisconsin. Through its funds, the Foundation seeks to support the marginalized, especially those experiencing housing or food insecurity, mental health challenges, and addiction. This pillar always puts the option for the poor and vulnerable first within the nineteen counties of the Diocese of La Crosse.

PILLAR 5: Family Life and Support

The Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. Marriage and the family are the central social institutions that must be supported and strengthened. The Catholic Foundation of West Central Wisconsin, through its funds, assists in supporting and strengthening these institutions throughout the nineteen counties of the Diocese of La Crosse through family education, such as spiritual retreats, parenting workshops, and faith-based education, and through maternal and family health initiatives. The Foundation provides funding to support resources to encourage all to choose life: from the unborn to the aged.

PILLAR 6: Catholic Infrastructure Needs

Church buildings where the Holy Eucharist is celebrated and reserved are not simply meeting places for the faithful but the dwelling place of God and a symbol of the Church present in the locality. The direct care of cemeteries by the Church permits a strong witness to the Christian belief regarding death. Catholic schools are communities in which faith and morals are not only taught but also lived through prayer and worship and through the witness of the Christian life. The Catholic Foundation of West Central Wisconsin, through its funds, assists in the upkeep and repair of religious buildings and facilities, including parish buildings, cemeteries, and schools in the nineteen counties of the Diocese of La Crosse.

PILLAR 7: Board-Designated Needs

In order to allow the Catholic Foundation to fulfill its mission of assisting the faithful in leaving a legacy of faith, hope, and love in the Diocese of La Crosse, the objectives of this pillar are determined by the Board of Directors of the Foundation. Proceeds from these funds are used to address other specific areas of need or strategic priorities, such as supporting new initiatives, addressing emerging issues, or filling gaps in services. As board-designated, the Foundation's Board of Directors has the authority to adjust the use of these funds in response to changing circumstances and emerging priorities. This flexibility is key for addressing emergency needs, one-time grants, Foundation operations, and evolving challenges or opportunities that the Foundation might identify in the future.