



DIOCESE *of* LACROSSE
OFFICE OF THE CHANCERY
DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEWS RELEASE

**PAPAL HONORS CONFERRED ON EIGHT (8) PRIESTS OF
THE DIOCESE OF LA CROSSE**

With great joy His Excellency, Bishop Jerome E. ListECKI, D.D., J.C.D., and the Catholic Diocese of La Crosse, Wisconsin, wish to announce that His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI, has bestowed upon eight (8) priests of the Diocese of La Crosse the Papal Honor of “*Chaplain to His Holiness*,” bearing with it the title of “*Monsignor*,” in honor of their service to the Church.

The eight priests are:

The Very Reverend Monsignor Richard W. Gilles

- *Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia*
- Ordained 11 years

The Very Reverend Monsignor Robert P. Hundt

- *Judicial Vicar and Pastor* of Blessed Sacrament Parish, La Crosse
- Ordained 44 years

The Reverend Monsignor Charles A. Blecha

- *Senior Priest*
- Ordained 65 years

The Reverend Monsignor J. Floyd Dwyer

- *Senior Priest*
- Ordained 57 years

The Reverend Monsignor Edmund J. Klimek

- *Chaplain* at Sacred Heart Hospital, Eau Claire
- Ordained 52 years

The Reverend Monsignor Edwin L. Knauf

- *Senior Priest*
- Ordained 72 years

The Reverend Monsignor John E. Malik

- *Pastor*, St. Mary Help of Christian Parish, Colby
- Ordained 52 years

The Reverend Monsignor Bernard O. McGarty

- *Senior Priest*
- Ordained 56 years

The Papal Honor will be conferred at a Mass celebrated by Bishop Listecky at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph the Workman, La Crosse, at 2 p.m. on Sunday, December 18, 2005.

The Diocese of La Crosse is grateful to His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI, for bestowing this pontifical honor on eight (8) of our priests.

Benedict T. Nguyen, M.T.S., J.C.L.
Chancellor / Director of Communications

OTHER FACTS:

Collective years of service of the eight newly named Monsignors:

- *409 years*

Last time a priest of the Diocese of La Crosse was named a Monsignor:

- *Very Reverend Monsignor Raymond L. Burke*
- *Named as Prelate of Honor to His Holiness on August 12, 1993 in Rome*

Last time a priest of the Diocese of La Crosse was named a Monsignor in the Diocese of La Crosse:

- *The Right Reverend Monsignor Joseph Andrezejewski*
- *May 28, 1966*