

OUR NEW PASTOR

Bishop William P. Callahan, Bishop of La Crosse, has named Very Reverend Kevin C. Louis as Pastor of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Big River, effective October 1, 2015

Here is an introductory Biography to help us get to know who our new Pastor is.



Father Kevin C. Louis, S.T.L. *Introductory Biography*

Father Kevin C. Louis was born in 1963 at Marshfield, WI, the son of Charley and the late Rita (Burke) Louis. After graduating from Marshfield Columbus Catholic High School, he entered the Saint John Vianney Seminary program on the campus of the University of Saint Thomas, Saint Paul, Minnesota, earning a B.A. in Philosophy in 1985. To complete his seminary training Louis was sent to the Pontifical North American College, Vatican City State, earning an S.T.B. (Bachelor of Sacred Theology) from the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome, Italy, in 1988. Bishop John J. Paul ordained him a priest for the Diocese of La Crosse on July 22, 1989.

Father Louis' first priestly assignment was to the Cathedral of Saint Joseph the Workman as Associate Rector. In 1993 he was named Pastor of Saint John the Baptist in Plum City where he served for two years. Subsequently Father Louis was given the pastoral care of four parishes in Monroe County – Saint Mary's Ridge, Summit Ridge, Norwalk and Cashton – which also included ministry to the area's Spanish-speaking population. In 1998 he was released from service in the Diocese of La Crosse in order to become a faculty member at the Pontifical College Josephinum Seminary, Columbus, Ohio. In 2003 Father Louis earned an S.T.L. (Licentiate in Sacred Theology) in Fundamental Theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome, Italy, and attained the rank of Assistant Professor of Dogmatic Theology at the Josephinum. He was recalled to ministry in the Diocese of

La Crosse in 2005 serving briefly in the Office of the Bishop and then as Pastor of Saint Peter Parish, Stevens Point. In 2011 Father Louis was named Pastor of Sacred Heart Parishes in Elmwood and Spring Valley and one year later was also given the pastoral care of Saint Luke Parish, Boyceville.

In addition to these parish assignments, Father Louis serves (2010-present) as the Director of Spiritual Formation in the Permanent Deacon Formation Program for the Diocese of La Crosse. He is active in priestly formation of seminarians for the Diocese of La Crosse as a member of the Diocesan Seminarian Admissions Board (2005-present) and recently completed service as a parish mentor priest through the Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity of the University of Saint Thomas, Saint Paul, Minnesota (2011-2015). Father Louis continues to serve as Dean (Vicar Forane) of the Durand Deanery (2014-present), councilor of the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of La Crosse (2014-present), and member of the Board of Directors of the Saint Joseph's Priest Fund, Incorporated (2015-present). Effective October 1 Bishop William P. Callahan has appointed Father Louis as chaplain to the Diocese of La Crosse chapter of Courage.

Father Louis' hobbies include reading, hiking, bicycling, traveling, cooking, music, movies, and photography. In addition to English, he speaks Italian and Spanish and has a working knowledge of Latin and Greek. His father, Charley, still resides in Marshfield with his wife, Marilyn. Father Louis' only brother, Brian, lives in Chicago, Illinois, and works as a staff reporter for Bloomberg L.P., a financial news and information services media company.