



July 29, 2026

Dear People of the Diocese of Wisconsin,

I am writing to let you know that I have made the decision to call for the election of the 13th bishop of the Diocese of Wisconsin in October of 2027. I plan to resign (retire) once the new bishop is ordained and consecrated in the spring of 2028.

I love the Diocese of Wisconsin. I love being your bishop. I have known and served with many of you for many years. I have just started to get to know some of you. I am excited about what we have accomplished since the reunification. I am excited about the possibilities for the future. I cannot imagine a better diocese in which to serve. And yet, I believe it is time to move toward calling a new bishop to help guide the diocese into the next chapter.

During the conversation leading up to the reunion of the three historic Wisconsin dioceses, we acknowledged that given my age, I would inevitably be a "bridge bishop" and I would not be Bishop of Wisconsin for very long. I will turn 70 at the end of next year. That seems old enough to step away and make space for someone else. I also have a grandson in Cleveland who is about to turn one year old and I would like to spend more time with him. For these and other reasons now seems a good time to start this process.

It is also a good time because the Diocese of Wisconsin has made a good beginning and is on a firm footing. We have an excellent, faithful, and dedicated staff. We are blessed with truly fine clergy and wonderful lay leadership. There is growth of membership and vitality around the diocese. Our finances are good. I look forward to continuing my part in the good work begun for the next 18–24 months. During that time we will continue to perfect the diocesan structures, continue to assist congregations in flourishing, and tend to other things to "set the table" for the next bishop.

The details of the next steps in the process of selecting my successor will be shared in the coming weeks by the Standing Committee.

Let us hold one another in prayer as we enter this season of transition, trusting that God is with us and will continue to guide the Diocese of Wisconsin.

Under the Mercy,

The Rt. Rev. Matthew Gunter | XII Bishop of Wisconsin