



# VOCATION SPIRIT NEWS

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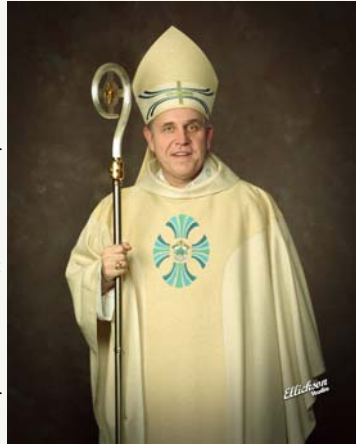
## *Jerome Listecki to Serve As next Milwaukee Archbishop*

*From Archmil.org*

The Most Reverend Jerome Edward Listecki has been named the 11th archbishop of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee by Pope Benedict XVI, the Vatican announced today. Listecki, 60, succeeds the Most Reverend Timothy M. Dolan, who was named Archbishop of New York on February 23, 2009, and installed as Archbishop of New York April 15, 2009. Listecki currently serves as bishop of the Diocese of La Crosse, where he was installed as bishop on March 1, 2005, succeeding the Most Reverend Raymond L. Burke.

Bishop Listecki will be installed as Archbishop of Milwaukee in early January by the Papal Nuncio to the United States, Archbishop Pietro Sambi. At that time, he will assume responsibility for the spiritual well-being of Catholics in the 10 counties of southeastern Wisconsin and take on the day-to-day administration of the archdiocese.

A native of Chicago, Bishop Listecki attended St. Michael the Archangel Grammar School, Quigley Preparatory Seminary South High School and Niles College of Loyola University. He began his graduate studies at the University of St. Mary of the Lake, Mundelein Seminary in 1971, and was ordained a priest on May 14, 1975. On November 7, 2000, he was appointed auxiliary bishop of Chicago by Pope John Paul II and was ordained a bishop on January 8, 2001. In January 2002, Bishop Listecki was named the Episcopal Vicar of the Vicariate 1 of the



**Archbishop-designate Jerome E. Listecki (Submitted photo courtesy of the Diocese of La Crosse)**

Archdiocese of Chicago. In addition, Listecki is also a retired Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Army Reserves.

Bishop Listecki was first assigned as a deacon at St. Michael Parish in Orland Park, Ill., from 1974-1975. His first assignment as a priest was at St. Margaret Mary Parish, Chicago, from 1975-1976. In 1976, he was appointed dean of students at Quigley Preparatory Seminary North, Chicago, and was also assigned to Mater Christi Parish, North Riverside, Ill. In 1976, Listecki earned a civil law degree from DePaul University, Chicago.

Listecki began graduate studies in Canon Law and Moral Theology in 1979 at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, Rome, earning a doctoral degree in Canon Law in 1981, and continuing Moral Theology studies until his return to the Archdiocese of Chicago in 1983.

Upon returning from Rome, he taught Canon Law and Moral Theology at the Archdiocese of Chicago

major seminary, the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, Ill. He remained on the faculty until his appointment as pastor of St. Ignatius Parish, Chicago, in August 2000.

As the bishop of La Crosse, Listecki led the diocese in various initiatives including a successful \$50 million dollar capital campaign; the individual incorporation and computerization of all 165 parishes of the diocese; raising over a half-million dollars in Gulf Coast flood relief; assisting in relief for the local floods; and the formulation of a diocesan-wide pastoral plan.

Born March 12, 1949, Bishop Listecki is the son of Harry and Alfreda (Kasprzk) Listecki. They are both deceased. He has one sister, Mary (Penny), who resides in Tinley Park, Ill., a south Chicago suburb.

His Episcopal motto is the phrase "Life is Christ," from St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians (Phil 1:18-26).



**Bishop Listecki's Coat of Arms**

## *\$0, How DO I Know?*

### **VOCATIONAL AND YOUNG ADULT QUICK LINKS:**

[thinkpriest.org](http://thinkpriest.org)

[HOW DO I KNOW?](#)

[HOUSE OF PEACE](#)

[Cardinal Stritch Campus Ministry](#)

[Capuchin Volunteers](#)

[Franciscan Sisters of Charity](#)

### **Cardinal Francis George, OMI, Archbishop of Chicago:**

*"Archbishop Listecki's many friends, the Archdiocese of Chicago's bishops and priests and all those who were so well served by his years of ministry at Mundelein Seminary and in the archdiocese join me in offering heartfelt congratulations on his appointment as Archbishop of Milwaukee. We congratulate, as well, the Catholics and all the citizens of Milwaukee and southeastern Wisconsin as they prepare to welcome a shepherd who will love them and guide them in the name of Christ."*

### **Most Reverend Richard J. Sklba, Auxiliary Bishop of Milwaukee:**

*"I am pleased to add my voice to that of priests and people alike in welcoming you, Archbishop Jerome Listecki, to the Church of southeastern Wisconsin. There is much goodness and vitality in our parish communities across the ten counties, as you will experience in new and wonderful ways during your first weeks and months in our midst. You will undoubtedly bring new gifts of your own and we look forward to working with you for the building up of the Lord's Church. May your days with us be many, fruitful and happy! May all the gifts of God's Spirit fill us with the joy of doing His will together!"*



## Discerning Priesthood: The First Step

Before our new Archbishop was a bishop, he functioned as a priest for the Chicago Archdiocese. Before that, he was a young man discerning his call. Maybe you are a young person seeking to discover if ordained ministry is a possibility for you. Here are some suggestions from [thinkpriest.org](http://thinkpriest.org)

**A vocation** to the priesthood is a response to the love of God in one's life. It is also a life of self-sacrifice that is aimed to restore and recover a love of God in the world. The signs in a man that indicate a possible vocation to the priesthood include the following:

**Love of God** - You strive to know and love God more everyday.

**Love of neighbor** - You desire to bring God's love and grace to the world for the salvation of souls.

**Attracted to the priesthood** - You have an interior attraction to the priesthood. There is a certain sense of joy and peace when you contemplates yourself living as a priest.

**A willingness to serve the Lord as His priest** - The willingness to be a priest is already an excellent sign that the Lord wants you to be a priest.

**A generous heart** and a willingness to sacrifice.

**Human Requirements** - You are physically, intellectually, and psychologically capable of living the priestly life.

**Be Quiet** in order to hear the Lord's voice calling. Take time to pray and meditate in silence about your vocation, especially in front of the Blessed Sacrament.

**Find a Spiritual Director** - somebody you can be open with - who can help you to develop your relationship with God and to know yourself better.

**Get in Touch** with [Father Jim Lobacz](#), Vocation Director. Speaking with a vocation director does not mean you must become a priest, but rather allows you to learn more about the priesthood.

**Read up** on religious and priestly life

**Participate** in retreats and discernment groups

**Wait** for the Lord.. God's timing is always perfect - but seldom seems soon enough!

### Upcoming Events

#### **Annual Catholic Men's Retreat**

St. Francis Seminary. January 8-10th, 2010

#### **Wisconsin Catholic Youth Rally ~ 2010**

March 27, 2010. For more information, visit the WYRE Ministries Web Site: [wyre-ministries.org](http://wyre-ministries.org)

Archdiocese Vocations Office Team: Here to hear about your calling! Call us @ (414) 747-6437 if we can help you.

**Thank you Jan, Susi and Fr. Jim!**



## How Does a Bishop Actually Become a Bishop?

The ultimate decision in appointing bishops rests with the pope, and he is free to select anyone he chooses. But how does he know whom to select? The process for selecting candidates for the episcopacy normally begins at the diocesan level and works its way through a series of consultations until it reaches Rome. It is a process bound by strict confidentiality and involves a number of important players - the most influential being the apostolic nuncio, the Congregation for Bishops, and the pope. It can be a time consuming process, often taking eight months or more to complete. While there are distinctions between the first appointment of a priest as a bishop and a bishop's later transfer to another diocese or his promotion to archbishop, the basic outlines of the process remain the same

### **Stage 1: Bishops' Recommendations**

Every bishop may submit to the archbishop of his province the names of priests he thinks would make good bishops. Prior to the regular province meeting (usually annually), the archbishop distributes to all the bishops of the province the names and curricula vitae of priests which have been submitted to him. Following a discussion among the bishops at the province meeting, a vote is taken on which names to recommend. The number of names on this provincial list may vary. The vote tally, together with the minutes of the meeting, is then forwarded by the archbishop to the apostolic nuncio in Washington. The list is also submitted to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

### **Stage 2: The Apostolic Nuncio**

By overseeing the final list of names forwarded to Rome, the apostolic nuncio plays a decisive role in the selection process. He not only gathers facts and information about potential candidates, but also interprets that information for the Congregation. Great weight is given to the nuncio's recommendations, but it is important to remember that his "gatekeeper" role, however, does not mean that his recommendations are always followed....

### **Stage 3: Congregation for Bishops**

Once all the documentation from the nuncio is complete and in order, the process moves forward. If the appointment involves a bishop who is being promoted or transferred, the matter may be handled by the head of the congregation and the staff. If, however, the appointment is of a priest to the episcopacy, the full congregation is ordinarily involved. A member of the congregation is chosen to summarize the documentation and make a report to the full congregation, which generally meets twice a month on Thursdays. After hearing the report, the congregation discusses the appointment and then votes. The congregation may follow the recommendation of the nuncio, chose another of the candidates on the list, or even ask that another list be prepared.

### **Stage 4: The Pope Decides**

At a private audience with the pope, the head of the Congregation for Bishops presents the recommendations of the congregation to the Holy Father. A few days later, the pope informs the congregation of his decision. The congregation then notifies the nuncio, who in turn contacts the candidate and asks if he will accept. If the answer is "yes," the Vatican is notified and a date is set for the announcement. It often takes six to eight months—and sometimes longer—from the time a diocese becomes vacant until a new bishop is appointed.

### **Stage 5: Announcement and Installation**

Once the name of the new diocesan bishop is made public, plans will commence for his assuming that role. Though it happens very rarely, a newly-named archbishop need not be a bishop first. In this case, however, the new archbishop would need to be ordained as a bishop before he could be installed as an archbishop. The newly named archbishop has two months from the time of his announcement to assume his position. The installation of an archbishop follows a prescribed liturgical rite that includes the presence of the nuncio or his delegate, the showing of the document of appointment (called a bull of appointment) to the College of Consultors (a group of priests who assists in the governance of a diocese), and being seated in the episcopal chair (cathedra).