



# DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

*Office of the Bishop*

July 30, 2011

Dear Monsignors, Fathers and Deacons:

Father Robert B. Gillespie entered eternal life Saturday morning July 30, 2011. He was born October 27, 1915, in Grand Rapids to Bernard Robert and Mildred (Freeman) Gillespie.

Father Gillespie attended St. Francis Xavier elementary school, Grand Rapids; Raupp, Boyton and St. Henry schools in Detroit and St. Michael's school in Flint. He attended Sacred Heart Seminary, Detroit, as well as Holy Cross and Moreau Seminaries, Notre Dame, Indiana. He was ordained to the priesthood by Most Reverend Francis J. Haas on December 8, 1943 in the Cathedral of St. Andrew.

Father ministered in the diocese as Associate Pastor at St. Mary, Muskegon; Holy Name of Jesus, Grand Rapids; St. Simon, Ludington; St. Ann, Cadillac; St. Mary, Cheboygan; SS Peter and Paul, Grand Rapids; St. Francis de Sales, Holland; and SS Peter and Paul, Ionia. In 1956 Father Gillespie was appointed Pastor of St. Jerome, Scottville with St. John Cantius, Freesoil in 1972. In 1973 he was appointed Pastor of St. Philip Neri, Reed City with Mission of St. Ann, Paris. He also served as Pastor of St. Bernard, Irons and St. Stanislaus, Ludington. Father ministered at St. Edward, Lake Odessa and St. Mary, Grand Rapids as Administrator.

After his retirement in 1994, Father Gillespie served the diocese in an on-call capacity.

**Visitation for Father Robert Gillespie will be on Wednesday, August 3, 2011 6 - 8 pm at O'Brien Gerst Funeral Home, 3980 Cascade Rd. SE at East Paris, Grand Rapids with a Vigil Service at 7 pm.**

**The funeral Mass will be celebrated on Thursday, August 4, 11 am, at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Grand Rapids where Father will lie in state one hour prior to the Mass.**

May Father Robert B. Gillespie rest in eternal peace and enjoy the fullness of the glory of the Lord he so faithfully served. Let us continue to remember him in our Masses and prayers.

**May this good and faithful servant now enter into the joy of his Lord.**

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

Most Reverend Walter A. Hurley  
Bishop of Grand Rapids

