



# DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

*Office of the Bishop*

January 16, 2012

Dear Monsignors, Fathers, and Deacons,

Our brother and fellow priest, Father William John Reitz entered eternal life today at the family farm in Lowell, Michigan.

Father Reitz was born in Lowell, Michigan on January 27, 1923, the son of Anthony Reitz and Edith Daller.

After Wilkinson Elementary School, he attended St. Joseph Seminary, Grand Rapids, MI; Sacred Heart Seminary, Detroit, MI and St. Mary Seminary, Baltimore, MD. He was ordained a priest by Bishop Francis J. Haas at the Cathedral of Saint Andrew on May 31, 1947.

Father Reitz served the parishes of St. John Vianney, Wyoming; Sacred Heart, Mt. Pleasant; St. Mary, Muskegon; St. Ann, Cadillac; SS Peter and Paul, Ionia; St. Joseph, Onekama; St. Raphael Mission, Copenish and St. Joseph Mission, Karlin; All Saints, Fremont; St. Mary Magdalen, Kentwood; St. Michael, Brunswick; Christ the King Mission, Hesperia; St. Mary, Carson City; and St. John the Baptist, Hubbardston. He was appointed Synodal Judge – Matrimonial Court on October 1, 1963. He was elected dean of the Montague Deanery on October 21, 1977. He was a member of the newly established Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Grand Rapids, October 19, 1979. He was elected dean of Ionia Deanery (1985-1990). He retired to senior priest status on June 30, 2004.

He is survived by a brother, Father Joseph A. Reitz and a sister, Margaret Scheid and nephews and nieces. A sister, Virginia Reitz, predeceased him.

Funeral arrangements for Father Reitz are as follows:

- Visitation will be on **Thursday, January 19 (5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.)** with a Vigil Service and Rosary at **7:00 p.m.** at Johnson-Feuerstein Funeral Home, 203 S. Pleasant St., Belding, Michigan
- Mass of Christian Burial will be on **Friday, January 20 at 11:00 a.m.**, St. Joseph Church, 409 S. Bridge St., Belding, Michigan.
- Interment will be at St. Mary Catholic Cemetery, Miriam, Michigan.

May Father Reitz now rest in eternal peace and enjoy the fullness of the glory of the Lord he served. Please remember him in your Masses and prayers and include him in the prayers of the faithful.

Fraternally yours in the Lord,

Most Reverend Walter A. Hurley  
Bishop of Grand Rapids