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**DIOCESE AND SAINT MARY'S HEALTH CARE
COLLABORATE TO IMPROVE GRAND RAPIDS NEIGHBORHOOD**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. – Feb. 6, 2011 – The Diocese of Grand Rapids and Saint Mary's Health Care have filed joint plans with the City of Grand Rapids Planning Department in order to complete the final phase of the Cathedral Square project and begin improvements along Maple Street in the City of Grand Rapids. Maple Street sits in the middle of 40 acres, which includes the Saint Mary's Health Care campus and Cathedral Square. Both campuses span from Wealthy Street and Division Avenue east to Lafayette Avenue and Cherry Street.

The two organizations have collaborated in an effort to create a more cohesive, pedestrian friendly, well lighted, and attractive campus connection that uses good planning principles and respects the heritage of both organizations while preparing for the future. The plan allows for the feel of one neighborhood and provides for a correlation that is visibly linked, and creates a walkable connection between the two campuses. It is called the Maple Street Improvement Plan and it supports pedestrian access points throughout the entire path between the entrance to the Cathedral of Saint Andrew and the main entrance at Saint Mary's Health Care. It includes demolition of two buildings; the former Eerdman Building, located on the southwest corner of Maple and Jefferson, owned by Saint Mary's Health Care, and the St. Andrew School building, which was closed in June 2010 and is owned by the Cathedral of Saint Andrew. In addition, the Plan supports the recognition and access to all other churches and health and human service facilities immediately adjoining the campuses.

“This collaboration and campus connection creates greater pedestrian access points to all areas of the two campuses and throughout the neighborhood. It is a wonderful partnership we have started and will serve to strengthen future growth and development of the nearby areas,” said Bishop Walter A. Hurley.

The plan also provides for future needs.

“Working together with the diocese and other neighbors has allowed us to begin to plan for the future as well. The Maple Street Improvement Plan integrates great access, green space and the principles needed for future growth that could include space for retail, housing, office and/or other needs in the

neighborhood. This plan has turned these disconnected blocks with buildings into a real campus,” said Philip H. McCorkle, Jr., Saint Mary’s President and CEO. “This is the latest phase of Saint Mary’s Master Campus Plan, which we unveiled in 2006.”

In addition to potential building site space on the Saint Mary’s Health Center campus, the Diocese of Grand Rapids will keep a portion Cathedral Square available to support potential programming and future educational needs. The Plans and architectural renderings have been submitted in time for review by the City’s Planning Commission in March.

The Diocese of Grand Rapids serves 178,000 Catholics, 103 parishes and 29 schools in an 11-county area of West Michigan.

Saint Mary’s Health Care is an integrated network of health care excellence offering a unique combination of capabilities to deliver a health care experience that is more complete and personally satisfying. Our commitment to offer the latest technology and most highly skilled physicians in a holistic, patient-centered environment has made us a progressive leader in cancer care, neuroscience, orthopedics, diabetes and endocrine care, kidney transplants, and integrative health care.

The network encompasses more than 2,400 employees, a 344-bed, The Joint Commission-accredited teaching hospital, The Lacks Cancer Center, The Wege Institute: Mind, Body and Spirit, the Center for Diabetes and Endocrinology, the Neuroscience Program, three fitness centers, five community outreach centers and affiliations with home health care, rehabilitation services, and the area's premier primary care network, Advantage Health Physician Network. Saint Mary’s has several times been awarded the Governor’s Award of Excellence and named one of West Michigan’s 101 Best and Brightest Companies to Work For. Saint Mary’s is a member of Trinity Health, the country’s fourth-largest Catholic health care system.

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