



DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

Office of the Bishop

July 23, 2011

Dear Monsignors, Fathers and Deacons,

Father Joseph Pettit entered eternal life late last evening. He was born August 3, 1924 in Grand Rapids, MI, the son of Joseph and Erna (Schmidt) Pettit.

Father Joe was ordained a priest for the Passionist Community on March 26, 1955 at the Cathedral of the Assumption, Louisville, KY. He ministered at various locations as a Passionist priest until coming to the Diocese of Grand Rapids in 1973.

He served in the diocese in the following positions: associate pastor at St. Mary's, Grand Rapids ; St. Patrick, Portland and the Cathedral of Saint Andrew; pastor at St. Philip Neri, Reed City with Mission of St. Ann at Paris; St. James, Montague with Mission at St. John Claybanks; St. Joseph, Pewamo; St. Margaret Mary, Edmore and St. Bernadette, Stanton. Father Joe also ministered as a Chaplain to Blodgett and Butterworth Hospitals and the Carmelite Monastery. He also served as Diocesan Director of Communications and was appointed Advocate in the Diocesan Tribunal.

After his retirement in 2003. Father Pettit served the diocese in an on-call capacity.

The funeral Mass will be celebrated on Tuesday, July 26, 11 am at St. Mary Parish, Grand Rapids. Father will lie in state one hour prior to the Mass.

May Father Joseph Pettit 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