



# DIocese of Grand Rapids

**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Mary Haarman  
616-243-0491  
616-405-7573 (cell)

## **THREE PRIESTS OF THE DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS RECEIVE PAPAL HONOR OF THE TITLE “MONSIGNOR”**

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., March 3, 2006 – The Most Reverend Walter A. Hurley, bishop of Grand Rapids, has announced that Pope Benedict XVI has conferred upon three priests of the Diocese of Grand Rapids papal honors with the title of “Reverend Monsignor.” In recognition of their distinguished service to the Church, Rev. William H. Duncan, Rev. John F. Porter, and Rev. Leo S. Rosloniec have been named Chaplains to His Holiness with the title “Reverend Monsignor.”

“I am grateful that our Holy Father has conferred this honor on these priests,” said Bishop Walter A. Hurley. “The priests have served the Church and the diocese with distinction. I am grateful for their service as I am for the service of all our priests.”

The diocesan bishop nominates candidates for the honor and submits the names and biographies to the Holy See. Once the Holy Father confers the honor onto the priest, the Vatican Secretariat of State issues a diploma designating the new title and rank and recognizing the newly-designated monsignor’s service to the Church. Priests who are given papal honors and thus named monsignors are considered to be members of the papal household and thus are listed in the papal yearbook, *Annuario Pontificio*.

A diocesan celebration of these conferrals is scheduled for Monday, May 1, at 7:00 p.m. at the Cathedral of Saint Andrew. A reception will follow immediately in the parish center.

The naming of Monsignors Duncan, Porter, and Rosloniec bring the number of monsignors in the diocese to nine. The last diocesan priest to receive this honor was Monsignor Terrence L. Stewart in 1995.

The eleven county Diocese of Grand Rapids serves 163,000 Catholics in its 102 parishes and missions.