



**DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS**  
*OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS*



**For Immediate Release**

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**Bishop Hurley Announces New Staff Appointment**

Grand Rapids, Mich, August 31, 2006 – Most Reverend Walter A. Hurley, bishop of Grand Rapids, announced today the appointment of Patricia J. Hughes, D.Min. as director of Pastoral Services for the Diocese of Grand Rapids, effective September 18, 2006.

The director of Pastoral Services is a new position created in light of the findings and recommendations of the recent diocesan organizational review conducted by Crowe Chizek and Company LLC and presented to Bishop Hurley in April 2006.

As director she will have responsibility for identifying and implementing appropriate support functions and resources to assist parishes in the areas of worship, inclusion/diversity initiatives, faith formation, family and youth, stewardship, evangelization, chaplaincies and other ministries.

“Dr. Hughes brings a strong academic background and a broad spectrum of parish experience to the position. Her understanding of and sensitivity to the needs of parishes particularly in the liturgical and catechetical ministries will serve the diocese well,” said Bishop Hurley.

In 2003, Dr. Hughes received a Doctor of Ministry from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, IL. Earlier she earned a Master in Pastoral Studies from Loyola University (New Orleans) and a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education from the College of Mount St. Joseph-on-the-Ohio.

“At this point in my life's work, Bishop Hurley's appointment has caught me somewhere between joy and exhilaration: joy because of the possibilities for renewing faith and practice in the diocese, and exhilaration because of the opportunity to nurture, support, and bring Catholic life to a new fullness,” said Dr. Hughes. “The opportunity to inform the "people to people" ministries of this diocese is the backbone of my commitment to our diocese. I can't wait to begin!”

–More –

In addition to her academic credentials and parish experience, Dr. Hughes has conducted workshops throughout the country and has taught graduate and undergraduate classes on liturgy and catechetics.

The mother of five adult children, Dr. Hughes resides in Grand Rapids.

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

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