



DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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REVEREND RONALD HUTCHINSON APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF PRIESTLY VOCATIONS

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., April 4, 2006 –Most Reverend Walter A. Hurley, Bishop of Grand Rapids, has appointed Reverend Ronald D. Hutchinson as Director of the Office of Priestly Vocations, effective July 1, 2006. Father Hutchinson will continue his present responsibilities as pastor of Holy Redeemer Parish in Jenison.

“We are privileged to have Father Hutchinson oversee our important priestly vocation efforts,” said Bishop Hurley. “The area of priestly vocations is a critical matter for us in the diocese. Father brings an energy and vision that will serve this essential ministry, the diocese and the broader Church well.”

As Director of Priestly Vocations, Father Ron will oversee vocation efforts that include recruitment and support for candidates to the priesthood.

Father Hutchinson was ordained September 1994 at the Cathedral of Saint Andrew. Prior to his appointment to Holy Redeemer Parish in 2003, he served as associate pastor for St. Francis de Sales Parish (Muskegon), associate pastor of Holy Spirit Parish (Grand Rapids) and pastor of St. Patrick Parish (Parnell).

“I am humbled by Bishop Hurley’s confidence in my ability to serve the diocese in this important ministry,” said Father Hutchinson. “God continues to call young men to the priesthood and I look forward to assisting them in realizing their call to this vital ministry.”

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Father Hutchinson attended St. John Seminary, Brighton, MA and Regis College, Toronto, Canada. He received a M. Div and S.T.B. from St. Mary Seminary & University, Baltimore, MD.

The present positions of Director of Priestly Vocations and Director of Seminarians, currently served by Reverend Paul A. Milanowski, pastor of St. Stephen Parish (East Grand Rapids) and Rev. Michael Danner, pastor of St. Jude Parish (Grand Rapids) respectively, will be combined into the one position of Director of the Office of Priestly Vocations on July 1. Father Milanowski and Father Danner will continue their parish responsibilities.

“I am most grateful to Father Danner and Father Milanowski for their generous service and applaud the success that they have had over the years. They have served with distinction and I am grateful to them,” said Bishop Hurley.

The Diocese of Grand Rapids serves more than 163,000 Catholics in its 102 parishes and missions in 11 counties.

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