



DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

Office of the Bishop

November 2006

Dear Friends:

Throughout the years, the Diocese of Grand Rapids has been well served by countless women and men religious. They have served and continue to serve in our parishes, hospitals, schools and the broader civic community.

Each year we acknowledge their commitment and dedication to the local Church and their present needs by participating in the Retirement Fund for Religious National Collection established by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). The rising numbers of elderly religious and the rising costs of health care are well documented and result in a growing and quantifiable need for help. Needs are often severe at some contemplative institutes and at many institutes that primarily served in educational ministries.

Parishes throughout our diocese have been most generous in their response to this appeal. This year the collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious is scheduled for the weekend of December 9-10, 2006.

Last year the Diocese of Grand Rapids provided \$86,855 for grants to religious institutes that have served the Church over many years.

I thank you for your past support and encourage you to participate in this year's campaign.

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

Most Reverend Walter A. Hurley
Bishop of Grand Rapids