



DIocese OF GRAND RAPIDS

April 11, 2007

To the people of the Diocese of Grand Rapids

My dear friends,

Let me first extend best wishes to you and your family during this blessed Easter season.

Over the past year I have had an opportunity to meet with many who have been so supportive of the life and the work of the Church in the Diocese in Grand Rapids. From time to time, I will update you on the progress, challenges and opportunities as we work to further the mission of the Church.

Allow me to share with you some good news covering a number of growth areas:

- I am pleased to announce the establishment of St. Luke University Parish to be located in Allendale. This is the first time we have established a new territorial parish in nearly 30 years. The parish will be served by two Paulist Fathers who will be assigned by early summer. A news release is available on the diocesan Web site and contains further information.
- In recognition of the Paulist tradition and practice of living in community and in appreciation of their continuing service to the diocese through the Catholic Information Center and now St. Luke University Parish, I have offered the Cathedral residence to be home to the six Paulists who will be serving here. The residence was designed to be a home for several priests and I am pleased that it will once again be utilized in that manner. I will continue to host various diocesan events at the Cathedral residence.
- Greater Grand Rapids Catholic Secondary Schools are in the final stages of an \$8 million dollar capitol drive to construct a LEED-certified competition gymnasium on West Catholic High School campus and a practice gymnasium at Catholic Central's Cougar Athletic Trail on Leffingwell. Separate groundbreaking ceremonies are set for April 24 at both campuses. More information will be forthcoming.
- The Cathedral of Saint Andrew continues to be a welcoming Mother Church to our diocesan family. In the past 12 months we have had the opportunity to bring more than 10,000 people to the Cathedral for the first time. They come for confirmations, rite of election, graduations and other events.

In the coming weeks I will be communicating again with our updated plans for the Cathedral Square project. The Cathedral Square will enable us to set a location for all our diocesan efforts and to unite our commitment to worship, education, social justice, health care, etc. in one regional site for our diocesan Church community.

I am grateful for all you do for Our Lord's Church.

With good wishes to you and your family,

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

Most Rev. Walter A. Hurley,
Bishop of Grand Rapids