



DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

Office of the Bishop

March 30, 2008

Dear Friends,

As we celebrate this joyous Easter season, it is particularly gratifying that I am able to bring you good news of a renewed agreement that will benefit the diocese and the broader community. Many of you may have already heard or read about the recent sale of the Burton Street property.

Through prayer and hard work by both parties, we have successfully closed on the sale of the Burton Street campus to the Lighthouse Full Life Center Church. The sale agreement supports the diocese's financial provisions; reflects our commitment to the neighborhood; and allows the Lighthouse Full Life Center Church ministry to advance their vision to establish a performing arts school in cooperation with the Grand Rapids Public Schools. The final details include a closing sale price of \$3,020,000 and rent free occupancy of the St. Joseph building until our move to *Cathedral Square*. The terms of the sale included an immediate cash payment of \$2.8 million at closing and a secured note for the balance of \$220,000 to be paid within one year. The speed with which we resolved the situation relieves a burden for us associated with future maintenance and potential liabilities which often plague vacant buildings located on a large campus.

The Burton Street campus has served the diocese well for over 90 years. It has been a space for worship, education and outreach to the neighborhood and broader community. It is gratifying to know that the property will continue to be used for similar purposes. There will be a sense of sadness when we leave, particularly, for our priests who spent their seminary years there and for those who utilized the facilities in its various capacities throughout the years. As we move forward, we are reminded of the vibrancy of our diocesan church. Like generations before us, we are called to carry out the mission and ministry of the church for our age and in light of the particular needs of the time. We are responding to that call with a renewed sense of energy, commitment and excitement.

The *Cathedral Square* project is proceeding on schedule. We anticipate occupying the new diocesan pastoral center in early July. I remain grateful for your continued support of this project and for all that you do for our Lord's Church here in our diocese.

Sincerely in the Lord,

Most Reverend Walter A. Hurley
Bishop of Grand Rapids



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