

from **the bishop**



**Bishop Walter A. Hurley receives pectoral cross from Blessed Pope John Paul II. Looking on is Adam Cardinal Maida.**

**M**y Dear Friends,  
 During the first week of February, the Bishops of Michigan and Ohio (Region VI) will visit Rome for what is known as the “*ad limina apostolorum*” visit referring to the tombs of St. Peter and St. Paul which the bishops are required to visit. Also included during our time in Rome is a visit with the Holy Father, a visit and Mass at the major basilicas as well as a series of meetings with the several Vatican offices that oversee various aspects of church life; such as, Doctrine of the Faith, clergy, bishops, education, Secretary of State and others.

Prior to the visit, each diocese is expected to provide to Rome what is known as the “Quinquennial Report”, a five-year report of statistics and activities that have taken place in the diocese, as well as the current status in the diocese. Because it has been eight years since the last “ad limina” the report covers statistics and activities from the past eight years. Our Ad Limina



**Bishops of Region VI, Michigan and Ohio, during the 2004 Ad Limina visit in Rome. Bishop Walter A. Hurley standing second from the left, Bishop Kevin M. Britt standing fifth from the right. Seated from left to right Adam Cardinal Maida, Blessed Pope John Paul II, and Edmund Casimir Cardinal Szoka.**

Report was sent in early November to Rome.

The last "ad limina" visit and report for the Diocese of Grand Rapids was made in May 2004 by Bishop Kevin Britt. I remember the visit well since I participated as an auxiliary bishop in Detroit. Bishop Britt will be very much in my thoughts and prayers during this visit.

We have been extremely blest in the diocese and I am grateful to all of you for your commitment and dedication to the church and the work of the church. It will be good to report on your dedication and commitment.

### *New Roman Missal*

The introduction of the text of the third edition of the Roman Missal has come and gone. Despite some awkwardness in using the new text, it seems to have been well received. Change is difficult for some but with prayers and patience, our appreciation of the new text will grow. The changes provide us all with the opportunity to deepen our understanding of the Eucharist.

I am also grateful to the additional councils of the Knights of Columbus for their support of providing copies of the new Roman Missal to our parishes and priests:

- Mary Queen of Peace Council No. 2199
- Bishop Plagens Council No. 3104
- Albert C. Doerr Council No. 7869
- Our Lady of Guadalupe Council No. 8425
- St. Bartholomew Council No. 14206

### *Advent and Christmas*

At this special time of the year, I extend my good wishes to all of you and your families. During Advent, we have been preparing to celebrate the birth of the Lord at Christmas and await his return in glory.

With the troubling times of a depressed economy, high unemployment, and so many of our men and women fighting in war torn areas of the world, we can easily become disheartened and fearful. Yet, the birth of the Lord is a beacon of hope. This blessed season reminds us that God took on human form, in the gift of His son, to walk with us through joy and sorrow until He calls us to glory.

I pray that the Lord who came to bring us hope and grace will pour out His generous blessing upon each of you. May your heart be open to receive the love of God bestowed upon you and may your lives be filled with His glory and peace.

*Blessings in the New Year,  
Bishop Hurley*

**Midnight Mass from the Cathedral of Saint Andrew** will be televised live on Fox 17 beginning at 12 midnight, and available livestream at [www.dioceseofgrandrapids.org](http://www.dioceseofgrandrapids.org) beginning at 12 midnight.



Midnight Mass Cathedral of Saint Andrew 2010



Bishop Hurley blesses the Nativity at the Cathedral of Saint Andrew.

### Bishop Hurley's Christmas 2011 message

>> Scan tag with your mobile device to listen to Bishop Hurley's Christmas 2011 message.



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