



OUR FAITH, OUR FUTURE
A PLAN FOR THE DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS



Our Faith, Our Future: *A Plan for the Diocese of Grand Rapids* is a process for creating a clear, strategic and visionary direction for the future of the church in the diocese. The final plan will enable parishes to continue, enhance and expand the outreach of vibrant life-giving ministries. As our demographics change and community needs change correspondingly, we as a church will be ready to respond more effectively.

Introduction for Vision for Vital Parishes

The idea of "vision" is to illustrate a picture of who we are called to be as church and how we can best carry out the mission that has been entrusted to us. The vision needs to be clear and inspired by God.

An initial draft of the document is in the process of being developed. Input from many people in three deaneries (Big Rapids, Grand Haven, Northwest Lakeshore) has led to the present version. The vision currently reflects input from these deaneries only, but will ultimately incorporate input from priests and parish lay leaders representing deaneries throughout the diocese. As planning unfolds, the vision will continue to be refined as needed to reflect both local conditions as well as a diocesan perspective. The initial draft is posted on the diocesan Web site at dioceseofgrandrapids.org

To comment about the vision or to offer your suggestions, please send an e-mail to Gail Welsh (gwelsh@dioceseofgrandrapids.org).

Find out why Catholic education matters

>> The opportunity to build a foundation of faith and nurture spiritual and moral values within students is unique to the experience of Catholic education. On the heels of Catholic Schools Week 2010, diocesan schools will hold information/registration sessions and open houses for parents considering Catholic education for their children. To find a school near you, visit dioceseofgrandrapids.org and click on the "Schools" link or contact the Offices for Catholic Schools at **616.243.0491**.

Check the diocesan Web site calendar, dioceseofgrandrapids.org, or your parish bulletin/Web site for other news and events in our diocese.

Journeying toward Catholicism

>> Bishop Walter A. Hurley will offer specific encouragement and witness to 213 catechumens and 352 candidates for full Communion, during the Rite of Election on February 20, 21 and 28 at the Cathedral of Saint Andrew in downtown Grand Rapids. At the heart of the rite is enrollment of the catechumens in the Book of the Elect, during which the bishop "elects" them for reception of the Easter sacraments. In addition, the bishop calls the candidates for full Communion to continuing conversion.

Retrouvaille offers opportunity for marital healing

>> Retrouvaille is a peer ministry for couples experiencing discord or pain who want to rediscover a loving marriage relationship. Couples considering separation, those who have separated and divorced couples who want marriage help are invited to participate. No couple will be denied the opportunity to participate based on financial restrictions.

To register for the spring retreat May 14-16, 2010, at Springhill Suites in Cascade, call **616.752.7004**. Additional information about Retrouvaille is available at helpourmarriage.com.

Stations of the Cross video available online

>> The Cathedral of Saint Andrew is offering a Lenten reflection, Stations of the Cross, in a video narrated by Rev. Mark-David Janus, CSP, rector of the cathedral. To view the video, visit cathedralofsaintandrew.org.

In memoriam



>> **Father Kenneth A. Wing** died Monday, Feb. 1. He was born in Hastings, Mich. on Feb. 6, 1926 and ordained a priest by Bishop Allen J. Babcock, on June 6, 1959 at the Cathedral of Saint Andrew.

Father Wing served in several parishes throughout the diocese until his retirement in 1991. Following retirement, he assisted in many of our parishes.



>> **Father Max J.V. Frego**, retired priest of the Diocese of Saginaw, died Friday, Jan. 29 at the age of 81. Father Frego was ordained to the priesthood on June 2, 1962 by

Bishop Allen J. Babcock for the Diocese of Grand Rapids. He was incardinated into the Diocese of Saginaw on July 20, 1971. Residing in Holland, Mich. until his death, Father Frego assisted in many of our parishes during his retirement.