



DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PAULISTS TO LEAD DIOCESAN EVANGELIZATION EFFORTS

Grand Rapids, Mich., Nov. 16, 2007 - Today, Bishop Walter A. Hurley joined Reverend John F. Duffy, CSP, president of the Paulist Fathers, to announce plans for the Paulist Fathers to provide overall leadership for diocesan evangelization efforts. This initiative includes bringing together the Catholic Information Center and the Cathedral of Saint Andrew Parish to form one faith community at the Cathedral. The announcement follows two years of discussions between the Diocese of Grand Rapids and the Paulists, who serve the Catholic Information Center.

“This is an extraordinary opportunity to strengthen and increase evangelization efforts in our diocese,” said Bishop Hurley. “The Paulist Fathers bring valuable experience to this ministry with particular expertise in urban and campus environments.” Beginning in July, liturgies currently held at the Catholic Information Center (246 Ionia NW) will be celebrated at the Cathedral. Programs and offices will be based at the new Cathedral Square Diocesan Center (Wealthy and Division) where all diocesan ministries are being consolidated in the spring. No plans for the current Catholic Information Center building have been developed at this time.

“Two years ago, the Paulist community completed a process of evaluating our foundations throughout the United States and Canada and gladly recommitted to Grand Rapids and the Catholic Information Center,” said Father Duffy. “Partnering with the Cathedral and the diocese will enable us to expand evangelization efforts diocesan-wide, concentrating on reconciliation, ecumenical dialogue and interfaith relations which are hallmarks of the Center.” Father Mark-David Janus, CPS, director of the Catholic Information Center for the past four years, will be appointed rector/pastor of the Cathedral of Saint Andrew with responsibility for Saint Andrew School in July 2008. Two additional Paulist Fathers will be assigned, bringing the total number of priests serving the Cathedral to three, one of whom will be fluent in Spanish. The Paulists will continue to provide pastoral leadership at the new St. Luke University Parish in Allendale and campus ministry at Grand Valley State University.

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Father Steven D. Cron, current rector/pastor of the Cathedral of Saint Andrew, has agreed to remain at the Cathedral to lead the transition. He will be reassigned next year.

One hundred twenty-five years ago the Cathedral parish was established downtown, where the Cathedral maintains her important role as the mother church of the diocese. Sixty years ago, the Paulist Fathers were invited to establish the Catholic Information Center also downtown. There are currently about 600 registered families at the Cathedral of Saint Andrew parish and about 2,000 individuals on the Catholic Information Center mailing list. The rich traditions of both communities contain the spiritual resources essential to advance the evangelization mission of the church in our growing region.

The Diocese of Grand Rapids serves 175,000 Catholics in 103 parishes throughout its 11-county region.

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