

June 21, 2005

Detroit Statement from Bishop Hurley at the announcement of his appointment as Bishop of Grand Rapids, Michigan.

I am grateful to our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI for the appointment to serve as the Bishop of the Diocese of Grand Rapids, Michigan. I pledge my very best efforts to serve faithfully and well the people of the diocese.

The church in Grand Rapids is strong and vibrant. It has been blessed with good leadership over the years and has a wonderfully dedicated group of priests, deacons, religious and laity. I am honored to be asked to serve there. I look forward to working closely with them, that together we may continue to do the work of the Lord and be His faithful people.

Serving as a priest and more recently as auxiliary bishop in Detroit has been a privilege and the source of many graces and blessings to me. It has been a special honor to work closely with Cardinal Szoka and Cardinal Maida. I am grateful for their support, confidence, guidance and friendship.

As I prepare to move to Grand Rapids I will miss being part of the day to day life of the church in the Archdiocese of Detroit. These years have been a source of much joy and happiness. They have been years that I will always cherish. The bishops and priests of the Archdiocese have always been supportive and understanding even when I have had to do difficult things and in the face of my own limitations. Many family members and close friends are in the Detroit area. At the same time, I look forward to being bishop, shepherd and pastor of the Church in Grand Rapids. Grand Rapids is a great city and a wonderful local church.

I am honored by this call and, on this day, feel particularly grateful and especially blest.
