

Archdiocese of Detroit

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Contact: Ned McGrath (w) 313.237.5943 | (h) 313.886.4114

Served as Detroit Auxiliary Bishop for Two Years Bishop Walter A. Hurley to Lead Grand Rapids Diocese

Pope Benedict XVI has named Detroit Auxiliary Bishop Walter A. Hurley as the Bishop of Grand Rapids. He succeeds the late Bishop Kevin Britt, who died in May of 2004. Cardinal Adam Maida, archbishop of Detroit, has been serving as Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Grand Rapids since the death of Bishop Britt.

Bishop Hurley will be installed as the 11th Bishop of Grand Rapids on Thursday, August 4, at 2 p.m. in the Cathedral of St. Andrew, 267 Sheldon Avenue, S.E., Grand Rapids.

The Diocese of Grand Rapids was established in 1882 and is made up of 11 counties (6,795 square miles) in the west-central portion of the lower peninsula of the State of Michigan. It is comprised of 162,670 Catholics, 122 priests and 90 parishes.

“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,” said Bishop Hurley.

“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...”

Bishop Hurley, 68, was born in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada, and ordained to the priesthood in 1965, following studies at Sacred Heart Seminary College, Detroit, and St. John’s Provincial Seminary, Plymouth. He holds a license in canon law from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

During a long and distinguished career, Bishop Hurley has held a wide variety of positions. Recent assignments include: Pastor, Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Farmington (1990-2003); Cardinal’s Delegate and Project Manager for the construction of the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center, Washington, D.C. (1995-2001); and Delegate of Cardinal Maida for matters relating to issues of sexual abuse by clergy and religious (1988-1995 and 2002-present).

“...Bishop Hurley has been one of my closest collaborators and advisors, indeed a trusted friend,” said Cardinal Adam Maida “His pastoral wisdom, training in Canon Law, considerable skills at organization and administration, along with his deep love for the Church, have been great blessings for all of us in Detroit, and will stand him in good measure as he begins his new ministry as a Diocesan Bishop...”

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A picture of Bishop Walter Hurley, his full statement on his appointment as Bishop of Grand Rapids, as well as Cardinal Adam Maida’s full statement, can be found on the Archdiocese of Detroit website at www.aodonline.org and/or on the Diocese of Grand Rapids website at www.dioceseofgrandrapids.org.

[Archdiocesan Communications](http://www.aodonline.org) | 305 Michigan Ave. | Detroit, Michigan 48226 | 313.237.5943