

June 21, 2005

Comments from Cardinal Adam Maida regarding the appointment of Bishop Hurley as Bishop of Grand Rapids:

Since the death of Bishop Britt in May 2004, the clergy, religious and lay faithful of the Diocese of Grand Rapids have been anxiously waiting for a new bishop. Now, their prayers have been heard! Acting through the person and office of Our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, the Lord is sending the Diocese of Grand Rapids an excellent and seasoned pastor, our own auxiliary bishop, Walter A. Hurley.

From the day of my arrival here in Detroit 15 years ago, Bishop Hurley has been one of my closest collaborators and advisors, indeed a trusted friend. 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.

Over his 40 years as a priest of Detroit, Bishop Hurley has been a pastor of three diverse and large parishes, has served as Metropolitan Judicial Vicar, Moderator of the Curia and Auxiliary Bishop. In every one of these roles, he has served with distinction. Attentive to justice for all parties, he has handled the delicate pastoral and juridical concerns related to cases of clergy sexual abuse. A natural leader among his peers, he has been an articulate and convincing spokesperson for all Church teachings and discipline, and is well-known for excellent homilies.

From my close collaboration with him, I know that without overlooking any other aspect of diocesan life, he will give the needs of priests his first and highest priority. He will be a strong, wise and loving Shepherd. We will miss him in Detroit but happily, he will still be close-at-hand, part of the province of Detroit and involved with the Michigan Catholic Conference.