

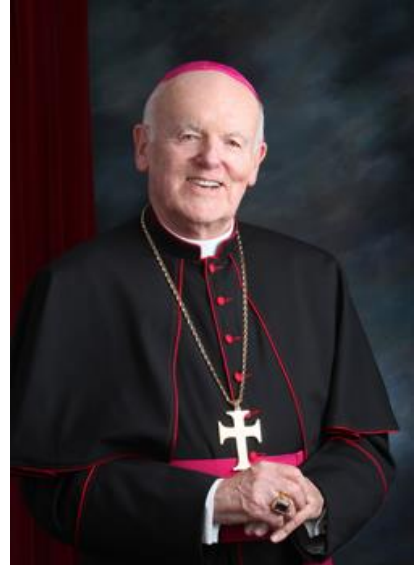


# DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

## **Celebrating the episcopal ministry of Bishop Hurley**

An Evening Prayer service and dinner as well as a Mass and reception were held May 30 and June 2 respectively to provide an opportunity for parishioners, friends and family members to bid farewell to Bishop Hurley as the eleventh bishop of Grand Rapids and to recognize his episcopal service and ministry in the diocese over the last nearly eight and a half years.

During his homily at Mass on June 2, also the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, Bishop Hurley reflected on this time of transition in the diocese and for him personally. Referencing John Cardinal Dearden, Bishop Hurley said that priests don't retire in the usual sense of the word, but become senior priests who continue to have responsibility for the sanctifying and teaching office of the church. He thanked those present at the Mass and those watching on television and online for their love, prayers and support over the years. Bishop Hurley served as apostolic administrator of the diocese, functioning as bishop through June 18, 2013. After that date he officially retired and became bishop emeritus. He plans to remain in the Diocese of Grand Rapids assisting in parishes and serving in other ways.



Evening Prayer and the Mass were held at the Cathedral of Saint Andrew.