Dear Friends in Christ,

This is the third year that we have published our annual diocesan report in FAITH Grand Rapids magazine. The report contains detailed information about diocesan finances and other statistical data to show how your contributions are used throughout the year. We want to be responsible and transparent stewards of the gifts given to us.

Thank you for your continued support of the Catholic Services Appeal, which funds important ministries and services in the 81 parishes of our diocese and positively impacts the lives of thousands in our 11-county diocese and beyond.

The Diocese of Grand Rapids exists to bring people to Christ through our parishes, schools, faith formation programs, televised Mass, cultural ministries, and social outreach programs, just to name a few. Through these programs we can bring Christ to both Catholics and non-Catholics. We know that where the Lord is present, generosity and love flow.

It has been my privilege to lead this diocese for five years now and to work with many great pastors and principals, along with diocesan, parish and school staff members. In addition, there are many lay leaders at the parish, school, and diocesan levels who continue to evangelize in their own communities.

I am encouraged by the continued growth of the Catholic Church in West Michigan. Eight parishes and schools are in the planning, pre-design, or design phases of new projects on their campuses.

Each year the independent accounting firm of Beene Garter LLP in Grand Rapids audits our diocesan finances. Audited statements for the fiscal year ending in 2017 are available on our website: bit.ly/DOGRFinancialReports. The financial data in this annual report reflects the unaudited statements for fiscal year 2017-18. While this data is currently in the process of being audited, we want to provide you with the latest information available. The full audited report will be presented on the web address above in December. If you would like a hard copy of the report, please contact Kevin Simon, comptroller for the Diocese of Grand Rapids, at 616-475-1253.

Please read this annual report carefully. It highlights the spiritual, pastoral, educational, and charitable endeavors of our diocese during this past fiscal year.
Thank you for your continued generosity to the Catholic Services Appeal and your parish. Without you, the services and ministries provided to people across West Michigan would be not be possible. Please continue to pray for our diocese, its leaders and for me, as I will be praying for you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Reverend David J. Walkowiak
Bishop of Grand Rapids
THE DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS was established May 19, 1882, and originally consisted of much of the northern and western parts of the Lower Peninsula. Since 1971, the diocese has comprised 11 counties of Western Michigan: Ionia, Kent, Lake, Mason, Mecosta, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oceana, Osceola and Ottawa.

BY THE NUMBERS

81 Parishes
8 Missions
191,000 Catholics

DIOCESAN CEMETERIES
- Holy Cross Cemetery
- Mt. Calvary Cemetery
- Resurrection Cemetery
- St. Andrew Cemetery
- Sts. Peter and Paul Cemetery

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2018 SACRAMENTS

2,281 Baptisms

2,110 First Communions

1,944 Confirmations

633 Marriages

(2017) 2,284 Baptisms

(2017) 2,159 First Communions

(2017) 2,117 Confirmations

(2017) 605 Marriages
Catholic schools in the Diocese of Grand Rapids are an alliance of 31 vibrant learning communities, 26 elementary and five high schools, serving students in seven counties. Our schools inspire young people to grow in Catholic faith and grace, achieve more in school and life, develop creativity and character, and feel welcomed and cherished for their unique gifts.

Scholarships awarded (2017-18)

$560,750
Bishop’s scholarships for 1,217 students

$237,475
Welcome scholarships for 445 students

PK-12 Enrollment:

6,605 in 2017-18
6,550 in 2016-17
6,454 in 2015-16

Religious Education and Faith Formation
In parishes throughout the diocese, staff members and volunteer catechists gather with adults, children and youths to pray, study and serve others as they grow in their faith and love of Jesus.

All of our parishes have a catechetical program for students not attending a Catholic school or they collaborate with neighboring parishes to offer such a program. Parish catechetical programs are designed for adults, youths and children to:

- Invite ongoing conversion and an encounter with Jesus Christ in holiness of life (formation)
- Educate on the basics of the Catholic faith (doctrine)
- Call each person, in their own unique way, to act as a disciple (discipleship)

Catechetical leaders (full/part-time): 79
Parish youth ministry leaders (full/part-time): 54
Children enrolled in K-12 parish faith formation programs: 9,717
Marriage preparation retreats at the diocesan and parish levels, plus small group formation, couple to couple, or through Catholic Charities West Michigan: 30+

GET INVOLVED
Contact your parish office to learn more about how to sign up for faith formation classes.
The Diocese of Grand Rapids is blessed with a strong influx of men who seek to answer God’s call. We currently have 24 seminarians, a number expected to increase to 31 in 2018-19.

Our current deacons and priests minister to the faithful in West Michigan in myriad ways. They help us to grow in our faith through the sacraments, lead catechesis and accompany us in our times of need. They bring us closer to Christ through their living examples of being the good shepherd in today’s world.

**ORDAINED THIS YEAR:**

**TRANSITIONAL DIACONATE:**
- Deacon Robert Mulderink
- Deacon Andrew Ayers
- Deacon Michael Goodwin

**PRIESTHOOD:**
- Father Michael Steffes Jr.

24 SEMINARIANS

13 at University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary, Mundelein, Illinois

11 at University of St. Thomas/St. John Vianney Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota
PRISON AND JAIL MINISTRY

The Prison and Jail Ministry establishes and maintains Catholic religious services within 22 correctional facilities located in our 11-county diocese, as needed. This ministry has more than 150 active volunteers, including Bishop David Walkowiak, lay men and women, priests and deacons. Through these volunteers, we offer 44 weekly services, including Masses, Communion services, RCIA classes and prayer services. These services are held in six prisons, four county jails and three juvenile detention centers. In addition to our services offered inside correctional facilities, we now offer spiritual support and programming for those returning to society through our new re-entry outreach ministry called GROW (Guiding Returning Citizens to Our World).

RESPECT LIFE

Every person is made in God’s image and likeness, is loved by him and is called to eternal union with him. For the Church, there is no distinction between defending human life and promoting the dignity of the human person. We are called to support this teaching from conception until natural death. Diocesan staff and volunteers work to build this culture of life through prayer, action and education.

STRONG CATHOLIC FAMILIES

The research on teens and faith cannot be clearer: Families matter ... parents, grandparents, godparents and relatives! To help support families and pass on the Catholic faith, parishes and schools in the Diocese of Grand Rapids are implementing the Strong Catholic Families initiative. Strong Catholic Families is a strategic process to equip parish and school leaders in empowering and supporting adults in leading our young people toward a vibrant faith that embraces discipleship. The process is incorporated into all aspects of parish life and Catholic schools, particularly sacramental preparation, faith formation and all parish ministries. Currently, 10 parishes plus Catholic Central High School have implemented the process.
Cultural ministries

Catholics of different racial, economic and linguistic backgrounds are served through these ministries. We work together as one Church to welcome all of our brothers and sisters in Christ through the celebration of the Mass, cultural events and educational opportunities.

CULTURAL MINISTRIES:
Black Catholic
Native American
Hispanic

OUTREACH MINISTRIES:
Ecumenical Ministry
Immigration Legal Services

IMMIGRATION LEGAL SERVICES (ILS) provides low-cost, legal representation in immigration matters to those in our community whose household income falls below 200 percent of the federal poverty line. Through legal representation, the staff of ILS helps its clients reunite with family living abroad; obtain U.S. citizenship; obtain legal permanent resident status; and assists immigrants who have been victims of crimes.

APPROXIMATELY 67,100 OF THE HISPANIC/LATINOS IN WEST MICHIGAN SELF-IDENTIFY AS CATHOLICS, OF WHOM ROUGHLY 60 PERCENT ARE UNDER AGE 30.

(*2016 DEMOGRAPHIC STUDY OF WEST MICHIGAN)

Two priests from outside the diocese were invited to work in West Michigan for a three-year period with the possibility of renewal. Father Edwin Carreño serves at St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish in Muskegon and Father Oscar Londoño serves at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Ionia. In addition, three missionary priests come every summer to help with our pastoral outreach to the migrant community, and close to 100 lay volunteer missionaries from parishes support this important initiative in our diocese.

Bishop Walkowiak makes it a priority every year to make a pastoral visit to the migrant camps.

A pastoral plan has been called for by Bishop Walkowiak to identify the most urgent priorities in Hispanic Ministry over the next five years. Results from parishioners show that youth and young adult ministries, family, social justice, leadership formation, stewardship, and evangelization and discipleship are the top priorities for Hispanics/Latinos in the diocese.

* The Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy at Grand Valley State University
By the numbers:

54 CHILDREN ADOPTED
Foster care provided to more than 300 children a day

103,189 INDIVIDUALS NOURISHED:
Through God’s Kitchen food and pantry programs
15,187 home-delivered meals
14,933 individuals served through the Muskegon Food Pantry
3,882 individuals served at three community meal sites

Baby pantries (Muskegon and GR) served 6,117 children, 3,594 families

8,000 VOLUNTEERS
386,400 VOLUNTEER HOURS SERVED

Catholic Charities West Michigan (CCWM) works to feed the hungry, counsel those who struggle and build strong families throughout West Michigan. For 70 years, CCWM has helped the Catholic Church provide essential support services to our neighbors in need and show our community that no one is excluded from God’s love or our care. Nearly 300 employees and 8,000 volunteers provide 35 social service programs in 11 counties, touching the lives of more than 21,000 individuals each year. Through foster care and adoption, family preservation and support services, behavioral health and counseling and community outreach, CCWM addresses the many needs that exist in our community.

GET INVOLVED
LEARN ABOUT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AND MORE AT: CCWESTMI.ORG.
What is The Catholic Foundation of West Michigan (CFWM)?
Established in 1995, The Foundation’s original purpose was to support Catholic school education in West Michigan. Today, The Foundation holds funds that support diocesan parishes, seminarian education and vocations, social outreach services, faith formation, evangelization, and special funds for needs that become evident throughout the year.

A significant source of financial support, The Foundation made available more than $2.1 million in distributions to fundholders during the 2017-18 fiscal year.

The Foundation holds: **$57,863,091**

Number of funds in CFWM: 171, which includes many of our parishes, schools and charitable ministries in the diocese. In addition, families have created endowed named family funds to support various school, parish and ministry needs as a legacy gift to the Church.

Events held:
In fiscal year 2017-18, we held seven events to build awareness of CFWM and educate parishioners.

Annual activities and regional events:
- Bishop’s Angels Program and Appreciation Luncheon
- Catholic Business Leaders’ Forum Breakfast Events
- Donor family consultation
- Estate Planning Luncheon and workshops
- Foundation Stakeholder Informational Luncheon
- Social Security Informational Luncheon

MAKE A DONATION TO THE CATHOLIC FOUNDATION
LEARN MORE ABOUT DONATING TO THE CATHOLIC FOUNDATION AT CATHOLICFOUNDATIONWM.ORG
THE OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS was recognized for its public relations work at the 2018 Proof Awards for practitioners who successfully used skill, creativity and resourcefulness to address a communications challenge in 2017. The Diocese was awarded:

- A GOLD AWARD for the overall campaign to open St. Robert Catholic School (category of community relations)
- A GOLD AWARD for the Bridging Faith and Future strategic plan narrative (category of single issue publication)
- A GOLD AWARD for FAITH Grand Rapids magazine (category of print magazines)
- A GOLD AWARD for our annual report that was published in the October issue of FAITH (category of annual reports)

HOW WE REACH OUT:

The Office of Communications works to educate, evangelize and inform the Catholic and non-Catholic community in West Michigan.

For more than 60 years, we have provided a televised liturgy to thousands of people who are homebound, hospitalized and incarcerated through broadcasts of Sunday Mass live from the Cathedral of Saint Andrew on Fox 17, the diocesan website and social media.

In addition, we provide news and events, along with useful and uplifting content, through our website, on several social media platforms and in FAITH Grand Rapids magazine.

- Circulation of FAITH: 44,000 copies are sent out 10 times per year
- 4,000 copies of the Spanish-language version are sent out four times per year
- On average, 327 people watch the TV Mass on the diocesan website each week
- On average, 1,411 people watch the TV Mass on the diocesan Facebook page each week
- On average, 6,350 households tune in to Sunday Mass on FOX 17 each week