



DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact:

Annalise Laumeyer, director of communications
Phone: 616-551-5629 | 616-307-3474 cell
Email: alaumeyer@grdiocese.org

The Diocese of Grand Rapids' Office of Communications issues the following statement from Most Reverend David J. Walkowiak, bishop of Grand Rapids, following the death of Sister Patrice Konwinski, OP, a former chancellor for the Diocese of Grand Rapids:

“Sister Patrice was a trailblazer. At a time when there were very few women in Church leadership, Bishop Joseph Breitenbeck appointed her as chancellor, providing an important role model for women who want to be involved in ministry.

As the first woman chancellor of a diocese in Michigan, and only the third woman to be appointed diocesan chancellor in the United States, she set a precedent for strong female leadership in the Catholic Church. Throughout her almost two decades-long tenure as chancellor, she created and managed the diocesan budget, ran the daily administration of the chancery office, and assisted with both diocesan and parish finance and personnel policies. Most importantly, she served as a close advisor for four bishops: Bishop Breitenbeck, Bishop Rose, Bishop Britt, and Bishop Hurley.

Sister Patrice left an indelible mark on the Diocese of Grand Rapids. Her compassionate, thoughtful, and steady leadership impacted every parish, school, and ministry within the diocese. We have been forever blessed by her service to the Lord.

We offer our prayers and condolences to Sister Patrice's family and her Dominican Sisters. May she now rest in eternal peace.”

The Diocese of Grand Rapids serves more than 175,114 Catholics, 80 parishes and 31 schools in an 11-county area of West Michigan. For additional information visit our website grdiocese.org. Connect with the diocese on [Facebook](#) (Diocese of Grand Rapids), [Twitter](#) (@GRDiocese), and Instagram (@GRDiocese).

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