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The Diocese of Grand Rapids' Office of Communications shares the following statement from Bishop David J. Walkowiak in response to Pope Francis' meeting with President Joe Biden at the Vatican:

"President Biden is meeting with Pope Francis today while he is in Rome to attend the annual G-20 summit, a gathering of leaders from the world's most powerful nations. As a religious leader who is also a head of state, the Holy Father routinely meets with world leaders, a practice that has been part of a pope's job for many years.

Both men agree on many areas of Church teaching that touch upon today's important issues. I hope that the Holy Father will be able to speak to President Biden as a pastor of souls who is interested in the President's spiritual welfare in addition to his positions on the important challenges facing our world today."

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 <u>grdiocese.org</u>. Connect with the diocese on <u>Facebook</u> (Diocese of Grand Rapids), <u>Twitter</u> (@GRDiocese), and <u>Instagram</u> (@GRDiocese).

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