



DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 2, 2022

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, on the death of Bishop Emeritus Robert J. Rose, ninth bishop of Grand Rapids:

“Today, on Ash Wednesday, the Diocese of Grand Rapids has lost a man who dedicated his life to the Catholic faith. Bishop Robert Rose served the Church in the state of Michigan for more than 65 years.

In each office – relying upon the grace of Holy Orders, a Spirit-filled wisdom, a compassionate heart and a delightful wit, he placed it all at the service of the Lord who anointed him for this vocation.

During his episcopacy, Bishop Rose established many ministries that continue today with a particular emphasis on social justice and education. He established The Catholic Foundation of West Michigan, the Secretariat for Social Justice (now Catholic Charities West Michigan), the Bishop's Fund for Catholic Education, reorganized parish pastoral councils, and fostered diocesan support in ecumenical activities. He valued the voice of the laity and ensured they were part of the decision-making process. He brought kindness to every interaction and empowered Catholics to share their faith.

Please join me in offering prayers for his eternal rest and comfort to Bishop Rose's family. We assure them of our prayers and thank God for Bishop Rose's life and years of dedication to the Diocese of Grand Rapids.

As we remember his profound impact on this diocese, we take heed of his episcopal motto and together we go forth as a Christian people, ‘In the Name of the Lord!’”

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](https://www.facebook.com/DioceseofGrandRapids) (Diocese of Grand Rapids), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/GRDiocese) (@GRDiocese), and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/GRDiocese) (@GRDiocese).

###