



DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

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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, in celebration of the 10th anniversary of Pope Francis' pontificate on March 13.

“Throughout his pontificate, Pope Francis has striven to be a living example of Christ present in our world today. His words and actions are grounded in love, humility, and mercy, helping us to understand how we are to live out our Christian faith.

He has repeatedly implored us to go to the margins – to serve migrants and refugees, those who may feel excluded, and those most in need. His personal witness and visits to numerous countries show that he is a man of action and not just words.

His conversational style has brought the Church's teachings to life for not only Catholics but all people of goodwill. As we reflect on Pope Francis' 10th anniversary as the successor of Peter, we are thankful for this universal shepherd who has taught us to live our faith with joy.

Since his election, the Holy Father has continuously asked us, ‘Pray for me.’ Thus, we pray in a special way for Pope Francis as he marks this milestone occasion.”

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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