



DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

Office of the Bishop

August 14/15, 2021

Dear friends in Christ,

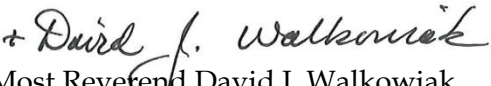
In 2017, I commissioned the first diocesan-wide capital campaign in more than two decades. At that time, diocesan and campaign leadership made our needs known to the people of the diocese, and we invited every Catholic to support the *Our Shepherds – Our Future Capital Campaign*. I am pleased to share that more than 13,830 households have made pledges in support of our diocesan seminarians and priests, totaling \$35,609,851. I am humbled by and grateful for your response in helping to exceed our goal of \$33M.

We came together in faith and hope, combining our resources to surpass our goal despite a variety of challenges, most notably the coronavirus pandemic. As the name of the campaign implies, our priests care for us as God's people through their spiritual guidance and pastoral leadership. Your support demonstrates your care for them. Your generous response promises to provide future generations with a strong and vibrant Catholic Church.

We have identified the weekend of September 25/26 as a time to give thanks. Each parish is invited to celebrate in its own way, and I will celebrate the 10 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Andrew on Sunday, September 26. Please join me in person, on television, or online as we celebrate this important accomplishment.

As you reflect on this campaign, be assured of my sincere appreciation for the legacy we are leaving our children and grandchildren. Again, thank you for your generous support of the *Our Shepherds – Our Future Capital Campaign*! Your generosity ensures the Catholic faith remains alive and well in West Michigan into the future.

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Most Reverend David J. Walkowiak
Bishop of Grand Rapids