

St. Laurence and made it a thriving parish; was Chaplain to the Sisters of Charity at Mount St. Vincent's Academy, and a member of the Archbishop's Council, and one of the Committee of Investigation of the Diocese. When His Holiness, Pope Leo XIII., established the Diocese of Grand Rapids on the 19th of May, 1882, the Rev. Dr. Richter was selected for the new See. He was consecrated and enthroned in St. Andrew's cathedral, Grand Rapids, on the 22d of April, 1883, by the Most Rev. William Henry Elder, archbishop of Cincinnati. At the beginning of his administration Bishop Richter found thirty-six priests, thirty-three churches with resident pastors, and seventeen parochial schools with 2,867 pupils, out of a population of 50,000 Catholics.

At present (1905) there are in his Diocese 774 priests, 80 churches with resident pastors, 90 missions with churches, and 15 chapels. In the city of Grand Rapids, the churches have grown from three to nine and another to be erected within a year. There are now 55 schools and 3 academies for young ladies with 12,376 pupils. At his request, the Franciscan Fathers, the Fathers of the Holy Ghost and of the Most Holy Redeemer, have established houses in the diocese. Various new charitable institutions have been established, substantial churches have been built and are in the course of erection in different parts of the diocese. As a true friend of education, he insists on each parish having a school at the earliest possible opportunity. With this end in view, each new city parish is obliged to begin by erecting a two-story building, so as to furnish both church and school accommodations from the start. Under his direction the following institutions have been started: St. John's Orphan Asylum, Grand Rapids, Holy Childhood's Indian Industrial school at Harbor Springs; a Home for the Aged Poor, Grand Rapids; a House of the Good Shepherd for the reformation of wayward girls and fallen women, Grand Rapids; hospitals at Manistee, Grand Rapids, Bay City and Muskegon. The Catholic population of his diocese in 1905 is about 102,000. Despite this marvelous development of his diocese and the growth of churches, chapels, schools, parochial and teachers' residences, together with various charitable and benevolent institutions, Bishop Richter's motto has always been "Pay as you go along," with the result that the diocese is entirely free of