



## DIOCESE OF DES MOINES

# PRESSRELEASE

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### **For Immediate Release**

**Date:** Nov. 21, 2010  
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### **Des Moines Choral Society to honor diocesan centennial during Christmas program**

Celebrate the holidays and the diocese's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary together by coming to St. Ambrose Cathedral in Des Moines for "Christmas with the Choral Society" on Saturday, Dec. 11 at 7:30 p.m.

This is the first of several cultural events honoring the diocese's centennial year. The diocese began a yearlong celebration Nov. 21.

At the Des Moines Choral Society event, there will be 65 singers under the direction of artistic director Dr. James Rodde. He is the Louise Moen Endowed Chair in Music and Director of Choral Activities at Iowa State University, where he conducts the Iowa State Singers, the 150-voice Statesmen and teaches choral conducting and literature.

The concert program will be an evening journey of the Christmas story through narration and music, with works by Handel, Mozart, Wilberg and other noted composers.

One hundred years ago, another elaborate Christmas celebration was also planned for St. Ambrose Cathedral.

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Des Moines Choral Society...add 1

“The dignity lately conferred by Rome in raising St. Ambrose from a church to a cathedral merits greater magnificence and no efforts are being spared to make the feast a long remembered one in Des Moines,” wrote the Register and Leader newspaper in a December 1911 story.

“An elaborate musical programme will be rendered by St. Ambrose choir under the direction of Miss Mary Rickard, organist. To many, this will be their first opportunity of hearing the grand organ that has been recently installed in the cathedral,” the newspaper said. “To the music lover, this will be a rare treat as a glance at the programme shows...”

Tickets for December’s Des Moines Choral Society event are \$20 for preferred seating, \$15 for general seating and \$7 for students, available from the Des Moines Choral Society by phone 515-273-5255 or by e-mail at [tickets@dmchoral.org](mailto:tickets@dmchoral.org).

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*The Diocese of Des Moines Catholic includes 82 parishes in 23 counties in central and southwest Iowa.*