

In the Heartland

Celebrating 100 Years!

The Diocese of Des Moines is blessed not only as an unique institution in itself but even more so by its constituent parts – our 81 parishes.

From the oldest parishes, St. Patrick in Irish Settlement and St. Francis in Council Bluffs (now represented by St. Francis Center) to its newest addition, St. Luke the Evangelist in Ankeny, the history of the diocese has been experienced in great measure in the local settings of its parishes. Here the faith has been lived and celebrated most intimately.

This reality will be recognized at the Diocesan Centennial celebration on November 6th with the presentation of the Centennial Commendation awards to each of the parishes. The nominee – person, group, event – in each case was determined by the respective parish as significant in contributing to diocesan history as a whole.

The second recognition to be included in the November 6th celebration will be the awarding of Diocese of Des Moines Centennial Medals which will be presented to 41 individuals acknowledging significant service to the Diocese. While a number of the medals will be given posthumously, the majority of them will be to persons who have rendered extraordinary contributions, personal and otherwise to the diocese in the last few decades. In large measure, they were nominated by peers. Similar to the 81 parishes, they symbolize the involvement of all of us in the diocesan mission.

In making awards such as these, some very worthy possible recipients will be overlooked. This is inevitable. It is our intention to seek opportunities to extend recognition to such in the future. Submission of candidates and possible recipients is most welcome.

In the meanwhile, I encourage all the parishes to be well represented on November 6th to manifest pride in their involvement in making the diocese what it is today – the body of Christ, committed to making Jesus Christ known and loved in our time by choosing to live on the basis of the Gospel at every moment.

Plans for the centennial celebration on November 6th are in the final stages of being completed. Staff and volunteers have worked extraordinarily hard to assemble a day that will be both inspiring and enjoyable.

The celebration program is designed to be family friendly.

The adult program will begin at 10:00 am with the keynote presentation of Archbishop Harry Flynn, Archbishop Emeritus of St. Paul and Minneapolis. A captivating speaker, Archbishop Flynn will speak on Awakening to Christ.

The adult phase in the morning will continue with interactive presentations by three dynamic “home grown” individuals who will lead us in Following and Living in Christ.

The teenage youth rally (Grades 6 thru 12) will begin at 10:00 am with nationally known presenter, Steve Angrisano and continue to lunch.

The young people’s gathering (Grades K thru 5) is titled Hometown Nazareth, an interactive presentation that will introduce the young crowd to Nazareth and Jesus as a young person.

The toddlers (ages 3-5) will have their own setting, nursery style, and be well attended to by well trained staff and volunteers.

Lunch will be served to the entire crowd beginning at noon.

The whole gathering – adults, youth, young persons and toddlers – will come together at 2:00 pm for the conclusion of the day. There will be presentation of the parish commendations, celebration of a festive Centennial Mass, and the awarding of the centennial medals.

All in the diocese are invited to join us on **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER SIXTH**, at Hy-Vee Hall in downtown Des Moines (730 Third Street, Des Moines). The diocesan centennial event promises to be most memorable. You won’t want to miss it!

There is no cost to the event. It is asked that **ADULTS** register by submitting your names either to your parish or directly to the diocese at the website (www.dmdiocese.org), if you intend to be with us all day. The registration is necessary to provide sufficient lunches. All youth, 17 or younger, will need to have the customary waiver form submitted.

You are also most welcome to join us for the afternoon portion of the day only – beginning at 2:00 pm for the Eucharistic celebration. In this case, no registration is required.

November Sixth at Hy-Vee Hall promises to be a blessed and memorable event in our diocesan history! I look forward to seeing you there.