

## **In the Heartland**

### **August Edition**

#### **November 6<sup>th</sup> Centennial Celebration: Plans are set**

The culminating celebration of the Diocese of Des Moines' Centennial will occur on Sunday, November 6, at Hy-Vee Hall in Des Moines. All parishioners from the diocese's 81 parishes are strongly encouraged to attend. Not only will the event be exciting but also inspire stimulating commitment to our faith community as we launch our second hundred years of life!

The doors of Hy-Vee Hall will open at 9 a.m. and the first session will begin at 10:15 a.m. with the keynote presentation of Archbishop Harry J. Flynn, retired Archbishop of St. Paul and Minneapolis entitled Awakening to Jesus. The Archbishop is an excellent speaker with a commanding presence.

The second feature of the day is a reflection and discussion session led by three prominent diocesan leaders on the topics: following Jesus, discipleship, and living in Jesus. This time together will be challenging, inviting all of us to deepen our faith.

The third gathering will be the "world premier" of a video which has been put together on witnessing to Christ in our daily life. It will feature six members of our diocesan community – a judge, a CEO, a farmer, a Hawkeye football player, a landscaper entrepreneur and a uUniversity athletics director. The video will provide insight as to what it means to witness to our faith in secular circumstances.

At 2 p.m., the entire community will gather for a festive Mass featuring a diocesan wide choir of 200, multi-cultural participants and recognition of community leaders as well as commendations for parish contributions to the life of the diocese over its 100 years.

The day will include a lunch and some refreshments. Special gatherings are being organized for teenage youth and for children ages 6-12. There will be a nursery for toilet-trained toddlers and a walking and exercise space for infants and their parents. There will be no specific charge for this gathering. Free-will offerings will be invited.

The staff of the diocese, the diocesan steering committee for the centennial along with a raft of volunteers have been working tirelessly in organizing the events of the day. It promises to be a highlight of our 100 years together and certainly memorable for each participant.

Mark your calendars now – **Sunday, November 6, doors open at 9 a.m.**, Hy-Vee Hall, Des Moines.

### **Archbishop Sambì Remembered**

Archbishop Pietro Sambì, Apostolic Nuncio (ambassador) to the United States died unexpectedly on Wednesday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, from complications arising from lung surgery.

Archbishop Sambì was serving at the time of his death as personal representative of Pope Benedict XVI to the United States government as well as the Catholic Church in the United States.

The Archbishop was blessed with a positive, upbeat spirit which endeared him to ever so many across this country. Moreover, his time as papal representative in Israel and Palestine influenced his spirituality. He was able to communicate in a tangible and effective manner the reality of the Incarnation. Finally, he was efficient and wise (except in the case of the Des Moines Diocese) in his role of coordinating the process of the selection of bishops in the country's 195 dioceses – certainly a monumental task.

Your continued prayers for this servant of the Church will be appreciated. He was a gift to the American Church. He will be missed.

### **Congratulations to Dowling Catholic Athletes**

With the recent championship in Class 4-A baseball, Dowling Catholic finished a remarkable year in athletics. Besides baseball, the school won the football, boys soccer, and girls cross country state championships in their respective divisions. The school also had a singles tennis state champion. Congratulations are extended to all!

I have come to know many students at Dowling Catholic, including those on various teams. Not only are they individually gifted, but they commit themselves to team action. We are blessed to have so many young people of such distinctive caliber among us.