

# DIOCESE OF DES MOINES

## **PRESSRELEASE**

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**For Immediate Release**

**Date:** Jan. 23, 2012

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### **Des Moines diocesan Catholic schools hold open houses and events for 2012 National Catholic Schools Week**

The week of Jan. 29 kicks off National Catholic Schools Week. The Catholic schools from the Diocese of Des Moines are celebrating the week with a variety of activities.

St. Theresa School in Des Moines will be holding its annual social justice week. The theme is, “Open the Eyes of My Heart – 24/7/365” and will focus on being aware of the many needs around us. The week will begin with a day of retreat and will feature a variety of speakers. The school will also hold a cultural fair on Wednesday, Feb. 1 for the entire school and parish community. Booths will feature a variety of heritages, allowing people to learn about the world and other cultures.

An artist in residence will be at Assumption School in Granger for the week. Local artist Concetta Morales will work with the students throughout the week to produce several pieces of artwork.

At St. Francis of Assisi in West Des Moines, Kenn Nesbitt, well-known author of children’s poetry will be meeting with K-2 grade students on Feb. 2.

Other activities that will be held during the week include charity drives to help those in need, parent/grandparent luncheons, reading programs, entertainment, Mass with Bishop Richard Pates and more.

Open houses will be held at nearly all of the Catholic schools within the diocese during the week. They allow families to tour schools, meet staff, and learn more about Catholic schools. Below is a listing of all the Catholic schools in the Des Moines diocese and the dates and times of their open houses. The information is also provided at <http://www.dmdiocese.org/catholic-schools.cfm>

**(MORE)**

**(CONTINUED...Catholic Schools Week)**

**Open Houses**

Holy Trinity (DSM): Sunday, Jan. 29, 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

Sacred Heart (WDSM): Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2:45 pm – 5:00 pm

St. Anthony (DSM): Sunday, January 29, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

St. Augustin (DSM): Saturday, Jan. 28, 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm

St. Francis of Assisi (WDSM): Sunday, Jan. 29, 12:15 pm – 2:00 pm

St. Pius X (Urbandale): Sunday, Jan. 29, 10:00 am – 11:30 am

St. Theresa (DSM): Sunday, Jan. 29, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

Assumption School (Granger): Sunday, Jan. 29, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Shelby County Catholic School (Harlan): Sunday, Jan. 29, 9:00 am - 12:30 pm

St. Albert Schools (Council Bluffs): Sunday, Jan. 29, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

St. Malachy (Creston): Sunday, Jan. 29, 10:00 am

The Diocese of Des Moines Catholic schools are known for providing quality education in a faith-based environment. Students learn about God and how to live out their faith by serving others all while receiving top academic training in a safe, nurturing environment.

The high school graduation rate for 2010-2011 graduates was 100% and an average of 97% of the 2011 graduates attended post-secondary education. ITBS, ITED and ACT test scores are consistently higher in all areas than the state and nation.

“From the start of my education, I have been attending a Catholic school. Being in this kind of environment has really allowed me to grow in my faith and everyday life. Not only has my education helped me in today’s world, but I feel I have learned life-long skills as well. Skills which will affect my future to come,” said senior Nicole Bighia from St. Albert Catholic Schools in Council Bluffs.

To learn more about the Diocese of Des Moines Catholic schools, visit

<http://www.dmdiocese.org/catholic-schools.cfm>

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*The Diocese of Des Moines Catholic schools serve more than 6,400 students through its 17 schools.  
For more information, go to <http://www.dmdiocese.org/catholic-schools.cfm>*