



# DIOCESE OF DES MOINES

## **PRESSRELEASE**

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**For Immediate Release**

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### **Fine-art samples of the world renown *Saint John's Bible* to be on display in celebration of diocesan centennial**

In celebration of the Diocese of Des Moines' 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, the diocesan Centennial Cultural Committee is bringing to central Iowa 12 pages from the fine-art edition of *The Saint John's Bible*. The public is invited to view these beautiful pages of hand-drawn calligraphy and illuminations that have captivated people throughout the world. The pages will be on display for a limited time, Feb. 21 through March 31, at Polk County Heritage Gallery located in the Polk County Administration Building, 111 Court Ave. The display is free and open to the public.

The gallery is open 11 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Extended weekend hours are being planned. Watch the diocesan website for details: <http://www.dmdiocese.org/diocesan-centennial.cfm>.

In 1998, Saint John's University and Abbey in Minnesota commissioned renowned calligrapher Donald Jackson, calligrapher for Queen Elizabeth II, to produce a handwritten, hand-illuminated Bible. His team of artists in Wales and a team of scholars in central Minnesota have collaborated to create a contemporary artistic masterpiece and work of theology. Jackson and his team have been using homemade quills and ink for the words and illuminations of the Bible stories. The artwork reflects contemporary times, with New York's World Trade Center twin towers incorporated in one illustration.

Saint John's Bible...add 1

The Heritage Edition is a full-size, fine-art reproduction of the original *Saint John's Bible*. The 12 framed samples that will be on display at the Polk County Heritage Gallery in downtown Des Moines are from the following Bible stories:

- Creation, Genesis 1:1-2:4a
- Garden of Eden Genesis 2:8-25
- Adam and Eve Genesis 3
- Suffering Servant Isaiah 53
- Jacob's Ladder Genesis 28:10-17
- Vision of the New Temple Ezekiel 40-48
- Psalms Book IV: Frontispiece
- Now the Word of the Lord Jeremiah 1:4-10
- Rejoice! Zechariah 9:9-17, 10:1-5
- Thistle and Butterfly Genesis 3-4
- Ten Commandments Exodus 20:1-17
- The Lord Bless You Numbers 6:24-26

In addition, the Diocese of Des Moines has had 15 prints framed and available as a touring exhibit. Three of the prints are at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 601 Grand Ave. in Des Moines, second floor reception area, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Twelve others have been on display at Christ the King Catholic Church in Des Moines in December and All Saints Catholic Church in Stuart, Iowa in January. These prints will join the Heritage Edition exhibit during the spring. When the Heritage Edition exhibit closes, the prints will continue to tour the 23 counties of the Diocese of Des Moines in central and southwest Iowa.

Benedictine Father Eric Hollas, a monk at St. John's Abbey with a Ph.D. in medieval studies, will be visiting with Bishop Richard Pates on "In the Heartland With Bishop Pates" radio show on Friday, March 25. The hour-long show begins at 10 a.m. and airs on KWKY 1150 AM out of Des Moines and Spirit Catholic Radio 102.7 FM out of Omaha.

For more information, go to [www.polkcountyheritagegallery.org](http://www.polkcountyheritagegallery.org) or <http://www.dmdiocese.org/culture.cfm>.

*The Diocese of Des Moines includes 83 parishes in 23 counties in central and southwest Iowa.*