



DIOCESE OF DES MOINES

PRESSRELEASE

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Diocese of Des Moines among those winning Prairie Meadows Community Betterment grant *Eleven Catholic organizations win more than \$150,000*

The Diocese of Des Moines was among eleven Catholic organizations, primarily schools, winning Community Betterment Grants from Prairie Meadows Racetrack and Casino in Altoona.

Two of the grants are related to the Diocese of Des Moines' 100th anniversary being celebrated this year. Bishop Richard Pates announced last year a centennial initiative to create San Antonio de Padua Spanish immersion education program at St. Anthony School in Des Moines. This program, designed to prepare students for the future by teaching them to be bilingual by fifth grade, won a \$10,000 grant from Prairie Meadows.

“Prairie Meadows has been very generous to our school over the years and has again come to our help,” said Dr. Joe Cordaro, principal of St. Anthony School. “Our Community Betterment Grant will be used to support our Spanish immersion program as we add a new first grade next year. Classroom materials and Spanish textbooks will be needed for our new class and this grant is great support for these expenses.”

Also related to the centennial celebration, the Diocese of Des Moines won a \$2,000 grant to help fund The Saint John's Bible fine-art exhibit now showing at the Polk County Heritage

(more)

Community Betterment Grants...add 1

Gallery, 111 Court Ave. through March 31. The month-long, nationally touring exhibit was brought to the diocese through the hard work of the diocesan Centennial Culture Committee in honor of the diocese's 100th anniversary.

“When I volunteered at the gallery on Monday and stopped by yesterday, it was heartening to see and hear the appreciation of those visiting the exhibit,” said Marilyn Sharp, of the diocesan Culture Committee. “When people left the exhibit, they wanted to talk about it. Most were truly moved by the undertaking of the making of The Saint John’s Bible – and the significance of the illuminations/art/calligraphy in it.”

Several additional grants were awarded for educational purposes with Catholic schools in the Des Moines metro area. The Diocese of Des Moines won a \$53,067 grant to be used for equipment and materials for instructional use by Catholic schools in the Des Moines metro area including St. Patrick School in Perry and Assumption School in Granger. Each of the schools is given \$10.50 per each K-12 student.

“We are most grateful for the support of Prairie Meadows, which benefits the children in our community,” said Joan Bindel, diocesan director of Development. “For more than 15 years, Prairie Meadows has generously supported a wide variety of needs throughout the Des Moines community. We are proud to partner with them to improve the lives of those we serve.”

Additional Catholic schools that won are:

Holy Family School Inner-City Youth Foundation, after-school program, \$5,000

Holy Trinity School, digital classrooms, \$10,000

Sacred Heart School, technology upgrades, \$5,000

St. Anthony School, Spanish immersion program, \$10,000

St. Augustin School, laptops for little hands, \$5,000

St. Joseph School, mathematics program, \$10,000

St. Pius X School, minds, bigger imaginations, better fitness, \$5,000

St. Theresa School, technology, \$5,000

Two more Catholic organizations won Community Betterment Grants for their work with those struggling in today's troubled economy. The Society of St. Vincent de Paul won a \$30,000 grant for an educational training center and the Basilica of St. John won a \$5,000 grant for its St. Benedict Mission.

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