



DIOCESE OF DES MOINES

PRESSRELEASE

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Local composer creates original musical during yearlong celebration of diocese's 100th anniversary

In celebration of the Diocese of Des Moines' 100th anniversary year, local composer and gifted musician Tom Quiner has crafted a musical that honors the memory of the late Pope John Paul II, whose landmark 1979 visit to Iowa is a highlight of the diocese's history. Tickets go on sale this Thursday, March 10.

"The Pope of the People" tells the story of the Holy Father's visit to Poland, his impact on Poland's Solidarity movement, and his miraculous escape from death at the hands of an assassin. Pope John Paul II visited more countries than any other pope in history. The musical tells the story of the tremendous impact one man had on all those he visited, including Iowans during his trip to St. Patrick Church at Irish Settlement and Living History Farms in Urbandale more than 30 years ago.

"He was more than the man of the century," said Quiner, a parishioner at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Des Moines. "He was truly the pope of the people."

Quiner has pulled together a team of performers from multiple churches throughout the Des Moines metro area for seven performances in as many days leading up to and including Palm Sunday. Dates and locations of performances are as follows:

(more)

The Pope of the People...add 1

April 1, 8 p.m., Sacred Heart Church, West Des Moines
April 2, 7:30 p.m., St. Pius X Church, Urbandale
April 3, 3 p.m., All Saints Church, Des Moines
April 8, 7:30 p.m., St. Mary of Nazareth, Des Moines
April 9, 7:30 p.m., St. Augustin Church, Des Moines
April 10, 6 p.m., Christ the King Church, Des Moines
April 17, 3 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Church, West Des Moines

View video of Quiner, at a piano at Holy Trinity Church, talking about what inspired him to write the musical and more at www.thepopeofthepeople.com. Tickets are available at MidwestTix ticket outlets at www.MidwestTix.com or www.thepopeofthepeople.com. For more information call Quiner at 515-276-9266 or 1-800-810-4152, or go to the musical's website.

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