



## DIOCESE OF DES MOINES

# PRESSRELEASE

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### **For Immediate Release**

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### **Bishop names diocese's newest parish Corpus Christi**

Bishop Richard Pates confirmed during the May 6<sup>th</sup> radio show "In the Heartland With Bishop Pates" that the name of the diocese's combined parish in West Council Bluffs is Corpus Christi. The three Council Bluffs parishes of Holy Family, Queen of Apostles and Our Lady of Carter Lake will form the new Corpus Christi Parish with three worship sites effective July 1. Each site will continue to be identified by its present name.

"The name Corpus Christi was chosen because it means Body of Christ," said Bishop Pates. "The name speaks to who we are as formed by the Eucharist, what we do, how we live out our identity as the Body of Christ, and what we desire to continue to grow into. The name itself is unifying and at the same time dynamic."

The name Corpus Christi was suggested by a number of people from the 3 parishes, one of whom was Deacon Bob McClellan. In his recommendation, Deacon McClellan said the name "will lend itself to ongoing catechesis as we expound to current parish members and educate future members about who we are as a community of believers in Christ. The name Corpus Christi will continue to proclaim to the wider community our great love of Christ, his sacrifice and his call for us to become his hands, feet and mouth here on earth."

Father Dan Kirby, pastor of the three parishes that will merge, invited people in March to send him their suggestions for a name of the new parish.

New Parish...add 1

Queen of Apostles, Holy Family and Our Lady of Carter Lake have been working closely since June, 2002. Each parish maintained its autonomy while collaborating on joint ministries and activities with success. Recently, the tri-parish Visioning Council approached Bishop Pates for direction. Discussion began last June, and Bishop Pates affirmed moving in the direction of forming one new parish with three worship sites.

With the three faith communities coming together to form one parish, the pastor will have one Finance Council and one Pastoral Council and a consolidation of administrative duties for him and his staff.

Effective July 1, the diocese will have 81 parishes in 23 counties in central and southwest Iowa.

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