



# DIOCESE OF DES MOINES

## **PRESSRELEASE**

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**For Immediate Release**

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**Contact:** Mary Lou McGinn

712-328-0958 or mlmcginn@cox.net

### **Diocese of Des Moines' Council Bluffs Region plans local celebration in honor of diocese's 100<sup>th</sup>**

On Sunday afternoon, September 11, at 2 p.m. the parishes of the Council Bluffs region will gather at St. Albert High School for a prayer service and ice cream social in honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Diocese of Des Moines. The event will highlight the growth of the faith in this region as we prepare for the November 6 Centennial Celebration at Hy-Vee Hall in Des Moines.

Father Paul Monahan will be master of ceremonies for the service, which will open with onscreen images and the song, "And God Said it was Good" led by the composer Jesuit Father Bob Dufford and joined by the St. Albert Elementary School choir. The one-hour service will include reflections by Bishop Richard Pates. Prayers and other parts of the service will be in both English and Spanish, and will be interpreted for the hearing impaired.

An ice cream social, sponsored by Alegent Health Mercy Hospital, a part of the Catholic community since 1887, will follow the service. Other sponsors include: Oard Ross Drug Inc. (since 1903), Cutler O'Neill Funeral Home (since 1901), McGinn Law Firm (since 1914), Knights of Columbus Council 1045 (since 1905), Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree (since 1906), Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (since 1926), Serra Club of Council Bluffs (since 1956), and St. Joseph Cemetery Association (since before 1866).

Items from the past, on exhibit during the afternoon, will be memorabilia from the sponsors, parishes, schools and individuals. Examples of items submitted to date include stained glass windows from the Mercy Hospital chapel built in 1904; black funeral vestments with gold embroidery from St. Patrick, Neola; the chalice brought from St. Francis Xavier to Holy Family church when it opened in 1908; and a Knights of Columbus sword and chalice.

The Council Bluffs Region includes the parishes of Council Bluffs - St. Patrick, St. Peter and Corpus Christi (recently merged Holy Family, Queen of Apostles, Our Lady of Carter Lake); St. Patrick, Neola; St. Columbanus, Weston; and Holy Rosary, Glenwood.

*The Diocese of Des Moines includes 81 parishes in 23 counties in central and southwest Iowa.*