



DIOCESE OF DES MOINES

Introduction to Press

10th Bishop of Des Moines Reverend William Joensen

July 18, 2019

By Bishop Richard Pates

Este es un día muy alegre para la Diócesis de Des Moines. Tengo el gran placer de anunciar el nombramiento por parte del Papa Francisco del Reverendo William M. Joensen como el décimo obispo de Des Moines.

Cuando me presentaron a mí hace once años como el noveno obispo de Des Moines, hablé primeramente en español. Mi propósito en esa ocasión fue la de llamar la atención al significativo número de hispanos en nuestra diócesis y de su importancia para nuestra comunidad. Sus números han aumentado a cuarenta mil. Tenemos doce Misas en español cada domingo. Dos hispanos de segunda generación están estudiando para el sacerdocio. La comunidad ha llevado a cabo varios encuentros y hemos tenido noventa y un participantes en extenso entrenamiento de liderazgo. Mis amigos, el contingente hispano de la diócesis se llena de regocijo: Bienvenido nuestro Obispo-electo. ¡Estamos contentos y emocionados de que venga a Des Moines!

This is a happy day for the Diocese of Des Moines. I am very pleased to announce the appointment by Pope Francis of the Reverend William M. Joensen as the tenth bishop of Des Moines.

Father Joensen is a priest of the Archdiocese of Dubuque. Born in 1960, he is the son of the late Alfred W. Joensen and his mother Marilyn E. who currently resides in Ames. He is the oldest of five children. His younger brother Tom and his wife Jennifer and their two children, Michael and Olivia, live in Ankeny and were founding members of St. Luke the Evangelist Parish. Tom,

an attorney, works at 801 Grand and now will be able to look down on his older sibling at 601 Grand.

Father graduated from Iowa State University, thereafter attended medical school. Before completing medical training he entered the Josephinum Seminary in Columbus, Ohio.

Father Joensen was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Dubuque on June 24, 1989. His early years of ministry were as an associate pastor in the towns of Dubuque and Waterloo.

Since 1995 he has been active both pastorally and in teaching at the college level basically combining the roles of professor and chaplain to college students. During that time, he served terms as Chaplain at Clarke College in Dubuque, Chaplain at Loras College, Director of Spiritual Formation at St. Pius X Seminary program and since 2010 he has been Dean of Campus Spiritual Life at Loras College and an Associate Professor of Philosophy. He has been a member of the philosophy department at Loras College since 2002.

He was awarded a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Philosophy from the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC in 2002. The title of his dissertation was: "Genetic Enhancement and the Ends of Medicine and Human Life."

He has established a remarkable compendium of academic presentations and publications which we will be happy to post on our diocesan website for your reference.

As we heartily welcome you, Bishop-elect Joensen, I am very proud to introduce you to the Diocese of Des Moines.

We are a Catholic community constituted by 23 counties of Southwest Iowa, 80 parishes, 17 Catholic Schools, 3 Catholic hospitals. With the Hispanic population we have a total of 140,000 members. We are growing. The non-Hispanic population has grown by 15% in the last ten years. Our outreach includes among others immigrants from Vietnam, Cambodia, South Sudan, Eritrea, Myanmar, Iraq, Kenya and several other nationalities.

We presently have 114 priests, 105 deacons, 19 sisters and 17 seminarians serving our community. The clergy are characterized by their devoted pastoral commitment and their love for Iowa. We are blessed with 21 extern international priests in ministry who have been warmly welcomed by their American counterparts.

The Diocese benefits from an exceptional staff whom I am confident will serve you well. They engage their ministry at a very high level, are generous and find their identity in service.

The laity have accepted the mantle of responsibility placed on their shoulders by the Second Vatican Council. They admirably lead and participate in their parishes. They have initiated, led and executed remarkably grace-filled events the impact of which has extended far beyond the diocese.

The faithful of the Diocese of Des Moines are extraordinarily generous and supportive, genuine in their expression of faith in prayer and action, possess classical values while open to progress and new developments. They are committed to the full expression of social justice honoring the dignity of every individual human-being from the moment of conception until natural death. They are true Iowans. You will be happy to know they are evenly split into Hawkeye and Cyclone fans.

As we very happily welcome you on our common journey of making Jesus Christ known and loved in our times, we also excitedly embrace the New Moment with you as we respond to the calling of being missionary disciples of Jesus Christ.

Welcome, Brother William.