

Special Edition



Gracias *Ua tsaug* شكرًا

Aftata kite
Lung dam
Je vous remercie

Thank You

Asante
ကျေးဇူးတင်ပါတယ်
ຂອບໃຈ

Bishop Richard E. Pates
Ninth Bishop of the Diocese of Des Moines
Serving the central and southwest Iowa since 2008

In the Heartland With Bishop Pates

Experiencing priesthood for 50 years

"You are lacking in one thing, go sell what you have and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven, then come follow me . . ." Mark 10:20

This invitation of Jesus opens the road to freedom. Pope Francis is probably the best current exemplar of such freedom. He has few personal possessions, lives in a very simple apartment, has one basic suit of clothing. Yet he is free to witness God's love without distraction and to speak God's Word without compromise to a world hungering for authentic truth and love.

As I reflect on the great blessing of serving as a priest for 50 years, I grow ever more grateful for the opportunity to attempt to live simply. Among the first benefits is the lack of distraction so that God's penetrating outreach of love can be communicated directly to me. This love reaches deeply into the heart.

This firsthand experience stimulates an awareness of the goodness and value of others one comes in contact with. One feels drawn to look in the eyes of the other passing on that love of



By
Bishop
Richard
Pates

God. Such enables that brother or sister to realize inherent value and that they too are loved and cared for. They are worthy of genuine respect and have an eternal destiny.

For a priest this communication of love is uniquely celebrated in the sacraments which he is privileged to administer. I experience no greater joy and satisfaction than introducing salvation and God's love in baptism. This sentiment carries forward in the sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation. God's mercy knows no greater bounds than confession. Bringing relief and a new moment are the simple words, "Your sins are forgiven."

Marriage and Holy Orders set individuals on a path to life-long relationships which position God in the center en-

suring happiness and a sense of self-fulfillment. Finally, as priest. I have felt privileged to be an intimate companion in the moment of suffering and death as the passage to eternal life occurs.

A second freedom that has had an impact in my life is the opportunity to proclaim the Word of God and its applicability to our times.

The very first is to proclaim the reality that every person is made in the image and likeness of God and is entitled to life and respect. This, of course, as Pope Francis insists, is especially applicable to the poor, to the vulnerable, to the unborn and to the elderly, to the sick. Such a world-view insists on the equitable distribution of the world's goods which during our lifetimes we are the stewards of not the owners.

The exclusive discipleship of the priest in following Jesus provides the liberty to address moral issues which are oftentimes cloaked as political matters only. Among those prominent today are:

- The morality of climate change which is leading the earth's

inhabitants down a slippery slope to imminent suffering and destruction of God's creation. Morality enters in because we can change this pattern as scientific evidence attests.

- The morality of responding to the crisis of refugees and immigrants. With comprehensive immigration reform and reaching out to face root causes in originating countries, compassion and the very face of Jesus can come forth to assuage unnecessary pain and suffering.

- The morality of responding to the nuclear threat. We are called to be in dialogue and conversations with those who pose a threat to the very existence of the earth. There resides in the human psyche a desire for peace and basic justice.

- The third area where I have found the freedom in following Jesus without baggage is in being a companion with those who are in difficult straits and of being a shepherd to them.

Categories are many: Those with the scourge of addiction, the incarcerated, victims of sexual abuse and harassment, those who endure natural disas-

ters, the unchurched, the victims of war, violence, accidental tragedies. The catalogue of compassion opportunities is bottomless. Our response depends on our freedom.

As I reflect on my good fortune of being able to some degree to follow Jesus in the way of simplicity, I render thanks to God, in a special way to my parents, brothers and family for sharing this outlook. They have no hesitation in supporting this vision of freedom where "less is more."

Also essential are all the fellow pilgrims along the way who have chosen to join in the vision that fully embraces the establishment and flourishing of the Kingdom of God. Especially is this so of all my companions who have shared this journey in the 23 counties of southwest Iowa. I have been exceptionally fortunate to be with you.

As I embrace the coming days, I do so with the full recognition of Yogi Berra's insight that most of my future is behind me. But I come to do so with irreplaceable joy and hope.

Family lays strong foundation

Bishop Richard Pates' family laid the foundation that shaped his life of service to the Church and the people of God.

The youngest of three boys born Feb. 12, 1943 to Donald and Lenora Pates, he grew up during a time of peace in the Catholic Church.

The family lived in St. Paul, Minnesota, a community where people identified more with the parish they attended rather than the neighborhood where they

lived.

Donald was a traveling insurance salesman. Lenora became a nurse before she married and would work weekends when her husband was home.

"When she was home, (our mother) was not only the physician and nurse for the family but she took care of various neighbors who had illnesses or various kinds of injuries," said the bishop's brother, Hugh, in an interview for Iowa Catholic Radio 10 years ago. "I think it was there that Richard learned about taking care of people and would assist her in some of her emergency situations."

The family's annual Christmas traditions also helped shape the future bishop's perspective.

On Christmas Day, "we'd always attend Mass early in the morning, then embark on visiting all of our relatives," Hugh said. "We'd play Santa and bring them gifts."

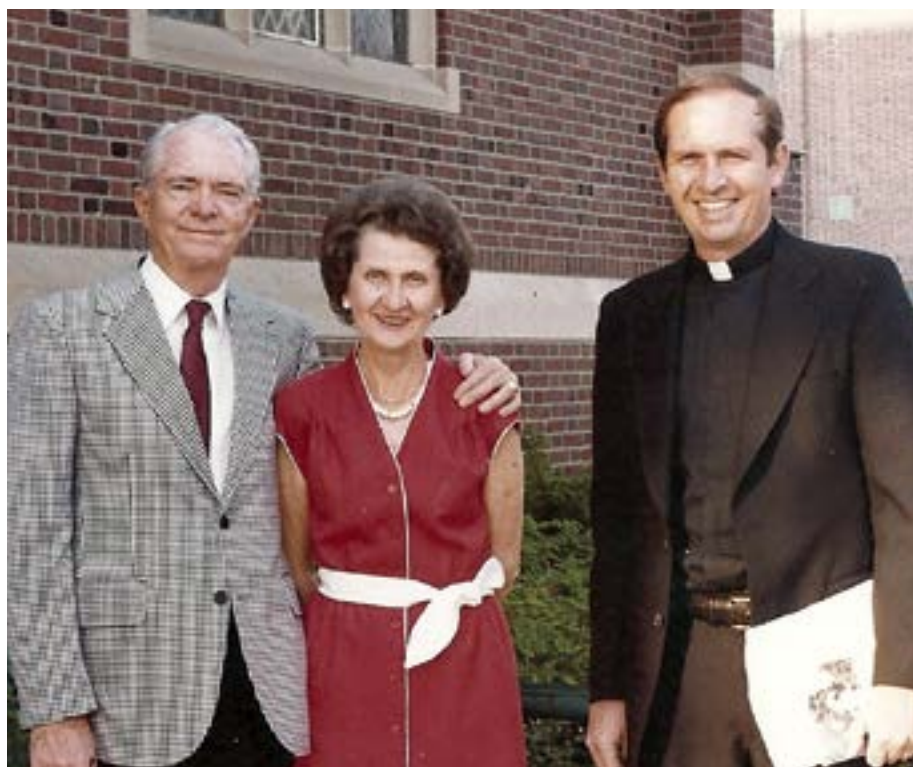
There were two widows their father knew from his youth who had fallen on hard times.

"Every Christmas, we would visit with them. He would give them gifts and we would have some interaction with them," he said. "It was a great tradition. We learned a lot from those who had some gifts and those who didn't. It was the beginning of Richard's great interest in caring for the poor as he has always done throughout this life."

"I think that very early on, we all knew that he was very talented and had very many gifts and skills," Hugh said. "We knew that he was someday going to be a pastor in some significant way."

And so when it was announced that his brother was to be ordained a bishop and serve as an auxiliary for the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, it came as no surprise to the family.

"He was surprised when he got the call, but I don't think anybody else was," said Hugh.



Top: Bishop Richard Pates is pictured with his parents, Donald and Lenora. Above: Bishop Pates with his brothers Michael and Hugh.

THE CATHOLIC MIRROR

Bishop Richard E. Pates
Publisher
bishop@dmidiocese.org

Anne Marie Cox
Editor
acox@dmidiocese.org

Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer
kcollins@dmidiocese.org

The Catholic Mirror (ISSN 0896-6869) is published monthly for \$20 per year by the Diocese of Des Moines, 601 Grand Ave., Des Moines, Iowa 50309. Periodicals postage paid at Des Moines. POSTMASTER: Send changes to THE CATHOLIC MIRROR, 601 Grand Ave., Des Moines, Iowa 50309.

PHONE: (515)237-5046

EMAIL: mirror@dmidiocese.org

org

DIOCESAN WEBSITE:

www.dmidiocese.org

Bishop called to religious life at an early age

When he was six or seven years old, Bishop Richard Pates would go to his bedroom and pretend to celebrate Mass, setting up an altar and praying for world peace.

"I was always surprised when he would come out and say Mass was over," said his older brother, Hugh, in 2008.

On Dec. 20, Bishop Pates will celebrate his 50th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood.

It seemed priesthood was his destiny from an early age.

As a child, Bishop Pates was immersed in a Catholic environment. Growing up in St. Paul, Minnesota, people identified more with which parish they attended rather than which neighborhood they lived in.

He had an uncle, Jesuit Father Richard G. Pates, who was a role model.

After grade school, he

and two friends decided to go to Nazareth Hall, which at the time was a seminary high school at the edge of town. Ultimately, his two friends traveled different paths in life but he stayed on the path to religious life.

"When the time came for him to make that decision to go to the minor seminary, it was a transition for the family," brother Hugh said. "But it was certainly the right transition. It's where he belonged and what he wanted to do."

The seminary was only about eight miles from home, but "it was a long ride if you were to take the streetcar" and the high school was a boarding school so family didn't see him often.

Bishop Pates graduated in 1965 with a bachelor's degree in philosophy and Latin from St. Paul Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota.

He went on to graduate

school at the North American College in Rome, from which he earned a License in Sacred Theology from the Gregorian University in Rome.

"I could see a lot of different options: Being a business person, or being involved in law or politics or medicine," he told Knight Life radio show last year. "But I kept feeling this tug and push and pull to go forward prior to becoming a priest."

Bishop Pates' first year in Rome was also the last year of the Second Vatican Council. Many of the professors who assisted the bishops craft the 16 documents of the council were his instructors.

"We were getting it fresh out of the assembly line from these priests," he said. "We were fortunate to have them as our professors during this period of change. It was a period of introduction. It was very exciting in



Nativity Church, which the Pates family attended, in St. Paul, Minnesota.

many ways."

During his discernment he prayed, "Well God, I just trust this is the best thing for me to do is to go on to priesthood."

He was ordained a priest by Bishop Francis E. Reh on Dec.

20, 1968 at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.

"I just wanted to be a priest, a good priest and reach out to people and engage in a positive way in their lives," he said.

Selfless Jesuit uncle served as a role model

One person stands out as a major influencer in Bishop Richard Pates' decision to become a priest: his uncle, Jesuit Father Richard G. Pates.

"Enormously popular in the family, he was so upbeat and fun to be with. He also had a real sense of the faith. It was somewhat contagious and attractive," said Bishop Pates about 10 years ago. "He was a model for me and an encouragement."

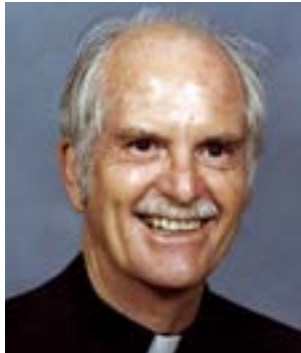
Bishop Pates admired the Jesuit priest for dedicating his life to helping the poorest among the poor, the Native Americans on a reservation in South Dakota.

"I owe part of my vocation to him," Bishop Pates told the Iowa Knights of Columbus for a radio show. "He was one who reached out in a really positive way. He was very generous and had a great spirit."

During a 2017 homily at St. Ambrose Cathedral, Bishop Pates described



Jesuit Father Richard G. Pates



how his uncle influenced him.

"When he was sent there, he recognized he had to give of himself, that he could not have the comfortable experiences he'd had in the past," Bishop Pates explained.

"One night, he was going into his house with the proceeds from a big bingo game," he said. Two men came to rob Father Pates. One priest died of fright, while Father Pates was shot. After he recovered, he went to serve in

another community.

But he couldn't adjust to being away from those whom he'd grown to love. "Like a magnet he had to go back to minister to them," Bishop Pates explained. "He extended himself. This is my body that is for you. All he could do was to really serve and give of himself."

The bishop described the 1989 burial of Father Pates, who wanted to rest in the community where he'd served for so

many years. With 200-300 people in attendance, a bald eagle circled around his uncle's grave three times. The crowd of mostly Sioux Native Americans interpreted the eagle's action as a sign: The uncle's soul was taken up to God.

Concluding his homily,

Bishop Pates invited the congregation to consider what God was calling them to do.

He said: "(My uncle) is the one that, I think, really influenced me in saying, 'Put the Gospel into action.'"

Education

Bishop Richard E. Pates was born Feb. 12, 1943 in St. Paul, Minnesota.

After attending Nazareth Hall Seminary in St. Paul, Minn., he attended and graduated in 1965 with a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and Latin from the St. Paul Seminary, Saint Paul.

He attended graduate school at the North American College in Rome, holds a License in Sacred Theology from the Gregorian University in Rome, and was ordained a priest by Bishop Francis E. Reh on Dec. 20, 1968 at St. Peter's Basilica, Rome.

Service

1969-1970 – Associate pastor, Church of the Blessed Sacrament, St. Paul

1970-1974 – Vocation director, Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, weekend associate pastor, Church of the Annunciation, Minneapolis.

1973-1975 – Secretary to Archbishop Leo C. Byrne, and vice chancellor of the archdiocese

1975-1981 – Secretary to the Apostolic Delegation (Vatican representation in the United States) in Washington, D.C., and weekend assisting priest at the Church of the Blessed Sacrament, Chevy Chase, Maryland.

1979 – He was named a monsignor and appointed a chaplain to Pope John Paul II.

1981-1987 – Rector of St. John Vianney Seminary, St. Paul; and

1981-1990 – Chaplain of the Serra Club of Midway in St. Paul

1987-1990 – Vicar for Seminaries

1990-1998 – Pastor, Church of St. Kevin, Minneapolis and the Church of the Resurrection, Minneapolis. In 1991, the two parishes merged to form the Church of Our Lady of Peace, Minneapolis where he remained as pastor. During this period he also served as moderator for the Minneapolis Deaneries Council of Catholic Women (1990-1998).

1998-2001 – Founding Pastor, Church of St. Ambrose, Woodbury
Dec. 22, 2000 – Appointed Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

March 26, 2001 – Ordained a bishop at the Cathedral of St. Paul, in St. Paul.

2001-2008 – Assisted Archbishop Harry J. Flynn in serving the nearly 650,000 Catholics in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. In this capacity he was Vicar General, Vicar for Clergy, Vicar for Youth and Young Adults, and Vicar for Evangelization.

April 10, 2008 – Appointed Bishop for the Diocese of Des Moines.

May 29, 2008 – Installed as the ninth bishop of Des Moines

The path to serving the Catholic Church as a bishop

How did a St. Paul, Minnesota boy come to be the bishop of Des Moines?

Bishop Richard Pates went by way of Rome, Washington, D.C. and the Twin Cities.

After attending seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, he went to graduate school at the North American College in Rome, where he earned a License in Sacred Theology from the Gregorian University in Rome.

Ordained in 1968 at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, he became an associate pastor at the Church of the Blessed Sacrament in St. Paul, Minnesota. The experience affirmed his decision to enter the priesthood.

In 1970, he became the vocations director for the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis plus weekend associate pastor at the Church of the Annunciation in Minneapolis.

In 1973, he became the secretary to Archbishop Leo C.

Byrne and vice chancellor of the diocese, assisting with administrative duties in the Twin Cities.

Two years later, he moved to Washington, D.C. where he began six years of service to the Vatican's representative to the United States, commonly referred to as the nuncio.

While in the nation's Capitol, he also served on weekends at the Church of the Blessed Sacrament in Chevy Chase, Maryland.

In 1981, he returned to his hometown of St. Paul to serve as the rector of St. John Vianney Seminary. In 1987, he became the vicar for seminaries and three years later, he was named pastor of two parish-

es that were merged to form one new parish, where he remained as pastor.

In 1998, he was asked to be the founding pastor of St. Ambrose of Woodbury Church and School.

In 2000, he was named an auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, and ordained a bishop in 2001.

On April 10, 2008, he was named the bishop for the Diocese of Des Moines.

Bishop's current service roles

- Member: Bishops Immigration Subcommittee, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops
- Member: Board of Directors, Bread for the World
- Liaison: Catholic Climate Covenant and USCCB
- Member: Advisory Board, Villanova Center for Church Management

Our journey together: A

ADMINISTRATION

- Completed a \$40 million capital campaign, with half of the funds shared with parishes. This injected capital funds for major improvements in our 80 parishes and helped build capital diocesan funds that cover health care for priests, education and more.
- Completed an \$8.5 million renovation of the historic Catholic Pastoral Center, designed by famed architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe and gifted to the diocese years ago. The building now has new technology, windows, mechanical systems and is restored and ready for generations to come.
- Completed \$1 million acquisition of land and construction of parking for diocesan staff and visitors to the cathedral.
- Completed \$550,000 renovation of the cathedral rectory for a residence and hub for small diocesan gatherings.



Newly confirmed youth at St. Elizabeth Seton Parish in Carlisle.

VOCATIONS

- Ordained 11 priests who are serving the Diocese of Des Moines, 4 for Divine Word religious community, 15 for the Congregation of the Holy Spirit and 15 for the Diocese of Kononga-Mapong.
- Ordained 39 men to the permanent diaconate
- Encouraged Nun Run trips to various religious communities for young women.
- Built a relationship with bishops in Africa and Central America from which several priests are serving our diocese.
- Encouraged each parish to create a culture of vocations.
- Focused on Marriage and Family Life by updating diocesan guidelines for those preparing for the sacrament of marriage, celebrating a diocesan Year of Marriage and Family, and launching the Third Option, an opportunity for couples to strengthen their marriages.



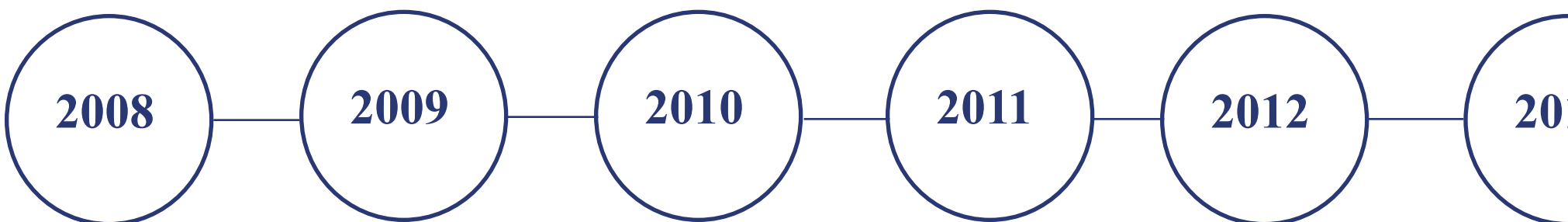
Deacon Terry Schleisman, of St. Mary-Holy Cross Parish in Elkhart.



Fathers Fabian Moncada and Ross Parker on their ordination day.

SPIRITUALITY

- 2010 pastoral letter emphasized adolescent catechesis, moved the sacrament of confirmation from middle school to high school
- Launched The New Moment which encourages new energy in parish life.
- Launched the Catechetical Institute adult faith formation process.
- Took about 125 youth to World Youth Day events.
- Created five-season evangelization effort “On a Journey Together” leading up to the diocesan centennial.
- Encouraged millennials to gather for service, prayer and fun through Novos Young Adults and other activities.
- Approved and encouraged the creation of the biennial Christ Our Life Catholic Regional Conference, the annual Iowa Catholic Men’s Conference and Iowa Catholic Women’s Conference.



2008
Bishop Richard Pates installed as diocese’s ninth bishop.

Bishop creates St. Peter Vietnamese Catholic Community.

2009
Bishop dedicates new worship space for St. Joseph Parish in Winterset.

30th anniversary of St. John Paul II’s visit to Iowa celebrated.

Bishop launches weekly radio show.

Multi-year evangelization program “On a Journey Together” starts.

2010
Bishop receives Umlita Award from Pontifical College of North America for dedication to the Catholic faith, vocations and priestly ministry.

2011
Diocesan centennial celebrated.

First diocesan encuentro.

Confirmation moved from eighth grade to high school.

2012
New workshop space for St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Indianola is dedicated.

Bishop leads religious liberty march through downtown Des Moines.

Catholic Foundation of Southwest Iowa is founded.

2013
Ground is broken for new St. Luke Parish in Ankeny.

decade with the diocese

PARISHES

- Created the St. Peter Vietnamese Catholic Community
- Created St. Luke the Evangelist Church in Ankeny
- Dedicated a new worship sites for
 - St. Luke the Evangelist Parish in Ankeny,
 - St. Patrick Parish in Council Bluffs,
 - St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Indianola,
 - St. Joseph Parish in Winterset,
 - St. Joseph Chapel at Dowling Catholic High School
- Merged three Council Bluffs parishes (Holy Family, Queen of Apostles and Our Lady of Carter Lake) into one new parish, Corpus Christi
- Closed Immaculate Conception Parish in Maloy
- Closed Assumption Parish in Churchville and opened Shrine of the Assumption in Churchville



Bishop Richard Pates blesses land at St. John Parish in Adel, where a new parish center was built. He also blessed the youth of the parish who would go on to receive religious education in the new center.

SCHOOLS

- Opened St. Luke the Evangelist School in Ankeny.
- Initiated a renewed emphasis on Catholic identity within the 17 Catholic schools through children's visits to the cathedral, visits to schools, and the launch of Faith Journey for educators.
- Launched a diocesan strategic planning process. Final recommendations are expected in Spring 2019.
- Launched strategic short-term and long-range planning for St Albert Catholic Schools.
- Closed Assumption School in Granger.
- Partnered with Dowling Catholic High School on the new St. Joseph Chapel.
- Supported Nigerian school.



The bishop celebrates Mass with students of St. Theresa School in Des Moines.



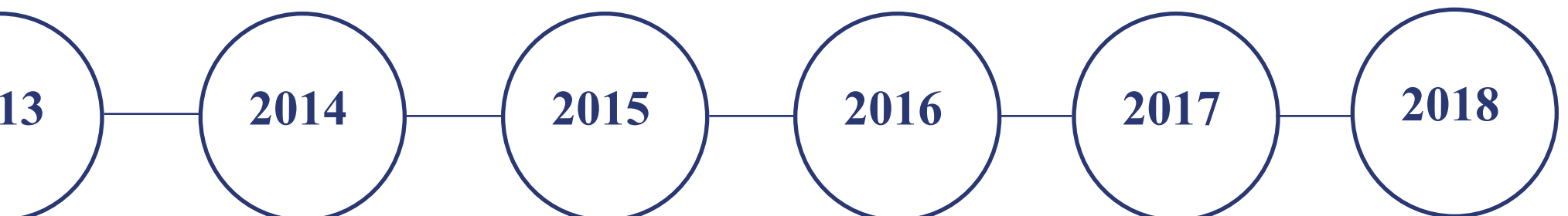
Bishop Pates greets a young man at Holy Family School in Des Moines.



HISPANIC MINISTRY

- Created the Hispanic Pastoral Commission that has formed more than 50 men and women in the faith so they can take on leadership roles within their parishes for their local Hispanic communities.
- Boosted the number of priests from Latin America from zero in 2008 to four in 2018.
- Boosted number of weekly Masses celebrated in Spanish from five in 2008 to 11 in 2018.

Hundreds gathered for the diocesan Encuentro.



<p>2013</p> <p>Spoken for the the Evangelist eny.</p>	<p>2014</p> <p>Bishop Pates gives keynote address at Iowa Hunger Summit.</p> <p>Bishop leads delegation of 18 bishops on pilgrimage for peace through Holy Land.</p> <p>Senior housing opportunities explored through parishes.</p>	<p>2015</p> <p>Bishop Pates receives Climate Champion Award from Iowa Inter-faith Power and Light.</p>	<p>2016</p> <p>Catholic Pastoral Center \$8.5 million renovation begins.</p> <p>Faithful encouraged to visit Holy Doors, celebrate Jubilee of Mercy.</p> <p>Catholics Come Home campaign launched during Lent.</p>	<p>2017</p> <p>Bishop Pates honored with 2017 Robert D. Ray Iowa SHARES Humanitarian Award.</p> <p>The New Moment takes root.</p> <p>Second Hispanic Lay Ministry class graduates.</p> <p>Supportive Care Iowa provides end of life health care planning.</p>	<p>2018</p> <p>\$8.5 million Catholic Pastoral Center renovation completed.</p> <p>Catechetical Institute graduates first class of 30 people.</p> <p>Strategic planning initiative for diocese's Catholic schools launched.</p>
---	---	--	--	---	---

Celebrations brought parishes together



Bishop Richard Pates called for a symposium focusing on rural life and stewardship in celebration of the 30th anniversary of St. John Paul II's visit to Iowa in 1979. He is pictured here at Living History Farms.

30th Anniversary Celebration

Bishop Richard Pates has brought the diocesan Church together for special celebrations throughout the years.

Shortly after Bishop Richard Pates arrived in Des Moines, he learned that the 30th anniversary of St. John Paul II's visit was coming up.

Drawing on the message of the late pontiff to Iowa, Bishop Pates organized a symposium focusing on agriculture, rural life and stewardship of God's gift of land and

the environment.

Archbishop Celestino Migliori, former permanent observer to the United Nations, was a keynote speaker. John Carr, a leader in social justice, also spoke on what the Catholic Church teaches about stewardship.

Joe Hays, the farmer who penned the letter inviting the pope to Iowa, attended as did agricultural experts and others.

Religious Liberty

As court cases wound their way through the judicial system, and concern rose about religious liberty in the United States, Bishop Pates organized a summertime walk from St. Ambrose Cathedral through the streets of downtown Des Moines to the Capitol.

Hundreds of people gathered to learn about threats to religious liberty and how limits to liberty imperil the Catholic community's ability to live its faith by serving others.

Diocesan Centennial

More than a year of planning, and a Blue Ribbon group including former Gov. Terry Branstad, helped organize a celebration in honor of the diocese's 100th birthday.

In gratitude for the hard work and determination of pioneers of the faith in the Diocese of Des Moines, the diocesan community learned the stories of how parishes were formed, hospitals built, schools multiplied and the faith spread.

Students visited St. Ambrose Cathedral, and an academic history of the diocese, written by Father Stephen Avella, has been published.

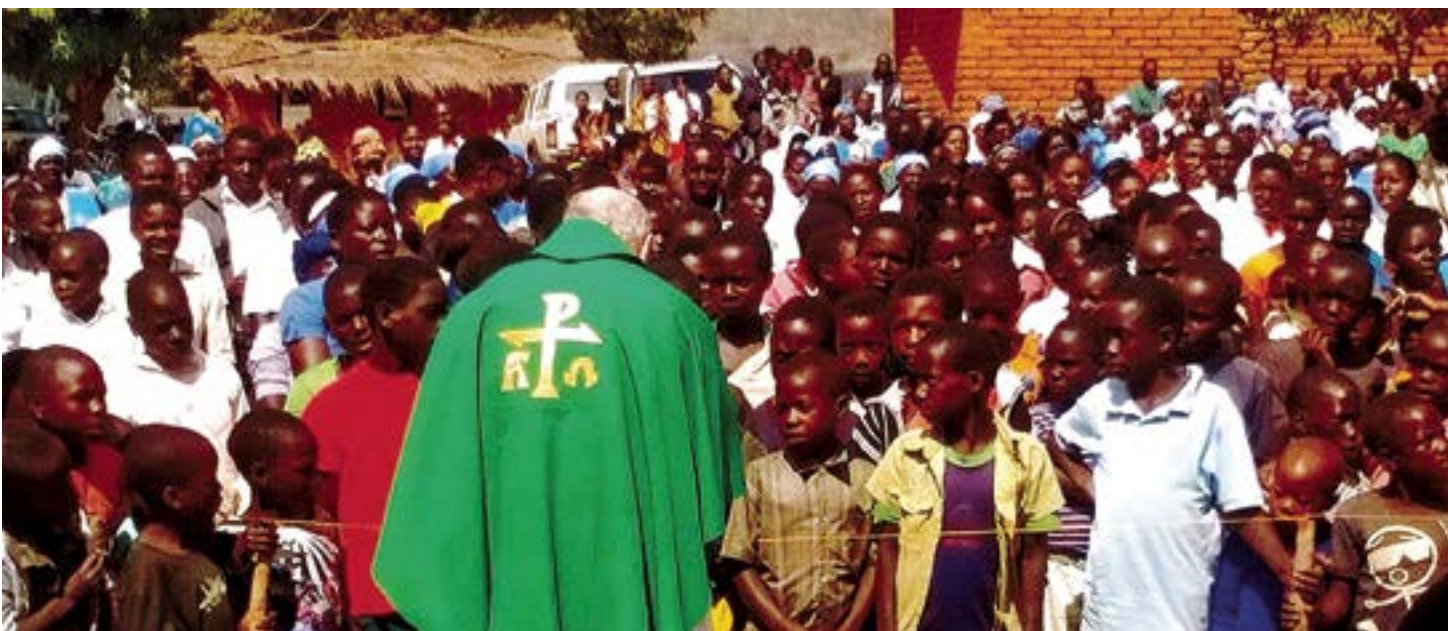
The yearlong celebration was capped with an event at the Iowa Events Center/Hy-Vee Hall, where a few thousand people gathered to be inspired by the faith testimonies of individuals, celebrate Mass and grow more deeply in their own faith journeys.

Special Years

The Diocese of Des Moines has joined with the universal Church in focusing on themes during various years, such as the Year of Mercy and the Year for Marriage and Family Life.

Opportunities associated with these designated years helped the diocesan faith family learn about their faith, grow in their faith and share their faith with others.

Bishop's travels link local church to universal Catholic Church



Bishop Richard Pates shared with the Diocese of Des Moines stories of his travels to Africa and other parts of the world during his service on the U.S. bishops' Committee for International Justice and Peace.

During his time serving the Diocese of Des Moines, Bishop Richard Pates also served as chair of the U.S. bishops' Committee for International Justice and Peace.

In that role, Bishop Pates wrote letters to governmental leaders in the United States about poverty, peace and respect for

others and applied those principals to international conflicts, discussions on nuclear disarmament, and more.

His international travels were shared through his homilies and his monthly column in "The Catholic Mirror" diocesan newspaper.

In doing so, the bishop linked the Diocese of Des Moines with the universal Catholic Church. He shared stories of pain and persecution, and explained how the lessons of the Gospel are being applied -- or not applied -- in regions around the world.

Bringing the world to Iowa

Bishop Richard Pates invited world reknown leaders to Iowa, giving the local diocesan community an opportunity to see, hear and learn from them.

Ghanaian Cardinal Peter Turkson, an adviser at the Vatican, was in Iowa for the World Food Prize.

For the biennial Christ Our Life Catholic Regional Conference, guests were:

- Washington Cardinal Donald Wuerl,
- San Antonio Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller,
- Nigerian Cardinal Francis Arinze,
- Toronto Cardinal Thomas Collins,
- New York Cardinal Timothy Dolan, and
- Los Angeles Auxiliary Bishop Robert Barron.

Cardinal Justin Rigali came to Des Moines to celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday.

Archbishop Celestino Migliori, former permanent observer to the United Nations, came for the 30th anniversary of the historic visit of St. John Paul II to Iowa.

Diocesan youth support Nigerian seminary youth

During one of Bishop Richard Pates's trips to Africa, he encountered a Nigerian seminary in dire need of help.

Buildings were in bad shape, student housing needed attention and other areas required improvement. But funds were limited.

Moved by the dedication of the staff, the enthusiasm of the seminary high school and the need, Bishop Pates shared his concern upon returning home to Des Moines. Since then, the Lenten season has been dedicated in Des Moines diocesan schools and religious education programs to raising funds to help students in the seminary school. Four priests of the seminary's religious community serve the Des Moines diocese.

To date, \$145,756 has been raised. The school's administration has thanked Bishop Pates for the infusion of funds and support from students in Iowa.

Moving forward

Diocesan staff members are continuing their work as they await word on who the next bishop will be.

The New Moment

Multiple departments are highlighting the Holy Spirit working in parishes and schools as The New Moment grows.

The New Moment stems from a national Catholic convocation in 2017, where leaders were encouraged to look for the new breath of air, a new energy emerging from Catholic groups, parishes and schools. It focuses on knowing Jesus, growing more deeply in relationship to God and focusing on the millennial generation.

Representatives from the diocese are visiting parishes to learn how this grassroots energy is growing, and to encourage parishes to foster programs and initiatives that help people grow closer to God.

Strategic Planning

The diocese's schools are seven months into a strategic planning process called A Vision for Excellence. The process is intended to help the Catholic schools address challenges and maintain their mission while ensuring that Catholic education is accessible and affordable for families for generations to come.

Meitler Consulting is assisting the Blue Ribbon Task Force in focusing on key areas including academics, governance and facilities, finances, Catholic



Working on the diocesan schools strategic planning process are consultants Jan Lancaster, Alan Meitler, diocesan Schools Superintendent Dr. Tracy Bonday and retired Dowling Catholic High School President Dr. Jerry Deegan.

identity and more.

After a visit and gathering information, it was determined that a second strategic planning process should begin immediately and focus specifically on St. Albert Catholic Schools in Council Bluffs. The process will concentrate on short-term and long-range plans.

The strategic planning at St. Albert will focus on the school's mission, Catholic identity, governance and leadership, academic excellence and financial operations. An implementation process will be developed with goals and accountability measures built in.

Bishop Richard Pates has welcomed the diocesan plan-

ning process, saying the diocese is building on a strong foundation and must be committed to excellence in every facet of education.

Why now?

"Part of this process requires groundwork, it requires consultation and the gathering a lot of data," said Bishop Pates at the kickoff gathering. "It's a very important time to gather all this data collected, to do the hard work."

The task force, led by former Dowling Catholic High School President Dr. Jerry Deegan and diocesan Schools Superintendent Dr. Tracy Bonday, is expected to share its final diocesan plan in early 2019.

The Diocese of Des Moines is growing and thriving.

94,596

Number of Catholics in the Diocese of Des Moines in 2009

108,581

Number of Catholics in the Diocese of Des Moines in 2017

7

Number of seminarians in the Diocese of Des Moines in 2008

18

Number of seminarians in the Diocese of Des Moines in 2018

0

Number of priests from Latin/South America in 2008

4

Number of priests from Latin/South America in 2018

5

Number of weekly Masses in Spanish

11

Number of weekly Masses in Spanish

Hispanic community of the diocese says, "Gracias"

As Bishop Richard Pates prepares to retire, he is thanking the international community for walking on a faith journey with him these last 10 years.

During a special Mass and reception Oct. 8 at St. Ambrose Cathedral, he said, "Together, we constitute God's people."

Present in the standing-room-only crowd were representatives from the Hispanic,

Burmese, Vietnamese, Hmong, Lao, Eritrean, Ghanaian and Togo communities.

"I specifically wanted to have a farewell Mass with you, our international congregation, with all of you who have come to Des Moines in the recent past," he said. "All of you have been a great inspiration to me and I wish to express gratitude to you for this and to assure you that you have a

very special place in my heart."

He has a special place in the hearts of many who were at the event, too.

Father Luis Mejia, of Sacred Heart Parish in West Des Moines, comes from a culture where bishops do not interact closely with seminarians, so he was surprised when he arrived in Des Moines to study for priesthood.

"I did not expect that Bishop Pates would be waiting for me with a big winter blanket and \$100 gift when I arrived to the United States. It was so touching," he said.

"He has always been a friend to me, remembering to send me a birthday card and listening to me when I needed to express a thought or concern," he said.

"When he says 'Buenos dias, bienvenidos todos amigos' it shows the Hispanic community that he is trying to connect," said Father Mejia. "That little bit can help make everyone feel included and is something so simple, but yet so powerful.

Father Fabian Moncada, of Our Lady of the Americas Parish in Des Moines, was the first Hispanic seminarian and the first Hispanic pastor in the diocese.

"This shows the generosity that the Hispanic community has been blessed with under Bishop Pates' leadership," he said. "It's not only a great responsibility, it is also a challenge for the future of commitment, dedication and openness to the multicultural and ecclesial reality of the diocese."

Karla Garcia is grateful for the bishop's advocacy.

"Thank you for all your acts of kindness and constant prayers toward our DREAMers and families," she said. "Thank you for giving us many awesome opportunities where we can bloom and grow spiritually and pastorally."

Maria Matamoros is grateful for the launch of the Hispanic Pastoral Leadership program.

"The fruits of the program can be seen throughout our community," she said. "Classmates who were too shy to speak are now talking about their faith on radio shows. Others are leading projects, groups and ministries within their parishes. The result: A community working together and supporting each other, bringing parishes together."

In closing his homily on Oct. 8, Bishop Pates said, "As the Book of Ecclesiastes so beautifully illustrates, there is a rhythm in life and a proper season for all of our activity. We now acknowledge that reality and pass on to the next stage. We do so in gratitude that we have shared our journey the last ten years."



Dancers from the Hispanic community performed during a reception Oct. 8 celebrating the upcoming retirement of Bishop Richard Pates.



*Thank you
for 10 years as our shepherd*

*Congratulations
on your 50th anniversary of priestly ordination*