

THE CATHOLIC
MIRROR
Special Edition



*Bishop-elect William M. Joensen
Tenth Bishop of the Diocese of Des Moines
Episcopal ordination and installation on Friday, September 27, 2019*

Coat of arms: Meaning and symbolism



By
Bishop-elect
William
Joensen

An episcopal coat of arms accents the diocesan heritage and apostolic inspiration and ministry of a bishop.

I collaborated with Italian Renato Poletti and his colleague Gianluigi to develop my coat of arms.

Dr. Poletti is well versed in the history of heraldry, with all the rules and symbolism that compose this tradition, and has worked with a number of cardinals and bishops in Italy, the United States and other countries to help craft their respective coats of arms.

Here is a brief explanation of my own personal coat of arms:

The (facing) left side of any episcopal coat of arms is drawn from the (arch)bishop's diocese. The splendid colors and French heritage implicit in the Des Moines diocese's coat of arms are accurately captured in my own emblem.

On the right side, the three segments reflect my intention to express:

- the geographical region of the Des Moines diocese and its natural and spiritual resources;
- the solidarity and charity that disciples of Jesus are to extend to their neighbors of every creed, race and culture;
- the centrality of Jesus and the mediation of his mother, Mary, who communicate the life and love of God through the sacraments and the Church.

The lower segment with the rich green background evokes the rich natural and agricultural heritage of what our native American forebears called Iowa, the beautiful land.

The wavy lines coursing through the green field suggest the Des Moines and Missouri Rivers that flow through the eastern and western regions of the diocese, as well as other sources of life-giving water that irrigate the land and the vital crops produced by our farmers.

The rules of heraldry stipulate that with a green field one must pair silver and not blue to symbolize water. Water is the "stuff" of baptism, by which God instills his Spirit life within us.

The upper segment with its blue background evokes a heavenly field with the stars both offering respect and tribute to my earthly parents and my spiritual mother.

My own father, Al Joensen, who was an Air Force navigator in the propeller era, could "shoot the stars" and guide planes to their destination by sight and calculation absent today's technology. He conveyed a childlike sense of wonder for the world and the need for rigorous precision in science and math that guided my siblings and myself in our education.

The 12 stars are reminiscent of the "woman clothed with the sun" who wears a crown of 12 stars (Rev. 12:1), which for persons of Catholic faith is readily identified with Mary, who guides us to our heavenly destiny. My mother, Marilyn, and maternal grandmother,

Marie, have been key in cultivating my devotion to Mary (particularly under the title of her Assumption) and the rosary, which is a source of grace and protection for all God's children from the clutches of the evil one.

Of course, Mary's whole mission and purpose in life is to bear her Son to us. Mary gives flesh to Jesus; Jesus gives us his flesh and blood in the Eucharist. The radiant IHS solar image is not (sorry, Pope Francis!) the exclusive provenance of the Jesuits but has a longstanding tradition in the Church that points us to the Lord who communicates his resurrected life to us through his saving sacrifice on the Cross. The sun/Son is the source and goal of our own lives.

The middle diagonal segment is more textured and lends itself to multiple levels of meaning which remain open to those who ponder it.

I remarked to Dr. Poletti that, though I am not a physician, the healing arts and the work of health professionals have a special place of respect in my heart, as I have witnessed and collaborated with them in my pastoral ministry.

He suggested that we enlist the image of the clasping hands to point to the Parable of the Good Samaritan, who does not hesitate to render compassion and healing to the afflicted, vulnerable fellow he encounters on the way of life.

The Good Samaritan is the hand of Christ outstretched to his neighbor, who does not hesitate to receive the grace and blessing offered by someone the world regards as "foreign." Those who come from beyond our communities can be God's means of drawing us from the depths of our affluence, our self-absorption, our preoccupation with material, worldly cares.

The distinct skin tones of the two who embrace is both a reflection and a prophetic call to each of us to transcend racial, ethnic and religious differences, and to collaborate with God to create a civilization of love where all are truly neighbors.

Finally, the episcopal motto, "Exquirite Faciem Suam," is taken from Psalm 27:8, "Seek His Face." The comprehensive message of my coat of arms is that we are all called to draw from the font of Spirit and grace that God has given us, through baptism, Eucharist, and our communion with one another, to seek—and to find—the face of Jesus Christ, our Lord, Savior, and lover of humanity.

Bishop-elect Joensen will become the 10th bishop of the Diocese of Des Moines on Sept. 27, 2019.



Watch Bishop-elect Joensen's ordination and installation live!

We'll be streaming the Mass live on Friday, September 27 at 2 p.m. at dmdiocese.org
and on the Diocese of Des Moines Facebook page at facebook.com/DMDiocese.

On a journey together

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

The Des Moines diocese's next bishop sees us on a journey toward heaven.

On that journey, we have a mission "to help God make this world become ever more the Kingdom, so that we can one day behold Jesus and his Father face to face. And in the process, we will see how beautiful we all are in the light of God's glory, starting with Jesus' mom, Mary," said Bishop-elect William Joensen during a July news conference.

He hopes that he can shepherd people, helping them navigate toward a closer relationship with Jesus.

"My greatest hope and heart's desire is that people have the graced chance to encounter Jesus, to experience his love and his mercy (as I certainly have!), and to form a friendship with him through Sacred Scripture, the life of the sacraments – especially the Eucharist – and through the

communion we know with one another," he said.

In describing his own journey toward the priesthood, he recently told listeners of Iowa Catholic Radio that God is full of surprises.

"I want to do what the good priests of this Des Moines diocese and other pastoral ministers and people of God do: bear the living water of Spirit to others..."

– Bishop-elect
William Joensen

His own future seemed set during high school and he pursued a medical degree. School was going well, and then he pondered what God would want him to do with his life.

He watched an uncle, a diocesan priest, bring joy into people's lives.

"That's what was

tugging on my heart," he said. On his journey, "God just always affirmed that for me" and he was ordained in 1989.

His journey continued as he discovered a charism, or special gift, for offering spiritual direction. Over the years, he has helped guide young people on their path to heaven through his role as a teacher at Loras College.

Now, his journey takes a new path. As the chief shepherd of the Des Moines diocese, Bishop-elect Joensen will be responsible for the pastoral care of the diocese. He will teach, preach and administer sacraments.

At the July news conference at which he was introduced, he said: "I want to do what the good priests of this Des Moines diocese and other pastoral ministers and people of God do: bear the living water of Spirit to others, allowing them to draw compassion, hope and strength from the abundance Jesus has poured forth in his Cross and Resurrection."



Bishop-elect William Joensen paused in St. Ambrose Cathedral recently with Father Trevor Chicoine to study the stained glass windows depicting the history of the diocese. The top of the right panel is the arrival of the first bishop of Iowa, Bishop Matthias Loras. In the middle of the left panel he is ordaining the first priests for Iowa. In the lower left panel is the coat of arms for the Archdiocese of Dubuque.

Signs and symbols at the ordination

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

There are a number of signs and symbols at the Sept. 27 episcopal ordination that vary from a priestly ordination, with traditions that go back centuries.

Letter of appointment

After the Gospel, Father Michael Amadeo, on behalf of the priests of the diocese, will formally ask Dubuque Archbishop Michael Jackels to ordain Bishop-elect William M. Joensen as the bishop for the Des Moines diocese.

Because no priest may be ordained a bishop without the permission of the Holy Father, Archbishop Jackels will ask that a letter of appointment from Pope Francis be read. Pope Francis' representative to the United States, Archbishop Christophe Pierre, will read the letter.

It will be shown to the diocesan College of Consultors, a group of priests who help the bishop in the Canonical administration of the diocese. They will certify the authenticity of the papal appointment. Then it will be shown to the congregation.

Laying on of hands

After the homily, Archbishop Jackels will ask Bishop-elect Joensen if he is resolved to uphold the faith and his responsibilities as a bishop.

Bishop-elect Joensen

will prostrate himself before the altar as the congregation sings the Litany of the Saints. This signifies his total submission to the will of God and supplication (asking God for help).

All bishops present will lay hands on the bishop-elect. The laying on of hands in the gesture confers the sacrament of holy orders. All bishops present join the archbishop in ordaining Bishop-elect Joensen.

Book of the Gospels

During the prayer of ordination, two deacons will hold the Book of the Gospels suspended over the bishop-elect's head as the archbishop and all bishops present join in the prayer of consecration.

Chrism

The Sacred Chrism, consecrated during the diocese's annual Chrism Mass, will be used to anoint the bishop-elect.

Archbishop Jackels will hand him the Book of the Gospels and encourage him to preach the word of God with patience and sound teaching.

Ring

Bishop-elect Joensen will be given three signs of a Catholic bishop: a ring, a crosier and a miter.

The ring, worn on the third finger of the right hand, signifies fidelity.

The use of the episcopal ring may date back to the third

Three signs of a bishop are a ring, a miter and a crosier



Above left is a drawing of the top of Bishop-elect William Joensen's episcopal ring, a gift from his brother, that is modeled after his father's wedding ring.

Center photo is St. John Paul II's miter on display at the St. John Paul II National Shrine in Washington, D.C. The miter signifies the bishop's resolve to pursue holiness.

At right, Bishop-elect Joensen's crosier, or pastoral staff, a reminder of his pastoral care.



century and is clearly documented by the fifth century.

The bishop-elect's ring is a gift from his brother, Mark, and his uncle, Monsignor Ralph Simington. The bishop's ring is custom made with white gold. It is modeled after his father's wedding ring. A simple, white gold Latin cross is set upon an amethyst stone, which traditionally adorns a bishop's ring. The stone is partially supported by two fleur de lis, inspired by the coat of arms of the Des Moines diocese.

Miter

Archbishop Jackels will place a miter on the head of the

newly ordained bishop. The miter signifies the bishop's resolve to pursue holiness. Its use dates back to the 11th century.

After these rites of ordination, the new bishop will be invited to serve as the principal celebrant of the liturgy. All of the bishops present will exchange a Kiss of Peace with him, welcoming him to the Apostolic College.

Crosier

The crosier, or pastoral staff, is a gift from parishioners of his home parish, St. Cecilia in Ames.

Shaped like a shepherd's crook, the crosier is a reminder

of the bishop's pastoral care, his duty in guiding and governing the church entrusted to him. It is mentioned in church writings as early as the fourth century.

Chair

The newly ordained bishop will be seated in the chair of ordination. At St. Ambrose Cathedral, this chair, called a cathedra, is behind the altar.

Upon being seated, Bishop Joensen will be the principal celebrant of the liturgy.

Bishop-elect's vocation story

Father Joensen left medical school to answer God's call

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

While studying zoology at Iowa State University, Bishop-elect Joensen had his sights set on medical school.

"He took the MCAT when he was a junior at Iowa State to be a doctor," his mother, Marilyn Joensen, said. "He got the McFarland Clinic Scholarship to go to medical school."

After earning his bachelor's degree at ISU, he began studying medicine at the University of Iowa. His mother recalled a pivotal conversation they had when her son was sharing with her his career plans.

"I said, 'That's nice, but what does God want you to do?'" Marilyn said.

It was one of many important moments in his vocation story.

While attending the University of Iowa, he also met a priest at St. Mary Parish in Iowa City who had a positive influence on him.

Father Joensen already knew one priest very well – his uncle Monsignor Ralph Simington, who served the Archdiocese of Dubuque.

"[Having a relationship] with my brother, he knew that priests were just regular people," Marilyn said.

Father Joensen's younger brother, Dave Joensen, agreed that having an uncle who was a priest took the "mystique" away.

"We got to see a different side to a priest..." Dave said. "He was more my uncle than he was a priest. We got access – we could go into the rectory and see be-

hind the scenes. We did get to meet the archbishop. [There are] perks when your uncle is a priest."

Monsignor Simington was often at family celebrations and gatherings, including First Communion and confirmations. And though he's a Loras Duhawk, Father Simington cheered on the Iowa State Cyclones with the Joensens.

"I would travel with the family on vacations, so I was always pretty close to them," Monsignor Simington said.

The uncle was pleasantly surprised when he found out his nephew wanted to become a priest.

"I was actually kind of happy and surprised....," Monsignor Simington said. "I was pretty pleased he was going to enter into the seminary."

High school friend and classmate Mike Flummerfelt recalled the day his friend told him he was going to become a priest.

"I remember when he called me when he was in college and pre-med at [the University of Iowa]," Flummerfelt said. "And of course, he was straight A's all the time. And he calls me up and said, 'My calling is to be a priest.'"

Knowing his friend's academic abilities and intelligence, Flummerfelt suggested he become a doctor first.

"I said, 'Wow. You're a straight A student and you're dropping out of med school to be a priest? Why don't you become a doctor first and then become a priest so you have something to fall back on if the priest thing doesn't work out.' And he said, 'No, this is my calling and this is what I'm going to do.' And the rest is history," Flummerfelt said.



This photo of Bishop-elect William Joensen was taken in Jerusalem in 1994 when he was on a pilgrimage with fellow priests. Bishop-elect Joensen was a young associate pastor at Resurrection Parish in Dubuque at this time.

"Bill was gonna be successful in whatever he chose to do," Flummerfelt added.

Family visited Father Joensen several times while he was studying at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio during his seminary years. He earned his Masters of Arts in Moral Theology and Masters of Divinity.

Monsignor Simington was honored when Father Joensen asked him to do the vesting at his priestly ordination,

which took place June 24, 1989 at Nativity Church in Dubuque. He was ordained by the late Archbishop Daniel Kucera, OSB.

"[The ordination] was really nice," Dave said. "A lot of people from Ames and friends came up. It was a really big deal with the pageantry and the rituals behind it."

Father Joensen has served the following appointments since his ordination in 1989:

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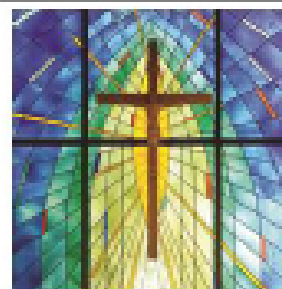
On behalf of the seminarians, faculty and staff of the
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The Very Reverend Steven P. Beseau, Rector,
offers heartfelt congratulations and prayerful good wishes
to our distinguished alumnus

HIS EXCELLENCY
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and installation as
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The family of
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and welcome to
Bishop-Elect William Joensen!

*May the Holy Spirit give you
a true shepherd's heart
and guide you in the work of
renewing the Church and uniting
our parishes, priests, and people
in love, truth, and wisdom.*

Bishop Joensen,

*Congratulations on your ordination
and installation as the 10th Bishop of
the Diocese of Des Moines! May
St. Joseph the patron of the
Universal Church be your model and
guide as you shepherd the diocese of
Des Moines.*

Peace,

St. Joseph, Mount Airy



Bishop-elect's vocation story

Continued from page 4

1989-92: Associate pastor at Sacred Heart Parish in Waterloo

1992-95: Associate pastor at Resurrection Parish in Dubuque

1995-2001: Graduate studies at the Catholic University of America, where he earned his Ph.D. in Philosophy. One year of study in Rome.

2001-14: Director of Spiritual Formation at St. Pius X Seminary Program at Loras College

2002-07: Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Loras College

2007-10: Associate Professor of Philosophy at Loras College and chair, Division of Philosophy, Religion and Theology

2010-Present: Dean of Campus Spiritual Life at Loras College and Associate Professor of Philosophy at Loras College.

Flummerfelt said he wasn't surprised that his longtime friend was named bishop of the Diocese of Des Moines.

"Because anybody that recognizes talent is going to recognize Bill," Flummerfelt said. "And how can you not want to promote him and have him in a greater leadership role? I mean – it's a no brainer. So it didn't surprise me and I'm just extremely proud of him."

Father Joensen is a natural fit, he added.

"Obviously, he'll bring a great faith," Flummerfelt said. "And secondly, he'll bring tremendous leadership. When you have great faith

and great leadership and couple that with Bill's intelligence and his natural way with people, you have a natural leader. [People will see] what a kind, warm-hearted person he is."

The Diocese of Des Moines is "very blessed and fortunate to have him," Flummerfelt added.

"He'll definitely bring integrity to his role as a bishop, because Bill does seek out to do the right thing in all instances, and it's just a trait of his..." his brother Dave said. "So I think he's going to be ...looking at the issues that the Church is facing right now."

Bishop-elect Joensen also has the "great ability" to reach out to and converse with people from different backgrounds, walks of life and professions as well, Dave added.

"I think he'll listen to people," his mother, Marilyn, said. "I think he'll want to understand where they are at in their lives. I think he's concerned about people that are suffering. I think he feels really bad about the priest abuse."

Father Joensen's assignment as bishop seems almost providential, Dave added.

"Everything he has done has prepared him for this role," Dave said. "Even though he didn't know that's what was happening. All of the different activities have really prepared him well to meet the responsibilities of being a bishop."



Bottom: Bishop-elect William Joensen celebrated the funeral Mass for his father, Al Joensen, at St. Cecilia Parish in Ames.



THE SEMINARIES
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Congratulations Bishop William Joensen!

From the seminarians, students, priests, faculty and staff of
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and The Saint Paul Seminary.

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Former students thrilled to call their teacher the bishop of Des Moines

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

When news broke that Father William Joensen, a philosophy professor at Loras College in Dubuque, would become the 10th bishop of the Diocese of Des Moines, former students rejoiced.

"I nearly had a heart attack. I was utterly thrilled," said Father Trevor Chicoine, pastor of Ss. Peter and Paul Parish in Atlantic and St. Mary Parish in Anita. "I'm overjoyed to have him as a bishop."

Jon Leonetti, a former seminarian and spiritual advisee of Bishop-elect Joensen's at Loras, couldn't believe it.

"I had a ton of adrenaline and excitement," said Leonetti, host of the morning show on Iowa Catholic Radio. "I don't even remember doing my show that morning."

Father PJ McManus, pastor of Christ the King Parish in Des Moines, said he's thrilled.

"There wouldn't be many priests that I would trust more than Father Joensen," he said. "I felt a great amount of relief once we knew who it was. Relief was a big feeling. And just delight. You like to see one of yours take a win, and there couldn't be a man, I think, better suited."

John Huynh, former seminarian at Loras College and director of the Des Moines diocese's Faith Journey program, said he was overjoyed at the news that his Loras instructor, whom he called "the Magnificent Joensen," would be Des

Moines' new bishop.

"He is a joyful priest with a heart of a pastor," Huynh said. "All of us who were lucky enough to study under Father Joensen remember and speak fondly of him to this day. We even made a homecoming shirt with him on it. And we are all so excited for him to lead us as our next bishop in Des Moines."

Professor and academic adviser

As a professor of philosophy at Loras College in Dubuque, Bishop-elect Joensen held his students to a high standard.

"He was intense, but in a good way," Leonetti said. "It was certainly very challenging. It was something you were going to take with you into the rest of your life. It was not something to just graduate from. This was something that went far beyond [the classroom]. He really, in a beautiful way, communicated that over and over again."

As a teacher, he was one of the more demanding professors at Loras, said Father Chicoine.

"You had to know your stuff," he said. "And you could really tell that standing behind the well-prepared lectures was a real pastoral development especially geared towards the formation of future priests. He was trying to introduce us to a way of thinking and being that was well rooted in reason and in the Catholic tradi-

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This photo was taken in late August 2019 in the Loras Christ the King Chapel sacristy. Bishop-elect William Joensen is preparing for Mass with Loras senior (and sacristan) Brittany Zanazaro from Gurnee, Illinois.

Congratulations Bishop-Elect William Joensen

on your appointment to the Diocese of Des Moines.



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We extend our prayers and warmest congratulations to **Bishop-Elect William Joensen**. May God bless you with strength, love and wisdom in your leadership of the Diocese of Des Moines.

Congratulations
to
Bishop-Elect William Joensen
on the occasion of his
ordination and installation
as **Bishop of the**
Diocese of Des Moines



From
Bishop Thomas Zinkula
and the People of the
Diocese of Davenport

Former students thrilled to call their teacher bishop

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tion.”

He helped guide the students to be the best priests – and people – they could be.

“He was a very good academic adviser because he really helped his students develop a well-rounded education,” Father Chicoine said. “Case in point with me – I was doing some work in liturgical music and, at one point, I was wavering about finishing the course of study. And him being a philosopher, he encouraged me to finish that because he thought it was good for me and for my development. He had the eye for the well-roundedness of students.”

Father McManus recalled a similar experience.

“He wanted the guys to have as ordinary a social existence as they could without actually dating,” Father McManus said. “I was the assistant editor of the student paper and they really saw those things as not in addition or competition with formation, but as an essential part of formation.”

Former Loras student Michele Gelaude remembers being struck by his witness.

“It was clear that he had really given his life not only as an educator, but specifically given his life to the Lord through thought,” Gelaude said.

He often pointed out the beauty, truth and goodness of the Catholic faith, Gelaude added.

“His prayer life was strong and he did almost everything with excellence,” Gelaude said, whether that be prayer, exercise or study. “His presence drew me to look for other courses with him, and through those experiences I became a core student of his to be formed by him.”

Gelaude traveled as part of a student group with Bishop-elect Joensen to Rome and also studied under him in Poland during one of his summer classes. She enjoyed getting to know him as a mentor and professor.

“He showed so much kindness and generosity,” said Gelaude, who is now a theology instructor at Roncalli High School, a Catholic school in Indianapolis. “He communicates and teaches and pastors with love. I was shown that because I was very new and in over my head.

“First and foremost, he really cares for his students to come to know the Gospel greater...” Gelaude said. “He sees knowledge as a gift and wants to share that gift. But first and foremost is compassion.”



This photo was taken immediately after the May 2016 Loras Baccalaureate Mass celebrated at Nativity Church just down the street from the Loras College campus in Dubuque. Bishop-elect William Joensen is pictured with 2016 graduate Melissa Wachuta.

Spiritual adviser

Bishop-elect Joensen has been a spiritual director for many seminarians over the years while at Loras College. Jon Leonetti was one of them.


“He was a game-changer for my spiritual life,” Leonetti said. “He was the first long-term spiritual director I ever had. I really got to know him as a spiritual father during those pivotal years during seminary and discernment. And when you’re going through discernment, you really need someone to be able to walk with you in that process. You don’t want to do it on your own, and for me, he was that journeyman. He walked right beside me.”

Father Joensen often gave retreat talks to the seminarians as his work as spiritual director.

“It was through him that we encountered the spirituality of the diocesan priest,” Father Chicoine said. “He taught us how to pray and approach spiritual direction and really showed us, in some regards, what it was to have the heart of a pastor. He is just an incredibly pastoral man whose pastoral activity is fed by this rich Catholic faith and rich Catholic intellectual tradition.

“We’re getting a man who is among the smart-

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Congratulations Bishop William Joensen

Former students thrilled

Continued from page 8

est I've met in my life," Father Chicoine continued. "He's incredibly rooted in the Catholic tradition but has a very deep pastoral heart and really embodies what Pope Francis says when he speaks about accompaniment. He really walked with us very personally and came to know us on a very personal level and showed great pastoral care for us and continues to this day. I saw him a few times when he was in Rome and visited him. He came for my dad's funeral, for my ordination and first Mass.

"He knows what it means to be a servant and obedient to the church, and it was a great example for us preparing to be priests," Father Chicoine concluded.

A friend to many

Bishop-Elect Joensen was not only a professor, academic adviser and spiritual mentor, but a friend to many of his students.

He often invited seminarians over to his house to watch a Cyclone football or basketball game. He was warm, welcoming and "one of the guys," Leonetti said.

"He has always been someone that you wanted to be around, and has been someone like that for me," Leonetti said. "And it helps that we love the Cyclones, so that was always fun.

"He's become a friend," Leonetti continued, noting that he often called or texted Father Joensen to get together for dinner while he was in Dubuque. "When you have a spiritual director for such a long time that gets to know you personally, you don't just walk away from that."

Bishop-elect Joensen brings with him great listening skills and a warm personality.

"He has a great sense of humor," Father Chicoine said. "He is incredibly attentive to the person in front of him and very receptive of whoever is in front of him. There's a warmth about him that makes him very approachable."

Leonetti agreed.

"He's a phenomenal listener," Leonetti added. "When you're having a conversation with him, there's really not a lot of distractions. He's intentional."



Bishop-elect Joensen and his former student Michele Gelaude on a boat ride called the Splywy Dunajcem on their excursion day in Poland. The Dunajec River runs between Southern Poland and Slovakia. Gelaude studied under Father Joensen in Poland.

Gifts he'll bring

Those who know Bishop-elect Joensen said he'll bring an array of gifts and talents with him to the Diocese of Des Moines.

"It's a blessing to have someone who brings the intellectual and pastoral experience that he has and also the blessing of being an Iowa native," Father Chicoine said. "He gets what it means to be an Iowan, he knows rural life, he knows that it means to be a Catholic in the Midwest at this time and that's a real blessing."

His deep relationship with Christ is also extreme-

ly important.

"I think the biggest thing I can say about him is that he's a priest who prays..." Leonetti said. "You want a priest who prays, and he takes his relationship with the Lord about as serious as anyone else.

"I think he's got a keen understanding of what discernment really is..." Leonetti continued. "He's going to bring a great sense of humor. He's got an infectious laugh – that's one thing I've always said about him."

"He's brilliant but one of the most approachable and personable people and when he talks to you he's very present to you," his former student, Gelaude, agreed. "He's also hilarious and fun to joke with."

*Congratulations Bishop William Joensen on your
Ordination and Installation as the 10th
Bishop of the Diocese of Des Moines!*

Our Prayers are With You!

Bishop Walker Nickless and the people of the Diocese of Sioux City



**DIOCESE
OF SIOUX CITY**

Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."



Iowa Knights of Columbus welcomes Most Reverend William Joensen

We pledge our support from the Knights, families, and
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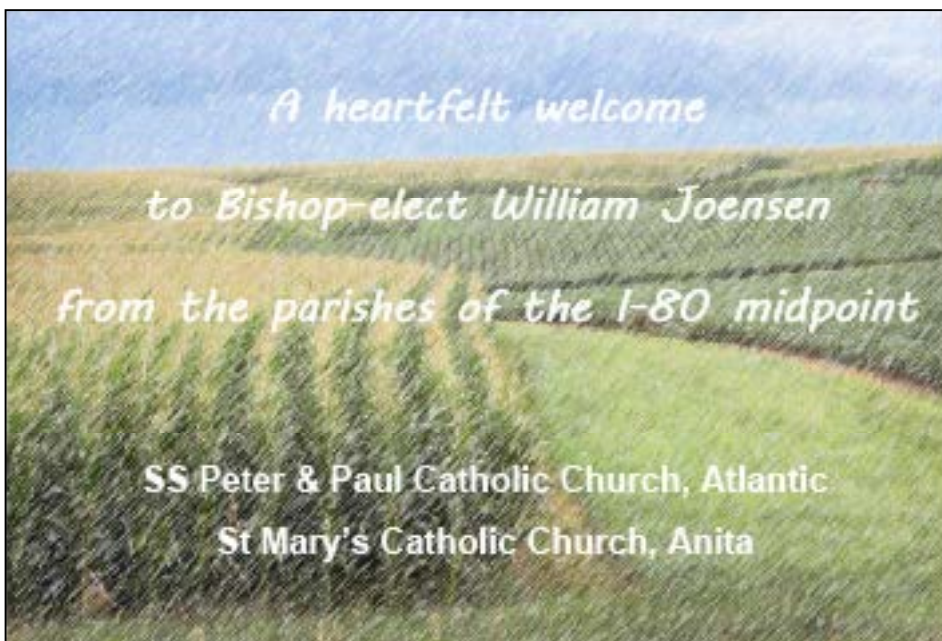

Steve Vonnahme, State Secretary
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Congratulations to Bishop Richard Pates for his years of service

Studying in Rome gave future bishop an opportunity to meet a saint




This photo was taken in June 1998 as Bishop-elect William Joensen concluded his one year interlude of doctoral studies spent in Rome before returning to Washington, D.C. He and his parents Al and Marilyn were permitted to accompany the Region 9 bishops from the Midwest for the Saturday morning Mass and the following encounter with the Holy Father as they made their ad limina visit. As Bishop-elect Joensen introduced his father to St. John Paul II, he noted that at age 68 Al Joensen was going to retire from teaching at Iowa State University, unlike the pope who had to continue on in office. This interaction brought a moment of levity, even to then Archbishop Justin Rigali of St. Louis, who is standing between the Holy Father and Bishop-elect Joensen.





Creighton University Retreat Center
Welcomes Bishop-Elect Joensen
to the Diocese of Des Moines

A quiet, prayerful place in which the Spirit of God can touch the heart and move the soul.




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WELCOME TO BISHOP JOENSEN—
MAY GOD BLESS YOUR TIME HERE!

FROM THE PARISHIONERS OF
 OUR LADY'S IMMACULATE HEART PARISH
 ANKENY



GOD'S GRACE. PEACE.
 AND MERCY BE YOURS



Welcome Bishop-elect Joensen

Join us for the Vespers Service
Thursday, Sept. 26 at 7 p.m. at
St. Ambrose Cathedral in downtown Des Moines.

All are welcome!

Join the diocese at Bishop-elect Joensen's reception at the
HyVee Ron Pearson Center in West Des Moines
on Friday, Sept. 27 at 4:30 p.m.

Photo by Ken Seeber

Bishop Joensen
We are at your service!

Word
Liturgy
Charity

*The Diaconate Community
of the Diocese of Des Moines
welcomes you to your new home
in Southwest Iowa.*

Congratulations & God Bless
on your ordination
Bishop William Joensen.
From the families at
St. Joseph, Winterset
St. Patrick, Irish Settlement

Welcome to Southwest Iowa

Our Lady of the Holy Rosary
Glenwood

What is a bishop?

A bishop experiences the fullness of the ordained priesthood in the Catholic Church.

Most are diocesan bishops, serving as chief priests, or shepherds, of their dioceses. A bishop teaches, governs and sanctifies the faithful.

A bishop is responsible for the pastoral care of his diocese and collaborates with other bishops to guide the church.

Bishop-elect William Joensen will work with other Iowa bishops through the Iowa

Catholic Conference to seek state legislation that serves the common good.

He will work with bishops across the country through the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to collaborate on matters of common concern such as moral, doctrinal, pastoral or liturgical questions, relations with other groups, and public policy issues.


Source: U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops




Above is a mosaic of the Des Moines diocese's shield, crafted into the back of the cathedra, pictured at right. The cathedra is the bishop's chair at St. Ambrose Cathedral.

**Welcome
Bishop Joensen
to the Diocese of Des Moines!**

May you be showered with Blessings
through the most Sacred Heart of Jesus





From your friends at
Sacred Heart, West Des Moines



*Bishop
Joensen!*

We're so excited to have you!
St. Thomas More Center: Home of
Catholic Youth Camp

The staff at the Diocese of Des Moines
extend a warm welcome and
heartfelt congratulations to
Bishop-elect William Joensen,
our new bishop of southwest Iowa.



Watch the entire
 Episcopal Ordination and
 Installation Mass of
 Bishop-elect William M. Joensen
 live on Friday, Sept. 27 at 2 p.m.
 at the Diocese of Des Moines
 website, dmdiocese.org, or on
[Facebook.com/dmdiocese](https://www.facebook.com/dmdiocese).



**Iowa
Catholic
Radio™**

**Our staff and show hosts
would like to welcome**

Bishop

William Joensen

as our new shepherd!

*We look forward to working together
with our new Bishop and supporting
his mission to strengthen the
Catholic faith in our diocese!*

Divine Treasures
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Divine Treasures & Staff welcomes Bishop Joensen as Shepherd of our Diocese. We are praying for you as we continue to share in the ministry of bringing souls to Christ and His church.

Congratulations!



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CONGRATULATIONS!!!

The parishioners of St. Clare, Clarinda; Sacred Heart, Bedford; and St. Joseph, Villisca, welcome and congratulate +William Joensen, on his ordination and installation at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, West Des Moines, as the 10th Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Des Moines, Iowa. We assure you of our prayers and wish you success as our Chief Shepherd.

Ad Multos Annos!

Fr. Eze V. Umunnakwe, C.S.Sp. (Pastor).

Philosophy forms seminarians into priests who think well

Bishop-elect Joensen taught philosophy at Loras College in Dubuque

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

Former Loras College students who studied philosophy under Bishop-elect William Joensen would have no doubt been taught that philosophy is the handmaiden of theology.

“In the same way as Mary is in some sense the handmaiden of God, it’s allowing the word of God to be fruitful,” said former student John Huynh, director of the the Des Moines diocese’s Faith Journey program.

Without philosophy, theological ideas become “unintelligible,” Huynh continued.

“Younger generations are leaving the faith in droves,” Huynh added. “They think that the faith is merely a fantasy or a child’s story. Philosophy allows you to better grasp with reason how theology works.”

Father PJ McManus, a former student of Bishop-elect Joensen’s and pastor of Christ the King Parish in Des Moines, said theological ideas become a challenge without philosophy first.

“In one way, philosophy before theology is like algebra before chemistry or physics,” Father McManus said. “It’s going to be hard to solve for a variable if you don’t know what a variable is.”

Bishop-elect Joensen taught his students how to think.

“He used to say over and over again, ‘It’s important that you learn how to think well, before we can trust you to think about the most important things,’” said Father McManus. “He took a lot of guys who had no interest in philosophy and they were very grateful for the education and [development of] good reasoning and critical thinking skills.

“He was tough – probably the toughest or second toughest teacher that we had,” said Father McManus. “Sometimes teachers are tough and it seems like they are being jerks. But it was always very, very clear that he was working to make us better.”

During the diocesan press conference on July 18 announcing Pope Francis’ appointment of the next bishop for the Des Moines diocese, Father Joensen said, “Jesus is the truth that I’ve staked my life on,” noted Father McMa-



Bishop-elect William Joensen taught philosophy at Loras College in Dubuque. He also frequently gave the spiritual conference talks and offered spiritual direction to the seminarians at St. Pius X Seminary.

nus.

“It certainly is the way Father Joensen has lived out his priestly ministry thus far, and I’d be shocked if it wasn’t the defining characteristic of his episcopate, which tracks well since Bishop Richard Pates’ major thrust in The New Moment is about personal encounter with Jesus,” Father McManus said. “It’s also the main reason we have priests study philosophy before permitting them to study theology in any meaningful way.

“Philosophy comes before theology in priestly formation because we need to ensure that people who are to minister to a wide and varied world know how to encounter Christ in the truth they experience outside themselves in order to draw people to the truth they will come to know in the truth,” Father McManus said. “Truth, in this sense, isn’t so much about content as about a person—namely, Jesus.”



**St. Ambrose Cathedral
Faith Community
Opens its doors in prayerful
anticipation for the arrival of**

BISHOP-ELECT WILLIAM M. JOENSEN

**TENTH BISHOP
DIOCESE OF DES MOINES**

“A bishop must be irreproachable, hospitable, temperate, able to teach, not aggressive, but gentle.” (1 Timothy 3:2-3)

Close friend, fellow priest says Bishop-elect Joensen will bring deep faith and administrative abilities

Father Scott Bullock was rector at St. Pius X Seminary at Loras College for 17 years

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

Father Scott Bullock, pastor of St. Edward Parish in Waterloo and pastor coordinator of Cedar Valley Catholic Schools, has been good friends with Bishop-elect William Joensen for decades.

The two attended the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. Father Bullock was studying canon law while Father Joensen was studying philosophy.

Bishop-elect Joensen will bring many gifts and talents to the Diocese of Des Moines, Father Bullock said.

"He is definitely a priest of Jesus Christ," he said. "He's a man of deep faith. That's what strikes me first – he's very faith-filled, very prayerful and very disciplined. And that's been helpful to me – he always prompts me to fidelity in prayer.

"He's definitely a Catholic," Father Bullock continued. "He really loves the Church and really believes in the Church and that the spirit is working and present in our midst. He has confidence in that."

It has always struck Father Bullock that his friend is a philosopher who also has a great faith – something many could consider to be at odds with each other.

"I've always admired that he has this great keen mind but a great love of Jesus and a real faith-filled reaction to the world," Father Bullock added.

Bishop-elect Joensen is familiar with the Diocese of Des Moines and is happy to be in the Midwest.

"He really loves Iowa, which is huge, in the sense that he really loves the people, loves the culture and is really devoted to that," Father Bullock said.

He also brings with him many talents.

"He is a very fine administrator, and not everybody can do that," Father Bullock said. "And it's always



This photo was taken at Loras College. Pictured are (L-R) vice-rector Father David Schatz, rector Father Scott Bullock and spiritual director of formation Father William Joensen.

in the context of faith...He's very effective at working with others, collaborating, but also moving the mission forward, and that's why I think he would be great. He has a strong faith and the capacity for administration, which is impressive."

Their friendship is centered around the priesthood. In fact, the pastor got a call from the soon-to-be bishop about the appointment 10 minutes before celebrating Mass.

"My reaction was, 'Bill, I think you should do this,'" Father Bullock said.

Expecting to feel anxious for his friend about the difficult and challenging role he was about to take on, Fa-

ther Bullock experienced quite the opposite.

"I went to Mass and had some joy and peace right after I heard this..." he said. "The Lord gave me that joy and peace over the possibility."

"My primary reaction was that [Father Joensen] was a good choice, but then also joy and peace."

Father Bullock is confident his longtime friend will do well in the Diocese of Des Moines.

"He's a very passionate, loving person in my experience with him and I think he'll do a great job," Father Bullock concluded. "And I believe the Lord has called him to this."



Bishop W. Shawn McKnight
along with
Bishop Emeritus John R. Gaydos
and all the clergy and faithful
of the Diocese of Jefferson City
offer congratulations and blessings to

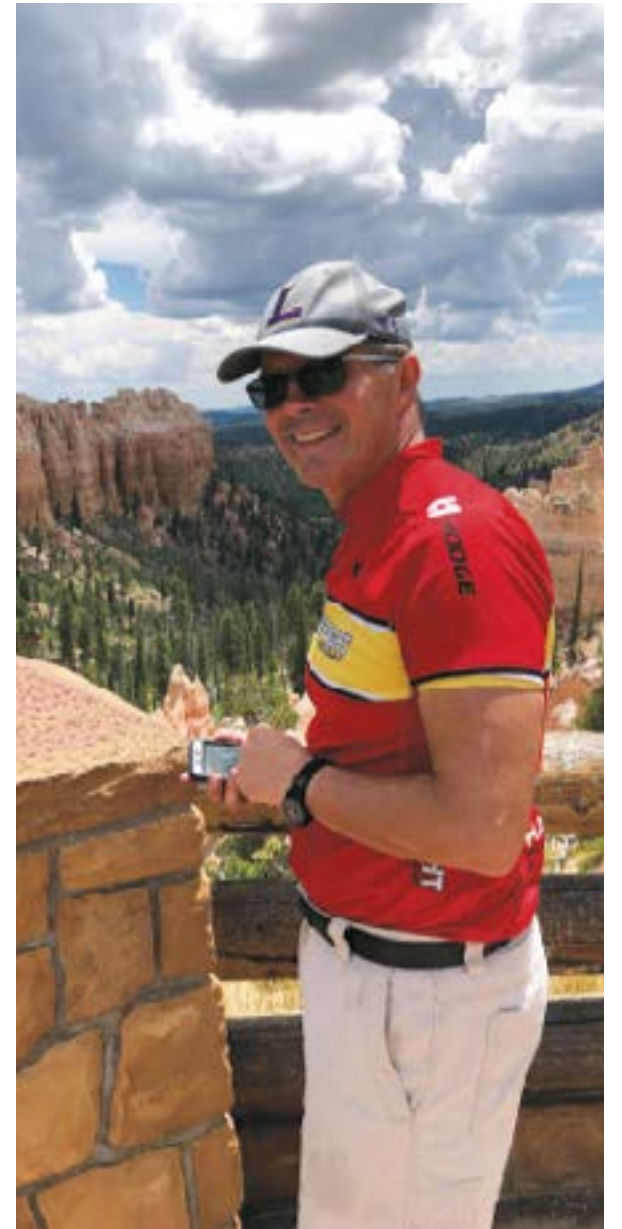
Bishop-Elect William Joensen

upon his ordination and installation
as Bishop of Des Moines

"For this reason, I remind you to stir into flame the gift of God that you have through the imposition of my hands." —2 Timothy 1:6



The Cyclone Tailgate Tour stopped in Dubuque at Eagle Point Park in May 2010. Pictured (L-R) are Father Scott Bullock, Father William Joensen, then Cyclone football coach Paul Rhoads, then seminarian who is now Father Mark Murphy and Father David Schatz.



Pictured is Bishop-elect William Joensen on a biking trip with good friend Father Scott Bullock, who is pastor of St. Edward Parish in Waterloo.

Good friends share passion for Cyclones, bicycling and God

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

Father Scott Bullock and Father William Joensen have been good friends for decades.

Father Bullock was rector at St. Pius X Seminary at Loras College in Dubuque for 17 years. Father Joensen has taught philosophy classes at Loras since 2001.

The two became friends while studying at the Catholic University of America in the '90s.

They share a variety of interests and activities.

"We're both avid bicyclists

and both attended Iowa State University," Father Bullock said. "We have a passion about that."

They have also vacationed together for the last 20 years.

"We're always looking for places to bicycle and looking for a good sturdy ride," he said, noting that they they've biked in Idaho, Montana, Utah and Arizona. "There's something quite beautiful about biking in the desert that we're inspired by."

They've also taken trips to spiritual destinations.

"We took a beautiful pilgrimage to see the sites where St. Paul preached in Turkey," Father Bullock said.

Their conversation topics range from work and the formation of seminarians to music, art, food, history and classic films.

"We're always praying together and celebrating Mass..." Father Bullock said. "Our families have become friends over the years and so there's always a concern for each other's families."

Father Bullock will continue to support his friend in his new role, though he is aware of the increased demands of his time.

"He needs good friends [and support right now]," Father Bullock said. "And I want to do that for him."



CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME

BISHOP-ELECT WILLIAM JOENSEN

We, the parish family of St. Francis of Assisi, join you in the celebration of becoming the 10th bishop of our diocese and pray that God continues to bless you.



7075 Ashworth Road
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www.saintfrancischurch.org
Email: info@saintfrancischurch.org

Bishop Zinkula offers advice and support for Bishop-elect Joensen as he transitions into new role

Davenport bishop and Bishop-elect Joensen have been friends, members of same prayer group for decades

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

Bishop Thomas Zinkula of the Diocese of Davenport is happy to see old friend and former colleague Father William Joensen become the 10th bishop of the Diocese of Des Moines.

"I'm excited for him and thrilled that he's going to be the bishop of Des Moines," Bishop Zinkula said. "[I'm happy] for the sake of Des Moines – for the people, but also selfishly to have him to collaborate with."

He'll be there for Bishop-elect Joensen and answer any questions he might have, Bishop Zinkula added.

"He knows he can ask me anything," Bishop Zinkula said. "I'll give him the straight scoop about things."

Based on his own experience, Bishop Zinkula said it's best for Bishop-elect Joensen to just be himself as he steps into his new role.

"I remember early on I'd wake up in the middle of the night and I'd remember, 'I'm a bishop now and I need to act like a bishop and do what bishops do,'" Bishop Zinkula said. "And I remember trying to fit this mold for a few weeks. And then finally I said, 'I'm just going to be myself.' And yeah, you're a bishop and you keep that in mind and ...give the office some dignity. But you humanize it.

"The advice I would give him is that it takes a while to get a feel for it," Bishop Zinkula continued. "People treat

you differently, which is hard. It's hard for me."

He recalls telling staff at the chancery to be direct with him.

"People would say, 'Whatever you want, whatever you want, bishop,'" Bishop Zinkula added. "I said, 'If I do something stupid, you need to tell me.' People put you on a pedestal and it's not helpful. It can go to your head. In any role, be careful that you stay humble."

It will take time for Father Joensen to make the transition, Bishop Zinkula said, and that's normal and ok.

"You don't have to have it all figured out from the very beginning," Bishop Zinkula said.

"He needs to get to know the folks there and figure out how to become a bishop," he continued. "There will be all these people wanting to introduce themselves to him. There's a lot of that early on, which is natural and good.... You have fresh eyes coming from the outside with life experience and priestly ministry experience. He'll see things that people have gotten used to and so you tuck those things away and pray about those things and think about what you can contribute."

This is also a time of celebration – and he should take it all in.

"Enjoy this time," Bishop Zinkula said. "People are making a big deal out of it and are excited and there's all the ritual and pageantry.... Just enjoy it.

"We really do it well in terms of ordination and installation and the ceremonies," Bishop Zinkula added.



Bishop-elect William Joensen will be ordained the 10th bishop of the Diocese of Des Moines on Friday, Sept. 27 at 2 p.m. at St. Francis of Assisi Church in West Des Moines. Because the diocese anticipates a large crowd, a ticket is required to attend the ordination and installation Mass. Those without a ticket can watch the ordination live at dmdiocese.org or at [Facebook.com/dmdiocese](https://www.facebook.com/dmdiocese).

Bishop Zinkula has known Bishop-elect Joensen for decades. The two both lived and served in Dubuque for many years and were in the same prayer group. They've done everything from forming seminarians to playing basketball and bicycling together.

"We just have similar interests – sports, intellectual life," Bishop Zinku-

la said. "I went to law school; he was in medical school and we like to think deeply. Also the pastoral things – it's a natural connection."

He's also travelled with Bishop-elect Joensen and mutual friend Father Scott Bullock, who worked at St. Pius X Seminary in Dubuque for 17 years, during which they spent time biking.

"I've always biked, so that's always been a part of my life...." Bishop Zinkula said. "I introduced him to biking. I lined him up with somebody at a bike shop and rode together."

He and many others enjoy the company of the soon-to-be new bishop of the Diocese of Des Moines.

"People are drawn to him," Bishop Zinkula said. "He's not just an aloof intellectual sitting up in his perch somewhere but he's engaging, spiritual and pastoral."

"He enjoys getting together with people socially and he's engaging," the Davenport bishop said.

Bishop-elect Joensen is also very supportive of other priests – "me in particular," Bishop Zinkula added.

"He's spiritual and pastoral and I've learned a lot from him, witnessing his examples and how he interacts with people and his example," Bishop Zinkula said. "He has that sense for that sort of thing ... and has a keen insight."

A Warm Welcome

Bishop William Joensen



With Blessings~

Iowa

Catholic Daughters of the Americas

Jesus said:

I am among you as the one who serves.

[Luke 22:27]

Congratulations Bishop-Elect William Joensen!



ST. BONIFACE
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
WAUKEE, IOWA

SPIRITANS WELCOME AND CONGRATULATE THE NEW BISHOP WILLIAM JOENSEN

In the tradition of the Roman Catholic Church, a Bishop is an Ordained Minister who holds the fullness of the Sacrament of Holy Orders, responsible for teaching the doctrine, governing Catholics in his jurisdiction, sanctifying the world, representing and leading the Church. Chosen by God and affirmed by the Church, you have been entrusted with the sacred, holy and privileged task.

On behalf of the SPIRITANS below serving in the Diocese of Des Moines, we warmly welcome, embrace, congratulate and extend the right hand of the Christian fellowships to you, Bishop William Joensen.

God bless you and your leadership.
Fr. Felix A. Omsora, C.S.Sp.
Fr. Eze Venatius Umwamukwa, C.S.Sp.
Fr. Anthony C. Adibe, C.S.Sp.
Fr. Rowi C. Okara, C.S.Sp.



Bishop-elect William Joensen with his good friend Bishop Thomas Zinkula of the Diocese of Davenport at his niece Natalie Franklin's confirmation. Also pictured is bishop-elect's uncle, Monsignor Ralph Simington.

St. Augustin Parish
offers our
*Congratulations
&
Welcome*
to the Diocese of Des Moines
Bishop William Joensen

St. Augustin Catholic Church 545 42nd Street Des Moines, IA 50312 (515) 255-1175	St. Augustin Catholic School 4320 Grand Avenue Des Moines, IA 50312 (515) 279-5947
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CONGRATULATIONS
to Bishop-Elect Joensen
on your appointment
as 10th bishop of the
Diocese of Des Moines

CATHOLIC DIOCESE
— or —
WICHITA

Congratulations
Bishop William Joensen
on your Installation as
BISHOP of the DIOCESE OF DES MOINES

Ss. John and Paul Parish
Altoona, Iowa

*A parish that welcomes the
stranger, feeds the hungry,
shelters the homeless because
it is Christ that we see.*

CONGRATULATIONS

Bishop William Joensen

You have the support of our prayers.

Archbishop George J. Lucas and the clergy, consecrated religious and lay faithful of the Archdiocese of Omaha.



Bishop Joensen,

Congratulations on your ordination and installation as the 10th Bishop of the Diocese of Des Moines! May St. Bernard guide and strengthen you as you lead the Diocese to a deeper love of God.

Peace,

St. Bernard, Des Moines



"What we love we shall grow to resemble." - St. Bernard of Clairvaux

The apostolate of Man-Up Des Moines welcomes Bishop William Joensen to the Diocese of Southwest Iowa!



CTO CATHOLIC TUITION ORGANIZATION

Congratulations

Bishop-elect William Joensen on his ordination and installation as the 10th Bishop of the Diocese of Des Moines



We look forward to working with Bishop-elect Joensen in furthering our support of Catholic education in the Diocese of Des Moines!

Bishop-elect Joensen excelled at academics and sports growing up

Faith, family, school and sports were mainstays in Joensen family



This is the 1978 Ames Senior High calculus class, composed of all seniors. They were inspired by the series of Saturday Night Live sketches portraying the “Nerds,” with Bill Murray and Gilda Radner. Bishop-elect William Joensen said the photo was a source of great amusement at last September’s 40th year reunion. Bishop-elect Joensen is on the right of the student in the plaid suit.

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

Growing up in Ames, the Joensen family lived the typical, American life.

“We had a great childhood,” said Dave Joensen, who is 10 months younger than his brother, Bishop-elect William Joensen. “I have great memories growing up and living in Iowa. It was a perfect place to grow up. It really reflected the values of America at that time.”

Their upbringing in a university town exposed the family to people from lots of different backgrounds.

Their father, Al Joensen, was a mechanical engineering professor at Iowa State University and their mother, Marilyn, stayed home to raise five kids.

“We were just a typical family in the ‘60s and ‘70s,” Dave continued. “The things we did were the same things all our friends did.”

The family had important values growing up.

“One of them was going to church...,” Dave said. “I remember there was one year during Lent, [Father Bill] and I were going to Mass every day after school. We served daily Mass. That was just what we did.”

Another year during Lent the family said the rosary together every day.

“School was important to us...” Dave said. “We always ate dinner together as a family and the TV was never on during

dinner so we would always talk to each other.

“We had chores to do,” Dave continued. “We set the table, cleaned the table, made our beds, mowed the lawn, did the dishes. We were involved in Cub Scouts and sports growing up. We were just a typical family.”

They lived in a neighborhood with many other kids their age, not far from the Iowa State campus.

“We would have things like Monopoly tournaments or four square tournaments,” Dave said. “As a family we would go on vacation every year.”

“We would go on a two-week trip... to Wisconsin Dells or Gettysburg or South Dakota,” said younger brother Tom Joensen, a member of St. Luke Parish in Ankeny. “Dad always reserved two weeks in August.”

Even while on vacation they made sure to attend Mass every Sunday.

Church, academics and sports were mainstays of the Joensen household.

“He really loves football,” his mother, Marilyn, said.

He also played in the band, said good friend Mike Flummerfelt.

“We were in junior high band together,” Flummerfelt said. “Bill played the trumpet, and of course, he was the best trumpet player in the band.

“Of course, Bill was always the smartest guy in class, smartest in school – always academically talented,” Flummerfelt added.

Friends Brad Hildebrand and

Flummerfelt have fond memories of playing football and running track with their friend who would one day become a bishop.

“He really enjoyed football...” Flummerfelt said. “He was a starter in high school and really enjoyed the competition.

“He was always very intense, very competitive,” he added. “He hated to lose and loved to win. He was a great teammate and always did things the right way.”

Father Joensen and Hildebrand later became referees and covered games together.

“Bill and I reffed football together,” Hildebrand said. “We did that in college... We were on different crews on Friday night and we’d work junior high games. That was a lot of fun in staying active in the game.”

“He was a good referee,” said brother Tom. “He did basketball and football. We talk about good calls and bad calls and debate rules.”

In addition to sports, friends and family say Father Joensen excelled at academics.

“He was smarter than me by a long shot,” Hildebrand said. “He was taking the higher level math classes. He was a smart guy.”

Tom said his brother Father Joensen, who was 12 years his senior, was a positive influence on his life growing up.

“Bill and I had that unique relationship – the youngest and the oldest,” Tom said. “All of us are very close and

enjoy each other’s company so much, but Bill was particularly instrumental in helping me with sports, playing football and basketball.

“We played a lot of basketball together,” Tom continued. “Bill loves sports. He would be the one to take me out and teach me how to shoot and block. He lived at home while going to Iowa State.”

Sports are still important to Father Joensen. He’s still an avid Iowa State Cyclones fan and spends his leisure time on a bicycle.

“He’s very into cycling...,” Tom said, noting that he has done RAGBRAI and Tour of the Mississippi Valley. “He goes hard. He’s one of those – he’ll do 75-100 miles on a ride. I can’t keep up.”

He also helped Tom form the right attitude growing up.

“[He helped with] my mindset on undertaking a task and he would help think about things in the right way growing up,” Tom said. “He was a very positive influence in all respects.”

Bishop-elect Joensen wasn’t afraid to let his brother know if he wasn’t trying hard enough.

“Bill would always say, ‘You can’t be satisfied – you need to do a little better,’” Tom said.

After graduating with his bachelor’s degree in zoology from Iowa State University, Bishop-elect Joensen went to medical school at the University of Iowa. He left after two years and told family and friends that he wanted to become a priest.

Continued on page 23



Welcome to the Des Moines Diocese, Bishop Joensen!

The Christ Our Life team looks forward to your presence at our next conference, September 26 and 27, 2020.

**CHRIST
OUR LIFE**
CATHOLIC REGIONAL
CONFERENCE



Let's Believe...Live...and Celebrate Our Faith!
ChristOurLifeIowa.com

Welcome Bishop-elect Joensen

From
*St Thomas Aquinas Parish
in Indianola
and
Immaculate Conception Parish
in St. Marys*



The Pastor and Parishioners of St. Michael's Parish in Harlan congratulate and extend a prayerful welcome to Bishop William Joensen.



The parishioners of St. Anne Church (Logan) and St. Patrick Church (Missouri Valley) congratulate and extend a warm and hearty welcome to our new shepherd, Bishop William Joensen. We look forward to serving God and our communities under your leadership so that we might grow together in God's love. May God bless you as you begin this new journey and the Diocese of Des Moines as it continues the work God has already begun in us.



WELCOME BISHOP WILLIAM JOENSEN!



sowing seeds for social change

4211 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50312
515-782-3054 | www.centerforsocialministry.org



Welcome to
Bishop William Joensen

Congratulations
Bishop-elect Joensen!



Bishop-elect Joensen excelled at academics and sports growing up

Continued from page 21

He went to seminary at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio and was ordained in 1989 by the late Archbishop Daniel Kucera, OSB at Nativity Church in Dubuque.

“I remember thinking to myself that he had a calling and I thought that was pretty cool that he made that switch,” Hildebrand said. “I’ll say it wasn’t totally a shock because I knew him to be a fairly deep guy, and somehow, some way he felt with this calling that he could help heal people spiritually versus physically, and it made perfect sense to me. Just knowing him and knowing his compassion and his desires to help people, it all fit for me.”

Father Joensen later earned his Ph.D. in philosophy from The Catholic University of America.

Friends and family are excited to see Father Joensen step into this new role as bishop, starting with his ordination and installation on Friday, Sept. 27 at St. Francis Parish in West Des Moines. It can be watched at dmdiocese.org and [Facebook.com/dmdiocese](https://www.facebook.com/dmdiocese).

“He has a warm approachable sense to him that people should feel very comfortable in having a conversation with him...,” Hildebrand said. “He’s extremely thoughtful and also a very humble guy. He doesn’t brag on himself – never had. That’s never been part of his fabric. He’s also a very loyal person, and it shows in the way he has looked after his mom since his father passed way [last year]....And I think that speaks volumes for his character and who he is.”

Father Joensen is an “extremely empathet-



This vacation photo was taken in Colorado in 1982. Bishop-elect William Joensen is standing at the upper right next to his brothers Dave and Mark. A young Monsignor Steve Orr, now a retired priest for the Diocese of Des Moines, is at the lower right seated on the ground. Bishop-elect Joensen’s uncle Monsignor Ralph Simington and Nancy Riley (now Kilbride) of Council Bluffs are also pictured.


ic person” who is “genuine,” Hildebrand continued.

“I feel very blessed to know this guy,” Hildebrand said. “How often do you install one of your buddies as the bishop? I told my wife – ‘I don’t care what we’re doing, we’re going down for this.’ This is one of the coolest things that I’m going to experience in my lifetime, and I truly mean that. And I’ve been to the Super Bowl, I’ve been to the Kentucky Derby, I’ve been to the Masters, and I’m looking forward to this as much as [I did] those.”

As bishop, Father Joensen will be living much closer to his mother, who still lives in Ames. He’ll also be working just two blocks away from his brother Tom in downtown Des Moines.



Bishop-elect William Joensen played football for Ames High School. He was a starter at wide receiver. Highlights of his football career included twice beating West Des Moines - Valley and also Newton, who went on to become 4A state runner-up.



Davis Brown Law Firm
joins the Des Moines
community welcoming
Bishop-Elect
William Joensen
as we work together
to grow and improve
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Bishop Joensen,

Congratulations on your ordination and installation as the 20th Bishop of the Diocese of Des Moines! As you shepherd the Diocese, may God's strength pilot you, His might uphold you, and His wisdom guide you.


Peace,

St. Patrick, Grand River

Building Strong Communities

West Bank is pleased to congratulate the Diocese of Des Moines and Bishop-Elect William Joensen.



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Welcome to Bishop William Joensen from the Priests in residence at 1390 Buffalo Road in West Des Moines. May the Holy Spirit be ever present in your ministry.

Watch Bishop-elect Joensen's installation Mass live!

We'll be streaming the Mass live on Friday, Sept. 27 at 2 p.m. at dmdiocese.org and on the Diocese of Des Moines Facebook page at [Facebook.com/dmdiocese](https://www.facebook.com/dmdiocese).

*Ad multos annos,
Bishop-Elect Joensen!*

*Prayers from
Una Voce Des Moines*

Welcome to our new bishop,

The Most Reverend William Joensen!

May the blessings of the Lord be upon you, and guide you,
As you do His work as bishop of the Des Moines Diocese

Congratulations from South Central Iowa!

From the Parishes of: Sacred Heart, Chariton
Saint Francis, Corydon ~ Saint Brendan, Leon

Rev. Fr. Samuel Kwame Danso,
Deacon Eric Bertrand, Deacon Reinhold Kunze



St. Pius X Parish
Church and School
Community

**Congratulations,
Bishop William Joensen**

**As You Begin Your Ministry
of Shepherding Us,
the People of
the Diocese of Des Moines**

OUR MISSION:

LOVE GOD. LOVE OTHERS.
MAKE DISCIPLES.
RESTORE ALL THINGS IN CHRIST.

The Basilica of St. John

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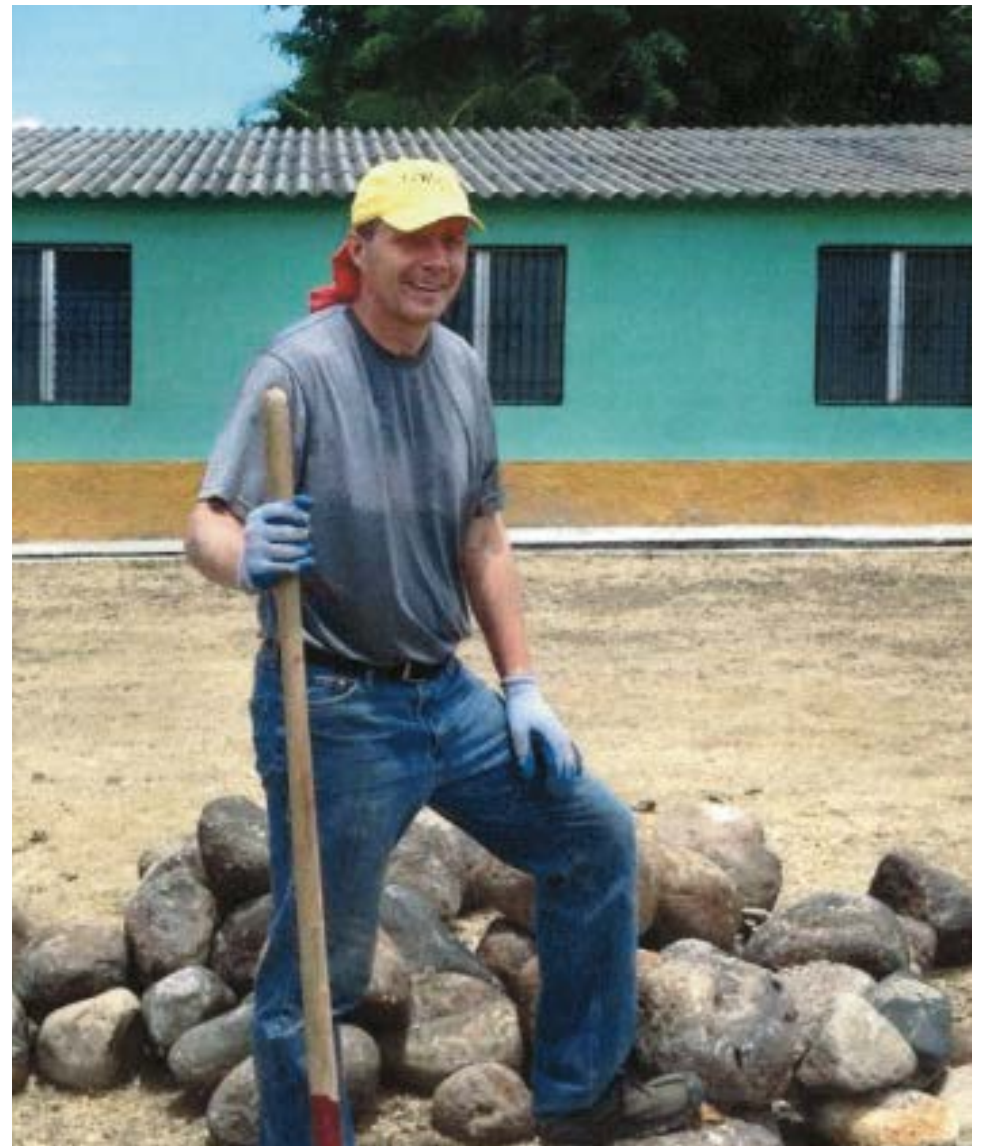
Welcome and Best Wishes to Bishop William Joensen
From the Pastor and Parishioners of the Basilica of St. John



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WELCOME BISHOP JOENSEN,
and may God bless you and your
work in this wonderful diocese we
are grateful to call home!

Serving in Honduras



These photos were taken on the 2015 Holy Week Loras College service trip to Flores, Honduras with Duhawk students. Bishop-elect William Joensen, Loras staff member Mick Lynch and the students assisted at the APUFRAM schools.

Congratulations to
Bishop William Joensen
 on your installation as
 The 10th Bishop of Des Moines



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CONGRATULATIONS
BISHOP WILLIAM JOENSEN

ON BECOMING THE 10TH BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF DES MOINES

FROM
 ARCHBISHOP JOSEPH F. NAUMANN
 AND
 THE PEOPLE OF THE
 ARCHDIOCESE OF
 KANSAS CITY IN KANSAS



Welcome to the Diocese of Des Moines, Bishop-Elect Joensen!

Praying that your ministry will be fruitful and bring many blessings to our diocese.

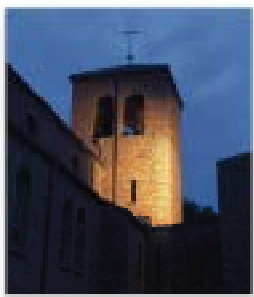


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St. Pius X
Catholic School
students, families, and
parish community
welcome
Bishop Joensen

Welcome!



ST. ANTHONY
PARISH OF DES MOINES

WELCOMES

BISHOP WILLIAM JOENSEN

Monsignor Frank Chiodo, Pastor
Fr. Guthrie Deben, Parochial Vicar
Fr. Jose Reynaldo, Chaplain of Hispanic Community
Deacons Juan Bostarrante, Tom Huckle, Tony Romeo, Thomas Starbuck & Quan Tong
Ms. Jennifer Raes, Principal of St. Anthony School
with the entire parish staff and 1,800 plus households of our southside family, warmly
welcome its new Chief Shepherd.

CREATING EXCEPTIONAL LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCES

Welcome Bishop Joensen!

Living Our Values

We ASPIRE to:

- Advocate: In fostering self-sufficiency for our clients.
- Serve: In empowering our clients and all we encounter.
- Partner: In engaging fully in our relationships with others.
- Innovate: In enhancing essential client services and programming.
- Respect: In demonstrating our sacred trust to all we serve and do.
- Excel: In living our commitment to human dignity, a healthy community, and the Catholic Social Teachings.

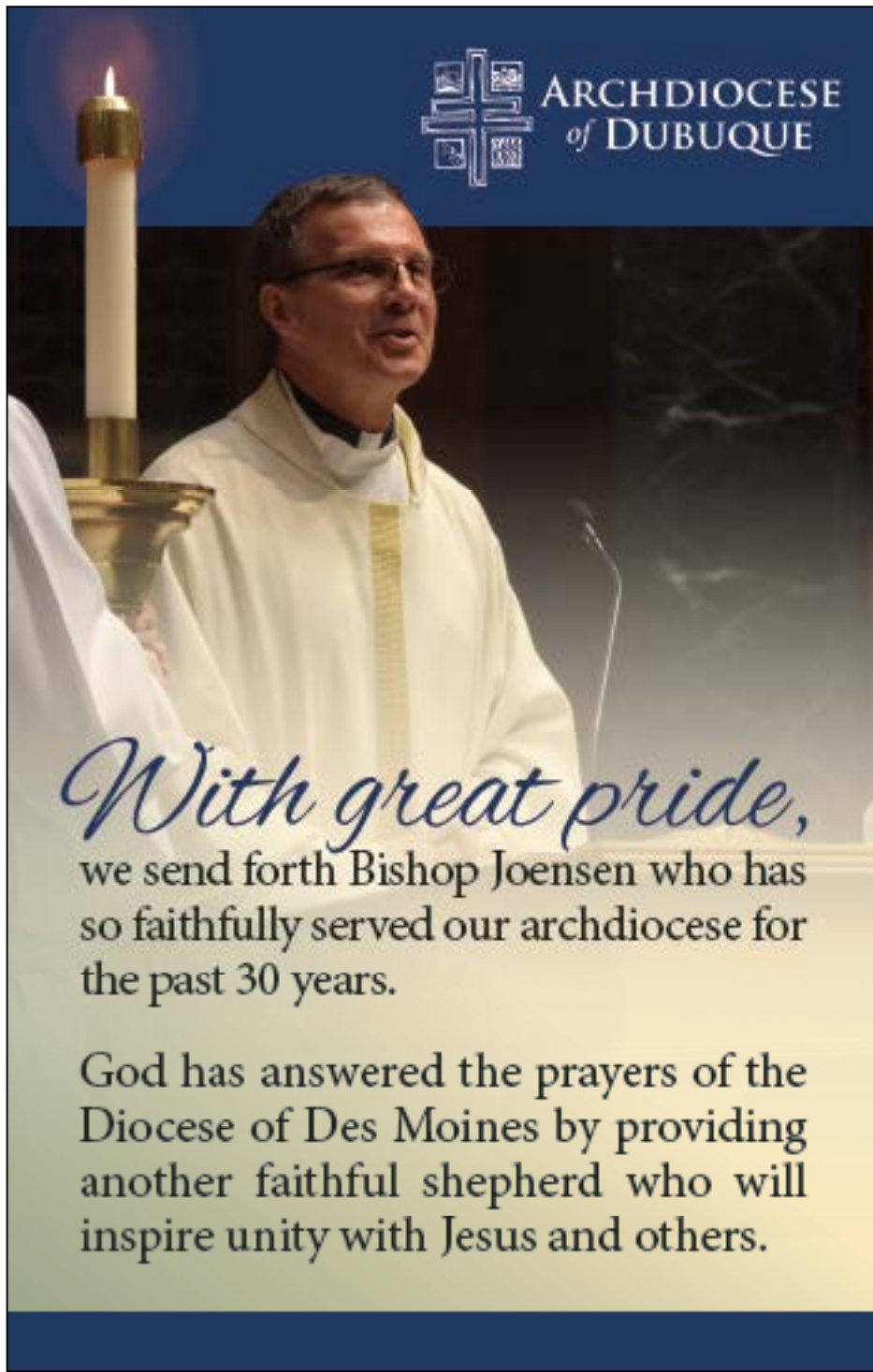


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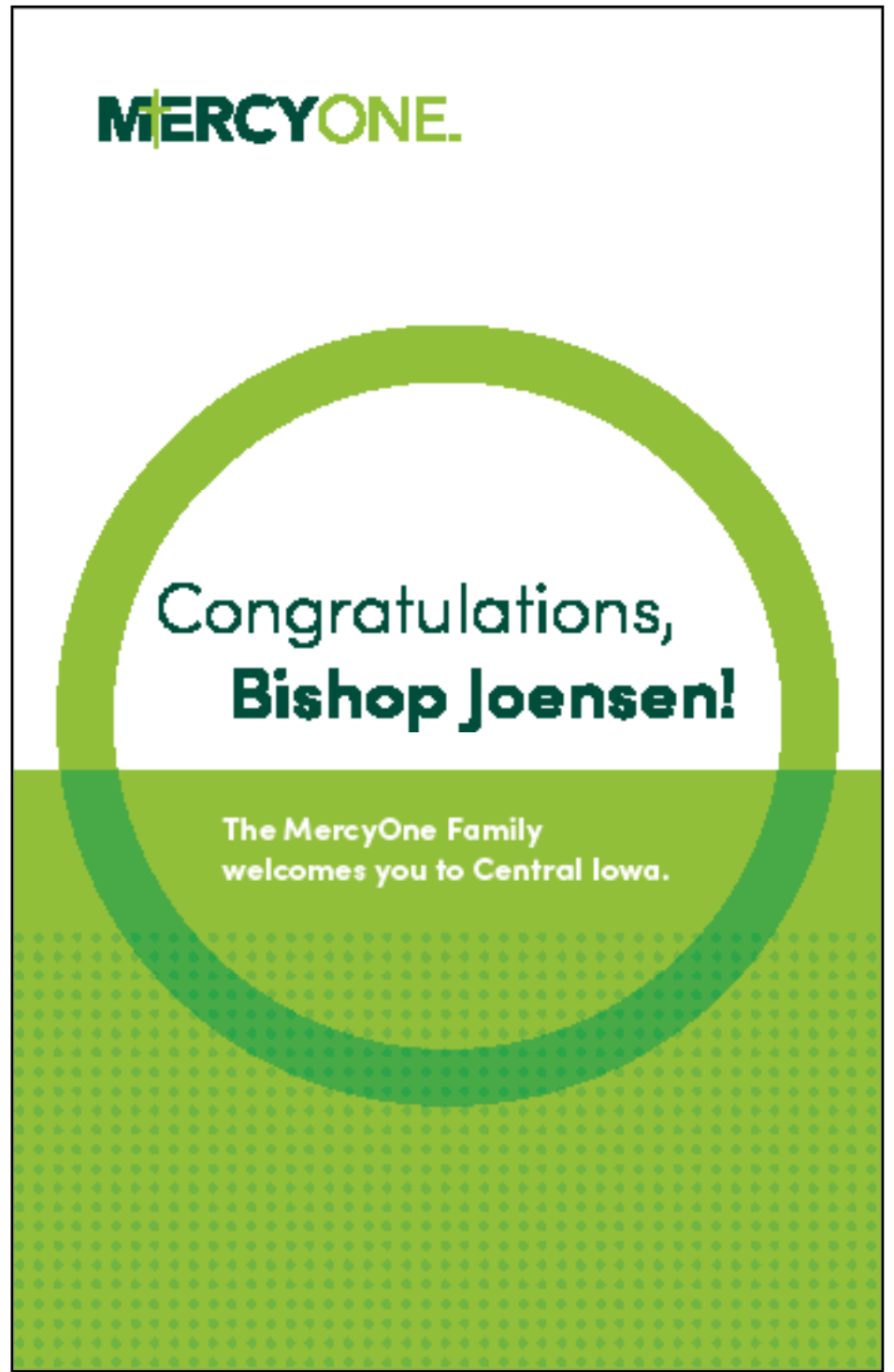
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**ARCHDIOCESE
of DUBUQUE**

With great pride,
we send forth Bishop Joensen who has
so faithfully served our archdiocese for
the past 30 years.

God has answered the prayers of the
Diocese of Des Moines by providing
another faithful shepherd who will
inspire unity with Jesus and others.



MERCYONE.

**Congratulations,
Bishop Joensen!**

The MercyOne Family
welcomes you to Central Iowa.



*Congratulations to
Bishop-Elect
William M. Joensen!*

*God Bless,
President Jim Collins
& the Loras College Community*

LORAS COLLEGE