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 accented 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 professional, has a special place of respect in my heart, as I have witnessed and collaborated with them in my 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.

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/DMDiocece.
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!),” Joensen said. “My greatest hope and relationship with Jesus.

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.”

— Bishop-elect William Joensen

Signs and symbols at the ordination

By Anne Marie Cox
Staff Writer

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

Letter of appointment

After the Gospel, Father Michael Amado, 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 Consultants, a group of priests who help the bishop in theCanonical 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

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 be given three signs of a Catholic bishop: 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.

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

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

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.

The ring, worn on the

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.
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 behind 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 Communions 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. “It 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.’

‘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.

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“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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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.
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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.
2001-07: 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.”


Congratulations Bishop William Joensen!
From the seminarians, students, priests, faculty and staff of Saint John Vianney College Seminary and The Saint Paul Seminary

semsstp.org
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 adviser 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 tradition.”

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

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

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.

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Congratulations Bishop-Elect William Joensen on your appointment to the Diocese of Des Moines.

The monks, faculty, and staff of Conception Seminary College wish you many blessed years in your new home!

Rooted in the Benedictine spirituality that guides Conception Abbey, the monks, faculty and staff of Conception Seminary College mentor and guide seminarians as they pray, learn, and discern — undertaking the work of conversion to become future priests in the Church.

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Congratulations and welcome to our new Bishop William Joensen.

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Welcome, Bishop Joensen!

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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
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.”

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-
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, 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. “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.”

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 extremely 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.”

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.

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

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 councils of the Diocese of Des Moines

Adel #9754
Altoona #13109
Anita-Adair-Casey #12194
Ankeny #5038, 15603
Atlantic #1164
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Council Bluffs #1045, 10722, 10805, 11296
Creston #1228
Des Moines #644, 5389, 9632, 10282, 10558, 11401, 11643, 12482, 13159, 14029, 14267, 14977, 15336, 17331
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Red Oak #9726
Shenandoah #1479
St. Mary’s #10150
Stuart #1961
Urbandale #12432
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West Des Moines #12422
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Father David Ambrosy, State Chaplain
Michael Evink, State Treasurer
Rick Jacoby, State Warden
Steve Vonnahme, State Secretary
John McGee, State Advocate
Antonio Banuelos, Supreme Director

Congratulations to Bishop Richard Pates for his years of service
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.

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

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

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

Word
Liturgy
Charity
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

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

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.
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!


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!

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 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 McManus. “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.”

Philosophy forms seminarians into priests who think well

Bishop-elect Joensen taught philosophy at Loras College in Dubuque

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

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.

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)
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 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, Father 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.”

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By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

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.

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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
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’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.”

By Kelly Mescher Collins
Staff Writer

Good friends share passion for Cyclones, bicycling and God

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.

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.

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.

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
7075 Ashworth Road
West Des Moines, Iowa 50266
www.stfrancischurch.org
Email info@stfrancischurch.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 added. “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 that it takes a while to get a feel for it,” Bishop Zinkula said. “And I remember trying to fit 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.

“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 Mass. Those without a ticket can watch the ordination live at dmdiocese.org or at 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 biking together.

“We just have similar interests – sports, intellectual life,” Bishop Zinkula 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 Joensen 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.”
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.
The apostolate of Man-Up Des Moines welcomes Bishop William Joensen to the Diocese of Southwest Iowa!

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

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 heal the Diocese to a deeper love of God.
Peace,
St. Bernard, Omaha

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

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

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 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
Congratulations Bishop-elect Joensen!

Welcome to the Des Moines Diocese, Bishop Joensen!
The Christ Our Life team looks forward to your presence at our next conference, September 20 and 27, 2020.

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 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.

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

Welcome Bishop William Joensen!

Center for Social Ministry
Sowing seeds for social change
4211 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50312
515-782-3054 | www.centerforsocialministry.org

Congratulations Bishop-elect Joensen!

Caldwell Parrish Funeral Home & Crematory
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.

“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 empathetic 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.

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.
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.

Ad multos annos, Bishop-Elect Joensen!

Prayers from Una Voce Des Moines

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.

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 Kowane Dano, 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:

The Basilica of St. John
1915 University Avenue • Des Moines, Iowa 50314

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

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. ANTHONY
PARISH OF DES MOINES

WELCOMES

BISHOP WILLIAM JOENSEN

Managua: Frank Cheeks, Praise
Fr. Christopher Draper, Pastor and Father
Rev. Jose Benetl, Chaplain of Pacoante Community
Deacon Jane Bertram, Vera Heredia, Jose Romero, Leonel Suab code Quan Long
Ms. Jennifer Brown, Principal of St. Anthony School
with the entire parish staff and 3,000 plus households of our parish, family, sistersly
and parochial school and Parish Family

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.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES
DIOCESE OF DES MOINES
EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS | STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

515-244-3761
catholiccharitiesdm.org
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.

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