Dear Friends in Christ:

Our diocesan mission of sowing God’s spirit is rooted in three key aspects of our faith journey: ***encounter***, ***friendship***, and ***communion***. These aspects orient everything we do together as the Body of Christ in Central & Southwest Iowa.

The pilgrimage of faith begins with an ***encounter***. Like the apostles who met Jesus by the shores of Galilee, the woman at the well whom Jesus engages in conversation, and Mary Magdalene who comes upon the Risen Lord at the tomb, we are invited to encounter Christ in prayer, the sacraments, and one another in so many varied venues of our lives. Your support makes these sacred moments possible—through youth retreats, parish missions, and outreach to the vulnerable, such as families in crisis or those in prison.

These encounters cultivate ***friendships*** rooted in faith. Jesus calls us his friends, and through your support, we foster meaningful connections, for example: among young people discerning their vocations, families sharing their faith journeys, and those who serve and are served.

Ultimately, these relationships participate in ***communion*** where we share God’s life and love. At the altar of the Eucharist, we experience the ultimate communion with Christ and his Church. Your support sustains the parishes, schools, and ministries that nurture this sacred bond, ensuring that our Church continues to thrive.

With this outreach, I boldly invite you to make a difference in our Diocese through your gift to the Annual Diocesan Appeal. Your generosity directly supports vital ministries—forming seminarians, serving the poor, providing youth faith formation, and so much more. Every contribution advances our local Church where God’s love is encountered, shared, and celebrated.

Will you prayerfully consider making a gift today? Your support allows us to grow as a community of faith, sowing God’s Spirit and revealing Christ’s love to the portion of the Kingdom vineyard God has entrusted to us.

Thank you for your generosity. May God grace you and your family abundantly in moments of ***encounter***, ***friendship***, and ***communion*** during this Jubilee Year 2025, where we accompany one another as pilgrims of hope.

Faithfully in Christ,

Most Reverend William M. Joensen

Bishop of Des Moines