



DIOCESE OF DES MOINES

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP



February 19, 2026

Dear Friends in Christ,

God endows us with all we need to sow his Spirit among the people where we live, work, study, play, and pray. Every day, I am energized by an individual or organization in the Diocese of Des Moines intently striving to spread the seeds of God's word, nurtured by the ample forms of his grace and presence that produce spiritual fruit.

These inspiring folks are not alone. As one Body of Christ in Central and Southwest Iowa, we love to help individuals experience a personal encounter with Jesus.

You can ensure that these encounters occur ever more frequently when you support the Annual Diocesan Appeal. You help spread God's love while strengthening the foundation underlying the Diocese's mission of growing disciples and cultivating connections in Christ. We offer care for our aging priests; integral formation for seminarians, deacon candidates, and young people in religious education; support for Catholic Charities; accompaniment of persons with special needs and those with mental illness and their families; and administrative assistance to parishes and Catholic schools and student centers.

None of us is called to meet every human and spiritual need. Yet by your participation, your gift to the Annual Diocesan Appeal diversely spreads to benefit not only your parish but *every* ministry and *every* person in the Diocese of Des Moines.

We affirm the gospel beatitude of poverty of spirit in our dependence on God and one another. Pope Leo XIV, in his recent exhortation "Dilexi Te" (I Have Loved You), encourages us as Church to advance God's Kingdom on earth:

"By its very nature, Christian love is prophetic: it works miracles and knows no limits. It makes what was apparently impossible happen. Love is above all a way of looking at life and a way of living it. A Church that sets no limits to love, that knows no enemies to fight but only men and women to love, is the Church that the world needs today."

Please join me in prayerful and material support of the Annual Diocesan Appeal. Jesus longs to find our faith actively at work when he encounters us as neighbor, brother, Savior, friend.

Faithfully in Christ,

Most Rev. William M. Joensen, Ph.D.

Bishop of Des Moines