



DIOCESE OF DES MOINES
601 GRAND AVENUE · DES MOINES, IOWA 50309
(515) 237-5039 · FAX (515) 237-5071

Office of the Bishop

My Dear Friends in Christ,

At the core of the Catholic Church is our mission to evangelize. Evangelization is not simply about reaching out to the un-churched or to those whose faith is something other than our own. Evangelization is an on-going process of deepening our relationship with Jesus Christ and “making Jesus Christ known and loved in our time by choosing to live the Gospel in every moment.”

The process of evangelization is life-long. At various times in our lives we are called to conversion; to turn back to God and renew our faith and fine tune our hearts so that they more closely mirror that of Jesus.

We are beginning a two year process of evangelization and renewal, “*On a Journey Together,*” in the diocese as a means for us as the Church of Des Moines to ready ourselves for the celebration of our one hundredth anniversary in 2011. This process will allow us to rediscover in small faith groups within our parishes how we are:

Awakening to Christ

Following Christ

Living in Christ

Witnessing to Christ

It is my hope that you will participate fully in this four-phase opportunity to grow and be renewed in faith. Your parish will be providing opportunities for small groups to meet at various times and locations that are convenient for all. These locations may be at the parish, in the homes of members of your community, at local gathering places like coffee shops and bookstores. Whatever the location or time of day that you gather, know that I hold you in prayer and trust in your prayers for me as we embark “On a Journey Together.”

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Richard E. Pates
Bishop of Des Moines