



The MESSAGE

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A message to the class of 2022

**BY BISHOP
JOSEPH M. SIEGEL**
Special to The Message

Dear Members of the Class of 2022,

Congratulations on your high school graduation!

I imagine it hard to believe that four years have passed since you first stepped into your high schools as freshmen. Now, you are young adults on the verge of beginning your college studies, service in the military or your careers in the work world.

Over the last few weeks, you have probably been looking back over the past years and remembering some of those events that marked your time here at your high schools.

Certainly, the dramatic events of 2020 and 2021 — especially dealing with the COVID pandemic and all that it entailed for your families, our communities and your life as students — have certainly made lasting impressions on you. All these events, as well as the people who have walked with you on this journey of high school, have helped to form you into the people you are today as you graduate. Yet, through the whirlwind

Editor's note: The collective class of 2022 from the Diocese of Evansville's four Catholic high schools received their diplomas during commencement ceremonies held May 21 and May 22. In addition to Bishop Joseph M. Siegel's message to graduates, which appears here on page 1, you will find additional coverage on pages 2 and 5 of this issue of The Message.

Washington Catholic High School held commencement May 21 in the school's gym. Rivet High School also held commencement May 21 at Highland Woods Community Center in Vincennes.

Evansville's Mater Dei High School and Reitz Memorial High School held commencement ceremonies May 22 at Old National Events Plaza in downtown Evansville.

Congratulations to all!

of life these past four years, the Lord Jesus was always with you — guiding you, celebrating with you the happy times and helping you through the tough times.

Just as learning doesn't stop with high school graduation, nei-

See **BISHOP**, page 2



The Message photo by Tim Lilley

Rivet

Alicia McGuire, left, one of Rivet High School's four valedictorians, presents a bouquet of flowers to her parents in thanksgiving for all they have done for her. Seniors at the Vincennes Catholic high school have carried on this tradition for many years. Rivet held its Commencement ceremony for the class of 2022 May 21.



The Message photoby Megan Erbacher

Reitz Memorial

Steve Church, right, accepts the 2022 Reitz Memorial High School Distinguished Service Award from school president Christian Mocek. Before the award presentation, Mocek gave a brief introduction of the 37th recipient of the award. Church met his wife of 29 years, Stacey, through some of his University of Evansville soccer teammates. The couple have four daughters, three of whom are Reitz Memorial graduates, with the fourth intended to graduate next year. In 2015, Church joined the President's Council at Reitz Memorial, and he has served the past two years as chairperson. In that time, Mocek said Church has been an invaluable member, offering leadership, supporting various initiatives and ensuring the school has a strong foundation for the future. When asked what it means to receive the award, Church said it is truly an honor, a privilege and humbling. Reitz Memorial held its Commencement ceremony for the class of 2022 May 22 at the Old National Events Plaza in Evansville.



The Message photo by Tim Lilley

Washington Catholic

Dr. Daryl Hagan, center, who is leaving his position as diocesan superintendent of schools in early July to join the Catholic University of America, accepts a gift from Washington Catholic High School Senior Class President Alyssa Davison, left, and Vice-President Logan Craney. Washington Catholic held its Commencement ceremony for the class of 2022 May 21.



The Message photo by Megan Erbacher

Mater Dei

Mater Dei High School senior Calvin Stratman, who served as mayor of Mater Dei-ville, speaks to his classmates and their families. Mater Dei held its Commencement ceremony for the class of 2022 May 22 at the Old National Events Plaza in downtown Evansville.

Landscaping at St. Theresa Place

Volunteers work on landscaping at St. Theresa Place, the subdivision on the east side of the former St. Theresa Parish in Evansville.



On May 14, volunteers worked several hours at the homes along Wedeking Avenue, as shown in the photo at left. On May 21, volunteers worked several hours at the homes along Herndon Avenue, as shown in the photo above. They planted Japanese maple trees donated by Toyota Motor Manufacturing and installed flower beds under the guidance of Evansville-area master gardeners. Members of the St. Theresa Men's Club grilled burgers and brats for lunch during both work days.

The Message photos by Tim Lilley



The Message photos by Tim Lilley

The Washington Catholic class of 2022 celebrates commencement with a group cap toss following the May 21 ceremony at the school.



The Rivet class of 2022 celebrates commencement with a group cap toss following the May 21 ceremony at the school.

Bishop

Continued from page 1

ther does your personal and spiritual formation. As one chapter of your life closes, another will begin. You will find new challenges and find yourself having to make some big decisions, some of which could well affect the rest of your lives. I hope that, as you engage in your future, you will draw on what you have learned at your high schools.

Over these years, you have been taught not only the usual academic subjects, but especially what it means to be a faithful follower of Christ in today's world. This includes acting in a moral and ethical way, and being a person of integrity, honesty and kindness.

The Lord now sends you as His missionary disciples, empowered by the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, to live and share your faith in your daily lives.

As you fulfill your Christian vocation, Jesus will always be with you to guide and protect you. To know His grace and help, it is vital that you stay close to Him by participating in Mass each Sunday and holy day, praying each day, getting involved in campus ministry, chaplaincy programs or parish young adult activities — seeking to always know the Lord more profoundly.

As you face moments of

decision, your parents and family will be there to help and support you. Your school family, and the teachers and staff, will continue to be sources of encouragement and guidance. And of course, the Church will continue to be your family of faith. I hope you will stay involved, whether as liturgical ministers, in Bible studies or retreats, and/or in social and service opportunities. Your parish priests, too, will always

be ready to assist you in any way they can.

Through the intercession of Mary, the Mother of God, Patroness of our diocese, may the Lord Jesus, who has brought you through these past four years to this graduation celebration, continue to bestow on you every grace and good gift you will need to live a full and meaningful Christian life as His disciples in the world.

May God bless you all!

 The advertisement features a vibrant background image of a family (a man, a woman, and two children) riding a roller coaster. The roller coaster car is red and has a large black raven logo on the front with the word "RAVEN" in red and blue letters, and "Holiday World" written below it. The background is a bright blue sky with colorful circles.

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Mater Dei Valedictorians

Mater Dei's Class of 2022 Valedictorians are Nathan Schneider, *left*, Cole Norman, Kate Herrmann, Aleilah Nisley, Julie Heldman, Lauren Ahola, Ryan Van Bibber, Alexa Kassenbrock, Emma Macke and Christine Marx.

Reitz Memorial Valedictorians

Reitz Memorial's Class of 2022 Valedictorians are Emily Roe, *front row left*, Jack Nichols, Lauren Meunier, *Averi Anslinger, back row left*, Andi Flittner, Mia Carter and Jenna Bersch.



Tassel turn

Members of the Rivet class of 2022 move their tassels to signify their status as graduates during the May 21 commencement ceremony.

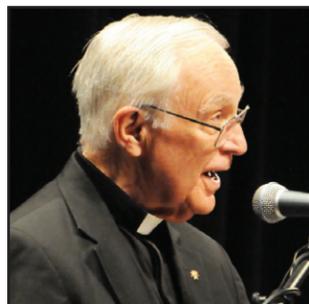
Washington Catholic Valedictorians and Salutatorian



VALEDICTORIAN
LOGAN CRANEY



VALEDICTORIAN
ALYSSA DAVISON



Prayer

Father Will Lowell, senior priest of the diocese, offers the invocation at the beginning of Mater Dei's commencement ceremony.

Tassel turn

Members of the Washington Catholic class of 2022 move their tassels to signify their status as graduates during the May 21 commencement ceremony.



VALEDICTORIAN
IRIS VICENTE



SALUTATORIAN
MONTELEE NORTON



Blessing

Bishop Joseph M. Siegel offers the sign of the cross after his closing remarks during Reitz Memorial's commencement ceremony.



National Anthem

Mater Dei seniors Emma Macke, *left*, and Isabelle Koch sing the National Anthem.



Opening prayer

Benedictine Father Godfrey Mullen, rector of St. Benedict Cathedral Parish in Evansville, offers the invocation during Reitz Memorial's commencement ceremony.

Mater Dei and Reitz Memorial photos by Megan Erbacher; Rivet and Washington Catholic photos by Tim Lilley

Vincennes Rivet Valedictorians and Salutatorian



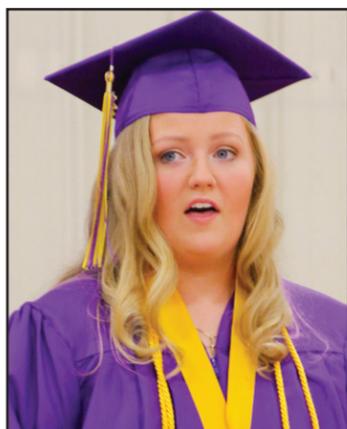
VALEDICTORIAN
DANICA DUNN



VALEDICTORIAN
MADDISYN HALTER



VALEDICTORIAN
ALICIA MCGUIRE



VALEDICTORIAN
EMMA SPURGEON



SALUTATORIAN
KATIE DAUGHERTY