



The MESSAGE

Southwestern Indiana's Catholic
Community Newspaper

May 10, 2024

Volume 54, Number 36

www.evdiomessage.org

Religious leaders come together for National Day of Prayer

By JOHN ROHLF

The Message assistant editor

Representatives from nine different religious organizations and members of the public came together May 2 for the annual Interfaith Observance of the National Day of Prayer.

Held at Four Freedoms Monument in Evansville, the annual event featured speakers from various religious affiliations. The tradition of calling our nation to a day of prayer to God has been held on the first Thursday of May each year since 1988.

The theme of this year's National Day of Prayer observance was peace and reconciliation, a theme several faith leaders mentioned in their comments and prayers.

Mayor Stephanie Terry led the participants in the National Anthem at the beginning of the ceremony before she read a proclamation. The proclamation declared May 2 as National Day of Prayer in the City of Evansville.

"National Day of Prayer provides residents the opportunity to give thanks for the many blessings our



Bishop Joseph M. Siegel leads participants in a closing prayer during the Interfaith Observance of the National Day of Prayer May 2 at Four Freedoms Monument.

country has received and to recognize the need for renewal of moral values and heavenly guidance for community leaders," Mayor Terry read from the proclamation.

The proclamation also said National Day of Prayer belongs to all Americans, transcending our differences and bring-

ing together citizens from different backgrounds.

Diocese of Evansville Bishop Joseph M. Siegel was one of several faith leaders to lead a prayer during the ceremony. While delivering the prayer, Bishop Siegel asked for God's help in bringing peace and reconciliation to

our nation, starting in our families, workplaces, schools, neighborhoods and communities. In the prayer, he asked for God to give us the wisdom and courage to turn away from division, resentment and polarization, while recognizing the many gifts and

See [PRAYER](#), page 5



The Message photos by John Rohlf

Mater Dei students sing a closing hymn at Four Freedoms Monument.

Berendes to retire after 14 years leading Resurrection School

By JOHN ROHLF

The Message assistant editor

After over 30 years in education and 14 years leading Resurrection School as their principal, Theresa Berendes is retiring at the end of the school year to spend more time with family.

Berendes, who grew up on

the west side of Evansville and went through the Catholic School system as a student, has worked 32 years in the diocese. After teaching middle school math for 15 years at St. John the Baptist School in Newburgh, she was a principal at St. Theresa School for three years and Resurrection School for the last 14 years.

She also taught for one year at the beginning of her career in the public school system.

Berendes said the opportunity to be a principal at Resurrection was a perfect fit for both her and her family.

"Resurrection's my home parish . . . as an adult," Berendes said. "My husband and I, we raised our family



THERESA BERENDES

here at Resurrection. And when this position came open, it was the perfect time for our family, for me to move here. So I was lucky enough to get the job here."

Even before taking the prin-

See [BERENDES](#), page 8

Ohio native Dukes hired as Resurrection principal

Ethridge will serve as assistant principal

By JOHN ROHLF

The Message assistant editor

Citing a desire to move closer to her son and his family, current Ohio resident Nancy Dukes was recently named Resurrection School's next principal.

The hire of Nancy Dukes, who is currently the principal of St. Anthony of Padua Catholic School in Columbus Grove, Ohio, as the next principal at Resurrection was recently announced. Dukes will replace Theresa Berendes, who is retiring at the end of the school year.

"We're thrilled to be welcoming Mrs. Nancy Dukes to Resurrection and our diocese in June," Diocese of Evansville Superintendent of Schools Michelle Priar said. "She



NANCY DUKES

comes with valued experience as a Catholic school principal, and I am confident that her skill sets will help Resurrection carry on the high standard of excellence that Theresa

See [RESURRECTION](#), page 8

Bishop Siegel blesses Seton Harvest farm, dedicates Sister Peck Education Shelter

By MEGAN ERBACHER

The Message editor

On May 3, Bishop Joseph M. Siegel blessed Seton Harvest for its 19th season.

During the blessing of the farm, everyone gathered in the Education Shelter, which is close to many of the fields and crops that have been planted.

All were gathered in a spirit of thankfulness and anticipation, Bishop Siegel said, as

he asked God to bless the people and the land of Seton Harvest for the 19th season. He asked for the intercession of St. Isidore the Farmer to watch over the farm and all

See [HARVEST](#), page 7

The Message photo by Megan Erbacher
Bishop Joseph M. Siegel offers a prayer and blessing on Seton Harvest for its 19th season.

