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Why formation of conscience is paramount in Catholic political responsibility



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The following article is part two of a three-part series on the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' document *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*. These articles originally appeared in *Today's Catholic*, the publication of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

When participating in public life, what does Christ and his Church ask of me?

In the first article of this series, I asked readers to reflect on the question above as we explore the U.S. Bishops' letter on political responsibility: "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship" (FCFC).

This reflection is ultimately an invitation to grow in our relationship with Christ, for it is Christ who has dominion over all things; including our hearts, our consciences and the manner with which we judge our neighbors, friends and political rivals.

But whether Christ, and therefore his Church, has the authority to speak on social and economic matters is a hotly debated question. Today, Catholics who express opinions informed by moral sentiment are quickly reminded of the "separation of church and state" and asked to keep religion out of politics.

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Habitat of Evansville dedicates 600th home

By JOHN ROHLF
The Message
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Habitat for Humanity of Evansville recently reached a milestone in home construction, becoming the 25th Habitat for Humanity affiliate to build 600 homes.

Habitat for Humanity of Evansville held the dedication of their 600th home last week. Homeowner Camron Hailey's home is in the 600 block of Covert Avenue in Evansville.

Habitat for Humanity of Evansville has built 600 homes in the area in about 40 years.

"When Habitat was founded 40 years ago, I don't think our founders could ever have believed that we would reach 600 homes in 40 years," Habitat for Humanity of Evansville Executive Director Beth Folz said.



The Message photos by John Rohlif
Camron Hailey, left, accepts the keys from Evansville Mayor Stephanie Terry during the 600th home dedication.

"And I don't think they could have imagined that we would be the 25th Habitat affiliate in the nation to reach that milestone."

Of the 25 Habitat for Humanity affiliates in the nation to reach the milestone, Habitat for Humanity of Evansville is the smallest market to



Habitat for Humanity of Evansville Executive Director Beth Folz speaks last week during the 600th home dedication in the 600 block of Covert Avenue.

reach the milestone, Folz said.

Folz stressed just like every other city in the United States, affordable housing continues to be a challenge. She said they had over 900 people walk through their doors to apply for a home last year. She stressed the

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Reitz Memorial to play football game at Bosse Field

By JOHN ROHLF
The Message assistant editor

For the second time since the early 1970s, high school football is returning to Bosse Field.

The site of over 500 high school football games from 1915-1971, Bosse Field will host an October high school football game between Reitz Memorial High School and Castle High School. Reitz Memorial, who played in the only other high school football game at Bosse Field since 1971 in 2011, will be the home team for the rivalry matchup.

"It should be a big night," Evansville Otters Owner Bill Bussing said. "As many of you remember, this was the site of high school football for years until most of the teams got their own stadium."

The game, which is slated to be played Oct. 18, is part of Reitz Memorial's "100-Year Series." The series will involve several Reitz Memorial sports teams competing against local rivals throughout the year.

Reitz Memorial Athletic Director Chad Dockery said they want to celebrate not only the traditions of Reitz Memorial High School and Castle High School but also football in the Evansville community.

"You look back at the history of the teams that played here. The history of this place," Dockery said. "To be able to bring that back and share it with the community

should be a really special night. And we're looking forward to this place being completely packed and getting to celebrate not just with the two schools but with the rich history here in our community."

Reitz Memorial Head Coach John Hurley said the game Reitz Memorial played at Bosse Field in 2011 "was a great experience for the kids." He said it showed the history behind Evansville football being played at Bosse Field.

The October game will feature unique uniforms. The Tigers will wear green in a nod to their history. The press release from Reitz Memorial says both teams will wear special retro jerseys.

"As far as this year, we kind of thought about it being a part of our Founders Series and ties back to Notre Dame," Hurley said. "We're going to tie in especially with some green jerseys and things like that."

Dockery said in the past, the Brothers of Holy Cross handed down uniforms to be worn by Reitz Memorial. A priest of the Congregation of Holy Cross founded the University of Notre Dame in the 1840s.

Dockery was appreciative of Bussing, the Evansville Otters and the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation for allowing the series to take place. The EVSC

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The Message photos by John Rohlif
Evansville Otters Owner Bill Bussing introduces Reitz Memorial High School and Castle High School as the teams who will compete at the Oct. 18 football game at Bosse Field.



Reitz Memorial Athletics Director Chad Dockery speaks at the May 9 press conference to announce an October football game between Reitz Memorial and Castle to be played at Bosse Field.