



The MESSAGE

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Gallery organ installation begins

The Message photos by John Rohlf



Parsons Pipe Organ Builders is back in Evansville to install the Gallery organ at St. Benedict Cathedral. Installation began July 8. The Gallery organ, which will serve as the main organ at the cathedral, will be placed at the back of the cathedral. It will feature over 3,700 pipes. The Nave organ was installed at the cathedral in June. Masses were moved from the cathedral to the Woodward Center starting July 8 through July 19 to accommodate the installation of the Gallery organ. *See more photos on page 2.*

National Eucharistic Congress a 'unique opportunity for all Catholics'

BY JOHN ROHLF
The Message assistant editor

In less than one week, the first National Eucharistic Congress in 83 years is coming to Indiana.

The 10th National Eucharistic Con-

gress will be held July 17-21 at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis. Diocese of Evansville Bishop Joseph M. Siegel anticipates the National Eucharistic Congress will be a powerful manifestation of the unity of the Church in the United States as those in attendance gather to celebrate the great gift of the Eucharist and to bear witness to their belief in the real presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. Bishop Siegel says it is his hope that the experience will stoke the fires of faith and evangelization in the Church, both locally and nationally.

Father Simon Natha, pastor at St. Isidore Parish in Celestine, believes the five-day Eucharistic Congress is a "unique opportunity for all Catholics" to strengthen their faith. Father Natha and Bishop Siegel both noted the Eucharist is the source and summit of our Catholic faith.

"I pray that everyone who is able to participate in this special event grows closer to Jesus in the Eucharist and shares what they experience at the Eucharistic Congress with those who are not able to attend," Father Natha said.

Father Anthony Ernst, who serves as pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Vincennes and St. Philip Neri Parish in Bicknell, said the Eucharistic Congress is a great opportunity for Catholics in the United States to come together to celebrate their love for the Holy

See **CONGRESS**, page 5

Indiana Catholic Conference opposes the resumption of state executions

Special to The Message

On behalf of the five Catholic dioceses in the state of Indiana, the Indiana Catholic Conference is strongly opposed to the decision to seek the resumption of executions in Indiana as recently announced by the Indiana Governor and Attorney General.

A consistent ethic of life

The Catholic Church has consistently sought to protect human life from conception to natural death. As Pope Saint John Paul II reminded us in 1999, "the new evangelization calls us to be unconditionally pro-life," and that "modern society has the means of protecting itself without definitely denying criminals the chance to reform." More recently, Pope Francis emphasized the Church's opposition to the death penalty in a change to the Catechism of the Catholic Church: "The death penalty is inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person" (CCC 2267).

We are grateful for Indiana's commitment to protecting human life, particularly for the preborn. However, the Church holds that human dignity is also offended when the state's punishment takes a life. The convicted, the executioner and society are all harmed when violence is unnecessarily carried out, especially when the penal system can adequately protect the social order from further harm.

Solidarity with victims

When speaking against the use of the death penalty, the Church is abundantly clear in her expression of solidarity with the family and friends of victims. As the Indiana Catholic Conference expressed in a 2019 letter opposing the end of the federal moratorium on the death penalty: "In seeking to end the use of the death penalty, we do not dismiss the evil and harm caused by people who commit horrible crimes, especially murder. We share in the sorrow and loss of families and victims of such crimes. And we call upon our faith community and all persons of good will to stand with the victims and to provide spiritual, pastoral and personal support."

Indiana should eliminate use of the death penalty

In addition to the Church's moral teaching, there are several compelling reasons for Indiana to forego the use of the death penalty: 1) there are other means of protecting society and punishing criminals, 2) the death penalty demonstrably does not deter crime, 3) its application is flawed and can be irreversibly wrong, 4) death penalty cases are extremely expensive compared to other criminal cases, and 5) 29 states no longer use it as a form of punishment.

See **ICC**, page 5

