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The Message photo by Megan Erbacher

Catholic school administrators meet

Administrators from the Diocese of Evansville's 26 Catholic schools meet at the Catholic Center in Evansville July 25 as they prepare to welcome students for the 2024-2025 school year. They gathered for this group photo outside of the Catholic Center after Mass, which was celebrated by Father Bernie Etienne, pastor of Holy Rosary Parish in Evansville. Schools across the diocese return for their first class days from Aug. 2 through Aug. 8. Bishop Joseph M. Siegel celebrated the diocese's annual back-to-school Mass Aug. 1 at Good Shepherd Parish in Evansville.

Bishop Cozzens calls for prayers of reparation after 'heinous' depiction at Olympics opening ceremony

WASHINGTON (OSV News) — Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of Crookston, Minnesota, chairman of the board of the National Eucharistic Congress, spoke out July 27 against a "heinous" depiction of Leonardo Davinci's Last Supper at the Paris Olympic opening ceremonies. He issued

a special call to prayer for the faithful based on his prayer at the 10th National Eucharistic Congress just one week prior. "Jesus experienced his Passion anew Friday night in Paris when his Last Supper was publicly defamed," he emphasized. "As his living body, we are invited to enter into this moment of passion with him, this moment of public shame, mockery and persecution. We do this through prayer and fasting. And our greatest prayer — in season and out of season — is the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass." He concluded with some advice to the faithful about discussing the incident, encouraging them to do so "with love and charity, but also with firmness."

The Diocese of Evansville joins religious leaders from around the world in expressing our regret and profound disappointment that elements of the opening ceremonies of the Olympic Games in Paris included provocative imagery of the Last Supper of Our Lord, an event sacred to all Christians. Whether intentional or not, the display was deeply hurtful and insulting to Catholics, who hold the Sacrament of the Eucharist given by Christ at the Last Supper to be the source and summit of our life of faith. The Olympic Games are meant to provide an opportunity for international unity and mutual respect. We pray that the true spirit of the Olympics may shine through over the coming days and help foster a greater sense of understanding and solidarity among nations, cultures and religions.

The French bishops also issued a statement July 27 condemning the mockery of Christianity at the opening of the Olympic Games. They praised the "marvelous display of beauty and joy" that was part of the ceremony but decried the "scenes of mockery and derision of Christianity."

The Message Staff contributed to this report.

Congress leads to 'new revival' for Eucharist

BY JOHN ROHLF
The Message assistant editor

Clergy and parishioners throughout the diocese recently traveled to Indianapolis to take part in the 10th National Eucharistic Congress.

More than 50,000 people gathered at the first National Eucharistic Congress in 83 years from July 17-21. The congress was an initiative of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, designed to renew the Catholic Church in the United States through an encounter with the Eucharist.

Debbie Hair, a parishioner at St. Benedict Cathedral in Evansville, attended the congress from July 18-21. She said being in Lucas Oil Stadium with so many people kneeling in front of the Blessed Sacrament was something she had not experienced in her life.

She said she will never take the Eucharist the same way after attending the congress.

"I have a new revival for the Eucharist," Hair said. "I've always known that it was the Body and Blood of Christ. I always was reverent. I'm a Eucharistic minister. I understand that. But now when I pick up the Body of Christ, it gets me so emotional."

A parishioner at Sts. Mary and

John Parish in Evansville, Kody Johnson attended multiple days of the congress. Johnson said one of the things he was looking forward to was the sense of community and being with others who believe Christ is present in the Eucharist. He said it was a great time and a great experience.

A parishioner at Precious Blood in Jasper, Margaret Baugh traveled with the group from St. Joseph Parish in Jasper and attended the congress on July 20. She also watched the other days of the congress. She said she loved all of the congress, from the speakers to adoration. She also referenced the different types of praise and worship music at the congress.

Father John Brosmer, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Jasper, attended the congress July 20. He found the talks from the main speakers that day to be "very enlightening."

"The adoration and the amount of people on Saturday evening at Lucas Oil Stadium will be always remembered as a national encounter with the Lord. I am glad I said yes to attend."

Bryan Macke and Elizabeth Steckler both attended the congress for the entire five days as part of the St. Maria Goretti

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