



# The MESSAGE

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Passion for  
Church,  
social  
justice  
propels  
new ICC associate  
director



By VICTORIA ARTHUR  
Statehouse Correspondent for  
Indiana's Catholic Newspapers



ROARKE LACOURSIERE

She hails from Australia, her Confirmation name is Meinrad, and she is embarking on a journey that will bring her love for the Catholic Church and its teachings into the public sphere in Indiana.

Roarke LaCoursiere was recently named the new associate director of the Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC), the public policy voice of the Church in the

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## Diocese celebrates 2024 Bruté Society inductees

By JOHN ROHLF  
The Message assistant editor

The 2024 inductees into the Bruté Society were honored during a Mass and induction ceremony.

Bishop Joseph M. Siegel honored the Diocese of Evansville's new members of the Bruté Society by celebrating Mass and with an induction ceremony Nov. 17 at St. Benedict Cathedral.

One-hundred twenty recipients were recognized during the induction ceremony after Mass at St. Benedict Cathedral. The recipients were recognized both as couples and individually. They were nominated by their fellow parishioners, who regard them as outstanding witnesses of Christian stewardship, Diocese of Evansville Director of Stewardship Joe Paul Hayden said.

"They all have a long history of giving generously of their very selves to strengthen the work of the church within their parishes," Hayden said.



The Message photo by Megan Erbacher

More than 20 priests of the Diocese of Evansville joined Bishop Joseph M. Siegel at St. Benedict Cathedral Nov. 17 to concelebrate the 2024 Bruté Society Mass. Honorees were inducted into the Bruté Society immediately following Mass.

"They are known to be a people of deep faith. Not a passive faith but one that comes alive in their dedication to

and support of the mission of Jesus Christ both local and universal."

See **BRUTÉ**, page 6

## Four transitional deacons on path to priesthood ordination



File photo

Deacon Clint Johnson, far left, Deacon Aaron Herrenbruck, Deacon Keith Hart and Deacon Nick Biever are seated during the Rite of Ordination Mass this past April at St. Benedict Cathedral.

By JOHN ROHLF  
The Message assistant editor

After three priests were ordained this past June, four more men are on track to be ordained to the priesthood in 2025.

Bishop Joseph M. Siegel ordained three priests this past June: Father Phillip Rogier, Father Caleb Scherzinger and Father Tyler Underhill. This was the first time in five years the Diocese of Evansville had at least three men ordained to the priesthood.

This upcoming June, the Diocese of Evansville is on track to have four current transitional deacons ordained to the priesthood. Deacon Nick Biever, Deacon Keith Hart, Deacon Aaron Herrenbruck and Deacon Clint Johnson were ordained to the diaconate this past April and are on track to be ordained to the priesthood.

All four transitional deacons are completing their seminary studies at St. Meinrad Seminary. Deacon Biever, a son of

See **DEACONS**, page 10

## Tigers win state soccer title



Submitted photo

Members of the Reitz Memorial soccer team celebrate with the championship plaque after winning the 2024 Indiana Class 2A state soccer championship.

By JOHN ROHLF  
The Message assistant editor

One year after falling one game short of a state title, a veteran Reitz Memorial High School boys soccer team pitched multiple shutouts on their road to winning the Indiana Class 2A state championship.

Evansville's Reitz Memorial (19-2-1) beat Fort Wayne Concordia Lutheran 2-0 Nov. 2 in the Class 2A state championship game in Indianapolis. The Tigers used goals from juniors Ivan Bennett and Trey Hudak and a defensive shutout to win the state title.

"We were all focused and ready to go," Reitz Memorial senior midfielder Faurest Crafton said. "We played an excellent game. We needed our goals and we wanted to put them away early. And I think we just did that perfectly."

Reitz Memorial Head Coach Bill Vieth believes the Tigers controlled the game throughout in their state championship game win.

"But until you score a goal and get a lead and until

See **SOCCER**, page 19