



# The MESSAGE

Southwestern Indiana's Catholic  
Community Newspaper

April 4, 2025

Volume 55, Number 29

www.evdiomessage.org

## God's mercy, forgiveness pave the path toward hope, pope writes

By CAROL GLATZ  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — God's forgiveness is the source of hope for the faithful, Pope Francis wrote.

"Indeed, with his mercy, God transforms us inwardly, he changes our heart," he said in a message to priests celebrating the Jubilee of the Missionaries of Mercy in Rome.

"We can always count on him in any situation. God made himself man to reveal to the world that he never abandons us," the pope's message said.

The Vatican released the pope's message to the priests, which was read by Archbishop Rino Fisichella, pro-prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization's section for new evangelization and the chief organizer of the Holy Year 2025, during a March 29 meeting and training session.

The Jubilee celebration, March 28-30, had been scheduled to include a meeting with Pope Francis March 29 and

Mass the next day. However, the pope was not present at those events since doctors recommended he rest for two months after returning to the Vatican from Gemelli hospital March 23 for double pneumonia.

Pope Francis instituted the "missionaries of mercy" apostolate in 2015 for the special mission of preaching about God's mercy and, especially, to encourage Catholics to rediscover the grace of the sacrament of reconciliation. More than 1,100 priests were chosen by the Vatican and commissioned during the Holy Year of Mercy, and today there are more than 1,200 missionaries of mercy on all five continents.

In his message, dated March 19, the pope thanked the priests because they "bear witness to the paternal face of God, infinitely great in love, who calls everyone to conversion and renews us always with his forgiveness."

"Conversion and forgiveness are the two gentle touches with which the Lord dries every tear from our eyes;



CNS photo by Pablo Esparza

Hundreds of priests who serve as missionaries of mercy around the world celebrate Mass in the Basilica of Sant'Andrea della Valle March 30 in Rome.

they are the hands with which the church embraces us sinners; they are

the feet on which we walk in our earth-

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## Chrism Mass is April 15

Special to The Message

Bishop Joseph M. Siegel will celebrate the Diocese of Evansville's 2025 Chrism Mass at 5:30 p.m. CDT April 15 at St. Benedict Cathedral in Evansville. At this Mass, the holy oils used throughout the year will be blessed and consecrated, and the priests of the diocese will make a

public renewal of their priestly promises to serve Christ and the Church. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will also be available before Mass and an opportunity to receive a plenary indulgence.

All are invited to attend, show your support for the service of our priests, and pray together as a diocese in those holy days leading up to Easter.



## St. Henry, Ferdinand, hosts annual Diocesan Rogation Mass

Bishop Joseph M. Siegel, *fifth from left*, diocesan priests and parishioners process into St. Henry Church in Ferdinand April 1 for the Diocese of Evansville's annual Rogation Mass. Also pictured are Father Timothy Tenbarge, *third from left*, senior priest of the diocese; Father John Boeglin, senior priest of the diocese and vicar for senior priests; and Matt Miller, diocesan director of worship. Father Boeglin explained that the annual Mass and celebration is to pray for favorable weather, protection from natural disasters, a fruitful harvest and safety in the fields and on the roads. At the end of Mass, Bishop Siegel blessed samples of seed and soil that parishioners brought with them. *Full coverage of the Rogation Mass will appear in the April 11 issue of The Message.*

The Message photo by Megan Erbacher

