



# The MESSAGE

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## Four transitional deacons make Profession of Faith, Oath of Fidelity

By JOHN ROHLF  
The Message assistant editor

Four transitional deacons in the Diocese of Evansville on track for priesthood ordination next month made a Profession of Faith and an Oath of Fidelity.

Transitional Deacons Nick Biever, Keith Hart, Aaron Herrenbruck and Clint Johnson each moved one step closer to the priesthood by making the Profession of Faith and the Oath of Fidelity during Solemn Evening Prayer May 13 at Annunciation Parish at Christ the King Church in Evansville.

"With firm faith, I also believe everything contained in God's word, written and handed down from tradition and proposed by the church, whether by way of solid judgement or through the ordinary and universal magisterium, as divinely revealed in calling for faith," all four transitional deacons said during the Profession of Faith. "I also firmly accept and hold to each and everything that is proposed definitively by the Church regarding teaching on faith and morals."

They continued that they adhere with religious submission, will and intellect to the teachings which either the Roman Pontiff or the College of Bishops

enunciate when they exercise their authentic magisterium, even if they proclaim those teachings by an act that is not definitive.

After making the Profession of Faith as a group, each transitional deacon separately walked up to the altar, put their right hand on the Book of Gospels and made an Oath of Fidelity. In part, during the Oath of Fidelity, all four transitional deacons promised to always preserve communion with the Catholic Church both in their words and conduct.

"I shall carry out with the greatest care and fidelity the duties incumbent on me toward both the universal church and the particular church in which, according to the provisions of the law, I have been called to exercise my service," each transitional deacon said during the Oath of Fidelity. "In fulfilling the charge entrusted to me in the name of the church, I shall hold fast to the deposit of faith in its entirety. I shall faithfully hand it on and explain it. And I shall avoid any teachings opposed to that faith."



The Message photos by John Rohlif  
Transitional Deacons Nick Biever, far right, Keith Hart, Aaron Herrenbruck and Clint Johnson read the Profession of Faith May 13 at Christ the King Church at Annunciation Parish in Evansville.

They also took an oath to follow and foster the

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## A reflection from Rome

By FATHER TYLER UNDERHILL  
Special to The Message

*Habemus Papam* — We have a Pope! These, of course, are the words that were announced to the world May 8 when the first American-born pontiff, Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost, stepped out onto the loggia of St. Peter's Basilica as Pope Leo XIV. Even at this time, it is hard for me to put into words the experience of witnessing such an event as this. Still reeling from the deeply prayerful

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Submitted photo

Father Tyler Underhill, right, and Seminarian Dylan Stefanich were present during the announcement of Pope Leo XIV as the first American pope.

## Folz reflects on meeting with Pope Leo XIV

By JOHN ROHLF  
The Message assistant editor

Last summer, Diocese of Evansville seminarian Nathan Folz went on The Rome Experience for his summer assignment, which led to a chance to meet Cardinal Robert Prevost, who is now Pope Leo XIV, the 267th pope in the history of the Catholic Church.

Folz was joined by 25-30 other seminarians from across the United States on the trip, which allowed him to see the city, experience the culture and see how the Catholic Church works. During the trip, Folz was able to meet with several of the heads of the dicasteries. The heads of the dicasteries would

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## Catholic high schools celebrate commencement ceremonies



Photo by Josh Wichman, Special to The Message

Washington Catholic High School seniors, at left, throw their caps in the air after the commencement ceremony May 18.

Rivet High School graduates, at right, throw their caps in the air.

See coverage and more photos on page 6 and 7 inside.



Photo by Amanda Linn, Special to The Message