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Siena hosts Ablaze Day of Recollection



Submitted photo

Participants take part in Siena's Day of Recollection June 19 at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Daylight.

By JOHN ROHLF
The Message assistant editor

Siena groups from across the Diocese of Evansville gathered last month for Ablaze Day of Recollection.

Siena groups from Evansville, Dubois County and Vincennes partnered for the Ablaze Day of Recollection June 19 at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Daylight. They welcomed Dominican Sister Gabriella Yi from the Nashville Dominicans for the retreat.

"The Ablaze retreat was very fun and inspiring," participant Ella Fulkerson said. "The talks by the sisters were great and very informational. The games and activities were really fun too. We played Bingo, nine square, painted tote bags and prayed in adoration. Father Tyler (Tenbarge) offered confessions which

was awesome too."

Samantha Barnes, president of the newly formed Siena Council, which will provide guidance and maintain structure for Siena as it continues to grow, said it was beautiful to see the Lord working on the hearts of the Siena ladies through Sister Gabriella's words and example.

"It was such a blessing to introduce our Siena ladies to some incredibly joyful sisters who were thrilled to share their knowledge and passion for the life of St. Catherine, our patroness, with us," Barnes said.

While they are blessed to be surrounded by wonderful priests, there is something special about young ladies engaging in faith with consecrated women on fire for the Lord, Barnes said.

"Their love for Christ is

beautiful in a way that is unique to being His bride," Barnes said. "And exposure to the joy that comes with passionately living every vocation is so important for the young women in our diocese to witness."

Barnes said it was inspirational to see the Siena youth set aside time to spend a whole day of their summer focusing on their faith and to what the Lord is calling them.

Sarah Fulkerson, the mother of Ella Fulkerson, said she enjoyed attending the retreat. During the retreat, she saw so many of the Siena youth so eager to strengthen their faith, she said.

"They were on fire for Jesus," Sarah Fulkerson said. "The Dominican sisters were really amazing, teaching about the impor-

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Catholic Charities awarded United Way grant

By JOHN ROHLF
The Message assistant editor

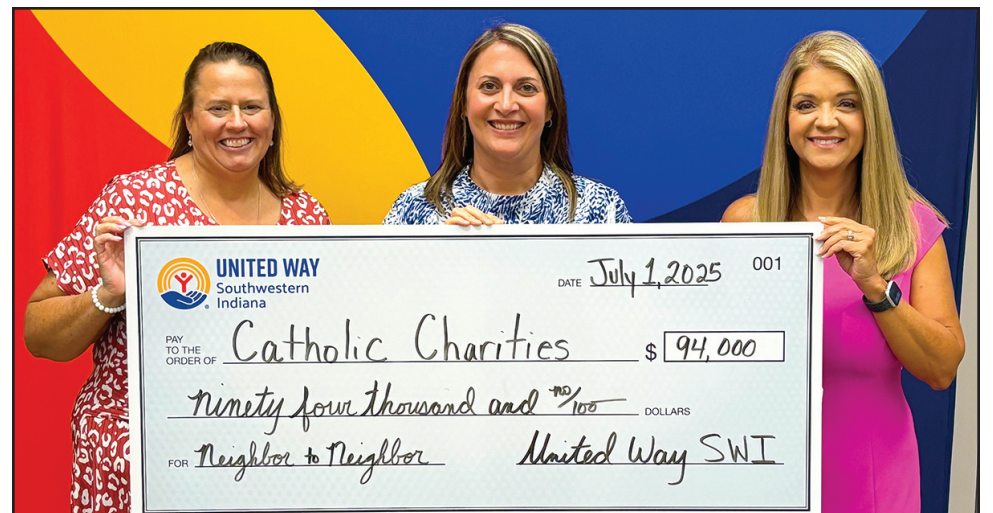
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Evansville was recently awarded their second grant of the summer for their Neighbor to Neighbor program.

The United Way of Southwestern Indiana announced the distribution of \$1.1 million in grant funding as part of its Social Stability and Growth Pathways

to Potential initiative. They awarded grants to six non-profits, including Catholic Charities. The grant to Catholic Charities is for \$94,000 and will go towards the Neighbor to Neighbor program.

Catholic Charities and the other local nonprofit organizations were selected to receive grant funding because they demonstrated the ability to help struggling, working families move from a state of constant crisis toward long term financial and social stability.

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Submitted photo

Catholic Charities of Evansville was recently awarded a \$94,000 grant from United Way of Southwestern Indiana. The grant will go towards Catholic Charities' Neighbor to Neighbor program.

International TEC family celebrates 60th anniversary with Evansville gathering

By JOHN ROHLF
The Message assistant editor

The international Teens Encounter Christ retreat movement celebrated their 60th anniversary with their 2025 Encounter at the Diocese of Evansville Catholic Center and Sarto Retreat Center.

The TEC ministry celebrated 60 years since its first retreat in 1965. Members of local TEC communities met July 11-13 for three days of fellowship, resources, prayer and networking. There were 60 participants from 18 dioceses at this year's TEC Conference, according to TEC Conference Executive Director Billy O'Regan.

"Participants commented to me that they felt spiritually fed, particularly by our keynote speaker, Steve Angrisano," O'Regan said. "They also feel like they are

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The Message photo by John Rohlf

Steve Angrisano delivers the keynote address July 12 during the 2025 TEC Encounter at the Diocese of Evansville Catholic Center.