



The MESSAGE

Southwestern Indiana's Catholic
Community Newspaper

August 15, 2025

Volume 55, Number 48

www.evdiomessage.org

Dr. Hagan speaks to diocesan educators ahead of first day of school



The Message photo by John Rohlf

Dr. Daryl Hagan, former Superintendent of Schools for the Diocese of Evansville, serves as the guest speaker for diocesan educators Aug. 5 at Reitz Memorial High School.

By JOHN ROHLF
The Message assistant editor

Former Diocese of Evansville Catholic Schools Superintendent Dr. Daryl Hagan said the work of diocesan educators "really does matter."

Dr. Hagan, who served as superintendent for 12 years before accepting a

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Diocesan educators gather for annual Back to School Mass

By JOHN ROHLF
The Message assistant editor

Educators from the Diocese of Evansville's 26 Catholic Schools filled St. Benedict Cathedral in Evansville for the 2025 Back to School Mass.

Bishop Joseph M. Siegel celebrated the annual Mass Aug. 5, which was held after the diocesan educators received a presentation from speaker Dr. Daryl Hagan, former superintendent of the Diocese of Evansville Catholic Schools, at Reitz Memorial High School. Eighteen diocesan priests at parishes with Catholic Schools in the diocese concelebrated the Mass. Deacon Dan Niemeier, president of Mater Dei High School, assisted during the Votive Mass of the Holy Spirit. New principals Samantha Erny, Courtney Ethridge, Katie Hubiak, Joe Maione and Valerie Zimmer served as gift bearers.

At the beginning of Mass, Bishop Siegel said he is always grateful for the opportunity to celebrate the Eucharist with educators from the Catholic Schools. It is an opportunity to say thank you to them for their generous service in providing a wonderful Catholic education to their students and helping the students' parents in their responsibilities raising their children in the faith, he said.

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The Message photo by Megan Erbacher

Bishop Joseph M. Siegel welcomes diocesan educators to the annual Back to School Mass at St. Benedict Cathedral in Evansville.

Diocesan schools back in session

The 26 schools in the Diocese of Evansville kicked off the 2025-2026 school year on Aug. 6 and Aug. 7. Seventeen diocesan schools held their first day Aug. 6 and nine diocesan schools held their first day Aug. 7. See more photos on page two.



The Message photo by John Rohlf

A Resurrection School student looks up for his color after being sorted into his house. The House sorting was for all fifth graders, new teachers and new students in grades 5-8.



Submitted photo

Mater Dei High School seniors pose for a photo before the first day of school Aug. 6.



The Message photo by John Rohlf

A student at St. John the Baptist School in Newburgh raises his hand during the first day of school Aug. 7.



The Message photo by John Rohlf

Corpus Christi elementary school students make ice cream sundaes with the assistance of school staff during the first day of school Aug. 6.



The Message photo by John Rohlf

St. James School students look on during the prayer service Aug. 6.



Submitted photo

St. Benedict Cathedral School held their Back to School Bash Aug. 4.