



Catholic Schools are 'Building a Future of Hope'

By MICHELLE PRIAR

Superintendent of Schools, Diocese of Evansville
Special to The Message

We're excited that the doors to schools across the Diocese of Evansville have opened and the 2025-2026 school year has begun. With these first weeks of school underway, we are reminded that we have much to celebrate as we welcome five new principals and over 50 new teachers. Student enrollment is up by 3.2 percent, bringing our total to 7,502 students across 26 schools in our diocese. It's great to welcome so many new faces to our school communities.

Some of you may know that each year, schools in our diocese celebrate a theme. This year, the theme for our schools is Building a Future of Hope, which reflects our deep commitment to educate students to not only be knowledgeable students but to also be future leaders who will help bring the light of Christ to our communities. We are reminded that a Catholic edu-

See [HOPE](#), page 11

Diocesan educators honored for milestone years of service

On Aug. 5, Diocese of Evansville Catholic School administrators and teachers with milestone anniversaries in 2025, and those retiring, were formally recognized during the annual Back to School Mass. Congratulations to all! (See photos and more on pages 6-7.)

Right to Life banquet attendees 'part of the pro-life generation'

By JOHN ROHLF
The Message assistant editor

Pro-life advocates and supporters gathered at Old National Events Plaza in Evansville for the annual Right to Life of Southwest Indiana Banquet.

The theme for this year's banquet was "One Generation to Another." Speakers at this year's event included guest speaker Dr. Anthony Levatino, a former abortionist turned pro-life advocate; and keynote speaker Seth Dillon, CEO of the Babylon Bee.

During the banquet, Brian and Sarah Bohrer, parishioners of Annunciation Parish in Evansville, were awarded \$5,000 in grant funding from the

See [BANQUET](#), page 5



The Message photo by John Rohlf
Pro-life advocates and supporters filled Old National Events Plaza Aug. 14 during the annual Right to Life of Southwest Indiana Banquet.



The Message photos by John Rohlf
Bishop Joseph M. Siegel blesses those in attendance at the conclusion of the Vigil Mass of the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Aug. 14 at St. Mary Church in Evansville.

Bishop Siegel celebrates Vigil Mass for Solemnity of the Assumption

By JOHN ROHLF
The Message assistant editor

Leading up to the annual Right to Life of Southwest Indiana Banquet, Bishop Joseph M. Siegel celebrated Mass for the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Bishop Siegel celebrated the Vigil Mass Aug. 14 at St. Mary Church, Sts. Mary and John Parish, in Evansville. Father

Eugene Schmitt, pastor of Sts. Mary and John Parish in Evansville; Father Tyler Underhill, parochial vicar at St. Benedict Cathedral in Evansville; and Father Lowell Will, senior priest of the diocese, concelebrated the Mass.

In his homily, Bishop Siegel referenced the Mass preface for the Feast of the Assumption, which states in part that

See [ASSUMPTION](#), page 11



Diocesan Director of Marriage, Family and Life Megan Knies reads the first reading.