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Catholic school administrators gather at Catholic Center

Administrators from the Diocese of Evansville's 26 Catholic schools gather for a group photo outside of the Catholic Center in Evansville Aug. 19. They met a couple of weeks after welcoming students for the 2025-2026 school year. Schools across the diocese returned for their first class days Aug. 6 and 7. Bishop Joseph M. Siegel celebrated the diocese's annual back-to-school Mass Aug. 5 at St. Benedict Cathedral in Evansville.

The Message photo by Megan Erbacher

Diocese hosts annual Catechist Formation Day



The Message photo by John Rohlf
Attendees look on during Catechist Formation Day, an annual event hosted by the Diocese of Evansville Office of Catechesis.

By **JOHN ROHLF**
The Message assistant editor

Catechists from around the Diocese of Evansville gathered Aug. 23 at the Catholic Center in Evansville for Catechist Formation Day.

The day featured a talk from keynote speaker Dr. Mark Ginter titled "What Does it Mean to Form Families?" The day also included an introductory session on the many parts of lifelong formation, small group discussions, prayer and a closing session of theological reflection. Bishop Joseph M. Siegel led the morning prayer service, proclaiming the gospel, sharing

a homily and blessing the catechists in attendance.

The theme for this year's Catechist Formation Day was "Forming Families in Faith."

Diocesan Director of Catechesis Joel Padgett said although everyone who has a more formal role in faith formation in the diocese should constantly pursue growth in their personal formation in the faith, there are few opportunities to gather everyone from around the diocese to do so.

"Catechist Formation Day is just such an opportunity," Padgett said. "There are so many different ways for us to grow in our faith as individuals. But once a year, Catechist Formation Day allows us to grow together around a common theme."

Padgett said families are the nucleus of society. It is essential to accompany families in our faith in order to help build up the Family of God, Padgett said.

"The Catholic Church can be understood as the Family of God," Padgett said. "In this sense, we can understand our local parishes as families of families within the Family of God."

During his presentation, diocesan Associate Director of Catechesis Nicholas

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Mater Dei, Reitz Memorial win football openers



The Message photo by John Rohlf

Junior defensive back Gavin Winegard brings down Evansville Central running back Javarious Graham during Mater Dei's season opening win over Evansville Central.

By **JOHN ROHLF**
The Message assistant editor

Mater Dei and Reitz Memorial High Schools in Evansville both opened the 2025 football seasons with convincing home wins.

Mater Dei 44, Evansville Central 14

Mater Dei used a strong second quarter to seize control of their season opener against the Evansville Central Bears.

The Wildcats (1-0) earned a

44-14 home win over Evansville Central Aug. 22 at the Reitz Bowl in Evansville. Mater Dei outscored the Bears 28-7 in the second quarter after a scoreless first quarter. Senior quarterback Tate Mallory threw three touchdown passes to Nolan Schickel in the second quarter. Running back Caden Thacker added a 3-yard touchdown run to help the Wildcats to the 28-7 halftime lead.

Mallory and Schickel connected on their fourth com-

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