



Love for the poor is hallmark of faith, pope says in first exhortation

By Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Many Christians “need to go back and re-read the Gospel” because they have forgotten that faith and love for the poor go hand in hand, Pope Leo XIV said in his first major papal document. “Love for the poor — whatever the form their poverty may take — is the evangelical hallmark of a Church faithful to the heart of God,” the pope wrote in “Dilexi Te” (“I Have Loved You”), an apostolic exhortation “to all Christians on love for the poor.” Pope Leo signed the document Oct. 4, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, and the Vatican released the text Oct. 9. The document was begun by Pope Francis, Pope Leo said, but he added to it and wanted to issue it near the beginning of his papacy “since I share the desire of my beloved predecessor that all Christians come to appreciate the close connection between Christ’s love and his summons to care for the poor.” Look for more information on Pope Leo’s apostolic exhortation in a future issue of *The Message*.

Diocese, Habitat bless and break ground on Jubilee Build

By JOHN ROHLF
The Message assistant editor

Members of the diocesan community joined Habitat for Humanity and future homeowner Mi’Kyla in breaking ground for a new home.

The Diocese of Evansville recently announced a partnership with Habitat for Humanity of Evansville to build a home for a family in need. The home for Mi’Kyla will be on the 1500 block of Florence Street.

WATCH A VIDEO ONLINE

Watch a video from the Diocesan Jubilee Build Blessing and Groundbreaking.

At the Oct. 9 Diocesan Jubilee Build Blessing and Groundbreaking, Bishop Joseph M. Siegel said it was good to be with everyone in attendance for this momentous day for the family, the diocese and the community to have a new homeowner with a new start. He said they asked for God’s blessing on this effort, home and land, that all the work will be kept safe and brought to fruition.

Bishop Siegel said every 25 years, the Catholic Church has a special Jubilee Year, with the focus this year on hope, with a theme of Pilgrims of Hope, basically proclaiming the hope in Jesus Christ won by his death and resurrection, the source of

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The Message photo by Megan Erbacher
Bishop Joseph M. Siegel smiles during the Oct. 9 blessing and groundbreaking of the Diocesan Jubilee Build in partnership with Habitat for Humanity of Evansville.



Photo courtesy of USCCB

Respect Life Month takes on new meaning during Jubilee Year, says bishop

By GINA CHRISTIAN
OSV News

The upcoming annual observance of Respect Life Month by the nation’s Catholics takes on new meaning amid the Jubilee Year of Hope, said the chair of the U.S. bishops’ pro-life committee.

“The gift of human life exists as a sign of hope to our world today, defying the powers of darkness and the culture of death,” said Bishop Daniel E. Thomas of Toledo, Ohio, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities, in a statement included in a Sept. 18 USCCB press release.

Since 1973 — the year in which the Supreme Court rulings in *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* legalized abortion nationwide — the Catholic Church in the U.S. has designated October as Respect Life Month, with the first Sunday of October as Respect Life Sunday.

The USCCB’s Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities provides a range of resources to help further an understanding of Catholic teaching, which holds that all human life is sacred from conception to natural death, and therefore must be respected and protected absolutely.

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Bishop Siegel institutes 15 as acolytes

By JOHN ROHLF
The Message assistant editor

Bishop Joseph M. Siegel instituted 15 men as acolytes during Mass Oct. 11 at Precious Blood Parish in Jasper. In the role of the acolyte, they will assist priests and deacons during the Mass.

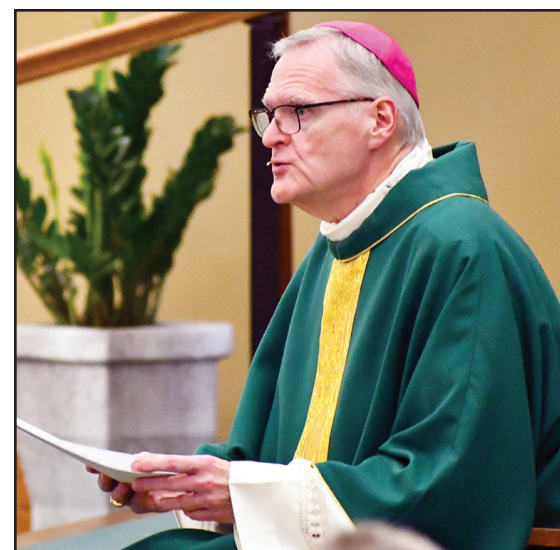
After Bishop Siegel’s homily, the candidates came forward for the institution. After blessing the candidates, each candidate came forward, at which time they each held the

paten individually.

“Take this vessel with bread for the celebration of the Eucharist,” Bishop Siegel prayed. “Make your life worthy of your service at the table of the Lord and of his Church.”

The 15 candidates for the permanent diaconate who were instituted as acolytes during the Mass are Doug Ackerman, Pete Barry, Chris Bassler, Bill Blanke, Matt Bohleber, Jerry Durchholz, Phil Durchholz, Scott Griffin, Brian Ketzner, Luis Londono, Matthew McDowell, Joshua Reising, Ray Ruppel, Jack Tuinier and Jorge Velasco. All 15 men are on track to be ordained to the permanent diaconate in 2026.

During his homily, Bishop Siegel



The Message photos by John Rohlf
Bishop Joseph M. Siegel delivers the homily.



Ray Ruppel is instituted as an acolyte.

said an instituted acolyte is a person chosen by God to play a special role in the church’s Eucharistic life. Bishop Siegel said the deacon candidates must resist the temptation to see the ministry of acolyte through a purely func-

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