



The MESSAGE

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Youth embrace Pope Leo's message of hope following unique digital meeting

By LAURETTA BROWN
AND GINA CHRISTIAN
OSV News

Editor's note: The Message staff contributed to this report.

INDIANAPOLIS (OSV News) — Pope Leo XIV encouraged American youth in a unique digital discussion Nov. 21, telling them that they were not only the “future of the church,” but “the present,” saying “your voices, your ideas, your faith matter right now.”

He spoke in response to questions from students in a 45-minute virtual dialogue at the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis with an estimated crowd of 16,000 young people ages 14-18.

There were 250 attendees

from the Diocese of Evansville at the conference, Diocesan Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry Jeremy Goebel said. In addition to joining Pope Leo for the Zoom call, highlights from NCYC included Mass with Bishop Joseph M. Siegel at St. John's Church and hearing Sister Miriam James' keynote talk, followed by Eucharistic adoration, Goebel said.

“We are incredibly blessed with so many faith-filled, dedicated ministers in our diocese,” Goebel said.

“There was a lot of work that went in to get these individuals signed up and for us to take a record-high number to NCYC this year. It was a team effort . . .

Because of the dedication of
See *NCYC*, page 5



Submitted photo

Thirty-four participants from Goretti Youth Ministry in Gibson County attend the National Catholic Youth Conference Nov. 20-22 in Indianapolis.

It all started at TEC

Editor's note: Members of the Teens Encounter Christ leadership team will periodically provide articles to The Message to share some of the impactful stories of how TEC has made a difference in lives across the Diocese of Evansville.

IT ALL STARTED WITH TEC
By JULIE LAGREE

Meet Shannon Walsh. She is the director of Project Xavier, an organization devoted to raising up local missionaries



Submitted photo

Shannon Walsh said her “incredible journey” of missionary work “all started at TEC.”

to share the Gospel in Asia, to serving the church in a place with significant challenges and accompanying Catholics on their faith journey. As a missionary on the front lines, she spent many years caring for medically fragile orphans, including running a hospice for terminally ill infants and helping women in crisis situations.

Shannon is from Newburgh, Indiana, and when asked how a girl from our little diocese was able to embark on such an incredible journey to make such a huge difference, Shannon's reply: “Well,

See *TEC*, page 8

Build Hope with Us: Construction begins on Jubilee Build



The Message photos by John Rohlf

Construction is underway for the diocesan Jubilee build. 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 in Evansville, in a neighborhood with several other Habitat houses. The diocese contributed \$50,000 for the build, with partnering parishes, schools and individuals contributing the additional funding. The Diocesan Jubilee Build and Ground-breaking was held Oct. 9. Organizers anticipate the home will be completed by spring 2026. See more photos on page 5.

