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Moore 'so grateful for the opportunity' funded through Lilly Fellowship

By JOHN ROHLF
The Message assistant editor

In a project funded through a Lilly Endowment Teacher Creativity Fellowship grant, a diocesan school principal completed a full Ironman triathlon.

Matt Moore, principal at Annunciation School at Christ the King in Evansville, was one of four diocesan educators to have a project funded through the Lilly Fellowship over the past grant cycle. He has spent over a decade as a principal in the diocese.

"This experience renewed me as a husband, father and school principal," Moore said. "It inspired my family, my students and even myself in ways I didn't expect. I hope now to pass that

inspiration on — to encourage others to set goals, work hard and find joy in the journey."

Inspired by overcoming obstacles in life, Moore trained for and completed a full Ironman triathlon. He completed the triathlon in October in Sacramento, California.

"It's still surprising and it's still surreal that I was able to do it and that I was able to accomplish it," Moore said. "I've got a magnet on my refrigerator at home that says 140.6. And I just see that, and it's still kind of like, you did what? It doesn't really seem real that I had that opportunity, was given that opportunity and was blessed with that opportunity."

See **MOORE**, page 5



Submitted photo

Matt Moore, principal at Annunciation School at Christ the King, is shown after completing 2025 IRONMAN California Oct. 19, in Sacramento.

Cardinals leave consistory with a clear vision from pontiff: 'A Church that cares'



OSV News photo by Simone Risoluti, Vatican Media

Pope Leo XIV holds up a pontifical medal, a gift to cardinals, as he holds a consistory with cardinals from around the world at the Vatican Jan. 8.

By PAULINA GUZIK
OSV News

VATICAN CITY (OSV News) — After an intense day of roundtable discussions, the "low-battered" but "very pleased" cardinals wrapped the first historic extraordinary consistory convened by Pope Leo XIV in a spirit of fraternity, with a sense of knowing each other better and saying they "discovered" the pope, while he did "more listening than talking." They left the consistory with a clear vision of the new pontiff for "a Church that cares."

Pope Leo intends to continue consistory discussions once a year, with the next consistory planned for the end of June and the following ones scheduled once a year, lasting 3-4 days, Matteo Bruni, director of the Holy See Press Office, confirmed.

The pope, according to Bruni, told cardinals Jan. 8 that the consistory is designed as a "continuity with what was requested during the cardinals' meetings before the conclave and also after the conclave," and that the synodal methodology used "was chosen to help them meet and get to know each other better."

See **CARDINALS**, page 5

Firing squad as new execution method draws serious concerns



By VICTORIA ARTHUR
Statehouse Correspondent for
Indiana's Catholic Newspapers

The Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC) is speaking out against legislation that aims to introduce death by firing squad as a new method of capital punishment in the state.

With the 2026 legislative session now underway at the Indiana Statehouse, the ICC acted quickly to oppose Senate Bill 11, stating that the additional execution method it proposes "only underscores the brutality and savagery" of the death penalty itself.

"When we commit violence against another man, we not only hurt him, but the image of God in him, which affects the humanity in us all," said Roarke LaCoursiere, ICC associate director, during a Jan. 6 hearing on the bill. "For this reason, killing someone, especially by firearm, should be resorted to in only the most necessary, life-threatening situations."

After reiterating the Catholic Church's opposition to the death penalty in any form, LaCoursiere told lawmakers that the provisions of Senate Bill 11 raise unique concerns because of the trauma they would inflict not only on the person facing execution, but on the individuals tasked with carrying them out.

The bill, authored by Sen. Mike Young (R-Indianapolis), proposes a five-member firing squad that would be composed of Indiana Department of Correction officers. Four of the officers would fire weapons using live ammunition, while one would fire a weapon containing a blank round, thus ensuring that no one would know who dealt the fatal shot.

"Even in instances where fatal force is used to save lives, people struggle with the long-lasting trauma that accompanies taking someone's life," LaCoursiere said during the hearing in the Senate Committee on Corrections and Criminal Law. "It goes against our God-given nature to do so. But under this bill, we would be asking five people to pull the trigger not for the purpose of saving life, but for the purpose of ending it."

Currently, Indiana law allows only lethal injection as a means of carrying out the death penalty. In presenting Senate Bill 11, Sen. Young argued that the high cost of the drugs involved along with their limited shelf life are complicating factors driving the need for an additional execution method.

Senate Bill 11 would authorize the death penalty to be carried out by firing squad if execution by lethal injection could not occur due to unavailability of the required drug, or if the condemned person requests it instead of lethal injection.

But one opponent of Senate Bill 11 described the proposed legislation as "a solution in search of a problem." Zach Stock, a representative of the Indiana Public Defender Council, told lawmakers that with only five people currently on death row in Indiana, obtaining the drugs to administer lethal injection should not be an issue.

"We don't need large quantities of drugs now,

See **ICC**, page 8