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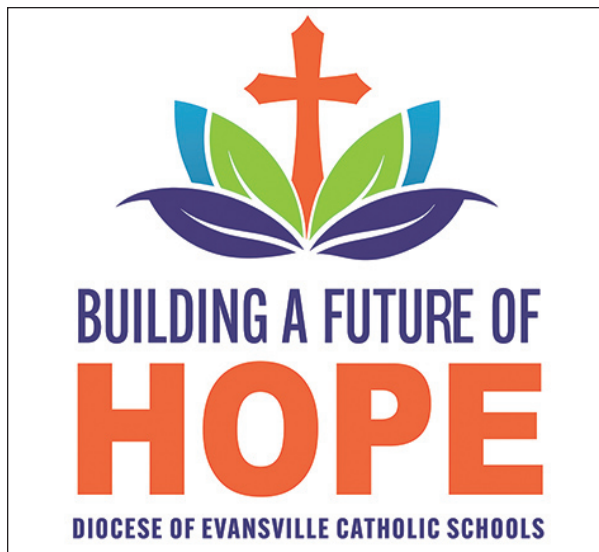
Catholic Schools — Building a Future of Hope

By MICHELLE PRIAR
Superintendent of Catholic Schools

Students and staff in our Catholic schools will be joining thousands of others as we celebrate National Catholic Schools Week next week, running from Jan. 25-30. It's a time of celebration and thanksgiving as we recognize the many gifts that a Catholic school provides to families and our community. We look forward to this annual event every year as we not only participate in fun activities but also take time to reflect on how Catholic schools are cornerstones for spiritual formation, academic rigor and character development.

Many of you know that each year, the Catholic Schools Office, along with administrators from our 26 schools, select a theme that we incorporate throughout the school year. When the late Pope Francis announced that the theme for the Jubilee Year 2025 would be Pilgrims of Hope, we thought it would be a unique opportunity to incorporate that into our school theme. We were inspired by our Holy Father's words about the enduring power of hope and how he urged the faithful to seek holiness and embrace Christ's peace. So, it seemed fitting for our 2025-2026 school year theme to be Building a Future of Hope.

This year, educators across our diocese have been a little more mindful and intentional about recog-



nizing the importance of instilling a sense of hope in our young people. It's an extremely valuable gift that we can give them. In fact, "Reasonable Hope," written by Dr. Kaethe Weingarten, Associate Clinical Professor of Psychology at the Harvard School of Medicine, has conducted research that shows that having a sense of hope can truly be transformative and can change the trajectory of a person's life in a very positive way.

I continue to be so inspired by the dedication and commitment of the faculty and staff in schools across our diocese as they have empowered stu-



dents to be hopeful about their future. Likewise, I continue to be inspired by our students. By their actions, they give me hope for my future. In them I see their desire to learn more about their faith, grow closer to God and understand how they are called to something greater; how they value and respect human life and dignity and stand up for what they believe is right; how they are aware of the larger world around them and want to contribute to making their communities a little better; and when thinking about career opportunities they want a job

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Homelessness, housing issues in the spotlight at the Statehouse

By VICTORIA ARTHUR
Statehouse Correspondent for Indiana's Catholic Newspapers

The Indiana Statehouse is again the center of debate over how to provide adequate housing for the most vulnerable Hoosiers, including the chronically homeless.

Advocates, including the Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC), are tracking two bills that take contrasting approaches to the issue — from cracking down on street camping in public places to building affordable housing on property owned by religious institutions.

"Legislators are coming from the perspective that it is not charitable to let people live on the street," said Roarke LaCoursiere, ICC associate director, the public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Indiana. "There are people who remain on the streets who refuse services or for whatever reason cannot muster up what it takes to do what others believe is the right thing for them to do. So how can we engage with these people? How can we try to help them better their lives and restore their dignity?"

"That is the goal of these types of bills, but how to meet that goal is something that people strongly disagree about."

Senate Bill 285, which brings back language from a failed attempt last year to prohibit



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Lismore: Trip through Lilly Fellowship 'impacting my practice every day'



WILLIAM LISMORE

By JOHN ROHLF
The Message assistant editor

Reitz Memorial High School teacher William Lismore said his recent trip to England funded through the Lilly Fellowship helped him understand historical contexts and build that into his classes and a new extracurricular club, The Scriptorian.

Funded through the Lilly Endowment Teacher Creativity Grant, Lismore returned to his homeland of England to experience the literary and lexicographical landmarks of Oxford and London and reunite with family. The six-week trip included two weeks in London, just under two weeks in Oxford and two weeks at home to reflect on the entire trip.

Lismore said after the trip, he started



Submitted photo

William Lismore's wife, Anna, a math teacher at Reitz Memorial, and their children are shown beside the ruins of Bolingbroke Castle, the birthplace of King Henry IV.

appreciating history in general more. It has formed a serious part of his freshman English classes, he said.

He said they also now have an extracurricular club at Reitz Memorial called The Scriptorian, which researches the history of Evansville's Reitz

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