

The MESSAGE

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Chrism
Mass

is
March 31

Special to The Message

Bishop Joseph M. Siegel will celebrate the Diocese of Evansville's 2026 Chrism Mass at 5:30 p.m. CDT March 31 at St. Benedict Cathedral in Evansville. At this Mass, the holy oils used throughout the year will be blessed and consecrated, and the priests of the diocese will make a public renewal of their priestly promises to serve Christ and the Church. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will also be available before Mass.

All are invited to attend, show your support for the service of our priests, and pray together as a diocese in those holy days leading up to Easter.

Source + Summit offers youth 'a really unique opportunity'



Source + Summit attendees and their families fill Mater Dei High School for Mass.



The Message photos by John Rohlf
Source + Summit attendees shake hands during Mass March 15 at Mater Dei High School.

By JOHN ROHLF
The Message assistant editor

Hundreds of youth from across the Diocese of Evansville attended the 2026

Source + Summit retreat. Hosted March 13-15 at Mater Dei High School in Evansville, the annual retreat celebrated 25 years in the diocese. Mary Shetler, a member of the

Source + Summit team, said the retreat is first and foremost a Eucharistic retreat. She said the hope is for the children to encounter Christ in a deep

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Pope Leo names former Rector of St. Benedict Cathedral as Bishop of Belleville Diocese

Special to The Message

Editor's note: OSV News and The Message Staff contributed to this report.

VATICAN CITY (OSV News) — On March 13, the Vatican announced Pope Leo XIV's appointment of Father Godfrey Mullen, a Benedictine monk,

as the new bishop of Belleville, Illinois. Bishop-elect Mullen will become the 10th bishop of the Diocese of Belleville.

The see of the Diocese of Belleville has been vacant since its former bishop, now-Archbishop Michael G. McGovern, was installed as archbishop of Omaha, Nebraska, in May 2025.

Bishop-elect Mullen, 60, is a monk of St. Meinrad Archabbey in Indiana and current administrator of the Diocese of Belleville.

Before returning to the Diocese of Belle-

ville, his home diocese, in 2022, Bishop-elect Mullen served the Diocese of Evansville for 10 years, with nine of those years as rector of St. Benedict Cathedral in Evansville.

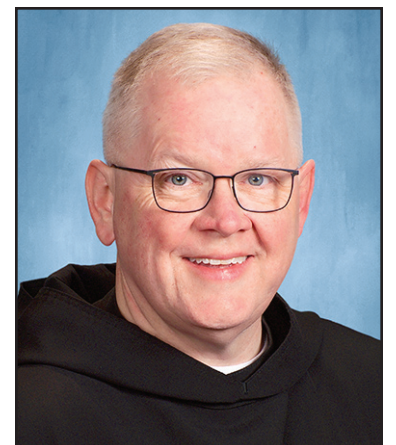
Bishop Joseph M. Siegel and the people of the Diocese of Evansville offer their heartfelt congratulations and prayerful best wishes to Bishop-elect Godfrey Mullen, former rector of St. Benedict Cathedral, on his appointment by Pope Leo XIV to shepherd the Diocese of Belleville.

"We pray that the Lord will richly bless him and his ministry in that local Church,"

Bishop Siegel said.

During his time with the Diocese of Evansville, Bishop-elect Mullen served as rector of St. Benedict Cathedral for nine years. He also served as pastor of St. Mary Church in Huntingburg; priest delegate to Reitz Memorial High School in Evansville; Dean of the South Deanery; administrator of St. Clement Parish in Boonville; and administrator, Pro Tempore of Resurrection Parish in Evansville.

Bishop-elect Mullen was born Jan. 22, 1966, in Salem, Illinois. He studied at St. Meinrad, where he received a bachelor's degree in history (1988),



**BISHOP-ELECT
GODFREY MULLEN**

a master's degree in theology (1991), and a master of divinity (1994); and he received a doctorate in liturgical studies from The Catholic University of America in Washington (2003).

See **BELLEVILLE**, page 2

Bishop Siegel dedicates altar, blesses oratory at UE Newman Center

Bishop Joseph M. Siegel celebrated Mass March 16 at the new chapel, now the Oratory of St. Pier Giorgio Frassatti, at the University of Evansville's Newman Center. During the Mass, Bishop Siegel dedicated the altar and blessed the Oratory of St. Pier Giorgio Frassatti. In 2025, the Catholic Foundation of Southwestern Indiana provided a grant to renovate the upstairs of the Newman Center at the University of Evansville, converting it from an apartment to a chapel. We will have a full story in the March 27 issue of The Message.

The Message photo by John Rohlf

