



## Arabia receives grant through Lilly Endowment

By JOHN ROHLF  
The Message assistant editor

One Diocese of Evansville educator was recently approved for a grant through the Lilly Endowment.

Maggie Arabia, a teacher at Holy Rosary School in Evansville for nearly two decades and in the Diocese of Evansville for almost 30 years, was recently announced as a recipient of a grant through the Lilly Endowment's 2026 Teacher Creativity Fellowship Program. The program supports K-12 educators throughout Indiana by providing resources for them to take time for meaningful renewal.

Arabia's project is "Rediscovering Overlooked Women Scientists: A Journey to Inspire and Reinvigorate Myself." The renewal project includes trips to the Rosalind Franklin sites in London, England; to Mary Anning sites in Lyme Regis,

UK; to Marie Curie sites in Paris, France; and to Lise Meitner sites in Vienna, Austria. The sites include several museums and a guided fossil walk in Lyme Regis, among other stops.

"After decades of caregiving through illness and loss, I seek to be renewed by following in the footsteps of women scientists like Franklin, Curie, Anning and Meitner," Arabia said in the grant proposal. "Their resilience reflects my own. This journey will restore my spirit, celebrate health and transform how I inspire students."

Arabia said in the past several years of the grant cycle, it "became more obvious that teachers in the diocese were getting these grants." In the



MAGGIE ARABIA

past two grant cycles, seven Diocese of Evansville educators were awarded grants through the Lilly Endowment.

"I have a lot of background things going on right now

with my family," Arabia said. "I tend to be very involved in everything at the school and I tend to put a lot of other things first. I put my kids first, my husband first, my family first, my students first. And I was kind of just getting myself worn down a little bit . . . I don't want to put myself first. It feels very selfish. But then on the other hand, I thought maybe I do need (this renewal)."

Joining Arabia on the trip will be her husband, who currently has stage four colon cancer. In her application, Arabia said this trip funded through the Lilly Endowment would allow them to reconnect outside of hospital rooms,

share moments of joy and create lasting memories, which would strengthen her personally and the way she teaches and connects with her students.

"We expect that we're going to be able to always keep the cancer at bay, and that we're going to use this whack a mole method where we're going to take care of it and that kind of thing," Arabia said. "But why wait to experience life outside of a hospital room, which we've spent a lot of time in a hospital room . . . We've been married over 30 years, and we've been best friends. And I want to spend time with my husband in quality ways . . ."

In her application, Arabia said the project, at its core, is "a long-overdue commitment" to herself.

"It is a chance to step away from a life of constant crisis, to

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## Evansville Knights of Columbus Councils receive K of C State Community Service Award

Special to The Message

In April, the Knights of Columbus Councils in Evansville received the State Community Service Award at the 2026 Knights of Columbus Indiana State Convention in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The "Faith in Action" award was given for their efforts with the Friday Knights

Hunger Bowl, which has raised nearly \$170,000 since its inception nine years ago.

This project is not for one council, one school, one parish or just the Catholic community, Knight Mark Hackert of St. Benedict Cathedral Council 7544 explained; rather, it's for the entire Evansville community. It may have started as a project with a couple of people involved, but Hackert said it has evolved into an annual event that people across all areas look forward to supporting each year. Through the many years and many prayers, he continued, they are able to help feed the hungry more and more each year.

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Submitted photo

Pictured receiving the "Faith in Action" State Community Service Award for 2026 at the Knights of Columbus Indiana State Convention in April in Fort Wayne, Indiana, are Gil Spisak, left, Indiana State Deputy; Steve Jung, Council 565; Jim Dohogne, Council 8746; John Sandwell, Auxillio 15464 and Friday Knights Hunger Bowl founder; Mark Tuley, Princeton 1131; Mark Hackert, St. Benedict Cathedral 7544 and co-chair Friday Knights Hunger Bowl; Bill Oakley, St. John the Baptist 8746; Paul Malone, St. Clement 10257; Dan Deters, St. Clement 10257; and David Negret, State Program Director, Crown Point 1014.

## New downtown Indy Women's Care Center is part of 'God's perfect timing'

By NATALIE HOEFER  
The Criterion,  
Archdiocese of Indianapolis  
Special to The Message

Krystan was nine weeks pregnant when she and her mother visited the Women's

Care Center (WCC) in Indianapolis.

"I didn't know if I wanted to keep (my baby)," says Krystan, whose last name is withheld for privacy.

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Photo by Natalie Hoefler, Special to The Message

The new Women's Care Center in downtown Indianapolis will have a Crib Club baby store, like this one at the Women's Care Center on the northwest side of Indianapolis, where moms can use coupons earned through visits and classes to select new items for their baby.

