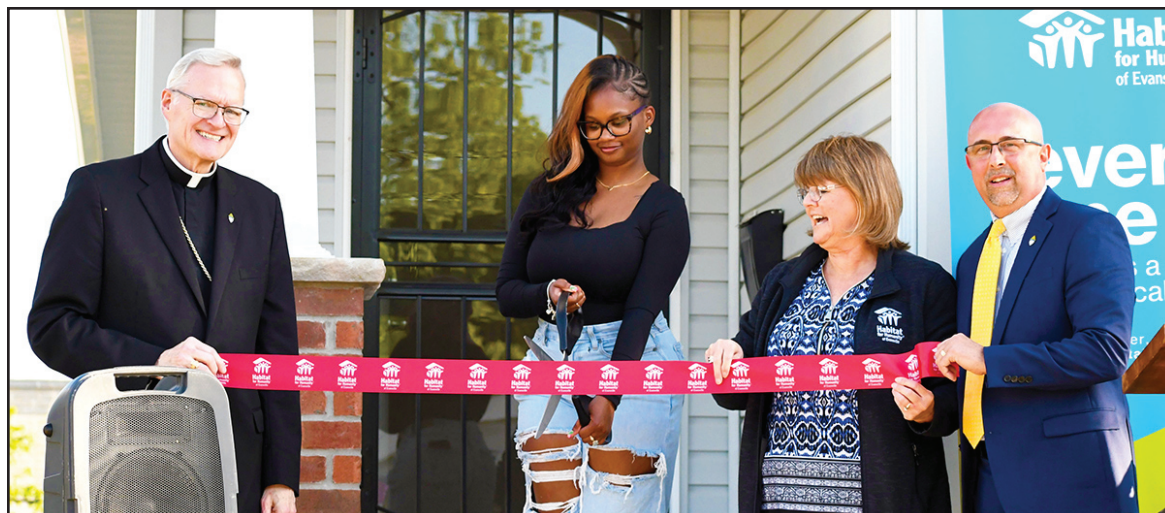




Diocese, Habitat celebrate completion of home build



Diocesan Chancellor and COO Dean Happe, left, gives the keys to new homeowner Mi'Kyla during the blessing and dedication May 7 in Evansville.



The Message photos by John Rohlf
Homeowner Mi'Kyla, second from left, prepares to cut the ribbon as Bishop Joseph M. Siegel, far left, Habitat for Humanity Executive Director Beth Folz, second from right, and Diocesan Chancellor and COO Dean Happe hold the ribbon.

By JOHN ROHLF
The Message assistant editor

A May 7 blessing and dedication of a new home in Evansville marked the culmination of the Diocese of Evansville's partnership with Habitat for Humanity of Evansville to build a home for a family in need.

The blessing and dedication of the home, which is

in the CHAIN neighborhood in Evansville, was held nearly seven months after the Oct. 9, 2025, ground-breaking.

At the May 7 dedication, new homeowner Mi'Kyla thanked the Diocese of Evansville for sponsoring the home and giving her the ability to have a place to call home for her and her child. She also thanked the members of the Habitat office for helping her

throughout the process in any way, shape or form.

She said it was "a great process and journey" that she enjoyed.

"I'm very thankful for all of you guys and all of your contributions in any way, shape and form," Mi'Kyla said. "And I can't say thank you enough. And I am highly blessed and I am just forever grateful."

See [HABITAT](#), page 5

Faith leaders, community members celebrate National Day of Prayer

By JOHN ROHLF
The Message assistant editor

Faith leaders from nearly a dozen religious organizations joined the public May 7 for the 75th National Day of Prayer.

The annual interfaith observance of National Day of Prayer was May 7 at Four Freedoms Monument in Evansville. The tradition of calling our nation to a day of prayer to God has been held on the first Thursday of May each year

since 1988. The theme of this year's National Day of Prayer observance was Psalm 46:2: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

City of Evansville Mayor Stephanie Terry read the proclamation prior to various faith leaders delivering their individualized prayers.

"This is one of my favorite events of the year because I know that I'm nothing without him," Mayor Terry said. "So I'm so grateful to be here with you today and to bring you this proclamation."

The proclamation declared May 7 as National Day of Prayer in the City of



The Message photo by John Rohlf
See [PRAYER](#), page 5 Faith leaders participate in prayer during National Day of Prayer.



Congratulations, Bishop Godfrey!

Bishop Joseph M. Siegel, left, lays his hands on Bishop-elect Godfrey Mullen during his ordination and installation Mass as the 10th bishop of the Diocese of Belleville, Illinois, on May 1 at the Cathedral of St. Peter. Benedictine Bishop Godfrey Mullen is a monk of St. Meinrad Archabbey in Indiana. Before returning to the Diocese of Belleville, his home diocese, in 2022, Bishop Godfrey served the Diocese of Evansville for 10 years, with nine of those years as rector of St. Benedict Cathedral in Evansville.



Above, processing out of the Cathedral of St. Peter after the May 1 ordination and installation Mass for Bishop Godfrey are Archbishop Charles C. Thompson of Indianapolis, left, Bishop Godfrey, back middle, and Bishop Siegel.

Photos by Krista Hall, Special to The Message

For a list of 2026 parish summer socials across the diocese, see page 8.