



The MESSAGE

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The Message photo by Megan Erbacher

Administrators of Diocesan Catholic schools gather at Catholic Center

Administrators from the 26 Catholic schools of the Diocese of Evansville gather for a group photo outside the Catholic Center in Evansville on Aug. 18. They met a couple of weeks after welcoming students for the 2026-2027 school year. Schools across the diocese returned for their first class days Aug. 5, 6 and 12. Bishop Joseph M. Siegel celebrated the diocese's annual back-to-school Mass Aug. 4 at St. Benedict Cathedral in Evansville.

Deacon Barry: Helping God's people is 'pretty important work'

By JOHN ROHLF
The Message assistant editor

Editor's note: Over the past couple of months, we conducted interviews with the newly ordained permanent deacons shortly before or shortly after the Aug. 8 ordination. Over the next few months, we will publish stories in *The Message* in the order the interviews were conducted. We will also post video from our interviews on our Facebook and YouTube pages.

See [DEACON](#), page 5



The Message photo by Megan Erbacher
Bishop Siegel ordains Deacon Pete Barry as a deacon.

Running for a Higher Purpose: The Race for Vocations enters year three

Special to The Message

The Race for Vocations originally began in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, running alongside the Indianapolis Mini-Marathon. Years ago, Father Tyler Tenbarge, Diocesan Director of Vocations, and Anna Bragin both participated in the Indianapolis event. After later relocating to the Evansville area, Anna connected with Father Alex Zenthoefer, who encouraged her to be a visible witness to the faith. Inspired by his encouragement, Anna felt called to bring the initiative to her new community.

In 2024, Nick and Anna Bragin, with the support of Father Zenthoefer and the staff of St. Benedict Cathedral, officially launched the Race for Vocations in the Diocese of Evansville. Held annually each October in conjunction with the Evansville Half Marathon and 5 Miler, which is scheduled for Oct. 3 this year, the event was created to encourage prayer for voca-



Submitted photo

A group poses for a photo after completing the Race for Vocations in 2024.

tions while providing a vibrant public witness to the Catholic faith.

As the Bragins explain: "We invite everyone to learn more about the Race for Vocations and about our individual call to holiness, as well as our shared responsibility to support vocations as a path to true happiness and holiness. As we train, pray and reflect together, we strengthen our physical, spiritual and mental well-being. Join us in running, praying and training, or visit evansvillevocations.org/race-for-vocations to register, receive updates, donate or volunteer. You don't have to be a runner or walker to be involved!"

See [RACE](#), page 2