The MESSAGE

Southwestern Indiana's Catholic Community Newspaper

Becoming One WITH CHRIST

Encounter + Deepen + Engage

October 30, 2026 | Volume 57, Number 9 | www.evdiomessage.org

Pope Leo needs 'no further treatment' following lung cancer surgery

VATICAN CITY (OSV News) — Pope Leo XIV needs "no further treatment" following his Oct. 13 surgery for lung cancer, his doctors have confirmed. In an Oct. 21 message, the Holy See Press Office announced that Drs. Luigi Carbone and Stefano Margaritora said "the final histological examinations and molecular biology tests on the material removed" during the surgery confirmed the tumor was a "localized lung adenocarcinoma." The doctors said that "subsequent oncological evaluation confirmed that no further treatment is necessary."

On Oct. 23, Pope Leo XIV canceled a planned Oct. 27 helicopter trip to Assisi on his doctors' advice as he continues recovering. Doctors reported a follow-up chest X-ray showed "excellent" progress and no further cancer treatment is needed, but recommended avoiding travel as a precaution. The pontiff had been scheduled to join Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew and international religious leaders at the annual interreligious peace meeting organized by the Community of Sant'Egidio. This year's gathering marks the 40th anniversary of St. John Paul II's historic 1986 World Day of Prayer for Peace. Although he cannot travel, the Vatican said Pope Leo would send a message "to the organizers, leaders and representatives of Christian denominations and religions," as well as to those attending the meeting. The pope's message will emphasize his conviction that "the 'Spirit of Assisi,' dialogue and the search for words and gestures of peace are precious resources in an age of conflict," the Vatican said.

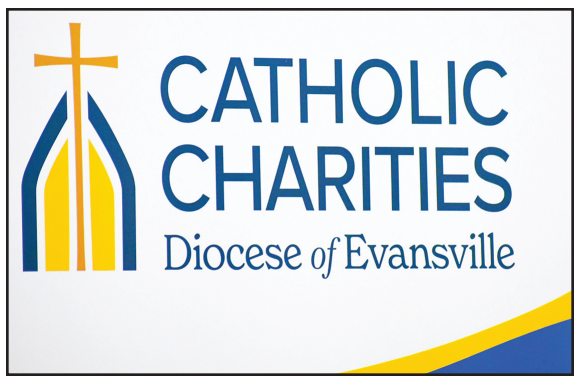
'An exciting new chapter for Catholic Charities'

By JOHN ROHLF
The Message assistant editor

Catholic Charities Diocese of Evansville's recent open house marked "an exciting new chapter for Catholic Charities within the Diocese of Evansville," Executive Director Denise Seibert Townsend said.

Catholic Charities Diocese of Evansville hosted an open house Oct. 22, during which they unveiled their new logo and announced their brand new website, as well as Facebook and Instagram pages.

During the program at the beginning of the open house, Seibert Townsend said Catholic Charities Diocese of Evansville wanted opportunities to enhance their awareness and branding, while also enhancing their Catholic identity. While there are many ways they plan to do this in the coming years, the new logo, branding and website are some of the first steps, she said.



The Message photos by John Rohlf

Catholic Charities Diocese of Evansville unveiled a new logo during the Oct. 22 open house.

DENISE SEIBERT TOWNSEND

"Our new logo reflects Catholic Charities' identity and the people we are called to serve," Seibert Townsend said. "It represents connection, compassion and commitment to walking alongside our neighbors during times of need. This refreshed identity gives us a more consistent and recognizable way to share Catholic Charities' story, while honoring the faith and values that guide our work,"

As with their new logo, Seibert Townsend said, they are also excited to launch their completely redesigned website. The new website was created to make it easier for individuals and families to find help, learn about their

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Deacon Durchholz: Cursillo weekend 'changed the whole trajectory of my entire life'

By JOHN ROHLF
The Message assistant editor

Editor's note: *Over the past few 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.*

Deacon Jerry Durchholz said he can "honestly say I never thought about being a deacon" prior to entering the 2026 permanent diaconate class.

Deacon Durchholz, who is assigned to Good Shepherd Parish in Evansville, is one of 16 men who were ordained to the permanent diaconate during the Rite of Ordination to the Sacred Order of Deacon Aug. 8 at St. Benedict Cathedral in Evansville.

Deacon Durchholz said he never really thought about the permanent diaconate before entering the 2026 permanent diaconate class. He said back in 2022, about two or three months before classes began for the 2026 permanent diaconate class, he was asked on two separate occasions if he had considered being a deacon. On one occasion, he was

*See **DEACON**, page 5*

The Message photo by Megan Erbacher

Deacon Jerry Durchholz, *left*, places his hands on the Book of Gospels during the Rite of Ordination to the Sacred Order of Deacon Aug. 8 at St. Benedict Cathedral in Evansville.

Traveling 'Immigrant Crosses' memorial of ICE-involved deaths launches in Illinois

By SIMONE ORENDAIN
OSV News

FRANKLIN PARK, Ill. (OSV News) — In Chicago's western suburb of Franklin Park, Dominican Father Brendan Curran tidied a makeshift memorial. A wooden cross painted white with black lettered decals marked with the words "nunca olvidado" and "never forgotten" stood next to a decorated white poster board with the handwritten name of Silverio Villegas González.

The memorial is a block east of where Villegas, a 38-year-old father of two, was shot and killed in an Immigration and Customs Enforcement operation Sept. 12, 2025. This was in the early days of the Trump Administration's forceful crackdown in the Chicago area — called Operation Midway Blitz — on people alleged to lack legal authorization to live in the United States. On Oct. 8, 2026,

*See **RESPECT**, page 8*