

Annual Right to Life Banquet: Legacy of Life

Many faithful from the Diocese of Evansville attend the 2026 Right to Life of Southwest Indiana's Annual Banquet Aug. 20 at the Old National Events Plaza in Evansville. This year's theme was "Legacy of Life: Past, Present & Future." The keynote speaker was Kayleigh McEnany.



Submitted photo



Submitted photo courtesy of Alyssa Dardeen

Pro-life advocates fill Old National Events Plaza Aug. 20 as they listen to keynote speaker Kayleigh McEnany during the annual Right to Life of Southwest Indiana Banquet. The annual banquet is reported to be one of the nation's largest pro-life banquets.

Race

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Now heading into its third year, the Race for Vocations is excited to welcome back returning participants and greet a whole new group of team members. The initiative challenges participants to prepare both spiritually and physically as they train. Throughout their preparation, participants pray intentionally for vocations, share prayer intentions with one another and unite their physical sacrifices for the flourishing of their own vocations and those of others.

Ultimately, the event beautifully reflects the words of Pope Benedict XVI: "Each of you has a personal vocation which He has given you for your own growth and holiness."

How to Get Involved

The community is invited to participate, with opportunities for both youth and adult athletes, as well as non-runners who wish to offer spiritual support. Joining the team requires a two-step registration process: first sign up for your athletic event, and then officially join the Race for Vocations team.

For Youth Participants: Children can choose between two exciting events. They can register for the Deaconess Aquatic Center Kids Triathlon on Sept. 12 by visiting swimevansville.org/upcoming-events, or sign up for the YMCA Kids Dash on Sept. 19 at evansvillehalfmarathon.org/races.

For Adult Participants: Runners and walkers can sign up to tackle either the Evansville 5 Miler or the full Half Marathon on Oct. 3 by registering at evansvillehalfmarathon.org/races.

Join the Team: After securing a race spot, all participants should register with the official team at <https://savio.flocknote.com/signup/>

265063 to claim a free team t-shirt. Wearing the diocesan shirt on race day helps the team represent the mission with pride and sparks meaningful community conversations about holy vocations.

Prayer and Fellowship Events

The Race for Vocations extends well beyond the racecourse with two signature community events:

Mass and Pasta Supper: Team members will gather at St. Benedict Cathedral at 5:30 p.m. CDT Oct. 1 for Holy Mass followed by a pasta dinner. Participants can also pick up their team shirts at this time before the weekend events.

Celebration Tailgate: Following the main races on Oct. 3, friends, family and participants are invited to gather for a celebratory tailgate at Sts. Mary and John Church, conveniently located close to the official finish line.

A Collective Journey of Faith

Whether you sign up your child and start the conversation about what their vocation could be, choose to offer up your training for your future spouse or hit the pavement to run in support of your parishioners — we are all individually called to a unique vocation and collectively responsible for supporting one another along the way. Walk or run with us, physically or spiritually, as we strive for happiness and holiness in the Race for Vocations!

10th Annual Friday Knights Hunger Bowl returns Sept. 11

Special to The Message

The 10th Annual Friday Knights Hunger Bowl returns with a 6:30 p.m. CDT kick-off on Sept. 11 at the F.J. Reitz Bowl in Evansville. The evening features a spirited match-up between the Reitz Memorial High School Tigers and the Mater Dei High School Wildcats to benefit a great cause: the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry.



The Hunger Bowl raises vital funds for the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry in Evansville, an emergency food distribution center. Over the past nine years, the community has raised more than \$160,000 through efforts of area Catholic schools, the 10 local Knights of Columbus councils, Columbietes Auxiliary, as well as donations at the football game and from the community.

This year, organizers have a goal to raise an additional \$40,000.

Ten years ago, the Hunger Bowl was born when Knight John Sandwell of Auxilio Knights of Columbus Council 16454 was inspired after reading about a similar event in Florida. What began as a small fundraiser, bringing in roughly \$3,500 the first year, has now grown into a major community effort, thanks to ongoing collaboration between local K of C councils, Catholic schools and community supporters.

For more information on the Knights of Columbus and the Hunger Bowl, contact Mark Hackert by email at mhackert76@gmail.com or John Sandwell by email at johnjudysandwell@gmail.com.

Visit the group's Facebook page at facebook.com/FridayKnightsHungerBowl.

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