

My Dear Co-Pilgrims on the Eucharistic Journey,

At the beginning, when the Bishops and organizers came together as one to ask the question: why a National Eucharistic Congress? The practical answer to that was to bring our Catholic family together to experience a profound, a personal renewal through the power of Christ's love. Like a new Pentecost, this transformation will flow out from Indianapolis to bring revival in our communities as the Church returns to her first love—the source and summit of our faith: The Holy Eucharist. Did the Congress do what it is supposed to accomplish - I ask on this final day of the congress. The faithful's response is a resounding "YES"!

Tim Glemkowski, asked in his speech: Why did Jesus want a National Eucharistic Congress to happen in the US Church? And he simply answered this question: "for YOU!" - He called you and me by name. The Lord calls each one of us - no matter where we are - to be with him, to walk with him. And He appoints you and me to a mission of revival - a revival of our zeal for Him and for the accomplishment of the mission of the Church. The Lord is after your heart and my heart - especially in our broken-heartedness, our discouragements, our doubts and fears. Why a National Eucharistic Congress? Because He wants to be with His Church in America; He has come for YOU.

We participate in this pilgrimage of faith with the Lord, albeit virtually because the Lord wants to be with you and in your life and mine - He comes ultimately to be adored and received worthily and with love through the Sacrament of UNION - the Holy Eucharist.

The theme of the last and fifth day of the National Eucharistic Congress is "To the Ends of the Earth". We started this journey, "from the Four Corners" of North America, and we are called to continue our journey "To the Ends of the Earth". The Lord, after being with them, after living, walking, praying, teaching and breaking bread with them, send them to GO - Go to the Ends of the Earth! Who we are and have is the Eucharistic Lord to sustain us for His Mission!

In his words, Pope Francis emphasized the Eucharist as a call for us to embark on missionary journeys, spreading the message of the Father's tenderness, forgiveness, and mercy to every individual. Throughout history, the Church has been empowered by the Holy Spirit to reach the farthest corners of the world, sharing the joyful news of the Gospel.

As we stand at the culmination of this Congress, we will receive the commission to go forth into the world as missionary disciples. This marks the commencement of the third year of the National Eucharistic Revival, known as the Year of Mission.

Are you ready to be with Lord in the Eucharist? Are you prepared to embark on an adventure worth living for? Are you ready to respond to the Lord's calling to be missionary disciples of Jesus Christ in our own life-journey as a family of faith?

I am privileged to journey as a pilgrim with you. God's blessings to us all.

Your parish priest,
Fr JC Merino









