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PERPETUAL
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



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Issue 19 - October 2024

Dear Adorers, welcome to the spring issue of our Perpetual Adoration Newsletter. In this newsletter I have highlighted various aspects of the 10th National Eucharistic Congress held in the United States in August this year. This event gathered over 60,000 people over four days. From all accounts it was a remarkable, powerful and moving event.

You will know of Bishop Michael's recent announcement that the name of the new Cathedral will be the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. Bishop Michael has also indicated his desire to have the Perpetual Adoration Chapel located at the new Cathedral. Recently I have been contacting Cathedrals around the world that also have a Perpetual Adoration Chapel for their wisdom and advice.

2025 is a Jubilee Year in the Catholic Church with the theme – 'pilgrims of hope'. Lots of resources will be coming out soon for schools and parishes. One of the exciting events we hope to hold next year is a Eucharistic Procession on the feast of Corpus Christi from the Perpetual Adoration Chapel to Marian College where there will be a special Holy Hour for all that wish to come. More details will be coming in the new year.

I have often written of the need for more overnight rostered adorers, and those who can sub, for the chapel. It is starting to get critical that we find more people who can adore overnight. There have nearly been a couple of occasions where we were about to close the chapel for some hours overnight because of the struggle to find subs. Fortunately we did find subs at the last minute but it won't be far away from happening if we can't find more subs. Please pray for more overnight adorers.

Christmas is only a couple of months away and I will soon be getting to work on filling gaps for those who go away. If you are able to help with extra hours, please do let me know. It is also a good time to invite others to help out. Every year we pick up new rostered adorers after people offer to help out over the Christmas Break.

Thanks for all you do, please keep me and your leaders in your prayers .

Matt O'Connell

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INTERCESSORS WANTED TO PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

Request

In this Diocese it has long been the tradition to pray for priests, seminarians and for vocations to the priesthood every Thursday. Earlier in the year, Bishop Michael has asked us to reinstate this practice every Thursday. I am wanting to establish an intercessory prayer group that comes together for an hour on a Thursday in the adoration chapel to pray for vocations to the priesthood.

The example of a tiny Italian village called Lu Monferrato in northern Italy is hugely inspiring for us. In 1881, the mothers of this little village of a few thousand inhabitants began to gather each Tuesday afternoon for Eucharistic adoration to ask the Lord for vocations. They would pray together, "O God, grant that one of my sons may become a priest! I myself want to live as a good Christian and want to guide my children always to do what is right, so that I may receive the grace, O God, to be allowed to give you a holy priest! Amen!" That prayer, and their fervent desire for vocations, bore more fruit than any of them could have ever imagined. In the span of a few decades, this one village parish produced 152 priestly vocations and 171 religious women to 41 different congregations.

The most famous example is the Rinaldi family, from whom God called seven children. Two daughters became Salesian sisters, both of whom were sent to San Domingo as courageous, pioneer missionaries. Five sons became priests, all joining the Salesians. The most well-known of the Rinaldi brothers is Blessed Philip Rinaldi, who became the third successor of St. John Bosco as Superior General of the Salesians. Pope John Paul II beatified him on April 29, 1990

Every ten years, the priests and sisters born in Lu come together from all around the world. Fr. Mario Meda, the long-serving parish priest of Lu, explained that this reunion is a true celebration, a feast of thanksgiving to God who has done such great things for Lu. The unique picture below is in the historical record of the Catholic Church. From 1 to 4 September 1946, the majority of the 323 priests and religious met in their village of Lu for a reunion which attracted world-wide attention.

If you are interested in praying for vocations to the Priesthood on a Thursday for an hour, please contact me.



‘THE BISHOP OF THE ABANDONED TABERNACLE’ ST. MANUEL GONZÁLEZ GARCÍA

People who attended the recent National Eucharistic Congress in the United States “heard the story of St. Manuel González García (1877-1940), a little-known saint who passionately urged people to recognize the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist and to never leave him abandoned in the tabernacle”, in a homily by Bishop Colacicco. The following is part of the homily from the National Catholic Register.

“Born in Seville, Spain, in 1877, St Manuel González was ordained a priest in 1901. He arrived at his first assignment to find that the tabernacle was ignored and the parish church neglected. St. Manuel wrote in his journal: “My faith was looking at Jesus through the door of that tabernacle, so silent, so patient, so good, gazing right back at me. ... His gaze was telling me much and asking for more. It was a gaze in which all the sadness of the Gospels was reflected.” “For me, this turned out to be the starting point — to see, understand, and feel what would consume the whole of my priestly ministry. On that afternoon, I saw that my priesthood would consist of a work of which I had never before dreamt. All my illusions about the kind of priest I would be vanished. I found myself to be a priest of a town that didn’t love Jesus, and I would have to love him in the name of everybody in that town,”.

“Father González devoted himself untiringly to loving the Eucharistic Lord with such intensity and devotion that others were drawn to that once-abandoned tabernacle, Bishop Colacicco explained. He founded schools, an order of sisters, preached missions and was ordained a bishop.

After his episcopal ordination in Seville, he said: **“I desire that in my life as a bishop, as before in my life as a priest, my soul should not grieve except for one sorrow which is the greatest of all, the abandonment of the tabernacle, and that it should rejoice for one joy, the tabernacle, which does not lack company.**” On his tomb in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel of Palencia Cathedral, it is written: “I ask to be buried next to a tabernacle, so that my bones after my death, like my tongue and my pen in life, may always be repeating to those who pass by: ‘Jesus is here! Jesus is here! Do not leave him abandoned!’” “Bishop Manuel teaches us that the very first thing we do is fall on our knees in front of the tabernacle and simply love Jesus who dwells within,” Bishop Colacicco said.

“It is our fervent prayer that our love for Jesus present in the Blessed Sacrament will be increased and be strengthened,” he said. **“And when we leave this place and return to our homes, please God, may our love ignite a fire in the hearts of others that they may come to know, love and serve our Eucharistic Lord.”**

EXPERIENCING REVIVAL AT THE EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS-1

“Recently, a significant moment happened in the life of the American Church—the Tenth National Eucharistic Congress. Several years ago, some studies indicated that faith in the true presence of Jesus in the Eucharist was very low, even among practicing Catholics. More recent studies have raised questions about the accuracy of those statistics; nonetheless, the bishops recognized that there was a crisis of faith within the Church. In response, the US bishops, at the suggestion of Bishop Andrew Cozzens, agreed to a three-year plan for a Eucharistic Revival with a Eucharistic Congress in the second year. Eucharistic Congresses were relatively popular in the early nineteenth and twentieth centuries but then stopped in the US due to World War II. It had been over eighty years since the American Church came together for this event.

The event was scheduled in Indianapolis, with the hope that tens of thousands of people would participate. Along the way, there was a lot of skepticism, curiosity, and hope regarding the event. I want to share what I saw the Lord doing at the Eucharistic Congress, because it was an unexpected but remarkable five days. This Congress was framed within the context of a Eucharistic Revival. Revival is God’s idea; He pours out grace in a particular time and place for an explosion of faith. At the Congress, I saw elements of authentic revival.

First, Jesus is at the center of any revival—and I saw that in Indianapolis. The Congress began in an unbelievable manner. Nearly fifty-thousand people were in the stadium for the opening night. There was a festive atmosphere with music, and they honored the four Eucharistic pilgrimages that had processed with the Blessed Sacrament across the country for sixty straight days. Then, the lights went out and a spotlight revealed Bishop Cozzens coming out of the tunnel underneath the stadium holding a monstrance with the Blessed Sacrament. He brought Jesus to the center of the stadium, enthroned Him on an altar, knelt in front of Him, and said that the Eucharistic Congress is all about Jesus and we would give Jesus the first word at his Congress. Bishop Cozzens asked, “What is Jesus going to say to you right now?” For several minutes, the entire stadium was silent in adoration. It was clear that this Congress was going to be different—that Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament was the center point. Everything throughout the Congress pointed back to Him—the talks, the moments of prayer, and Adoration. The last day culminated with a Eucharistic procession through the streets of Indianapolis, with tens of thousands of people marching together. The procession concluded at the war memorial in the center of the city. Jesus was placed on an altar, and we and worshiped Him in the heart of a major American city. Unbelievable grace was released.

EXPERIENCING REVIVAL AT THE EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS-2

The second element of revival is repentance. For the first two-and-a-half days, the theme was, “We need to repent. We need to get down on our knees and cry out to God to heal us, to forgive us, to save us.” In her talk, Sister Josephine Garrett looked at all the different constituencies there—the bishops, priests, religious, and lay people—and with a warm, loving, but iron-sharp word, she said we all need to repent with hope and love. Repentance is at the core of this because it’s a crying out, a recognition that we need a saviour, and his name is Jesus.

Third, revival is always marked by consistent, abundant, faithful prayer. It’s travelling prayer that says, “We’re not going to stop praying until you move, Lord.” The whole Congress was infused with prayer. In every session, a word would be preached, and there was always a prayer response. Adoration was held every day. There were multiple Masses throughout every day. It was liturgical and spontaneous, charismatic and traditional. It was woven into one beautiful tapestry with the people of God praying throughout all five days.

Finally, revival needs the Holy Spirit. The final day of the Congress focused on crying out to God for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Let Pentecost be released in the Church! I think our openness to the Holy Spirit needs to keep being emphasized. However, there was no question that the Holy Spirit was acknowledged, invited, and loved. St. Bonaventure spoke about how the Holy Spirit always comes wherever He is loved, welcomed, and expected—and all those things happened at the Congress. God was moving, and his people were responding. This is what a healthy Catholic Church looks, sounds, and feels like. There was tremendous unity, charity, and service. There were all ages and young families with kids running everywhere. There was every colour, every race, and a lot of different languages. There was full liturgical expression, daily rosary, praise and worship, incredible chant, classical music including the Indianapolis Symphony, and silence and contemplative prayer. People spent hours making three-hundred-thousand meals for the poor. There was an external vision and an internal vision. For the church in America, which has been so divided, broken, and wrecked by scandal, it was really refreshing to have a unifying moment.

I also appreciated the representation and celebration of vocations. There was a joyful, happy, confident group of priests and bishops there, and they were honoured, celebrated, and challenged in ways that I think would make many young boys consider that way of life. There also were fathers with young kids, and I think that young boys might think that is good too.

EXPERIENCING REVIVAL AT THE EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS-3

And for young women, there were incredible habited religious sisters who were a full expression of being the bride of Christ with joy, power, and conviction. There also were moms and grandmas and the full spectrum of what the Church invites us to in terms of discerning our vocations.



I think one of the great graces and fruits that we will discover in the years to come will be an explosion of discerned vocations and the release of grace at this Congress. We will encounter priests who say, “I met Jesus in the Eucharist at the Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, and He called me to the priesthood.” We will meet young, consecrated women who say a conversation with a sister, the witness of someone they heard speak, or the encounter of Jesus in the Eucharist at the Congress stirred their heart to move down this path of being a consecrated sister. This will be one of the tremendous fruits of the Congress.

Finally, the Congress was excellently done, including the lighting, sound, and graphics. It was both extremely professional and winning. Many people looked back to when Denver was chosen to host World Youth Day in 1993. It was a pivotal moment for the American Church. So many things, like the Augustine Institute, FOCUS, and Christ in the City trace their roots to that event. A lot of people, myself included, had a sense at Indianapolis that we’re going to look back on the history of the American Church and say that in Indianapolis in 2024, God released a fresh grace and anointing on our Church, the fruit of which is going to be born for generations.

About sixty-thousand people were at the closing Mass. We were there because we loved the Lord. We were there with the bishops, cardinals, priests, deacon, religious, lay people, families, and single people. The one Church gathered around the one table with the one cup, one bread, one Lord. The king of the universe was honoured, acknowledged, respected, praised, glorified, and adored. *Written by Pete Burak*

<https://www.renewalministries.net/experiencing-revival-at-the-eucharistic-congress/>

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NEXT INTERNATIONAL EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS TO BE HELD IN SYDNEY IN 2028

It was great to hear the news recently that Sydney will be the host for the 54th International Eucharistic Congress in 2028. The 53rd Congress finished recently in Quito, Ecuador. This International Congress in Sydney will come 100 years after Sydney hosted the 29th Congress and also 20 years since Sydney hosted World Youth Day (WYD) in 2008.

This will be an important moment for the church in New Zealand. At WYD in 2008, 550 young people went to Sydney from this diocese alone and thousands more from New Zealand. I would love to see many people from this diocese travel to Sydney for this International Eucharistic Congress. We have seen the impact that the recent National Eucharistic Congress had on those who attended in the United States.

In a statement, Sydney Auxiliary Bishop Danny Meagher said that “we hope that it will be a great occasion of grace for all those attending, so that they return home with a true sense of grace, formed and transformed by what they have learned,”. May many of us have the opportunity to travel to Sydney to be refreshed and renewed in our love for the Eucharist.

SCIENTIST AT EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS RECOUNTS PERSONAL MIRACLE - 1

“One of the things that this National Eucharistic Congress has taught me is that Jesus can use even the most mundane things to make himself known — even a phone battery.

In this case, I had been taking pictures and videos during the Eucharistic procession through Indianapolis when my phone died. On the way back, I stopped in a Subway restaurant to recharge my phone. In addition to meeting three Dominican nuns, I had a very interesting encounter with a man who sat down next to me, also needing to charge his phone.

His name is Patrice Mimche, and he is originally from Cameroon. Though his family were serious Protestants, religion never much interested Patrice. That is until 10 years ago.

By then Patrice had moved to the United States. A scientist doing research in molecular medicine, Patrice told me that before his conversion, science was the only thing that interested him.

SCIENTIST AT EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS RECOUNTS PERSONAL MIRACLE-2

TESTIMONY

His wife was Catholic, and watched EWTN regularly. At first Patrice was completely indifferent to the programming, but bit by bit he was drawn in by Mother Angelica — and he became curious enough to agree to go on an overnight men’s retreat. That’s where the miracle happened that forever changed Patrice’s life. I’ll let him tell you the story from here:

“So what happened to me is that I was invited to a retreat in the church, to spend the night at the church -- there was a retreat for the men of the parishes. So they invited me to the retreat, and I was kind of like, "Oh, yeah, let me do something not science-related for the first time in my life, right?" I went to the retreat with the men and during the night, I heard, really, a calling from Christ. I heard a voice calling me to go to the adoration chapel. I knew nothing about the adoration chapel or the Church, but I heard a voice, and during that encounter, my heart was on fire. I thought that my heart would just kind of be removed from my chest. It was on fire! I was feeling like, “What is going on? Why am I on fire?” And I heard the voice three times, calling me to that relationship.

Aleteia: What did the voice sound like?

The voice was an interior voice, something that I've never experienced before. An interior voice calling me, "Patrice. Go to the adoration chapel. Patrice." Three times, right? I knew absolutely -- I wasn't a practicing Catholic -- I knew absolutely nothing about the Church. So the voice spoke to me three times, "Come to the adoration chapel." Three times, and my heart was on fire. Yes, I could feel my heart on fire. Now I understand the baptism of fire. I clearly experienced that baptism of fire. I stood up and I went to the adoration chapel, and the Lord spoke to me. The highlight was that he told me, “If you want to continue to have my blessing and all my graces, you have to become a Catholic, because this is my real Church. This is me. This is my Church.” From that day I became a Catholic.

Aleteia: Has that had any impact on your work, the way you do your work?

A lot! For some reason, I became a much more successful scientist.

Aleteia: Really?

Yeah, since that encounter -- although, yes, I went on to struggle through difficulties, I kind of embrace them. And I know that at the end of the day, the solution will be found. Basically I put all my faith in the Lord, and he told me, when he spoke to me, that all the good things that happened in my life were because of him, because he is behind me, and I should continue to have faith in him, no matter what is happening.

SCIENTIST AT EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS RECOUNTS PERSONAL MIRACLE-3

TESTIMONY

And the most important thing [was] to become a Catholic, that it is his real Church, his only Church, the Catholic Church. That I should become a Catholic. If I want to continue to have all these graces, I must become a Catholic. The voice clearly told me that.

The Lord also told me many things concerning people from my family, from those surrounding me, which I knew nothing about. When I asked them [about these things], they told me, "How do you know that?" So that's when I knew that, oh, yeah, that was a real encounter with Jesus Christ through the Eucharist.

Aleteia: What are you going to take away from the Eucharistic Congress? How do you think it's going to change how you live your faith?

I will be much more proactive. I think I will serve much more the Church, the parish, and [also] through the way I live my own Catholic faith.

Aleteia: If you had to tell people one thing about Jesus that you've discovered in these, past 10 years?

The Church is real, but Jesus is real. And Jesus is, you know, really present in the Catholic Church. Really present in the Catholic Church.

[https://aleteia.org/2024/07/21/scientist-at-eucharistic-congress-recounts-personal-miracle?](https://aleteia.org/2024/07/21/scientist-at-eucharistic-congress-recounts-personal-miracle?fbclid=IwY2xjawF9ANJleHRuA2FlbQlxMQABHQWJ74F7kbRKKVMviNc1oW-Oz9-xJoyJsb4t6laZQE3k16aiweBBJ_h9JQ_aem_-cCZKlmVKrdFcPZ7xK2Y0w)

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Prayer for more adorers for Perpetual Adoration

Heavenly Father, increase our faith in the Real Presence of Your Son Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist. We are obliged to adore Him, to give Him thanks and to make reparation for sins. We need your peace in our hearts and among nations. We need conversion from our sins and the mercy of Your forgiveness.

May we obtain this through prayer and our union with the Eucharistic Lord. Please send down the Holy Spirit upon all peoples to give them the love, courage, strength and willingness to respond to the invitation to become a rostered adorer at the Diocesan Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration Chapel. We beseech You, particularly, to call forth people to adore overnight. We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen

Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament

Help us to spread the glory of Your Son through Perpetual Adoration.

CAN YOU HELP?

Currently we have over 200 adorers signed up to Adore Jesus every week at the Perpetual Adoration Chapel. However we still have many hours during the week where there is only one adorer rostered on, especially overnight. We always try to ensure that we have a minimum of two per hour so if something happens there is at least one person in the chapel. Although we have lots of visitors, we don't know how long they stay and how regular they are. On occasions people have forgotten, had a flat tyre or been sick and people have had to stay for an extra hour.

If you feel that you could sign up to adore once a week it would be greatly appreciated. Please fill out the form below and send/email it to the address provided.

The hours that require adorers include:

Sundays (12am-6am, 7am-10am, 12pm-2pm, 9pm-11pm), Mondays (12am-6am, 2pm - 5pm, 9pm), Tuesdays (1am-6am), Wednesdays (12am-6am, 10pm-11pm), Thursdays (12am-6am, 8am-12pm, 3pm), Fridays (12am-5am, 7am-10am, 12pm-4pm, 10pm, 11pm) and Saturdays (2-5am, 7am-2pm), 5pm-7pm)



ADORER SIGN UP FORM

NAME: PHONE:

E-MAIL: MOBILE:

ADDRESS:

What day would you like to adore?

What time would you like to adore?

Are you also available to be a substitute?

Please return the completed form to:

Perpetual Adoration, PO Box 4544, Christchurch 8140 or e-mail to chchadoration@gmail.com