

My dear Little Flower,

I have just gotten back from the National Eucharistic Congress that was held in Indianapolis, IN. A couple of months ago, I shared with you that 18 of our parishioners joined the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage and walked a 6-mile journey of - what the Bishops and national organizers called - "Our Emmaus Moment" in America. This pilgrimage came from the four corners of the United States, and converged in Indianapolis on July 16th. This momentous national initiative was historical for all Catholics in the United States.

At the beginning, the Bishops and organizers came together as one to ask the question: Why a National Eucharistic Congress? The practical answer is to bring our Catholic family together to experience a profound, 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 I 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 participated in this pilgrimage of faith with the Lord, in spirit and in flesh, because the Lord wants to be with you and in your life and mine - He comes ultimately to be adored and to be worthily received with love through the Sacrament of UNION - the Holy Eucharist.

We started the Congress with the theme "from the Four Corners", and we are called to continue our journey "To the Ends of the Earth" during the last day of the National Eucharistic Congress. The Lord, after being with them, after living, walking, praying, teaching and breaking bread with them, sent his disciples to GO - TO GO to the Ends of the Earth! Who we are and have is the Eucharistic Lord to sustain us for His life-transforming and life-giving 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. Our parish pilgrimages have the same spirit and missionary zeal!

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 the 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 your own life-journey?

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

Your parish priest,
Fr JC Merino