

# THE CATHOLIC Spirit

## The Eucharist, Its Benefits for Individuals and for the Church

By Bishop Mark E. Brennan

### I. Practical Value of the Eucharist: Introduction

In my first article, I wrote about the Scriptural and ancient Christian testimony to Christ's Real Presence in the Eucharist and some theological reflections on the Sacrament. In this article I address the practical value of the Eucharist in our lives and why the Second Vatican Council proclaimed that the Eucharist is "the source and summit of the Christian life," (*Lumen Gentium*, Constitution on the Church, 11), wherein "is contained the entire spiritual wealth of the Church, namely Christ himself, our Pasch, our living Bread who gives life to people through his flesh" (*Presbyterorum Ordinis*, On the Ministry and Life of Priests, 5).

Let me illustrate the practical value for us in the Eucharist by a few examples.

A woman in my first parish was deserted by her husband and left with five children to raise. She said it was her participation in Mass and frequent reception of the Eucharist that helped her deal with the challenges and not lose hope.

A professor at Penn State had been a prisoner because of his Christian activities in formerly Communist Czechoslovakia. He and some other Catholic prisoners, during a recreation period, would sit at a table and pretend to play cards while a priest at the table, also a prisoner, quietly celebrated Mass using bits of bread saved from meals and a tiny flask of wine provided by a sympathetic guard. He said the Eucharist sustained him until he was finally released.

In my last parish, a pantry feeds hundreds of families non-perishable food every week. Some volunteers go to daily Mass. Their reception of Christ in the Eucharist provides them spiritual energy to feed the hungry families that come to the pantry. That is true of some of our parishes in West Virginia, too.

### II. Eucharist as Pilgrims' sacrament

The Eucharist builds on the analogy of eating and drinking to keep the body alive, so it is spiritual food and drink for the journey of faith. Jesus said: *Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert but they died; this is the bread that comes down from heaven so*

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## Catholic, Civic Leaders Call for Peace, Unity Following Trump Assassination Attempt

By Maria Wiering, OSV News

(OSV News) — Catholic and civic leaders called for peace and unity in the hours after former President Donald Trump was grazed by a bullet and a spectator was killed July 13 in an assassination attempt during the presumptive Republican presidential nominee's campaign rally in Butler, Pennsylvania.

The Holy See expressed "concern about last night's episode of violence, which wounds people and democracy, causing suffering and death" in a July 14 statement in Italian. The Holy

See is "united in the prayer of the U.S. bishops for America, for the victims, and for peace in the country, so that the motives of the violent may never prevail," according to Catholic News Service.

On July 14, Trump thanked "everyone for your thoughts and prayers yesterday, as it was God alone who prevented the unthinkable from happening," on his social media platform Truth Social.

"We will FEAR NOT, but instead remain resilient in our Faith and Defiant in the face of Wickedness. Our See "Peace" on Page 4



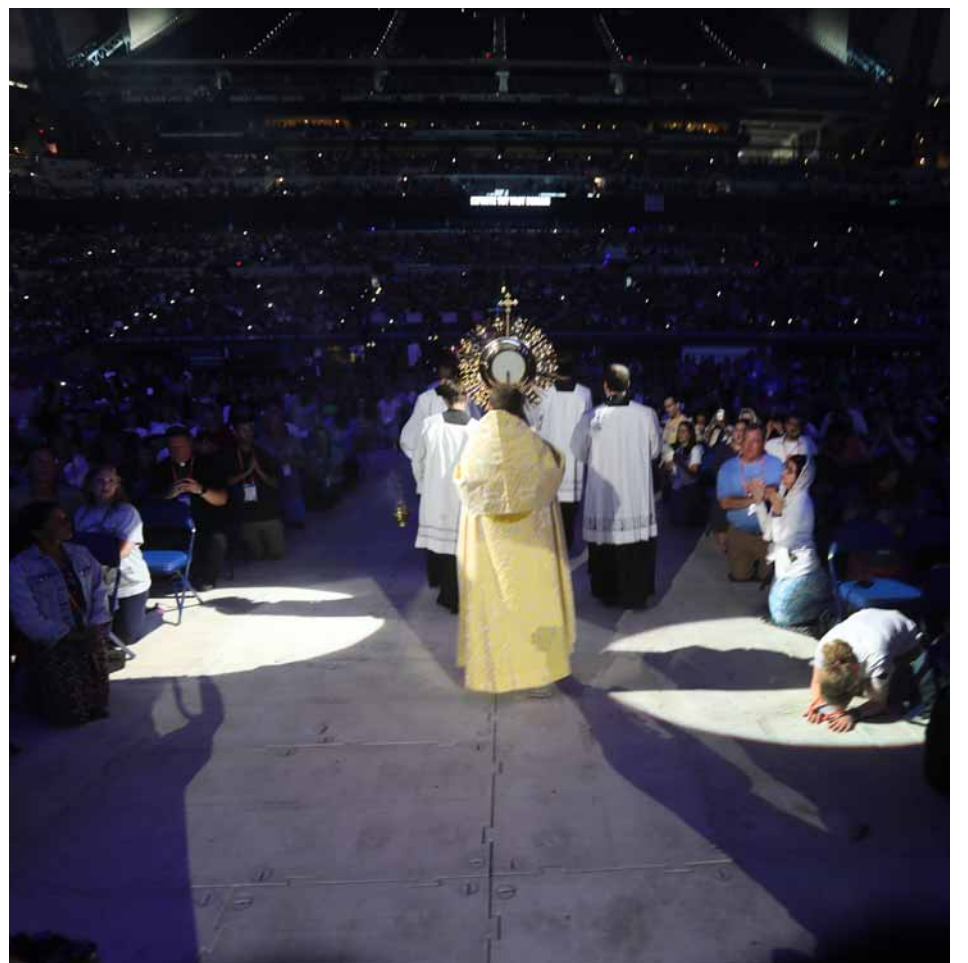
OSV News photo/Brendan McDermid, Reuters  
Republican presidential candidate and former U.S. President Donald Trump gestures, with blood on his face, and is assisted by guards after shots were fired during a campaign rally at the Butler Farm Show in Butler, Pa., July 13.

## 'Jesus, I Trust in You': National Eucharistic Congress Opens with a Powerful Holy Hour

By OSV News

INDIANAPOLIS (OSV News) — Absolute silence filled Lucas Oil Stadium as tens of thousands of people dropped to their knees to adore Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament as the long-anticipated National Eucharistic Congress officially got underway on the evening of July 17 in Indianapolis. More than 100 spotlights trained on a large, golden monstrance on an altar in the center of the stadium as a powerful holy hour — which took place before any talks, music or greeting by the evening's three emcees — began the congress's first revival night filled with prayer, powerful speakers and praise-and-worship music.

Just before Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of Crookston, Minnesota — the driving episcopal force behind the congress — walked onto the floor carrying the monstrance, the 30 perpetual pilgrims who had walked the four National Eucharistic Pilgrimage routes entered the stadium. Carrying icons of each route's respective patron saints — St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin, St. Junipero Serra, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton



OSV News photo/Bob Roller  
Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of Crookston, Minn., chairman of the board of the National Eucharistic Congress, Inc., carries the monstrance following adoration at the opening revival night of the 10th National Eucharistic Congress at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis July 17.

**To Report Suspected Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children:** The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston encourages reporting to civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. We also encourage utilizing [www.reportbishopabuse.org](http://www.reportbishopabuse.org) to make a report about any bishop in the U.S. If you have reason to believe that a bishop has engaged in sexual misconduct or has interfered with an investigation into sexual misconduct, please contact civil authorities in the applicable jurisdiction and visit [www.reportbishopabuse.org](http://www.reportbishopabuse.org). **To Report to Civil Authorities: Contact your local law enforcement:** numbers will vary based on your location. If you believe


someone is in immediate danger, call 911. To confidentially report any incidence of suspected child abuse or neglect, including sexual abuse, contact the West Virginia Bureau for Children and Families' Child Protective Services by calling the Child Abuse Hotline at 800.352.6513. You may report anonymously to this hotline if you prefer. **To Report to Diocesan Authorities:** The diocese encourages reporting to the appropriate civil authorities first and foremost if a crime has been committed. The diocese also encourages reporting to the appropriate church authorities. To report suspected cases of sexual abuse of children by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to

the Diocese, contact one of the following designees at 1.888.434.6237 or 304.233.0880: Mr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Mr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; or Sr. Martha Gomez, ext. 264. You may also call the Diocese's Office of Safe Environment at 304.230.1504. You may also call the Diocese's sexual abuse hotline at 833.230.5656. Additional methods of reporting are available at [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org), under "Accountability." Complaint forms are available online at [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org), click "Diocese" on the menu bar, then "Offices," then "Safe Environment", then "Download Files and Forms." The form is titled "Complaint Form for Allegations of Sexual Abuse of a Minor." The form may be returned via U.S. mail to: Office of Safe Environment, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003. **To Report to the Diocese's Victim Assistance Coordinator:** please call Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC,


at 304.559.6742. In addition to the methods listed above for reporting sexual abuse, the Diocese also has partnered with Navex Global to offer the EthicsPoint platform to report other, additional concerns, such as suspected financial, professional, and personal misconduct of a priest, deacon, religious, or lay employee of the Diocese or any Catholic parish or school in West Virginia. The EthicsPoint platform can be accessed via [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org), under "Accountability", then "Report Misconduct" or by calling 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint is a third-party reporting system that reports to civil authorities where applicable and Diocesan authorities, and the identity of the person reporting is protected. Links and information: WV Department of Health and Human Resources: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp>. West Virginia State Police, Crimes Against Children Unit: 304-293-6400.

### Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops requires all Dioceses/Eparchies have a Safe Environment Program for the protection of children and young people. In accordance with these requirements, the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Safe Environment Program consists of the following components for persons seeking employment or to volunteer, directly or indirectly, with children: background check; receipt of the Diocese's Policy Relating to Sexual Abuse of Children; and sexual abuse awareness training for adults. Sexual abuse awareness training may be completed online or via live workshop. For more information, go to [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org), click "Diocese", then "Offices," then "Office of Safe Environment."



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July 19, 2024 Vol. 55, No. 29

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Published every Friday by e-mail and printed 10 times a year (see schedule, right). All issues sent to each registered Catholic household free of charge. Donations to help offset the cost of producing The Catholic Spirit are welcomed. Out-of-diocese subscriptions are \$25 annually. The Catholic Spirit intends its news reports to be fair and accurate in every regard. The opinions of correspondents do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Catholic Spirit. Submission of news releases, stories and color photos welcomed and encouraged. Not responsible for unsolicited material.

### The Catholic Spirit's Print Schedule for 2024

(Digital issues will continue to be published by date every Friday, delivered by e-mail and posted on [thecatholicspiritwv.org](http://thecatholicspiritwv.org))

This is the new print publication schedule for The Catholic Spirit. Each print issue is named for a memorial, feast day, or celebration of the Church within the month of publication. The following provides the name of the issue; the date of the memorial, feast day, or celebration; and the publication date of the issue.

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|---|--|
| <p><b>Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b><br/>Feast Day, August 15<br/>The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is August 2</p> <p><b>Exaltation of the Holy Cross</b><br/>Feast Day, September 14<br/>The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is September 6</p> <p><b>Our Lady of the Rosary</b><br/>Memorial, October 7</p> | <p>The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is October 4</p> <p><b>Advent</b><br/>First Sunday of Advent, December 1<br/>The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is November 29</p> <p><b>Christmas</b><br/>Feast Day, December 25<br/>The Catholic Spirit publication date for this issue is December 20</p> |
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## Eucharist...

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that one may eat it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world [John 6:49-51]. The Hebrews were on a journey to the Promised Land. We Christians are on a pilgrimage of faith to the blessed life of heaven. We need the Lord as food and drink to give us strength for our pilgrimage, lest we fall by the wayside and give up because of the hardships and opposition we inevitably encounter.

### III. Individual Benefits of Eucharist

1. If we receive Christ in the Eucharist with faith not only in his True Presence but in his enduring love for us, our lesser or venial sins are wiped away. In approaching the Lord with such devotion, our attraction to sin is weakened because we are being drawn closer to the source of goodness. The rust falls away, the scratches are rubbed out. For serious or mortal sins, the Catholic teaching is that one must seek the Sacrament of Penance, because serious sin breaks our relationship with God. Christ instituted Penance as the way to restore us to God's grace. But venial sins do not destroy that relationship, even though they weaken it. The Eucharist is divine medicine to strengthen and restore full health to our spirits.

2. Another personal benefit of the Eucharist is an increase of grace, enabling us to engage in works of charity, justice and peace. Some young men who went to college with me decided they wanted to help an economically depressed city revitalize itself, so they went there and started doing community organizing. They met with a lot of opposition because the local people resented these outsiders coming in and telling them what was good for them. Eventually the outsiders gave up and left. None was very religious. They relied on their own strength but in the end it failed them.

In contrast, I knew a Catholic man who was appointed the director of an office in a federal agency. When he arrived he found that it was dysfunctional: the employees did not get along, resented one another and tried to make others look bad. As a consequence, their work suffered. The new director began meeting with them individually, listened to their concerns, dealt with the ones he could and found ways to reward good work. The atmosphere in the office began to improve, as did the office's performance. Despite the obstacles he encountered, the director persevered. What gave him strength was Christ, whom he worshipped and received regularly in the Eucharist. The grace of the sacrament helps people do good.

3. There is a further benefit for the individual believer: the Eucharist is a pledge of eternal life. Through it we participate in the life of the risen Lord. St. Paul, referring to Baptism, says: *We were buried with [Christ] through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life* [Romans 6:4]. The *newness of life* that begins in us in Baptism is nourished by the holy Eucharist and will culminate in the fullness of that new life in eternity.

A woman I visited in the hospital years ago went to Mass on Sundays and loved to receive the Lord in Holy Communion. In the course of our conversation, she said, "The Lord has been so good to me. I love him so. I'm ready to meet him whenever he calls me." She looked good enough to me to be discharged but her family told me she died two



Colleen Rowan photo

**Bishop Mark Brennan processes with the Most Blessed Sacrament in the Eucharistic procession through downtown Wheeling June 24 for the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Route of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage.**

hours after our conversation. This woman who loved the Lord in the Eucharist sensed him calling her to himself and she yearned to be with him. Quoting Jesus once more: *Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life and I will raise him on the last day* [John 6:54]. The Eucharist draws us to the risen Lord. It anticipates our participation in the eternal banquet.

### IV. Ecclesial benefits of the Eucharist

The individual Christian always belongs to the great Church of Christ. The Eucharist not only benefits the individual but the Church as a whole. In fact, it is said that "The Eucharist makes the Church;" it does so because Christ is truly present in the Eucharist and he is the founder of the Church. We walk by faith in him and not by sight, but we walk together, just as his disciples walked with him around Galilee and Judea. I will briefly describe some of the ecclesial benefits of the Eucharist.

1. The Eucharist expresses and builds up our unity in faith and love. I saw a striking example of this Eucharistic unity last October when I celebrated Mass in a girls' boarding school, the Villa de las Niñas, outside Mexico City. Over three thousand girls of high school age, from poor families, often with only one parent, sometimes with none, took part with great enthusiasm in the Mass. In talking with some of them and seeing the activities they engaged in – it was a Sunday, so they had time to play sports and gather in groups to talk – I could sense their unity and common purpose. The religious sisters who serve as house mothers told me that the girls care for one another and work well together. In that place I saw the unity in faith and love that the Eucharist can both express and build up.

The Catholic understanding of participation in the Eucharist is that it should reflect a fully shared faith and a commitment to charity by those who receive it. In his last discourse in John's Gospel, the Lord said of his disciples: *I consecrate myself for*

*them, so that they also may be consecrated in truth. I pray not only for them but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me* [John 17:19-21]. The truth revealed by God in Christ, all of it, should be held by those receiving the Lord in Holy Communion as well as love, for both truth and love build up the Church's unity.

It is a scandal that genuine differences of faith and liturgical practice keep us from fulfilling the Lord's prayer for our unity in faith and love. It weakens our witness to the one Savior of the world and keeps some people away from us. We cannot overcome disunity by bargaining away or compromising on sincerely held beliefs, but we should pray that the Holy Spirit will guide us to an understanding of the truth, in which Christ has consecrated us, that is deeper than what our limited vision has so far seen. Our mutual love and common witness to justice and peace also help us on the path to full unity.

2. The Eucharist energizes the Church to proclaim the Gospel. I saw this in the country of Togo in West Africa last year. An American priest, who arrived there eighteen years ago, preached the Gospel, baptized those who came to faith and now the Togolese are bringing their friends and neighbors to the Lord. Having celebrated Mass with them, I can attest that their joyful faith and love for Christ in the Eucharist make them effective evangelizers.

3. The Eucharist gives strength for service. St. Augustine said, "Become what you eat." The Eucharist is Christ's self-giving to us; he gives us power to give of ourselves to others. It amazes me when I think of the many good works engaged in by the Christian churches. Our Catholic Church operates more than 25% of all health care facilities in the world; we have thousands of schools; pantries and soup kitchens in many parishes; ministries to the imprisoned and other people on the margins. Not to mention our many spiritual services of prayer, worship and counseling, which strengthen the souls of the faithful.

I doubt that we would persevere in doing all these things if the Lord Jesus were not at work in us. And it is he whom we receive in the Eucharist. This is why the Second Vatican Council said that the liturgy, in which the Eucharist is celebrated, "is the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed; it is also the source from which all its power flows" (*Sacrosanctum Concilium*, Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, 10). Jesus builds us up for service.

### V. Conclusion

I choose to end this talk with an image. In my last parish, St. Martin of Tours in Gaithersburg, Maryland, the pantry was located in a building formerly used by the parish school. In the back of that building, we remodeled a storeroom to make it a Eucharistic Adoration chapel. Because we Catholics believe that Christ's presence remains in the sacrament until consumed, we keep the consecrated bread in tabernacles so we can bring Holy Communion to the sick, the homebound and prisoners. But Jesus in the tabernacle can be adored as the Eucharistic Lord. So, in the same building, bread from the oven is distributed to the hungry and Christ, the Bread of Life, is adored by his disciples, some of whom serve at the Pantry. St. James wrote: *Faith without works is dead* (2: 26). In that one building a living faith produces good fruit. Christ is truly present both sacramentally and in his disciples' charity.

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## Peace...

**Cont'd from Page 1**

love goes out to the other victims and their families. We pray for the recovery of those who were wounded, and hold in our hearts the memory of the citizen who was so horribly killed," he continued. "In this moment, it is more important than ever that we stand United, and show our True Character as Americans, remaining Strong and Determined, and not allowing Evil to Win. I truly love our County, and love you all, and look forward to speaking to our Great Nation this week from Wisconsin."

The Republican National Convention was scheduled to take place July 15-18 in Milwaukee.

President Joe Biden condemned the attack, calling it "sick" in Saturday evening remarks shortly after the incident. The presumptive Democratic presidential nominee returned to the White House from his vacation home in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, and addressed the American public again July 14.

"Jill and I are keeping him (Trump) and his family in our prayers," said Biden, a Catholic. "We also extend our deepest condolences to the family of the victim who was killed. He was a father. He was protecting his family from the bullets that were being fired, and he lost his life. God love him."

That victim has been identified as Corey Comperatore, a firefighter from Pennsylvania who was among the thousands attending Saturday's rally.

Biden said he is also praying for the full recovery of those who were injured and are grateful for the response of the Secret Service agents, other law enforcement and individuals who risked their lives.

"As I said last night, there is no place in America for this kind of violence, or any violence for that matter," he said. "The assassination attempt is contrary to everything we stand for as a nation. Everything. It's not who we are as a nation. It's not American, and we cannot allow this to

happen."

"Unity is the most elusive goal of all, but nothing is more important than that right now," he said.

He said the FBI is leading the investigation, which is in its early stages. Biden encouraged the American public not to make assumptions about the motive or affiliations of 20-year-old Thomas Matthew Crooks of Bethel Park, Pennsylvania, who was named as the gunman killed by the Secret Service at the rally.

Biden also emphasized that Trump has had and will continue to have "a heightened level" of security protection, that he's asked the head of the Secret Service to review all security measures for the Republican National Convention, and he has ordered an independent review of the July 13 incident and will share its results with the public.

"We must unite as one nation," Biden said, repeating the phrase, "to demonstrate who we are."

Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro described Comperatore as a husband and father with two daughters "who died a hero."

"Corey was a girl dad. Corey was a firefighter. Corey went to church every Sunday. Corey loved his community. Most especially, Corey loved his family," Shapiro said July 14 during a press conference.

On Facebook July 13, Father Kevin Fazio, pastor of All Saints Parish in Butler — a Catholic parish with five churches, one of which is located across from where the rally took place — wrote to parishioners that "We are shocked and saddened by the tragic shooting and act of violence that occurred at the Farm Show grounds on Saturday, July 13."

"There are feelings of fear, hurt, anger, and sorrow in our community right now," he wrote. "As Christians, we need to remember that during times of darkness, we are called to reflect the light of Christ. May we continue to pray for peace in our world, in our country, and right here at home. Our prayers to God today for everyone involved in, and all of the victims of this violent act, their families,

and friends. God our Father, watch over us. Jesus our Savior, heal us. Holy Spirit, guide us."

The assassination attempt occurred the weekend before the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, a five-day gathering of Catholics across the country in Indianapolis that begins July 17. In a July 14 statement, Bishop Andrew H. Cozzens of Crookston, Minnesota, the congress's board chairman, offered prayers for Trump and those killed or injured in the July 13 violence. He also assured congress attendees that they can expect a secure event.

"We feel privileged to gather in prayer at a time with Our Eucharistic Lord when our country and our world need this peace which comes only from him," he said. "We will pray for healing of all divisions in our land and an end to violence."

Other bishops, including Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, archbishop of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services and president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops; and Bishop David A. Zubik of Pittsburgh, which includes Butler, issued statements July 13 calling for prayers and peace.

"We are grateful for the swift actions of the Secret Service and our local first responders," Bishop Zubik said. "Let us join together in prayer for the health and safety of all, for healing and peace, and for an end to this climate of violence in our world. May God guide and protect us all."

On X, formerly known as Twitter, Bishop Robert E. Barron of Winona-Rochester, Minnesota, posted July 13, "I would like to offer prayers for President Trump and all those who were injured at the rally in Pennsylvania. We must turn from the path of violence. May the Lord bless our troubled nation."

The same day, Cardinal Seán P. O'Malley of Boston lamented that "our nation has once again witnessed another deadly and tragic shooting today" and joined in prayer

for the families of those killed and the recovery of Trump and the injured.

"As a nation, we must come to grips with the incessant violence that has too often become the norm. It must stop," he continued in his social media post. "We must find peaceful ways to resolve our differences & avoid all political violence."

Archbishop Nelson J. Pérez of Philadelphia also prayed for consolation for "those mourning the loss of a loved one" and for a swift recovery for Trump and those injured.

"Americans must join in solidarity to condemn today's act of political violence and violence in all forms," he said in a multipart message on X. "Working together, we can resolve our differences through peaceful dialogue and conquer the sin of hatred."

Other bishops who offered prayers for those affected included Bishop Michael T. Martin of Charlotte, North Carolina; Bishop Edward J. Weisenburger of Tucson, Arizona; and Bishop Larry J. Kulick of Greenburg, Pennsylvania.

In addition to prayers, Bishop Martin also called the violent incident "a call of conscience to all people of goodwill" and a time for self-reflection to bring an end to all violence.

"Let us not simply condemn today's attack but root out the anger in our own hearts that can affect our words and our actions," he said in a statement shared by diocesan media.

"Scripture reminds us we are all made in the image and likeness of God. That means something, especially in our great democracy. It means we must treat other people — all people — with the sacredness that is due to all of God's children. We must respectfully listen to each other, care about others' welfare, and seek the common good — even and especially when we disagree on how that may be best achieved."

In the USCCB statement, Archbishop Broglio said that the bishops "condemn political violence, and we offer our

prayers for President Trump, and those who were killed or injured. We also pray for our country and for an end to political violence, which is never a solution to political disagreements. We ask all people of goodwill to join us in praying for peace in our country. Mary, Mother of God and Patroness of the Americas, pray for us."

The USCCB statement also noted a statement the bishops released this summer about political violence that urged "all Christians and people of good will to abstain from political violence, and instead, 'pursue what leads to peace and building up one another' through dialogue, seeking justice."

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## Holy Hour...

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and the Blessed Virgin Mary — the pilgrims took the final steps that officially completed their eight-week journey from points north, south, east and west across the U.S. to the July 17-21 congress in Indiana's capital city.

After a time of silent prayer and praise and worship, Bishop Cozzens knelt for a second time in front of the monstrance.

"Lord, we wanted to give you the first words of our National Eucharistic Congress," he said. Kneeling before Jesus in the Eucharist, Bishop Cozzens recounted how the National Eucharistic Revival — launched in 2022 — has led Catholics to gather to study, teach and pray with the Eucharist, spending countless hours in adoration and small groups, and in parish and diocesan initiatives.

"Lord, we made a National Eucharistic Pilgrimage for you," he prayed. "For the last 65 days we brought your living presence across this land, across the East, West, North and South. We visited large churches and small churches. We had large processions in cities and small processions in prisons. We visited nursing homes and homeless shelters. Lord, we tried to share with everyone we met along the way your unspeakable love."

He said the pilgrimage prayed for the country and the church and brought those prayers to the congress. He thanked Jesus for the miracles the pilgrims saw along the way: conversion, people return to the faith, physical and spiritual healings.

"We hope to see more," he said.

He told Jesus that the tens of thousands of Catholics in the stadium had gathered there to give him thanks and praise and to be changed into "missionary disciples, people filled with the joy of the Gospel, people so grateful for the salvation you purchased for us."

He prayed for deeper conversion for individuals, peace in wartorn countries, those affected by abuse, and unity in both the country and the church. Bishop Cozzens in-

ited attendees to share in silence their own desires with Jesus, and then asked them to pray that the Lord would also reveal his desires for them.

"Jesus, I trust in you," he prayed, and the stadium resounded as people echoed his prayer.

"Lord, we have come here because we want a revival, a Eucharistic revival, and we want every Catholic to realize that you are alive in the Eucharist, and to encounter your love," he said. "And Lord, we know that this revival, it has to begin with us."

After the holy hour concluded and Bishop Cozzens processed out with the Eucharist, the revival's emcees then took the stage: Father Joshua Johnson, vocations director for the Diocese of Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Montse Alvarado, president of EWTN News — who greeted the attendees in Spanish and English — and Sister Miriam James Heidland, a member of the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity. The three talked about their own personal experiences with the Eucharist and what the congress meant to them before introducing the other speakers that evening.

Cardinal Christophe Pierre, the papal nuncio to the U.S., was the night's keynote speaker. He opened with the reflection that "perhaps our main prayer for this Eucharistic congress should be this: that we as a church may grow in our unity so that we become more fruitful in our mission."

He invited those present to reflect on the basic question of "what is Eucharistic revival?" and "how will we know that we are experiencing Eucharistic revival?"

Revival is "always accompanied by sacramental devotion," he said, but it "must extend beyond devotional practices as well."

"When we are truly revived by the Eucharist," he said, "then our encounter with Christ's real presence in the sacrament opens us to an encounter with him in the rest of our life. This means seeing him everywhere we go."

He reminded those gathered that Christ "is also pres-

ent in our encounters with people from whom we would otherwise consider ourselves divided" including "people from a different economic class or race, people who challenge our way of thinking."

Living "a truly Eucharistic life," he emphasized, means that adoration "spills over in our daily life, a life of relating to others, our way of seeing others."

He encouraged those gathered to use their time in adoration over the week of the Eucharistic Congress to ask the Lord to reveal the places where they are resistant to surrendering to his will.

"He is the only one who can lead us to new life," he concluded, "by following him, we can become true apostles of his Kingdom."

Sister Bethany Madonna, local superior of the new Phoenix mission of the Sisters of Life, talked about how Jesus, crucified and risen, "wants to reveal himself" and bring his grace because of his love for each person.

"God knows you. God loves you. And chooses you... He has entrusted you with a mission that he has entrusted to no one else," she said.

She said that Jesus "knows that we are hungry for love, and he chooses to give himself to us as food and drink."

"We have this unquenchable thirst to be loved that no one and nothing can ever satisfy" but God, she explained.

Sister Bethany Madonna reminded people that when fear or failure can prevent them from drawing close to God's love, "Jesus redeems everything."

She shared the testimony of a woman who was terrified to go to confession because of two abortions she had when she was younger. She lived in shame and silence for 29 years, and when she made the appointment for the sacrament of reconciliation and drove to see the priest, she heard a whisper saying, "You don't have to do it," and, "This is too difficult ... turn back."

Praying Hail Marys all the way, she got to confession in tears; and after listening to her, the priest made the motion of picking up a lamb and

said, "All of heaven rejoices ... welcome home."

Sister Bethany Madonna said that when the woman received Communion the next day, she said that "my life would be a 'yes' to God."

The opening revival night of the National Eucharistic Congress already had a profound effect on participants who spoke with OSV News.

Belen Munoz, 18, of Rosa Park, New Jersey, said it was "encouraging" to see so many Catholics gathered for the congress.

"Growing up in a secular community, it's a totally different experience," she said. "Getting just a taste of what we're encountering here is amazing, and I can't wait for the rest of the week."

"Tonight just showed me that Jesus is just so alive in the Eucharist and that it's just so obvious that he's working through so many people," said Molly Quinn, 18, from Naperville, Illinois. She added the experience "just made me realize that we're not alone in this world and there are so many people who are searching for Christ like I am."

"I've been having a rough patch in my life and so coming here to this and seeing

how God can work through everyone is truly inspiring and powerful and makes me feel revived personally," added 18-year-old Michelle Jurec, also from Naperville. "I can't wait for the rest of the days."

Lotty Cantrelle, 63, a nurse from Lockport, Louisiana, stood and sang to a praise and worship song near the end of the evening. She said her pastor "volun-told" her to come to the congress — but after experiencing the opening revival session, "I know that my priest knew I needed this," she said.

"A person's heart would have to be made of stone not to be changed by that," she said, noting Sister Bethany Madonna's words about trusting Jesus.

"That gave me a lot of comfort," she said. "I think this is a journey to my healing and to becoming my former self, who used to be more joyful. So I am ready."

(OSV News Editor-in-Chief Gretchen R. Crowe, National News Editor Peter Jesserer Smith, Senior Writer Maria Wiering, Culture Editor Laretta Brown and Spanish Editor Maria Pia Negro Chin contributed to this report.)



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# Vatican Offers Indulgence for World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

By Carol Glatz, Catholic News Service

**VATICAN CITY (CNS)** — Any Catholic who participates in the celebration July 28 of the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly can receive a plenary indulgence, the Vatican announced.

“Grandparents, the elderly and all the faithful who, motivated by a true spirit of penance and charity,” attend Mass or other prayer services as part of the day’s celebration can receive the indulgence, which “may also be applied as a suffrage to the souls in purgatory,” said the announcement published July 18 by the Apostolic Penitentiary, the Vatican court charged with granting indulgences.

The Vatican said the indulgence also can apply to those who “devote adequate time to actually or virtually visiting their elderly brothers and sisters in need or in difficulty,” such as those who are sick, lonely or disabled.

To receive a plenary indulgence, which is a remission of the temporal punishment due for one’s sins, a person must show detachment from sin, go to confession, receive the Eucharist and pray for the intentions of the pope. The announcement also urged priests “to make themselves available, in a ready and generous spirit,” to hear confes-

sions.

The indulgence also is available to “the elderly sick and all those who, unable to leave their homes for a serious reason,” spiritually join the celebrations, which will be broadcast through various media, and offer “to the merciful God their prayers, pains or sufferings,” the Vatican said.

Pope Francis celebrated the first World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly in 2021 and decreed that it be observed each year on the Sunday closest to the feast of Sts. Joachim and Anne, Jesus’ grandparents.

In his message for this year’s celebration, Pope Francis focused on the problem of intergenerational conflict, calling it “a fallacy and the poisoned fruit of conflict.”

Dedicated to the theme “Do not cast me off in my old age” from the Book of Psalms, the pope’s message said the elderly must not be accused of saddling younger generations with their medical expenses and pensions — a notion which foments intergenerational conflict and drives older people into isolation.

“The loneliness and abandonment of the elderly is not by chance or inevitable, but the fruit of decisions — political, economic, social and personal decisions — that fail to acknowledge the infinite dignity of each person,” the pope had written.



CNS photo/courtesy Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life  
This graphic for World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly 2024 features the theme for the July 28 celebration: “Do not cast me off in my old age,” a passage from Psalm 71.

The pope encouraged all people to express gratitude to those who, often at great sacrifice, “care for an older person or

simply demonstrate daily closeness to relatives or acquaintances who no longer have anyone else.”

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# Trump Names Vance, Ohio's Catholic Senator, as His 2024 Running Mate

By **Kate Scanlon, OSV News**

**WASHINGTON (OSV News)** — Former President Donald Trump on July 15 named Ohio Sen. J.D. Vance, a Catholic, as his running mate on the Republican ticket in November.

Trump was widely expected to name his running mate at the Republican National Convention, which began the same day.

"After lengthy deliberation and thought, and considering the tremendous talents of many others, I have decided that the person best suited to assume the position of Vice President of the United States is Senator J.D. Vance of the Great State of Ohio," Trump wrote in a post on his social media platform Truth Social. "J.D. honorably served our Country in the Marine Corps, graduated from Ohio State University in two years, Summa Cum Laude, and is a Yale Law School Graduate, where he was Editor of The Yale Law Journal, and President of the Yale Law Veterans Association."

Vance, author of "Hillbilly Elegy," was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2022 after a contentious primary election in the Buckeye State, in which he got Trump's endorsement, and was his first election to public office. Vance, who is Catholic, is married to Usha Vance, a litigator. The couple has three young children.

Trump said Vance "will be strongly focused on the people he fought so brilliantly for, the American Workers and Farmers in Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin, Ohio, Minnesota, and far beyond."

Trump added that as vice president, Vance "will continue to fight for our Constitution, stand with our Troops, and will do everything he can to help me MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN."

"Congratulations to Senator J.D. Vance, his wife, Usha, who also graduated from Yale Law School, and their three beautiful children," he said.



OSV News photo/Gaelen Morse, Reuters  
**Sen. J.D. Vance speaks during former President Donald Trump's September 17, 2022, rally in Youngstown, Ohio. On July 15, Trump named Vance as his running mate on the Republican ticket in November.**

"MAGA2024!"

Vance, was at one time a staunch critic of Trump, but became a closer ally of the former president as he campaigned for the U.S. Senate as a populist, and is ideologically aligned with Trump on issues such as foreign policy and immigration.

In his first television ad for his 2022 bid for the Senate, Vance said, "Joe Biden's open border is killing Ohioans," arguing that Biden's immigration policy led to "more illegal drugs and more Democrat voters pouring into this country."

Vance's 2022 campaign also distributed fundraising materials calling for the deportation of "every single person who invaded our country illegally."

According to the Migration Policy Institute, an estimated 11.3 million unauthorized immigrants lived in the U.S. as of mid-2022.

Legally, the U.S. uses the terms "removal" or "return" instead of "deportation." But morally-speaking, "deportation" is condemned explicitly by the Second Vatican Council in its pastoral constitution "Gaudium et Spes" as one of the many "infamies" that "poison human society" and are "supreme dis-

honor to the Creator." The council's list of condemned includes "whatever is opposed to life," such as abortion, "whatever violates the integrity of the human person," such as torture, and "whatever insults human dignity," such as deportation. St. John Paul II reinforced the council's teaching in his 1993 encyclical "Veritatis Splendor," saying these acts are "intrinsically evil" and incompatible with the church's moral tradition "because they radically contradict the good of the person made in his (God's) image."

In the days leading up to his selection as the vice presidential nominee, Vance also moderated his position on abortion. During his U.S. Senate bid, Vance said he supported a 15-week federal restriction on abortion — a ban potentially affecting nearly 6% of abortions in the U.S. But on July 7 with NBC's Meet the Press, Vance instead aligned with Trump's view that abortion policy should be left to the states, and said he supported access to mifepristone, a pill commonly used for first-trimester abortion. Although mifepristone can be used in early miscarriage care protocols, Vance did not qualify his statement. Nearly nine out of 10 abortions take place within the first trimester, with the majority being performed through mifepristone.

But in a statement, Marjorie Dannenfelser, president of Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America, called Vance "an exceptional selection as President Trump's running mate."

"His courage in exposing the Democrats' agenda of abortion for any reason, even in the seventh, eighth, or ninth month, helped propel him to a decisive victory in the 2022 midterm elections," Dannenfelser, whose group works to elect pro-life candidates to public office, said. "Vance's hardscrabble upbringing informs his compassionate approach to this issue. He saw firsthand how the deck can be stacked

against women facing unexpected pregnancies if they do not have the support and resources they need, even though most would rather choose life. His ability to compellingly share these stories on a national stage will surely be an asset."

Dannenfelser said Vance's time in the Senate earned an "A+" on the organization's legislative scorecard.

"Now through Election Day, the pro-life movement's mission must be to defeat the Biden-Harris extreme abortion agenda," Dannenfelser argued. "With Vance on the ticket, we are more committed than ever in our efforts to deliver the winning pro-life message to 10 million voters, with four million visits to the homes of voters in key battleground states."

Some have expressed interest in Vance's policy positions on issues including his support for a proposal by pro-life activists to make childbirth free for mothers and advancing other policies to support families.

"Vance is clearly interested in making marriage and family formation more affordable for ordinary Americans," Brad Wilcox, senior fellow at Institute for Family Studies, told OSV News.

"He's also got a markedly more energetic view of the role of public policy than did former Vice President Mike Pence," Wilcox said. Based on Vance's views, he said a Trump-Vance administration could potentially "advance a range of policy measures related to the marriage penalty, the child tax credit, and the costs of bearing and rearing children in America today."

If elected, Vance would be just the second Catholic vice president in U.S. history, preceded only by Biden, who was vice president for two terms before his own election to the White House.

(Kate Scanlon is a national reporter for OSV News covering Washington.)

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The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops's teaching document on political engagement, "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship," provides guidance to Catholic voters during a presidential election year.

(OSV News/Courtesy USCCB)

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# West Virginia Catholic School Students Win Statewide Award

**WEST VIRGINIA** — Eleven eighth grade students from Catholic Schools across the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston were awarded the prestigious Golden Horseshoe medal on June 11. Since 1931, students have been honored as knights of the Golden Horseshoe having demonstrated exceptional knowledge of West Virginia history, geography, politics, culture, and economics on the state administered exam. A total of 227 winners from all 55 West Virginia counties received this honor at the West Virginia Culture Center in Charleston.

The 11 winners hail from four Catholic schools in the Mountain State. The list of schools, students, and teachers are:

Charleston Catholic High School: Lia Duffield, Samuel Ellison, Bailee King, Daniel Linton, Audrey Lowe, Edward Passmore, Lucas Passmore (Jennifer Cline)

Corpus Christi School, Wheeling: Dawson Huggins (Debra Grall)

Madonna High School, Weirton: Evan Kovarik, Thomas Welch (Pat McGeehan)

St. Joseph Grade School, Martinsburg: Gabriel Campos (Kathleen Landry)

Dawson Huggins is the first-ever Golden Horseshoe winner from Corpus Christi School. Charleston Catholic had the most Golden Horseshoe winners in the state. Pat McGeehan, Madonna's West Virginia Studies teacher, represents the First District in the West Virginia House of Delegates; he brought a strong state government background to his class discussions. Gabriel Campos was named "Honorary County Commissioner" in Berkeley County's "Know Your Government Day" and plans to be a teacher once he graduates college.

## Area Catholic Picnic Set for July 21 at Greenbrier State Forest Shelter

**GREENBRIER STATE FOREST**—Catholics and their families are invited to join with the Greenbrier Valley Council 8689 Knights of Columbus for an area picnic and afternoon of fun at Shelter #1 of the picnic area in Greenbrier State Forest, five miles south of the I-64 Caldwell/White Sulphur Springs exit #175.

Beginning at 2 p.m. hamburgers and hot dogs, all the "fixings," sodas and bottled water, paper products will be provided by the Knights with those attending asked to add to the table with side dishes, salads, or desserts.

West Virginia School of Osteopathic Chef Paul Ciciora will be preparing the hamburgers and hot dogs. Ciciora is a member of the GV Knights Council and has volunteered to provide this service for several years.

In addition, those attending are also asked to bring board games and outdoor yard games.

Highlighting the picnic at 4 p.m. will be a vesper service as organized by Msgr. Kevin Quirk,

newly appointed pastor for St. Catherine of Siena Church in Roncerverte, St. Charles Borromeo Church in White Sulphur Springs, and the mission churches St. Louis, King of France, Lewisburg; Church of Mary Immaculate, Williamsburg; and St. John, the Evangelist Chapel in Sweet Springs.

Other churches served by the Greenbrier Valley Council include Sacred Heart Church in Rainelle and its mission, Sacred Heart in Spring Dale, Fayette County; St. John Neuman in Marlinton; St. Bernard's at Snowshoe and St. Mark, the Evangelist, in Bartow.

For additional information on the area Catholic picnic, contact the office of the Catholic Churches of the Greenbrier Valley (304) 536-1813 or the Knights of Columbus (304) 645-1373.

The Knights of Columbus is the world's largest organization of Catholic men and the Greenbrier Valley Council is the largest Catholic men's organization in the valley. An active auxiliary is also organized with the GV Council.



Courtesy photo

Two students from Madonna High School in Weirton were inducted into the Knights of the Golden Horseshoe at the West Virginia Culture Center in Charleston on June 11. Pictured, from left, are Evan Kovarik; Del. Pat McGeehan, teacher; and Thomas Welch.



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# Wheeling DPT Program/Family Service-Upper Ohio Valley Help Seniors 'Drum' up Cardio Workout

**WHEELING**—A collaboration between Wheeling University's Doctor of Physical Therapy program and Family Service-Upper Ohio Valley is promoting cardio exercise and community among the area's senior population.

Each Wednesday, Assistant Professor of Physical Therapy, Dr. Doug White and DPT students lead clients at Family Service-Upper Ohio Valley in a Cardio Drumming class. The hour-long class engages the local residents who attend in low impact exercise that follows music. Open to residents 60 and older, those attending use drumsticks to hit large exercise balls to music," White explained.

"The program provides an opportunity for area seniors to get a cardio workout, while having fun at the same time," White explained. Slower music is used to warm up and more upbeat music is played to get the seniors 'drumming' at a faster pace, he said.

For the DPT students, this class gives them practical work experience, and it helps Family Service-Upper Ohio Valley provide a much-needed service to the community.

"This is a great partnership and program that we developed pre-COVID. Cardio Drumming is a win-win for us and the university. This program was started to give seniors a way to get a cardio workout. For the students, they are getting real-world experience to use once they graduate," said Paula Calvert, chief executive officer of Family Service-Upper Ohio Valley and Wheeling University alumna.

Wheeling's DPT students, she said, love being around their clients and helping them stay active.

"The students don't see age; they see the person. The students learn how to help our clients grow and assess any limitations they may have," Calvert added.

When the program was restarted in January of 2023 just one resident was part of the class, but since that time the number of participants has grown. As more and more seniors joined the class, White said, so did the sense of community among those participating.

"Cardio drumming has made an impact in each person's physical abilities but has also



Courtesy photo

Dr. Doug White of Wheeling University's DPT faculty (back center) guides seniors at Family Service-Upper Ohio Valley through a cardio drumming workout. This partnership helps the seniors stay active and builds community.

brought the group together as a community. The class has become a social activity for many and brought some of the seniors out of their shell," he explained.

Calvert said the class members have formed an extended family, checking in with one another on a regular basis outside of class.

"If someone doesn't make it to class that week, they call to check on that person. They have grown into their own community. They encourage others to join the class as well," Calvert added.

Providing service to the local and regional agencies is an integral part of the DPT curriculum at Wheeling University, said Dr. Alison

Kreger, director of the DPT program.

"Both students and faculty collaborate to help meet the needs of community partners. These experiences match both the department and university missions to serve, be leaders and have a quest for lifelong learning. Students work on a variety of skills during these experiences, including observation, communication, professional behavior development, and hands-on skills – which help them develop into well-round physical therapists," Kreger added.

To learn more about this program, contact Family Service-Upper Ohio Valley at (304) 233-2350, ext. 105.



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# John's Journey Home

In the heart of Parkersburg, a resilient soul named John Landon, at the age of 64, faced homelessness for seven long years. Battling fatigue and the overwhelming stress of life on the streets, John decided it was time to seek a path to change. He turned to Catholic Charities in Parkersburg, and was able to receive a helping hand.

Determined to transform his life, John actively engaged with our case management services. He attended appointments diligently, working closely with his case manager to navigate the complexities of finding stability and a place to



John Landon

Courtesy Photo

call home. The dedicated efforts of John, coupled with a supportive atmosphere, eventually led to a promising opportunity.

John's tenacity paid off, and at the end of the process, he received the news he had been yearning for – he was accepted as a tenant at a local apartment complex! On Nov. 3, John took the monumental step

of moving into his new apartment, marking a profound shift from the harsh realities of street life to the comforting embrace of a home. The transition was made possible with the invaluable assistance of our volunteers, who selflessly supported John in this crucial moment of change. The community spirit extended even further, as St.

Francis Xavier Parish in Parkersburg contributed furniture to furnish John's new living space.

Eager to reclaim the simple joys of life, John expressed his anticipation of being able to cook in a kitchen again. In response to his desire, we were able to supply him with pots, pans, and a crockpot to make John's kitchen experience complete.

From the struggles of the street to the warmth of a cherished home, John's story is a testament to the remarkable impact that our Case Management program can achieve with the collaborative efforts of volunteers, generous donations, and unwavering community support.

As we celebrate John's journey from homelessness to a place he now loves, let his story be a beacon of hope, illustrating the profound difference that compassion and walking in solidarity can make in the lives of those seeking refuge and a fresh start.

Learn more about CCWVa at [www.ccwva.org](http://www.ccwva.org).

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# 'Jesús, en ti confío' en ti El Congreso Eucarístico Nacional se inaugura con una poderosa hora santa

Por OSV News

**INDIANÁPOLIS (OSV News)** —Un silencio absoluto llenó el Lucas Oil Stadium cuando decenas de miles de personas se arrodillaron para adorar a Jesucristo Sacramento en la tarde del 17 de julio en Indianápolis. Más de 100 focos apuntaron a una gran custodia dorada sobre un altar en el centro del estadio, mientras una poderosa hora santa -- que tuvo lugar antes de las charlas, la música o el saludo de los tres presentadores de la velada -- daba comienzo a la primera noche de avivamiento del congreso, llena de oración, poderosos oradores y música de alabanza y adoración.

Justo antes de que el obispo Andrew H. Cozzens de Crookston, Minnesota -- la fuerza episcopal impulsora del congreso -- entrara en la sala portando la custodia, los 30 peregrinos perpetuos que habían recorrido las cuatro rutas de la Peregrinación Eucarística Nacional entraron en el estadio. Portando íconos de los respectivos santos patronos de cada ruta -- San Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin, San Junípero Serra, Santa Elizabeth Ann Seton y la Santísima Virgen María -- los peregrinos dieron los últimos pasos que completaron oficialmente su viaje de ocho semanas desde puntos del norte, sur, este y oeste de EE.UU. hasta el congreso del 17 al 21 de julio en la capital de Indiana.

Tras un tiempo de oración silenciosa y de alabanza y adoración, el obispo Cozzens se arrodilló por segunda vez ante la custodia.

"Señor, queríamos dedicarte las primeras palabras de nuestro Congreso Eucarístico Nacional", dijo el arrodillado ante Jesús Eucaristía. Mons. Cozzens relató cómo el Avi-

vamiento Eucarístico Nacional -- iniciado en 2022 -- ha llevado a los católicos a reunirse para estudiar, enseñar y rezar con la Eucaristía, pasando incontables horas en adoración y pequeños grupos, y participando en iniciativas parroquiales y diocesanas.

"Señor, hemos hecho una Peregrinación Eucarística Nacional para ti", rezó. "Durante los últimos 65 días hemos llevado tu presencia viva por toda esta tierra, por el Este, el Oeste, el Norte y el Sur. Visitamos iglesias grandes y pequeñas. Hicimos grandes procesiones en ciudades y pequeñas procesiones en prisiones. Visitamos residencias de ancianos y refugios para personas sin hogar. Señor, intentamos compartir con todos los que encontramos por el camino tu increíble amor".

El obispo dijo que la peregrinación rezó por el país y la Iglesia y llevó esas oraciones al congreso. Dio las gracias a Jesús por los milagros que los peregrinos vieron a lo largo del camino: conversiones, personas que volvían a la fe, curaciones físicas y espirituales.

"Esperamos ver más", dijo.

Dijo a Jesús que las decenas de miles de católicos presentes en el estadio se habían reunido allí para darle gracias y alabarle y para convertirse en "discípulos misioneros, gente llena de la alegría del Evangelio, gente tan agradecida por la salvación por la que tu pagaste".

Rezó por una conversión más profunda de las personas, por la paz en los países asolados por la guerra, por los afectados por los abusos y por la unidad tanto del país como de la Iglesia. El obispo Cozzens invitó a los asistentes a compartir en silencio sus propios deseos con Jesús, y luego les pidió que rezaran

para que el Señor les revelara también sus deseos para ellos.

"Jesús, en ti confío", rezó, y el estadio resonó mientras la gente se hacía eco de su oración.

"Señor, hemos venido aquí porque queremos un avivamiento, un avivamiento eucarístico, y queremos que cada católico se dé cuenta de que estás vivo en la Eucaristía, y que se encuentre con tu amor", dijo. "Y Señor, sabemos que este avivamiento, tiene que comenzar con nosotros".

Una vez concluida la hora santa y después de que el obispo Cozzens saliera en procesión con el Santísimo, subieron al escenario los animadores del avivamiento: El padre Joshua Johnson, director de vocaciones de la diócesis de Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Montse Alvarado, presidenta de EWTN News -- quien saludó a los asistentes en español e inglés, instando a miles de católicos a dar vítores para Cristo Rey -- y la hermana Miriam James Heidland, miembro de la Sociedad de Nuestra Señora de la Santísima Trinidad. Los tres hablaron de sus experiencias personales con la Eucaristía y de lo que el congreso significaba para ellos, antes de presentar a los demás ponentes de la tarde.

El cardenal Christophe Pierre, nuncio papal en Estados Unidos, fue el orador principal de la noche. Comenzó con la reflexión de que "quizá nuestra oración principal para este congreso eucarístico debería ser ésta: que nosotros, como Iglesia, podamos crecer en nuestra unidad para que seamos más fructíferos en nuestra misión...".

Invitó a los presentes a reflexionar sobre "¿qué es el renacimiento eucarístico?" y "¿cómo sa-

brems que estamos experimentando un avivamiento eucarístico?".

El avivamiento "siempre va acompañado de la devoción sacramental", dijo, pero "debe extenderse también más allá de las prácticas devocionales".

"Cuando estamos verdaderamente renovados por la Eucaristía", dijo, "entonces nuestro encuentro con la presencia real de Cristo en el sacramento nos abre a un encuentro con Él en el resto de nuestra vida. Esto significa verlo dondequiera que vayamos".

Le recordó a los reunidos que Cristo "también está presente en nuestros encuentros con las personas de las que, de otro modo, nos consideraríamos divididos", incluidas "personas de una clase económica o raza diferente, personas que desafían nuestra forma de pensar".

Vivir "una vida verdaderamente eucarística", subrayó, significa que la adoración "se derrama en nuestra vida cotidiana, una vida de relación con los demás, nuestra manera de ver a los demás".

El cardenal animó a los reunidos a aprovechar el tiempo de adoración durante la semana del Congreso Eucarístico para pedir al Señor que les revele los lugares en los que se resisten a entregarse a su voluntad.

"Él es el único que puede conducirnos a una vida nueva", concluyó, "siguiéndole, podemos convertirnos en verdaderos apóstoles de su Reino".

La hermana Bethany Madonna, superiora local de la nueva misión de Phoenix de las Hermanas de la Vida, quienes apoyan y acompañan a mujeres embarazadas, habló de cómo Jesús, crucificado y resucitado, **Ver "Eucarístico" en la página 14**

**Para denunciar presuntos casos de abuso sexual de niños:** La Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston alienta a informar ante las autoridades civiles ante todo si se ha cometido un delito. También alentamos a utilizar [www.reportbishopabuse.org](http://www.reportbishopabuse.org) para hacer un informe sobre cualquier obispo en los EE. UU. Si tiene motivos para creer que un obispo ha cometido una conducta sexual inapropiada, comuníquese con las autoridades civiles de la jurisdicción correspondiente y visite [www.reportbishopabuse.org](http://www.reportbishopabuse.org).

**Para informar a las autoridades civiles:** comuníquese con la policía local; los números variarán según su ubicación. Si cree que alguien está en peligro inmediato, llame al 911. Para informar confidencialmente cualquier incidencia de sospecha de abuso o negligencia infantil, incluido el abuso sexual, comuníquese con la Oficina de Servicios de Protección Infantil de Niños y Familias de West Virginia llamando a la línea directa de abuso infantil al 800.352.6513. Puede informar anonimamente a esta línea directa si lo prefiere.

**Para informar a las autoridades diocesanas:** La diócesis alienta a informar a las autoridades civiles apropiadas, ante todo, si se ha cometido un delito. La diócesis también alienta a informar a las autoridades eclesiales apropiadas. Para reportar casos sospechosos de abuso sexual de niños por parte del personal de la Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston a la Diócesis, comuníquese con uno de los siguientes designados al 1.888.434.6237 o 304.233.0880: Sr. Bryan Minor, ext. 263; Sr. Tim Bishop, ext. 353; o Sor Martha Gómez, ext. 264. También puede llamar a la Oficina de Ambiente Seguro de

la Diócesis al 304.230.1504. También puede llamar a la línea directa de abuso sexual de la Diócesis al 833.230.5656. Los formularios de queja están disponibles en línea en [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org), haga clic en "Diócesis" en la barra de menú, luego en "Oficinas", luego en "Ambiente seguro", luego "Descargar archivos y formularios". El formulario se titula "Formulario de queja para denuncias de abuso sexual de menores". El formulario se puede devolver por correo de EE. UU. A: Office of Safe Environment, Diócesis de Wheeling-Charleston, PO Box 230, Wheeling WV 26003.

**Para informar al Coordinador de Asistencia a Víctimas de la Diócesis:** llame a la Erin McFarland, M.Ed., LPC, al 304.559.6742.

Además de los métodos enumerados anteriormente para denunciar el abuso sexual, la Diócesis también se ha asociado con Navex Global para ofrecer la plataforma EthicsPoint para informar otras inquietudes adicionales, como sospecha de mala conducta financiera, profesional y personal de un sacerdote, diácono, religioso, o empleado laico de la Diócesis o cualquier parroquia o escuela católica en West Virginia. Se puede acceder a la plataforma EthicsPoint a través de [www.dwc.org](http://www.dwc.org), en "Rendición de cuentas", luego "Informar mala conducta" o llamando al 844.723.8381. EthicsPoint es un sistema de informes de terceros que informa a las autoridades civiles cuando corresponda y a las autoridades diocesanas, y la identidad de la persona que informa esta protegida. Enlaces e información: Departamento de Salud y Recursos Humanos de WV: <https://www.wvdhhr.org/report.asp>. Policía Estatal de Virginia Occidental, Unidad de Crímenes contra Niños: 304-293-6400.

## Eucarístico...

**Viene de la página 13**

"quiere revelarse" y traer su gracia por su amor a cada persona.

"Dios te conoce. Dios te ama. Y te elige... Te ha confiado una misión que no le ha confiado a nadie más", dijo. Jesús "sabe que tenemos hambre de amor, y elige entregarse a nosotros como comida y bebida".

"Tenemos esa sed insaciable de ser amados que nadie ni nada puede saciar", salvo Dios, explicó. La hermana Bethany Madonna recordó que cuando el miedo o el fracaso pueden impedir acercarse al amor de Dios, "Jesús lo redime todo".

Compartió el testimonio de una mujer a la que le aterrorizaba confesarse -- cuando ella y su marido buscaban convalidar su matrimonio y participar en el sacramento de la reconciliación -- y la raíz de su miedo eran dos abortos que sufrió cuando era más joven. Vivió en la vergüenza y el silencio durante 29 años, y cuando concertó la cita para el sacramento de la reconciliación y se dirigió a ver al sacerdote, oyó un susurro que le decía: "No tienes que hacerlo", y "Esto es demasiado difícil... vuelve atrás".

Rezando Avemarías todo el camino, llegó a la confesión llorando; y después de escucharla, el sacerdote hizo el gesto de levantar sobre sus hombros una oveja y dijo: "Todo el cielo se alegra... Bienvenida a casa".

La hermana Bethany Madonna contó que, cuando la mujer colmuló al día siguiente, ella dijo que "mi vida será un 'sí' a Dios".

La noche de avivamiento de apertura del Congreso Eucarístico Nacional ya ha tenido un profundo efecto en los participantes que hablaron con OSV News.

Belén Muñoz, de 18 años, de Rosa Park, Nueva Jersey, dijo que era "alentador" ver a tantos católicos reunidos para el congreso.

"Al crecer en una comunidad secular, es una experiencia totalmente diferente", dijo. "Tener sólo una muestra de lo que nos estamos encontrando aquí es asombroso, y espero con ansias lo que vendrá el resto de la semana".

"Esta noche me he dado cuenta de que Jesús está tan vivo en la Eucaristía y que es tan obvio que actúa a través de tanta gente", dijo Molly Quinn, de 18 años, de Naperville, Illinois. Añadió que la experiencia "me hizo darme cuenta de que no estamos solos en este

mundo y de que hay tanta gente que busca a Cristo como yo".

"He pasado por una mala racha en mi vida, así que venir aquí y ver cómo Dios puede obrar a través de todos es realmente inspirador y poderoso, y me hace sentir renovada personalmente", añadió Michelle Jurec, de 18 años, también de Naperville.

Claire Reardon, que venía con un grupo de su parroquia en la Arquidiócesis de Miami, dijo que era especial empezar el congreso con la oración ante Jesús Sacramentado, porque pone todo bajo el prisma del "componente central de nuestra fe".

"Fue muy hermoso cómo los oradores se centraron en la singularidad e irremplazabilidad de todos los presentes y de todas las personas del mundo. Y el cuidado de la Iglesia por los más vulnerables y por compartir a Jesús en el Santísimo Sacramento con todos los que lo necesitan", añadió.

Ese mismo día, mientras esperaba en la cola de inscripción, Maria Smith, quien trabaja con jóvenes en una parroquia de la Arquidiócesis de Indianápolis, dijo que estaba contenta de venir aquí por sí misma, ya que ella suele venir a estos eventos para apoyar a los jóvenes. Esta vez, vino para "poder profundizar en mi propia comprensión de la fe", reflexionar en cómo la Eucaristía la puede transformar "en lo que estoy llamada a ser para la Iglesia de Dios".

Cerca del final de la noche apertura, Lotty Cantrelle, de 63 años, enfermera de Lockport, Louisiana, se puso de pie y cantó una canción de alabanza y adoración casi al final de la velada. Dijo que su párroco "la 'voluntarió'" para que viniera al congreso, pero después de vivir la sesión de avivamiento en esta noche de apertura, "sé que mi sacerdote sabía que yo necesitaba esto", dijo.

"El corazón de una persona tendría que ser de piedra para no cambiar", dijo, y recordó las palabras de la hermana Bethany Madonna sobre tener confianza en Jesús.

"Eso me reconfortó mucho", dijo. "Creo que este es un viaje hacia mi sanación y para volver a ser yo misma, que solía ser más alegre. Así que estoy preparada".

Gretchen R. Crowe, directora de OSV News; Peter Jesser Smith, editor de noticias nacionales; Maria Wiering, redactora sénior; Laretta Brown, editora de cultura; y María-Pía Negro Chin, editora de español, han contribuido a este reportaje.)



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