



NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS WAS LIFECHANGING

It's no exaggeration - there are absolutely no words to adequately express the emotions, energy, and breathtaking reverence that our 250+ strong WV delegation at the National Eucharistic Congress (NEC) experienced.



How do you put into words the pounding of your heart, the tears of sheer joy, and the intense sense that the Holy Spirit was traveling through our veins?

Everyday a sea of faithful of 50,000 to more than 60,000 at a time packed Lucas Oil Stadium and the Indiana Convention Center. More than 200 bishops, an estimated 1,000 priests, well over 500 seminarians, and countless religious orders clothed like us and thousands more in robes and habits of various humble colors and designs joined together to celebrate Christ's Presence in the Eucharist and learn to love Christ and our neighbor MORE!

"We've lived an experience of Heaven," said Bishop Andrew Cozzens in his address to the faithful at the closing Mass of the NEC. Bishop Cozzens, of the Diocese of Crookston, Minnesota, serves as chairman of the National Eucharistic Congress.

All 50 states, 17 countries, 43, languages, and faithful ages 0-96 were represented at the NEC and the eucharistic procession on Saturday, July 20th. They were all there to witness and celebrate what Bishop Mark Brennan's clarion call has been - to proclaim and praise that "The Eucharist is nothing less than Jesus Christ in Person."

"The Eucharist is a foretaste of heaven," Cozzens emphasized. "At our (NEC) procession, the thousands upon thousands in the streets (walking and watching) became truly an image of the Church as our Holy Father says, 'in salita' - going out; and going where? Going to Heaven, following Jesus, walking together as the Church going to Heaven."

The congress now transitions to the National Eucharistic Revival's Year of Mission - Walk with One.

"Invite one, and unite as one," Cozzens said.

More than 160 WV faithful took advantage of the full five-day event pass, 77 attended for one or more of the days. The approximate 270 from WV parishes and missions were not only from our state, but also our bordering OH, PA, MD, VA, and KY.

In addition to Bishop Mark Brennan 12 priest registered and attended through the diocese including Fathers Sojan Xavier, Shinto Mathew, Tijo George, Steve Vallelonga, Chris Turner, Priyesh Sebastian, Carlos Melocoton, Rayappa Kurakula, Jojan Joseph, Sebastian Devasya, Ram Dakkamadugula, and Doney Chacko.

Three deacons from WV included Harry Evans, James McCullough, and Aaron Talbott.

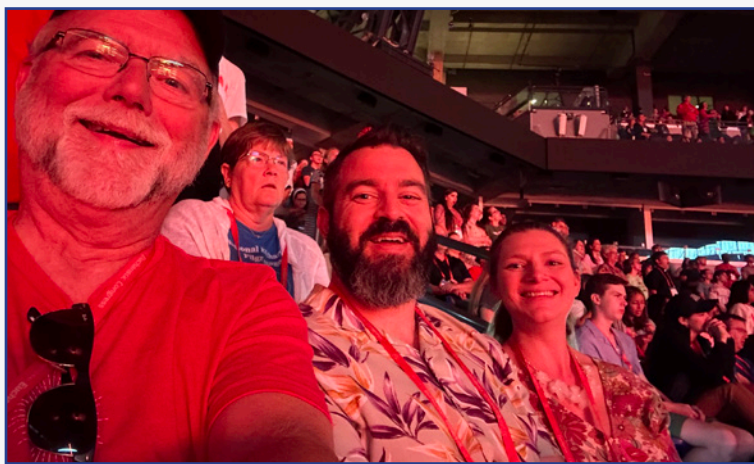
Plus religious Sisters Martha Gomez, Plaxedece Mugore, Agatha Munyanyi, Placida Shumba, Marita Sithole, and other sisters and missionaries who serve our Hispanic faithful in WV.





GO FORWARD, INVITE ONE SHARE YOUR GIFT

Speaking to the audience and all Catholics (70 million in number) in the US, Bishop Andrew Cozzens, Chairman of the National Eucharistic Congress said, “This year we have invited you to walk with one person. What would happen if each of you thought of one person you know that has been away from the faith, and you decided to pray for them, befriend them, and invite them to take one step closer to Jesus and His Church.... What would happen if 70 million Catholics did that? My question to you is will you do it?”



“Go, and tell others of the gift (CHRIST JESUS) you have received.”

Your Parish Point Persons for the Eucharistic Revival in our local parishes are now Parish Point Missionaries, Cozzens said, charged to rally all the faithful as true missionaries of Christ.

Throughout the next year diocesan and parish leaders will emphasize the lessons and energy of this moment – this movement in the Church with small groups in our parishes, vicariates, and diocese.

May it lead to a transformation – wanting to be a missionary and form small groups in their parishes– we have hopes that this movement of Eucharistic renewal that’s been born through the USCCB initiative will continue far into the future, Bishop Cozzens said during his first press conference at the congress.

As a diocesan bishop, Cozzens noted that in the last 10 years there are 30 percent less people in church (in his rural Minnesota diocese), reflective of that is happening to many dioceses.

“If the church herself doesn’t embrace a missionary culture we will fade,” he said.

Bishop Cozzens wants us to establish a missionary culture – a culture with the same joy, compassion, love, energy, and reception that all the faithful in Indianapolis for the NEC were part.

“My hope is that I can walk with my people young and old to be able to make that interior transformation – become a missionary Church sharing the gift of Christ,” he said. “We all should do that. Invite one.”





THE NEC - EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION OUR WALK TOWARDS CHRIST

Let us be a great witness of the Lord for the sake of the world!

The purpose of this and all of our Eucharistic processions are “simple,” said Bishop Andrew Cozzens.

“We hold up the Lord and we say that we love Him; and people see that we really treat Him as if we love Him,” he said. “We walk along and sing songs of love – so simple, so beautiful. We take him out into the streets. It is so consoling to the heart and a great witness to the world.”



More than 80,000 faithful processed or crowded the streets along the mile long, there to witness and be with Christ present in the Eucharist placed in the glorious four-foot tall golden monstrance that was blessed by Pope Francis for this historical holy moment in the US.

Grace filled moments were experienced time and time again by our WV faithful as they waiting for the procession, during the procession, at the Indiana War Memorial where the Monstrance was displayed for all to see and praise in song and reverent prayer, and even in the leisurely walk back to our starting place – all felt the Presence of Christ!

Between sipping and sometimes chugging their water WV faithful were making memories. Like when:

- Dominic Massimino (of St. Agnes, Shepherdstown) and Fran Inman (of St. Joseph, Martinsburg) had WV faithful and dozens from others states around formed an impromptu amateur choir singing a cappella communion songs like *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!* “He is near us.... Bread of heaven...!”
- Young adults Grace Cronen of Morgantown and Adam Marquart of Wheeling, leading the Glorious

Mysteries of the Rosary.

- Barbara Napple (of St. Vincent de Paul, Wheeling), who stumbled scraping her knee and toes, but was immediately swarmed by loving faithful including Lorraine Javorsky of Maryland (parishioner of St. Joseph, Martinsburg), who cleaned her wounds and bandaged her ever so gently to enable her to finish the spirit fulfilling walk with Christ.
- Deacon Harry Evans, who maneuvered an electric scooter down curbs, through the streets, and across the memorial lawn, because even with his many aching bones, he was not going to miss this chance of a lifetime. An experience to be part of a moment in our Church that generations of Catholics have never witnessed in the US.
- Parents Dr. Michael and Maria (Rendinell) Tupta, took every step closer to Christ with prayers certainly going to the heavens for their son, our diocesan Seminarian Michael Tupta, whom they would be taking to the airport in a few days for he would be going to Rome for Major Seminary at the NAC (Pontifical North American College) for the next several years.

With the sun beating down on the seemingly endless crowd faithful of all ages knelt, wept, sang, raised their joyful arms, or simply sat before the Lord on July 20, 2024.

In his words to the immense crowd, Bishop Cozzens said, “Jesus, today is a symbol, a sign of our earthly pilgrimage, and it’s not over.... We know that you want all to follow you. Jesus, we will walk with them.... Bring them to us... to walk towards you.”





FOREVER GRATEFUL

*From the desk of Sr. Martha Gomez, RGS,
Delegate for Consecrated Life Office, Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston*

I am so pleased to have been able to attend the National Eucharistic Congress in Indiana. The Eucharist is the center of my life. It is the fountain where I satisfy my thirst, where I find food for my soul and rest for my weary spirit.

I was overwhelmed to witness the great devotion, respect, and gratefulness for the Eucharist from all the participants. This was a faith-filled experience that brought me peace, joy, and hope for our world at this moment.

Though we didn't experience visible miracles, I am sure there were many. Also, I was impressed by the many times I heard the words excuse me, please, and thank you. This made our stay in the stadium more profound, and yes, bearable as you can imagine what it would be like to get from one session and event as thousands of others are doing the same. I felt God was watching over us, and we were watching for each other's well-being.

It was a great joy to see so many cardinals, bishops, priests, deacons, seminarians, and consecrated men and women all together in one place. It made me think of the Scriptures (Revelation 4: 3): *"Those wearing white robes are standing before the throne of God..."* and (Rev.7: 9-14) *"There is a great multitude that no one could count from out of every nation."*

What a joy! It was a real treat to be among all our brothers and sisters from all 50 states.

All, and each one of the presenters reminded us of our call, that is *"To be His disciples."* And at the same time, we are sent to be messengers of His great mercy.

As Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle said "Go, go, don't stay in the church. Go and proclaim the Good News to all your brothers and sisters."

I pray that I may be faithful to my promise. That is to invite and accompany another person to come to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament of the Eucharist. Hopefully we can bring myriads to the Lord by our words and deeds.

Blessings,
Sr. Martha



A PRECIOUS MOMENT

After walking the one-mile Eucharistic Procession at the NEC, Sr. Martha Gomez, greeted one of the many first communicants who processed while dropping rose petals in front of the Holy Monstrance with Christ. She was beaming with joy as she made her way with her mother the mile and a half back to where they had parked coming into the city. To make the moment sweeter, the little girl was elated when she found out that Sister was from Mexico just like her father. She truly gasped with excitement and immediately hugged Sister.

17TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: 2 Kings 4:42-44

They shall eat and plenty will be left over – a foreshadowing of what Christ will do. Our Almighty God performs miracles to feed the multitudes.

Responsorial: Psalm 145

“The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.”

Second Reading: Ephesians 4:1-6

One body, one Lord, one faith, and one baptism.

Gospel: John 6:1-15

Jesus and his disciples fed the crowd of hundreds of followers with 5 loaves and 2 fish.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that we may place our trust in God to guide us on our Eucharistic mission to invite one back to and into the Church, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For the faithful to know and praise that the bread we offer each day at Mass becomes the Bread of Life, a miracle in every celebration of the Eucharist, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For those who assist in food pantries, soup kitchens, and food distributions to those in need, that they may give witness to the miracle of feeding those who would otherwise go hungry, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For our grandparents and all senior citizens, that we may show how much we appreciate their gifts of faith and their many years of contributions to our parishes, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

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Liturgy of the Hours

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

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MASS ONLINE

Saturday 6pm Masses will continue to be livestreamed from the Cathedral of St. Joseph, and will be available on our website each Sunday at DWC.ORG.