



PARISH EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL TEAMS !

On January 20, Bishop Sullivan sent a letter to all pastors and parishes reminding them of the need to form Parish Teams responsible for coordinating the work of planning events in connection with the National Eucharistic Revival at the parish level.

The first of these events should be the celebration of the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ on Sunday, June 10. Parishes individually or together with nearby parishes, should be planning some sort of Corpus Christi Procession in keeping with the Church’s tradition.

Other events on that day could include a Parish Picnic or BBQ, the creation of floral tapestries (indoors or out), Eucharist Adoration or other events in keeping with parish tradition or local cultural expression.

The Parish Eucharistic Revival Team should then plan a calendar of events to focus parishioners on deepening their appreciation for the Eucharist and the beauty of the Sacrament. The Diocese will offer suggestions and, if requested, gather the teams together for virtual and/or in-person training.

PLANNED EVENTS

Eucharistic Lecture Series
in English, Spanish
and Vietnamese
Through May

**Eucharistic
Preachers Visit
the Diocese of Camden**
March 22–25, 2023

High School Visits
Camden Catholic HS &
Gloucester Catholic HS
at Camden Catholic HS
Morning of March 22

Paul VI HS
Afternoon of March 22

Holy Spirit HS &
Wildwood Catholic Academy
at Holy Spirit HS
Morning of March 23

**Lenten Day of
Recollection for the
Priests of the Diocese**
at St. Anthony Campus
Hammonton
Afternoon of March 23

Event for Families & Youth
at St. Anthony Campus
Hammonton
Evening of March 23

**Day of Recollection for
Diocesan Personnel**
Holy Family, Sewell
March 24

**Evening of Reflection
with Latino Leaders**
Evening of March 24

**Diocesan Eucharistic
Congress**
March 25, 2023
Waterfront Pavilion
Camden, New Jersey

**Parish Processions for
Corpus Christi in Camden**
Sunday
June 10, 2023

WHY EUCHARIST?

BY DEACON JERRY JABLONOWSKI

Whenever a serious discussion is had on any topic, the 5 “W’s” must always be considered: Who, what, when, where, and why. In the context of our ongoing dialogue about the Eucharist, we have rightly considered the essentials of the “who” – Jesus, the “what” – His real presence, the “when” – on Holy Thursday, and the “where” – at the Last Supper. In this piece, we will consider the “Why”.



Why did Jesus institute the Eucharist and why should we, as Catholics, partake of this Sacrament?

Jesus instituted and gave us the Eucharist to be the Sacrifice of the New Covenant – the New Covenant between God and Man made in His blood. He gives us the Eucharist to nourish our souls. To be real food to feed our spirits in order to grow closer to Him. And, finally, He instituted the Eucharist to be a perpetual memorial of His passion and death. That we never forget His sacrifice for us that redeemed us, that reconciled our relationship with God to open the gates of Heaven. To recall always His precious pledge both of His love for us and of eternal life for those who partake of it. “Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him.” (Jn 6:56)

So how do we respond to this gift? Why should we, as Catholics, seek out the frequent reception of the Eucharist?

Christ’s greatest prayer for us is unity with one another and unity with Him forever. We know that the Eucharist is His Divine life in the enduring life of humanity to cause us not to just remember Him and what He did for us, but, also, to unite us. To unite us with Him and unite the Christian community as we all partake of that same bread, share that same loaf, that is the body of Jesus Christ. It is broken and shared among us in our own brokenness to unite us in love.

The Eucharist is our total unity with the Divine. Whenever we eat this bread and drink this wine, we are forever united with Christ. Each molecule of the physical substance of the bread and wine, now the body and blood of our Redeemer, mingles and consolidates with our own physiology, our distinctive molecular structure of each cell within our body, to become a part of us. We become one with Christ in a manner incomprehensible to the human imagination, yet real with our biology of life. His body becomes part of our body. His blood becomes part of our blood. Both totally mingled and indistinguishable. His life becomes our life.

Our bodies and spirits are nourished through the Eucharist. We just need to open our minds and hearts to accept and respond to this reality of the Eucharist. Eucharist is not just a ritual that lasts until we return to our pews or conclude the Mass. Eucharist remains with us always to satisfy our hunger for Christ. But just like any food, we need to constantly re-nourish our bodies each day in order to live and grow. In order to stay healthy and avoid the ill effects of starvation. Frequent reception of the Eucharist is the diet of the soul, that keeps it healthy and refreshed.

Eucharist is the food we need to truly live life to the fullest, knowing that our spirits are infinitely intertwined with our physical nature. It is the food required to have a true sharing of the life of the Risen Christ within us. Literally now part of our physical and spiritual being. And in that, we share the most precious bond of unity with Christ our Lord. A unity with His Body, a mingling with His Blood, an adherence with His soul, and a sharing in His divinity!

The Eucharist makes us more and more like Christ. It brings us closer to our fullest capacity of love in this life, so as to prepare ourselves to accept the promise of everlasting life with Him in the next life. Where the fullness of love unites us all in the presence of God forever.

So why should we receive Eucharist? Simply put, in order to live now with Jesus, so that we can be forever united in Him for life eternal. He is our Eucharist today, so that on the last day, we may become Eucharist for Him – as He consumes our spirits into His Divine life.

What greater reason can we have than this?

GINGERBREAD CHURCH CONTEST

One of the parish activities being sponsored by the Diocese of Camden for next fall is a Gingerbread Church Contest. The Church is the House of the Body of Christ and is an important sign to the outside world of Christ's Presence. Individual bakers or a team of parish bakers are invited to "build" the Church in one of three categories:

- A. Creating your parish Church in gingerbread.
- B. Creating a world famous Church in gingerbread.
- C. Children 12 & under may submit their own design of a church in gingerbread.

Depending on the response, deanery level competitions may be required in some categories as display space will likely be limited.



We are currently looking for a sponsor, perhaps one of Atlantic City's casinos, to host the event and allow the judges picks to be displayed during the Christmas Season.

Rules and entry requirements will be distributed after Easter.

iRACE FOR VOCATIONS

Just a reminder that the work of encouraging vocations is the work of the whole Catholic Christian Community. At the parish level, the faithful need to be encouraged to pray for those whom God is calling to serve the Church as priests, especially here in the Diocese of Camden. This work is directly related to our appreciation for the Gift of the Eucharist, for without priests to offer the sacrifice of the Mass, there is not Eucharist.

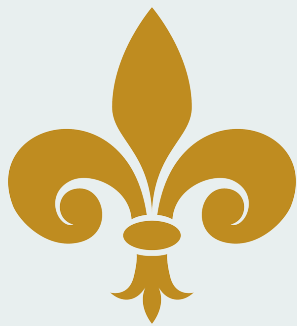
On Sunday, April 30, the Vocations Office of the Diocese of Camden invites runners, walkers and watchers to the Oval Track at Cooper River Park in Pennsauken for the Annual iRace for Vocations. The event will begin with the celebration of Mass at 1 PM and be followed by a 5K Run or 1 Mile Walk. Music, food and fun activities for people of all ages will be on deck. Meet our seminarians and cheer them on as they compete in the race. All are welcome!



BISHOP'S PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, we ask you to bless the Diocese of Camden with an increase in vocations to the priesthood. We pray that young men from our parishes and families will hear your call and be generous and courageous in their response. May more young men serve you as priests, who teach the faith, preach the Gospel, celebrated the Sacraments and make you present among us through their ministry. Encourage them to embrace the joy-filled and fulfilling life of a diocesan priest. May parents support priestly vocations in their families by prayer and good example. We entrust these prayers through Mary Immaculate, our patroness, hopeful that you will bless our Diocese with more priests in the near future, who live and reign, for ever and ever.

Amen.



**DIOCESAN
EUCHARISTIC
CONGRESS
MARCH 25, 2023**

Please mark your parish calendars and place a hold on Saturday, March 25th, the **Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord.**

On this date, nearly 7000 members of the faithful of the Diocese of Camden will gather to renew their faith in the Most Blessed Sacrament with a **Eucharistic Congress** to be held at the Waterfront Pavilion in Camden.

Details about the schedule for the day and other information will be made available in the coming months.

Sponsorship opportunities are available for parishes, institutions and individuals who would like to help make this event possible. For more information about sponsorship, please contact Stacy Napolitano in the Development Office at 856-583-6126.

THE CHURCH TEACHES

The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, proclaimed that the Eucharist is the “source and summit” of the Christian life. This means that every church ministry and all of our apostolic works flows from the Eucharist and likewise is oriented towards it. This is so for a simple reason—the Eucharist is Christ!

The priesthood of Christ is an important focus when it comes to contemplating the Eucharist. In every society, a priest is designated as the one who is the meeting point between the divine and the human. In Christ, the true high priest by virtue of His two natures—divine and human, God the Father acts to bring about the salvation of all people. At the same time, in Christ, the people of God offer worship to the Father in the Holy Spirit and by doing so are united one to another, becoming the very Body of Christ. Our individual participation at Mass follows this form.



We allow God to continue His work of salvation in us through the forgiveness of sins, the healing remedy of the Eucharist and the abundance of grace the Sacrament provides. At the same time, we offer ourselves to the Father — “here I am Lord, I come to do your will.” We listen to His voice and find deep within us the call to holiness expressed in our words, the use of our talents and our very manner of life.

“The flesh feeds on the **Body & Blood of Christ**, that the soul likewise may be filled with God.”

—Tertullian