



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

July 6, 2020

Dear Brother Priests,

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you.

I am writing to you today concerning the planned 16<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Eucharistic Congress scheduled for September 11 and 12, 2020 at the Charlotte Convention Center. The decision has been made, in consultation with the Eucharistic Congress committee, to cancel the Diocesan Eucharistic Congress for 2020. This is due to the uncertainty of the pandemic, the very involved preparations for the Congress, and out of an abundance of care for our participating parishioners, planners, speakers, workers and visitors.

I ask you to set aside those same dates – September 11, 12 and 13, 2020 – for each parish to celebrate in a special way our love for the Most Holy Eucharist. The Diocesan Eucharistic Congress Planning Committee will be posting suggestions for you to use in your parishes and homes. The committee will also advertise any news you wish to share regarding activities that are planned in your parishes and in your parishioners' homes. In this way we will still be having our 16<sup>th</sup> Diocesan Eucharistic Congress this September throughout the diocese.

This diocesan-wide effort to accent the Holy Eucharist is especially appropriate this year, since our parishioners have faced very serious challenges to their ability to receive Holy Communion during the pandemic. We are reminded that we are essentially a Eucharistic Church. "The Eucharist is the efficacious sign and sublime cause of that communion in the divine life and that unity of the People of God by which the Church is kept in being....The Eucharist is the sum and summary of our faith: Our way of thinking is attuned to the Eucharist, and the Eucharist in turn confirms our way of thinking."(Catechism of the Catholic Church 1325, 1327).

The theme for this year is "Be Holy", from the First Letter of Saint Peter 1:16. The Holy Card, which will be placed on the Eucharistic Congress website, depicts the Holy Family by Bartolomé Esteban Murillo, c.1665. The Holy Family is a model for our families and for each individually of our vocation to holiness in Christ. The Prayer for the Success of the Eucharistic Congress is also on the website. Please pray the prayer often – as I do, even daily – and let us enjoy the days of the 2020 Diocesan Eucharistic Congress in our parishes and homes from September 11-13.

Please be assured of my prayers for you and for your ministry to the faithful of the Diocese of Charlotte.

Sincerely yours in Christ Jesus,

Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis  
Bishop of Charlotte