



SSS Grapevine

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National Eucharistic Congress – July 2024



Greg Dufour – Houston, Texas

After 18 months of eager anticipation since registering for the 10th National Eucharistic Congress, the moment finally came to unite with just over 50,000 Catholics nationwide. I went with an open mind, ready to encounter Jesus more deeply and be renewed and open to whatever the Lord had in store. It was a blessing to share this historic moment with Father Sekar SSS and the Associates in attendance. The week was incredibly inspiring, filled with joy, deep reverence, powerful healing, and profound unity. The morning rosary, Mass, and inspiring music jump-started my 18-hour days. I experienced a profound personal and communal encounter with our Lord at daily Mass and Adoration. Taking part in the mile-long outdoor Eucharistic procession was an awe-



inspiring experience. The Emmaus story and the Bread of Life Discourse took on new meaning. The homilies were insightful and often touched upon meeting the challenges to our Christian faith and values. The revival talks were energizing, emphasizing the importance of having a personal relationship with our Eucharistic Lord and sharing the love of the Lord with others. The testimonies of people whose Eucharistic life and spirituality had transformed them were profoundly moving. The experience has motivated me to fully embrace the Rule of Life for Associates (ROLA 2) and explore ways to involve our Associates and the parish community in the Revival Year of Mission.

Faye & Fred Baryol – Florida

We were so excited to go to Indianapolis, Indiana, with grand expectations of being inspired, set on fire for our Eucharistic Lord, and invigorated to share what we received... And we were NOT disappointed! The atmosphere of joy by all was palpable, and the sense of Jesus' TRUE PRESENCE was powerful and alive! Our God did not just meet expectations but massively exceeded them!

GOD lavished His love upon His people, poured out his holy fire, and filled us with hope and a zeal to share what we have received! One thought we heard and stuck is: "Two-thirds of



Fred & Faye Baryol



the word “GOD” is GO... At the end of every Mass is the word “GO”.. Go out and proclaim what you have heard and received!

We’re still unpacking everything that we heard and experienced. As our Blessed Mother often did in her life, we are pondering in our hearts and minds all we saw and heard, talking about how best to share it, and praising the Lord for his unfailing generosity. We’re eager to see what GOD has in store for the third year of the Revival — our Year of Mission! Come, Holy Spirit!

Fr. Gnanasekar PaulRaj SSS – Houston, Texas

May thy Eucharistic Kingdom come! I experienced that from July 17 to 20, 2024, in Indianapolis, Indiana. It was a real Eucharistic revival in my life! Nearly 50,000 people traveled to Indianapolis last week for the historic National Eucharistic Congress, the high point of the ongoing National Eucharistic Revival in the United States. SSS Priests and associates were also there for the Saturday procession through downtown, and countless people around the country joined similar processions at the War Memorial Park. The 10th National Eucharistic Congress in the United States — the first in many years, the last one



Fr Gnanasekar Paulraj SSS with Greg Dufour



being in Philadelphia in 1976 — drew tens of thousands of pilgrims, including SSS Priests and the Associates, to Indianapolis last week to participate in Eucharistic celebration, Eucharistic talks, Eucharistic concerts, Eucharistic songs, Eucharistic Miracle exhibition, Eucharistic processions and Eucharistic adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. An estimated 60,000 Catholics participated, kneeling along the streets as the Eucharist passed by and then joining the Masses who walked behind. Among them were SSS priests and Associates.

The one-mile procession was a high point of the 10th National Eucharistic Congress and the ongoing National Eucharistic Revival. This three-year initiative of the U.S. bishops launched in



2022. The Congress, held July 17-21 at the Indiana Convention Center and adjacent sites, included a packed schedule of liturgies, talks, performances, and exhibits, all focused on the Eucharist as the source and summit of the Catholic faith.



Each evening ended in Lucas Oil Stadium with a revival session showcasing talented musicians and speakers and an extended period of quiet Eucharistic adoration.

The National Eucharistic Pilgrimage, the eight-week journey made by 30 young adults from the four edges of the country, culminating in Indianapolis for the Congress, was a heart-touching experience.

Priests, religious, and laypeople adored Jesus in the Eucharist outside the Indiana War Memorial during the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis on July 20.



The Congress closed on July 21 with a commissioning Mass in the stadium celebrated by papal special envoy Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle. In his homily, with more than 100 bishops seated behind him, Cardinal Tagle, former archbishop of Manila and a pro-prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization, encouraged congress-goers to share what they had received over the past five days.

Asked by Bishop Andrew Cozzens at the end of Mass if they would also like to see an 11th National Eucharistic Congress, the crowd roared with cheers and applause. Bishop Cozzens, chair of the congress' board, noted that organizers had been considering 2033 — the Year of Redemption, 2,000 years after Jesus' death and resurrection. Still, feedback from supporters, organizers, and attendees prompted them to consider holding another event much sooner.



The bishop also announced a Eucharistic pilgrimage from Indianapolis to Los Angeles next year, arriving on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, Sunday, June 22, 2025.

“You couldn’t miss Christ in the Eucharist all around us in the Congress,” and “You couldn’t miss the Eucharist fire blazing all around us.”

I thank Very Rev. John Thomas Lane SSS, our provincial superior and my Corpus Christi – Houston - SSS community for allowing me to participate in the rarest of the rare Eucharistic Congress.

Dr. Billy Stewart – San Antonio, Texas

What was profound to everyone during the 15-minute intervals on all four nights while in silent adoration of Our King in a football stadium almost to capacity. You could hear a pin drop. We did not hear a single cough, sneeze, or sound, not even a baby or toddler fussing or crying among 50,000. There was complete and total awe of God’s love through his Son’s eternal presence as we bathed in the Holy Spirit. Jesus is with us!!

The only regret in leaving this Congress is that the entire world was not present with us. This is our glorious task as the Aggregation and Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament – to attract everyone to the unspeakable beauty that is and always will be – Our Eucharistic Jesus. We must draw the entire Body of Christ as he loves each one of us as his most prized creation.



Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller (left) of San Antonio, TX with Dr. Billy Stewart



I want to share a farewell phrase I heard during this Eucharistic Congress. In contemplating this phrase, I sensed that it encompasses our ability to see his Real Presence in the Eucharist while the grace of this Sacrament allows us to open our eyes and hearts to see and love each other as Jesus does. “I will see you in the Eucharist!!!”



SSS Religious at the Congress (left to right) Fr Paterno Labasano SSS (Hawaii), Fr Gnanasekar Paulraj SSS (Houston), Fr Frankie de los Reyes SSS (Hawaii), and Fr Junvic Diolata SSS (Hawaii)