

DIocese OF BUFFALO
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

May 1, 2023

Dear Father,

The eight Catholic dioceses of New York State are sponsoring an historic statewide Eucharistic Congress, which will be held at Our Lady of Martyrs Shrine in Auriesville, New York from October 20-22, 2023.

The Eucharistic Congress is taking place as part of a national effort to reinvigorate devotion to the Eucharist on a national level. This National Eucharistic Revival, sponsored by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, aims to restore understanding and fidelity to the great mystery of Jesus really and truly present in the Eucharist and to encourage all Catholics to make the Eucharist the source and summit of their faith.

The bishops of New York State have launched an easy-to-use website <https://nyseucharisticcongress.org> to provide comprehensive information about the New York State Eucharistic Congress and to allow people to register for the event.

We look forward to welcoming upwards of 10,000 people to this Eucharistic Congress, who want to draw closer to Jesus and share in this historic three-day event. Our Congress will feature great speakers, uplifting music, Mass on Saturday celebrated by Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York, opportunities for prayer and adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, another special Mass on Sunday, and time to socialize. It will be a wonderful time to renew our faith in Jesus and to share that faith with others.

While individuals and families are welcome to register, you may want to consider sponsoring a group of your parishioners to attend for a day or two or the entire weekend. Event volunteers and priest confessors are also needed.

As you may know, the location of the Eucharistic Congress, the Shrine of Our Lady of Martyrs, is the site of the 17th century martyrdoms of Jesuit missionaries Saints Isaac Jogues, Rene Goupil and Jean Lalande and of the birth of the first native American saint, Saint Kateri Tekakwitha. Isaac Jogues is known for his love for the Mass and Tekakwitha for her love for Eucharistic adoration.

The Shrine's Coliseum, built in 1931 in response to the canonization of martyred Jesuit missionaries, is the largest Church building in the United States, with a capacity of 10,000.

The NYS Congress website will be updated regularly to provide information on the complete schedule of events, the speakers who will captivate and inspire the crowd, religious services that will take place, and nearby places to stay. It will also allow participants to register to attend and/or sign up to volunteer during this historic three-day event.

Attached, you will find PDFs of posters you can hang in your parish or publish in your bulletin, along with the latest *Real Presence* newsletter from the Diocese of Buffalo. Our diocesan social media channels will also be providing shareable promotional posts that I encourage you to use to publicize the state Eucharistic Congress, as well as the National Eucharistic Revival.

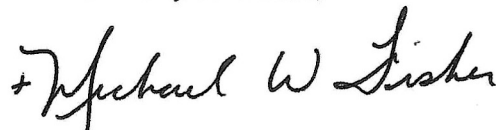
In 2024, we are planning to send a delegation to the National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis. Please continue to look for updates concerning both of these gatherings from the Office of Worship and please contact Fr. Seán Paul Fleming with any questions.

Your active participation in the Eucharistic Revival is imperative to its success. Prayer, support, encouragement, and catechesis are all tools we can use to inspire the faithful to embrace the power of the Eucharist in these challenging times for our world and our Church and to evangelize those who have yet to embrace the Eucharist.

I look forward to seeing you and your parishioners in Auriesville in October and pledge my prayers for you daily, at the celebration of Mass and in my own personal time before our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

May the Risen Christ continue to inspire you on our Easter journey. St. Joseph the Worker, pray for us!

Fraternally in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael W. Fisher". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning.

Most Reverend Michael W. Fisher
Bishop of Buffalo