



NATIONAL Eucharistic Revival

Real Presence

News & Updates from the Diocese of Buffalo
Fall 2023

The Road to Emmaus Leads us to Renewal

The Church is on the move! The Emmaus account from Luke's Gospel (chapter 24) is one of our foundational texts for understanding and modeling the power of the Eucharist. The disciples overtaken by a range of emotions—joy, fear, excitement, grief and bewilderment—are still able to witness to each other regarding the marvelous—yet veiled—presence of Christ Jesus. The word they share and the bread they break helps them to be Church as a sign of hope to the world around them. Integral to this experience is the witness and support we give each other and the courage and zeal we receive, by the grace of God, to renew our commitment and remain a Church on mission.

In just a few days, the New York State Eucharistic Congress will be held in Auriesville, NY on the holy ground of the Our Lady of Martyrs Shrine. If you are not able to join this beautiful 40-hour event of devotion and prayer in the Real Presence of the Eucharist, please keep the pilgrims, speakers and facilitators in prayer. In solidarity, consider spending an hour in prayer—perhaps in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament or in the sacrifice of the Mass—for the intentions of those gathered. Over 8,000 people are expected! If you are planning to go (that means you are already registered), please email worship@buffalodiocese.org. We would love to connect with you while you are there. Please visit <https://nyseucharisticcongress.org> for full details.

In Summer 2024, faithful from all over our country will gather for the 10th National Eucharistic Congress as part of the ongoing National Eucharistic Revival. It will be held in Indianapolis from July 17th to 21st, 2024. The Diocese of Buffalo plans to send a delegation of about 25 individuals *and you could be among them!*

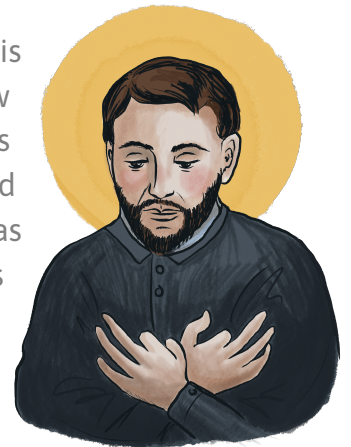
In the coming months, each of our eight Vicariates will be asked to nominate individuals who are willing to attend the Congress. Each nominee will be asked to submit a short statement of witness and faith, especially in regard to their love for the Eucharist and its power in their lives. Once these representatives are chosen, they in turn will be asked to become like the disciples on the road to Emmaus. They will invite someone in their life who they think might benefit from joining them on the journey. When the Year of Mission begins (2024-2025), these disciples will be empowered to assist in transforming our diocese and Family of Parishes! For more information, please contact the Office of Worship!

The Parish Year: What can we do to “REVIVE” ?

- + **Life in the Eucharist.** The *Road to Renewal* has offered training to parishes to facilitate LITE. The Life in the Eucharist consists of presentations based on theological themes rooted in the teachings of the Catholic Church. It comprises an integral approach to the Eucharist rooted in the celebration of the liturgy and our lives with a deeper, more involved appreciation in the abiding presence of God through prayer. This leads our hearts to be liberated for living the Eucharist in communal service with our neighbors, those in need and the world in general. Visit <https://www.buffalodiocese.org/events/life-in-the-eucharist-training-session-one/> for more information.
- + **Recruit Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.** The Office of Worship regularly forms ministers to assist at Mass, visit homes, medical facilities and hospitals as a beautiful ministry of the Family of Parishes. Potential ministers should discern this call, speak with their pastor/chaplain and then apply for formation and ministry. *Soon, we will be offering a retreat for those who are already ministers!*
- + **Build your Pillar Teams with Strength.** The Office of Worship is happy to consult with pillar groups, especially the Spirituality and Liturgy pillars, to ensure that what a Family of Parishes endeavors to do is attainable, creative and in concert with the norms of the Universal Church. Call (716) 847-5545 or email worship@buffalodiocese.org to schedule a time to gather with your pillar teams!

Saint Isaac Jogues: North American

During the year following his ordination in 1636, St. Isaac Jogues had his dearest wish fulfilled: to be a missionary to the Native Americans in New France (central New York State). In 1641, he and a group of fellow missionaries traveled to Iroquois country. There, the missionaries were whipped, bitten and tormented. St. Isaac Jogues watched his friends die around him and was constantly threatened by death himself. After a year, in which St. Isaac was able to evangelize and baptize a few of the Iroquois, he escaped, boarding a Dutch ship and returning to France. He returned in months, and because of injury to his hands, he had to obtain special permission from Pope Urban VIII, who considered him to be a “living martyr,” to celebrate Holy Mass without the proper digits. St. Isaac predicted this would be his last trip and wrote to a fellow Jesuit, saying, “My heart tells me that if I am the one to be sent on this mission, I shall go but I shall not return. But I would be happy if our Lord wished to complete the sacrifice where he began it.” He was killed with a tomahawk in 1646. St. Isaac and his companions were canonized by Pope Pius XI in 1930 as the North American Martyrs. They include the two who died with him and four others who were killed during that general time. St. Kateri Tekakwitha was born about 10 years after St. Isaac died, in the same village where he gave his life for his faith. He is the patron saint of the Americas and Canada.



Questions?

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