



ARCHDIOCESE OF INDIANAPOLIS

The Church in Central and Southern Indiana

Leadership Briefing

By Archbishop Charles C. Thompson

Come, Holy Spirit, fill our hearts with the fire of your love

As we are all fully aware, the past three years have taught us beyond all doubt that human life is filled with sorrow and disappointment. Having lived through the devastation of a global health crisis in which millions of people suffered and died—either as a direct result of the COVID-19 virus or from the economic hardships and social unrest it caused, we



know what it means to suffer. Now, to make matters worse, we are witnessing the horrors of war inflicted on the people of Ukraine, Syria, Ethiopia, and other regions of the world. Rising inflation, which impacts low-income families the most, is contributing to the financial hardships many vulnerable people are facing as they struggle to meet their basic needs. And once again we are mourning the slaughter of innocent children at one of our nation's schools.

Where, and when, will it end?

Our faith is weak, isn't it? Just six weeks ago, we celebrated the great miracle of our salvation and the true source of all human hope and joy. We believe that the Lord is risen, that he has conquered sin and death, and that we are truly free. We believe this, and yet we have our doubts.

We hope in Jesus Christ, and yet we give in to sadness and despair. This is precisely why God sends us his Holy Spirit—to give us courage in our weakness, to sustain us in our fidelity to

his Word, to fill our hearts with joys that will never end!

In a recent Easter message, Pope Francis said the resurrection of Jesus offers hope in a world “marked by so many acts of injustice and violence,” including parts of the world affected by “hunger, endemic conflicts and terrorism.”

Easter “bears fruits of hope and dignity where there are deprivation and exclusion, hunger and unemployment; where there are migrants and refugees, so often rejected by today’s culture of waste, and victims of the drug trade, human trafficking and contemporary forms of slavery,” the pope said.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI once said that “Easter does not work magic. Just as the Israelites found the desert awaiting them on the far side of the Red Sea, so the Church after the resurrection always finds history filled with joy and hope, grief and anguish.”

Joy and hope do not eliminate our grief and anguish. They transform them—making them like the Lord’s passion and death: a participation in the painful pilgrimage of human suffering to the abundant joy of eternal life.

This is why Easter is the season of hope. Our hope is not idealism, a form of “wishful thinking.” Our hope is not political or ideological. It is Christian realism, grounded in the person of Jesus Christ and in the story of his life, death and resurrection. Christian hope is not an illusion. As the Letter to the Hebrews assures us, “we have [hope] as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul” (Heb 6:19).

We are truly anchored to our heavenly home regardless of the storms we encounter along the way. For Christians on the way to our heavenly home, life’s difficulties are not eliminated, as if by magic. They are endured with confidence, with hope and, yes, with the joy of the Risen Christ.

We know that we need the help of God’s grace to face the pain and the weariness of daily life. We know that we need the Spirit’s sevenfold gifts (wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord) to sustain us in life’s journey. We know that the Church always finds history “filled with joy and hope, grief and anguish.” That’s why we dare to invoke the Holy Spirit

That was certainly true for the disciples of Jesus. Many faced bitter persecution and death as they carried out the Lord’s great commission to go out to the whole world as missionary disciples to preach the Gospel and heal the sick in Jesus’ name. They experienced no end of suffering and disappointment, but they served the Lord joyfully because they were empowered by the Holy Spirit and were burning with the fire of God’s love.

When the dark days come—in our personal lives and in our common life as missionary disciples—we should call on the Holy Spirit and invite him to come into our hearts as he did

with the hearts of Mary and the disciples on the first Pentecost. Come, Holy Spirit, bring light for our darkness, comfort for our distress, healing for our souls' sicknesses, warmth for our frozen hearts, and joys that will never end.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Charles C. Thompson
Archbishop of Indianapolis

Plan is expanded for opening of eucharistic revival; new date is June 19

By John Shaughnessy
The Criterion, May 13, 2022

Imagine a joyful procession that celebrates the Eucharist, weaving through the streets of downtown Indianapolis—a procession filled with youths, young adults, children who have recently made their first holy Communion, people who were received into the full communion of the Church this Easter, and everyone else who believes that Christ continues to offer his body and blood to the faithful in each Mass.



That's the vision that archdiocesan leaders have for a celebration on June 19, Father's Day—a celebration that will include two Masses, a eucharistic procession and a "Festival of Faith, Family and Service."

The celebration will connect with ones in dioceses across the United States, coming on a weekend that marks the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, traditionally known as Corpus Christi.

It's all part of a concerted effort by the bishops in the United States to call for "a three-year, grassroots revival of devotion and belief in the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist."

The revival is a concrete extension of the bishops' belief "that God wants to see a movement of Catholics across the United States, healed, converted, formed and unified by an encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist—and sent out in mission 'for the life of the world.'"

The culmination of this three-year revival will take place in July of 2024 when the first National Eucharistic Congress in nearly 50 years is held in Indianapolis.

The archdiocese will start its three-year path to that once-in-a-lifetime gathering with its celebration of the Eucharist on June 19.

The celebration will include two Masses at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis, with one starting at 1 p.m. and the second beginning at 3 p.m. Archbishop Charles C. Thompson will be the principal celebrant at both Masses.

Following the 3 p.m. Mass, there will be a eucharistic procession through the streets of downtown Indianapolis, leading to St. John the Evangelist Church where a holy hour and Benediction will take place.

From 1-4 p.m. on that same day, there will also be a “Festival of Faith, Family and Service” on the grounds of the Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center at 14th and Meridian streets.

During the festival, there will be a Father’s Day lunch, starting at 1 p.m., that will be available for people who attend either Mass. There will also be a service project to help people in need, showing the connection of the Eucharist and the Church’s mission to serve God and others.

“The real crown jewel of this whole experience is really going to be the procession,” said Father Patrick Beidelman, executive director of the archdiocesan secretariat for Worship and Evangelization. “That’s the thing in which most people physically will be able to participate.”

He also noted that while the two Masses on Corpus Christi allow more people to be accommodated inside the Cathedral, they “also give us the opportunity to celebrate with some of the various cultures and language groups in the archdiocese.”

Archdiocesan leaders also envision the lunch of the “Festival of Faith, Family and Service” as a way to feed the people who attend either Mass.

“For those who go to the 3 p.m. Mass, they will be invited to come to the festival before Mass,” Father Beidelman said. “And since it’s Father’s Day, bring your dad, and we will have lunch provided. And there will be the opportunity for individuals and families to be hands-on with the service project.

“And those who come to the 1 p.m. Mass will be invited to do the same thing. They’ll come and have a bite to eat, participate in the service project, and then either line the route of the procession or join the procession.”

For the procession, Father Beidelman said that “a special invitation will be given to all young people making their first Communion this year to walk with the archbishop.” This group will also be encouraged to wear their first Communion attire and will need to be accompanied by a parent, teacher or catechist.

A special invitation to join the archbishop will also be extended to people received into the Church at Easter this year.

Father Beidelman also noted that the intercultural diversity of the archdiocese will be “powerfully represented” in the Masses and during the eucharistic procession. And the youths and young adults of the archdiocese will also be called upon to make their presence known.

“We also hope to bring in people who have a particular heart for service, such as the St. Vincent de Paul Society,” he said. “And we hope to call upon members of the Central Indiana Cursillo community and other people who can not only witness to the joy and the power of faith in their lives but also assist with hospitality, especially around the times of the Masses and the beginning of the procession.”

Father Beidelman also emphasized that “a significant amount of attention is being given to safety and security for all who will participate in the procession.”

These plans for the opening of the eucharistic revival have changed since an earlier announcement of the event, starting with moving it from Saturday, June 18, to Sunday, June 19. The new plan also is an expansion of the previous one.

The expanded approach to the June 19 event is a reflection of the reaction that archdiocesan leaders received to the original plan.

“The plan has been expanded because not only have our pastors hoped for more ways in which our people can participate, but we also get a sense this is a unique moment, and we’re sensing some energy from the people as well,” Father Beidelman said.

While the plan has grown, the hope for the June 19 event remains constant, archdiocesan leaders said.

“The Eucharist gives us life,” said Christopher Walsh, chancellor for the archdiocese. “I know the archbishop is focused on how the Eucharist impels us to take that life to others, particularly to the marginalized and the poor.”

Father Beidelman noted, “I hope that this will be a new springtime of faith, a time in which people who are away from the Church feel a call to come back and [feel] welcomed. For those who are regular in their practice, I hope it will be a deepening of their experience of Christ and will be given an expression in the form of service, care for one another and strengthening our local communities.”,

A Message from Pope Francis: Words of Challenge and Hope

A selection from the Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Gaudium (The Joy of the Gospel)

Unity prevails over conflict

226. Conflict cannot be ignored or concealed. It has to be faced. But if we remain trapped in conflict, we lose our perspective, our horizons shrink and reality itself begins to fall apart. In the midst of conflict, we lose our sense of the profound unity of reality.



227. When conflict arises, some people simply look at it and go their way as if nothing happened; they wash their hands of it and get on with their lives. Others embrace it in such a way that they become its prisoners; they lose their bearings, project onto institutions their own confusion and dissatisfaction and thus make unity impossible. But there is also a third way, and it is the best way to deal with conflict. It is the willingness to face conflict head on, to resolve it and to make it a link in the chain of a new process. “Blessed are the peacemakers!” (Mt 5:9).

228. In this way it becomes possible to build communion amid disagreement, but this can only be achieved by those great persons who are willing to go beyond the surface of the conflict and to see others in their deepest dignity. This requires acknowledging a principle indispensable to the building of friendship in society: namely, that unity is greater than conflict. Solidarity, in its deepest and most challenging sense, thus becomes a way of making history in a life setting where conflicts, tensions and oppositions can achieve a diversified

and life-giving unity. This is not to opt for a kind of syncretism, or for the absorption of one into the other, but rather for a resolution which takes place on a higher plane and preserves what is valid and useful on both sides.

229. This principle, drawn from the Gospel, reminds us that Christ has made all things one in himself: heaven and earth, God and man, time and eternity, flesh and spirit, person and society. The sign of this unity and reconciliation of all things in him is peace. Christ “is our peace” (Eph 2:14). The Gospel message always begins with a greeting of peace, and peace at all times crowns and confirms the relations between the disciples. Peace is possible because the Lord has overcome the world and its constant conflict “by making peace through the blood of his cross” (Col 1:20). But if we look more closely at these biblical texts, we find that the locus of this reconciliation of differences is within ourselves, in our own lives, ever threatened as they are by fragmentation and breakdown.[183] If hearts are shattered in thousands of pieces, it is not easy to create authentic peace in society.

230. The message of peace is not about a negotiated settlement but rather the conviction that the unity brought by the Spirit can harmonize every diversity. It overcomes every conflict by creating a new and promising synthesis. Diversity is a beautiful thing when it can constantly enter into a process of reconciliation and seal a sort of cultural covenant resulting in a “reconciled diversity”. As the bishops of the Congo have put it: “Our ethnic diversity is our wealth... It is only in unity, through conversion of hearts and reconciliation, that we will be able to help our country to develop on all levels”.[184]

My Prayer for You

Let us turn to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Peace, and ask her to help us bring peace and unity to our bitterly divided world. May her intercession and example guide us as we seek to open our hearts to the manifold gifts of the Holy Spirit this Pentecost Sunday.

+ Charles C. Thompson