



Thursday of Holy Week
April 2, 2015

Your Excellency:

As you are no doubt well aware, the next Eucharistic Congress will be held in Cebu, Philippines, from 24 to 31 January, 2016. You may also recall, from the preparations prior to the Eucharistic Congress in Dublin, that many dioceses sponsored events, provided opportunities for catechesis and held celebrations to orient the People of God towards this event of the universal Church.

The Statutes of the Pontifical Committee for International Eucharistic Congresses make it clear that both the catechetical and the actual celebration should clearly emphasize the central place of the Eucharist in the Church's life and her mission. As the National Delegate for the Anglophone sector, I am responsible for the pastoral preparation of the faithful in Canada and for helping with fostering participation at the Congress.

Following the last Eucharistic Congress in Dublin, three main challenges were noted to sustain the momentum from the Congress: the importance of intergenerational participation to promote what has been referred to as the "culture of the Eucharist," diocesan catechesis on Eucharistic faith and worship and ongoing formation aimed at developing an active and informed participation in the life of the Church through events such as the international Eucharistic Congress.

Nearly 1,000 Canadians went to Dublin. It is difficult to know how many will get to Cebu. It is the intent of the National Delegates to host a Canadian event in Cebu, for gathering and for Mass, once numbers have been determined after registration is complete.

It is recommended that diocesan websites and communications prepare a link to the IEC 2016 as soon as possible. Note that the early bird registration of \$350 USD ends on June 30, 2015 with increases of \$400 and \$450 closer to the Congress. Clergy need to know that certification is an integral part of the registration process.

Once again, as in the past, dioceses are asked to appoint one or more representatives. To help you select a Diocesan Representative, below is an outline of their responsibilities:

- To promote the Cebu International Eucharistic Congress, its theme and meaning;
- To encourage diocesan catechesis on the Eucharist;
- To coordinate spiritual preparation for the vast majority of Catholics who will not be in Cebu and ensure as many Canadian Catholics as possible are aware of the Congress;
- To help to track those planning to attend; and
- To offer information on registration, accommodation and possible tours/pilgrimage opportunities.

I invite you to forward the names and contact information of your Diocesan Representative to Mrs. Barbara Dowding, Vice-Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Vancouver, at bdowding@rcav.org. I also encourage you to provide information about the upcoming Eucharistic Congress to your clergy as well as to promote it on your diocesan website.

With gratitude and prayers for a blessed Easter season, I remain

Fraternally yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ J. Michael Miller CSB". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross symbol at the beginning.

✠ J. Michael Miller, CSB
Archbishop of Vancouver