



Vocations Evangelization and Youth Office (VEYO)

Roman Catholic Diocese of Peterborough

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**Manual for Diocesan Preparation for
INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS
2008 QUEBEC CITY**



Spirit-filled and fired-up!

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The 49th International Eucharistic Congress

What is an International Eucharistic Congress?

The first International Eucharistic Congress, held in France in 1881, was an assembly of 300 persons directing Eucharistic movements in European countries. In the following 125 years the Congress (held every 4 years) grew rapidly in size, meeting in locations such as Honduras, Ghana and Korea. With its internationalization, the scope of the congresses expanded, emphasizing missionary outreach especially the “re-evangelization” of the local Church. At the heart of Congress remained the Eucharist especially the celebration of Holy Mass, celebrated by the Holy Father.

Keys to Preparation

The Eucharistic Congress is not an isolated event, but must be prepared for enthusiastically if it is to bear lasting fruit for the Church and the world. Importance is given to these aspects of preparation,

- 1. A more intense catechesis on the Eucharist, as the Mystery of Christ living and active in the Church, suitable to Christians of different ages and situations.*
- 2. Fully active participation in the sacred liturgy, promoting attentiveness to the Word of God and the communion of the Church.*
- 3. Concrete steps of social action to foster to human solidarity which has its energy and source in the Eucharist.*

Quebec City 2008

With the generous collaboration of the Conference of Catholic bishops of Canada, Cardinal Ouellet proposed to the late John Paul II that the 49th International Eucharistic Congress be celebrated in Québec City in June 15-22, 2008. This congress will coincide with the 400th anniversary of the founding of Quebec City, an influential event in the first evangelization of North America. Pope John-Paul II officially announced the holding of the Congress in Québec during his speech of October 17, 2004, which inaugurated the Year of the Eucharist.

Peterborough Diocese

Our diocese has reserved space for at least 100 pilgrims to the International Eucharistic Congress in 2008. Diocesan preparation focuses on the three aspects mentioned above: intensive catechesis, devout adoration and social action. The concrete forms our preparation will take are outlined within this manual. Through these many efforts we want to share the great mystery of the Eucharist, the gift of God for the life of the world.

The Ark of the New Covenant

The Ark of the New Covenant resembles a small boat surmounted by a chest adorned with eight icons from the Gospels. It was envisioned by the young people of Quebec, built, and finally blessed by the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI in Rome on May 11th.



Its name “Ark of the New Covenant,” of Biblical origin, refers to the spiritual experience of the people of Israel and the pact they concluded with God in the time of Moses on Sinai. Since that time, Jesus signed the New Covenant with the people of the Old Covenant. The expression “New Covenant” refers in fact to the new and eternal Covenant, which came from Jesus Christ, marked by the Pascal Mystery of his death and resurrection and celebrated in the Eucharist. The title “Ark of the Covenant” is also given to Our Lady who bore Christ within her.

The icons of the Ark form a basis of catechesis on the life of Christ, to promote a better understanding of scripture and the teachings of the Church. The Ark can be fitted with a monstrance bearing the Blessed Sacrament and can be carried in Eucharistic Processions, bringing the sacramental presence of Christ into our streets. Finally the base of the Ark is hollow and made to receive the expressions of our commitment to action.

The Ark will travel across Canada, much like the WYD Cross in 2002, a concrete sign of our spiritual preparation for the Eucharistic Congress.

The Ark of the New Covenant will travel throughout our Diocese from February 15th-20th 2007



Themes for Catechesis

The First “Key” to the preparation of the International Eucharistic Congress is a more intense catechesis on the Eucharist, as the Mystery of Christ living and active in the Church. The catechesis of the 49th International Eucharistic Congress draws its themes from the eight icons of the Ark of the New Covenant.

Great efforts must be made, by the catechist and the participants to involve men, women and young people who have become estranged from the Church or have never known the teachings of the Faith. A warm atmosphere, personal invitation, room for honest and open questions and especially, orthodox teaching, will attract many people who know the Catholic Faith only from a distance.

- 1. The Last Supper**
- 2. The Passion and the Death of Jesus**
- 3. The Vigil of Mary, on Holy Saturday**
- 4. The Resurrection of Jesus**
- 5. The multiplication of the loaves:**
- 6. The wedding at Cana:**
- 7. The washing of the feet of the Apostles**
- 8. The disciples at Emmaus**

Eucharist as “Project of Solidarity”

Excerpted from Pope John Paul II's Message for World Mission Sunday, February 22, 2005.

In our day human society appears to be shrouded in dark shadows while it is shaken by tragic events and shattered by catastrophic natural disasters. Nevertheless, as "*on the night he was betrayed*" (1 Cor 11,23), also today Jesus "breaks the bread" (cfr Mt 26,26) for us in our Eucharistic celebrations and offers himself under the sacramental sign of his love for all mankind. This is why I underlined that "the Eucharist is not merely an expression of communion in the Church's life; it is also a project of solidarity for all of humanity" (*Mane nobiscum Domine*, 27); it is "bread from heaven" which gives eternal life (cfr Jn 6,33) and opens the human heart to a great hope.

Present in the Eucharist, the same Redeemer who saw the needy crowds and was filled with compassion "*because they were harassed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd*" (Mt 9,36), continues through the centuries to show compassion for humanity poor and suffering.

And it is in his name that pastoral workers and missionaries travel unexplored paths to carry the "bread" of salvation to all. They are spurred on by the knowledge that, united with Christ "centre not just of the history of the Church, but also the history of humanity (cfr Ef. 1,10; Col 1, 15-20)" (*Mane nobiscum Domine*, 6), it is possible to meet the deepest longings of the human heart. Jesus alone can satisfy humanity's hunger for love and thirst for justice; He alone makes it possible for every human person to share in eternal life: "*I am the living bread which has come down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever*" (Jn 6,51).

When the ecclesial Community celebrates the Eucharist, especially on Sunday the Day of the Lord, it experiences in the light of the faith the value of the encounter with the Risen Christ and is ever more aware that the Sacrifice of the Eucharist is "for all" (Mt 26,28). We who nourish ourselves with the Body and Blood of the crucified and risen Lord, cannot keep this "gift" to ourselves; on the contrary we must share it. Passionate love for Christ leads to courageous proclamation of Christ; proclamation which, with martyrdom, becomes a supreme offering of love for God and for mankind. The Eucharist leads us to be generous evangelisers, actively committed to building a more just and fraternal world. Still today Christ urges his disciples: "*Give them something to eat yourselves*" (Mt 14,16). In his name missionaries all over the world proclaim and witness to the Gospel. Through their efforts there resound once again the words of the Redeemer: "*I am the bread of life; he who comes to me will never be hungry; he who believes in me will never thirst*" (Jn 6,35); they too become "*bread broken*" for their brothers, some even to the point of sacrificing their life.

How many missionary martyrs in our day! May their example draw numerous young men and women to tread the path of heroic fidelity to Christ! The Church has need of men and women willing to consecrate themselves wholly to the great cause of the Gospel.

Adoration and Communion

Excerpted from Pope Benedict's Corpus Christi Homily on May 26th 2005

On the feast of *Corpus Domini*, the Church relives the mystery of Holy Thursday in the light of the Resurrection. There is also a Eucharistic procession on Holy Thursday, when the Church repeats the exodus of Jesus from the Upper Room to the Mount of Olives.

...We bring Christ, present under the sign of bread, onto the streets of our city. We entrust these streets, these homes, our daily life, to his goodness. May our streets be streets of Jesus! May our houses be homes for him and with him! May our life of every day be penetrated by his presence.

With this gesture, let us place under his eyes the sufferings of the sick, the solitude of young people and the elderly, temptations, fears - our entire life. The procession represents an immense and public blessing for our city: Christ is, in person, the divine Blessing for the world. May the ray of his blessing extend to us all!

In the *Corpus Domini* procession, we walk with the Risen One on his journey to meet the entire world, as we said. By doing precisely this, we too answer his mandate: "Take, eat... Drink of it, all of you" (Mt 26: 26ff.).

It is not possible to "eat" the Risen One, present under the sign of bread, as if it were a simple piece of bread. To eat this Bread is to communicate, to enter into communion with the person of the living Lord. This communion, this act of "eating", is truly an encounter between two persons, it is allowing our lives to be penetrated by the life of the One who is the Lord, of the One who is my Creator and Redeemer.

The purpose of this communion, of this partaking, is the assimilation of my life with his, my transformation and conformation into he who is living Love. Therefore, this communion implies adoration, it implies the will to follow Christ, to follow the One who goes ahead of us. Adoration and procession thereby make up a single gesture of communion; they answer his mandate: "Take and eat".

Our procession finishes in front of the Basilica of St Mary Major in the encounter with Our Lady, called by the dear Pope John Paul II, "Woman of the Eucharist". Mary, Mother of the Lord, truly teaches us what entering into communion with Christ is: Mary offered her own flesh, her own blood to Jesus and became a living tent of the Word, allowing herself to be penetrated by his presence in body and spirit.

Let us pray to her, our holy Mother, so that she may help us to open our entire being, always more, to Christ's presence; so that she may help us to follow him faithfully, day after day, on the streets of our life. *Amen.*

Resources for Catechesis

In addition to the Resources listed below the Office for Evangelization is delighted to offer any further catechetical material. Please contact us at:

veyo@peterboroughdiocese.org

or 705.768.VEYO

Ecclesia de Eucharistia

This important encyclical by Pope John Paul II defines the relationship between the Paschal Mystery expressed in the Eucharist and the Church, which draws her life from this mystery.

Mane nobiscum Domine

This thirty page Apostolic Letter by Pope John Paul II opened the Year of the Eucharist (October, 2004 - October, 2005). The Holy Father seeks to promote the "culture of the Eucharist" in Catholic communities, in order to witness to God's presence in the world. The Pope reinforces the importance of this sacrament for the life of Catholics and suggests that the celebration of Sunday Mass be intensified, as well as Eucharistic adoration outside of Mass, the rosary and Eucharistic processions, especially on the feast of Corpus Christi.

Catechesis of Pope John Paul II on the Eucharist

A series of Angelus addresses of His Holiness John Paul II concerning themes such as "*Eucharist is perfect sacrifice of praise, 11 October 2000,*" "*Eucharist is perfect sacrifice of praise, 11 October 2000*" and "*Word, Eucharist and divided Christians, 15 November 2000.*"

Available at:

http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/special_features/eucharist/documents/eucharist-audiences_en.html

An excellent website for resources on the Eucharist in Papal teaching and meditations is

http://www.catholicculture.org/year_eucharist/eucharist1.cfm

Diocesan Preparation Timeline

In order to prepare spiritually for the pilgrimage to Quebec City in 2008 for the International Eucharistic Congress, different programs and events organized around the spiritual and catechetical themes of the Congress. It is hoped that the events will be held in diverse geographical locations in the diocese to involve as many people as possible in the re-evangelization of our Diocese.

**Mid August to December 2006
Parish Outreach Program**

**November 18th 2006
Diocesan Day of Renewal**

**February 15th-20th 2007
Pilgrimage of the Ark in the Diocese**

**May 2007
Diocesan Seminar: "The Eucharist and Family"**

**June 2007
Corpus Christi Celebrations**

**July 2007
SONfest 07**

**September 2007
Diocesan Day of Renewal**

**October 2007
Marian Celebration**

**September 14th, 2007 to June 14th 2008
Great Novena**

Due to the 125th anniversary of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Peterborough in 2007, the above outline will be subject to change and further details of each event will be made known as it draws closer.

Parish Outreach Program on the Eucharist (Operation POPE)

Taking what they learned from the Youth Summit 2006 in Quebec City where the Ark of the New Covenant began its official pilgrimage, teams of young men and women will be traveling parish to parish to spread the word about the International Eucharistic Congress.



Their presentation will include important information about the Congress, a 12 minute DVD on the Ark of the New Covenant and the presentation of the Preparation Manual. The young people will share their experience of the Youth Summit and provide information about registering for the International Eucharistic Congress.

**REGISTER NOW TO BRING THE
PARISH OUTREACH PROGRAM
TO YOUR PARISH**

Contact Fr. Norbert Glasmacher, Director of VEYO

Phone: 705.745.4681

Fax: 705.745.9258

email: veyo@peterboroughdiocese.org

Day of Renewal

November 18th 2006, Sacred Heart Church Peterborough.

There is a unique religious atmosphere to the Diocesan Day of Renewal. With separate tracks for adults and youth, the messages presented in the talks are relevant, engaging and wholly directed to authentic evangelization. The Day of Renewal is an ideal opportunity for those interested in the Catholic Faith to learn more about what Catholics believe and worship.



This year, The Diocesan Day of Renewal bears the theme “Eucharist and Healing”, with Fr. Louis Cerulli of Quebec leading the adult track and another guest speaker leading the Youth Track with the theme “Discover the mystery”.

The day also features a variety of religious music from Gregorian chant and Baroque motets to more contemporary Praise and Worship. Whatever music is used to praise God at these days is marked by its quality, power and enthusiasm.

From the basis of this catechesis the Day of Renewal finds its completion in the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and above all in Holy Mass, celebrated by Bishop De Angelis.

The Pilgrimage of the Ark of the New Covenant

February 15th-20th 2007

A highlight of the preparation for the IEC 2008 and a time of immense spiritual blessing for the diocese will be the Pilgrimage of the Ark of the New Covenant in the Diocese from February 15th-20th.



Although it will be a challenge for the Ark to travel through such a large diocese, every effort will be made by the Evangelization Office to bring the Ark to Catholics and non-Catholics alike, and so to bear witness of Christ presence within the Church most fully revealed in the Eucharist.

This challenge will only serve to make our expressions of devotion more whole-hearted and enthusiastic!



Marian Celebration

October 2007

The Day of Renewal in 2007 takes on a new perspective, contemplating the Eucharist with Mary, “Woman of the Eucharist,” and “Ark of the Covenant.”

The Marian Celebration will also focus on concrete forms of evangelization such as door-to door missions, apologetics and Catechesis, equipping Catholics to share their faith generously and enthusiastically.

The Marian title “Ark of the Covenant” will be particularly relevant for this celebration, as we look ahead to the International Eucharistic Congress in June 2008.

More details and program of the Marian Celebration will be forthcoming as the event draws nearer.



MORNING WATCH

MORNING WATCH was initiated on the Feast of Corpus Christi 2005, the Year of the Eucharist, as an opportunity for young people from across the diocese to gather for a night of Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament.

Beginning in the evening with a simple prayer service and ending with Benediction and Mass the next morning, MORNING WATCH demonstrates the enthusiastic readiness of many young people to give up their Saturday night in order to spend it with Jesus in the Eucharist. Every hour is marked by a music and reading from Scripture or the writings of the saints. Often these young people are joined by members of the parish throughout the night, who are touched by the prayerful attitude of the youth.

Music is an essential part of MORNING WATCH and the Diocesan Youth Ministry Team CORC is developing an impressive repertoire of Praise and Worship Music, which animates the prayerful atmosphere of the event.

MORNING WATCH has taken place four times in little over a year since its inception, launched at St. Anne Parish Peterborough, continuing twice at Sacred Heart Parish Peterborough, then at St. Joseph Parish Bomanville and most recently at Sacred Heart Parish Trout Creek.

***HAVE MORNING WATCH IN **YOUR PARISH** AS WE
PREPARE FOR THE EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS***

Several Parishes have expressed an interest in hosting MORNING WATCH and we encourage you to consider having MORNING WATCH in your own parish or organizing a night of adoration for youth.

**Contact Fr. Norbert Glasmacher, Director of VEYO
Phone: 705.745.4681 Fax: 705.745.9258
Email: veyo@peterboroughdiocese.org**

The Great Novena

A time of prayer and pilgrimage with the Diocesan Youth Cross!

Traditionally, a Novena is a nine-day period of Prayer for a special intention and a period of spiritual renewal. It is modeled on the nine days the Blessed Virgin and the apostles spent in prayer in the Upper Room from the Ascension to the Descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

The Great Novena of the Diocese of Peterborough will begin September 14th 2007 the Feast of the Triumph of the Cross, nine months before the commencement of the International Eucharistic Congress.

At the center of the Great Novena will be the Youth Cross of the Diocese of Peterborough. Already this cross has become a concrete sign of young Catholics' faith as it gathered them at events such as SONfest '04, '05 and '06 and lead them through the streets of Peterborough in the Way of the Cross on the Good Friday of 2005 and 2006.



It is hoped that parishes, schools and communities that have not yet received the Diocesan Youth Cross will be able to welcome it and journey with it during the Great Novena.

The Prayer of the Eucharistic Charter, the Official prayer of the IEC will be available for parishes to recite during Sunday Mass throughout the Great Novena.

**Get ready for the IEC QUEBEC and WYD SYDNEY in
2008 by hosting the Youth Cross in your Parish or
School!**

Prayer of the Eucharistic Charter

Jesus, in Cana,
you changed water into wine,
so that we may continue to celebrate the covenant.
May your Eucharist,
in which the bread and wine are your body and blood given up for us,
strengthen our faith and lead us to follow in your word.

Jesus, in the desert,
you spoke of the Kingdom,
you healed the sick and multiplied the loaves
to nourish the bodies and spirits of the multitude,
May your Eucharist, Word and Bread of Life,
restore meaning to our lives and bring hope back into our hearts.

.Jesus, at the Last Supper,
by washing the feet of your disciples, you showed
that there is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.
May your Eucharist restore warmth to hearts grown cold
and lead us to serve with joy and simplicity
all the persons we meet on our journey,
especially the most needy.

Jesus, at Emmaus,
you explained the Scriptures to those who thought they were lost,
and you revealed yourself at the breaking of Bread.
May your Eucharist lead us to a better understanding of the Scriptures,
may it open our eyes to your presence
and kindle in us the ardent desire to announce your resurrection.
Fulfilled by so much love and grace,
and led by your Spirit,
we are here to respond to the love
that you share with us through the Eucharist.

Pledge of the Eucharistic Charter

Jesus,

1. I pledge to respond to your invitation to take part in the Sunday Eucharist with my brothers and sisters gathered together.

For where two or three meet in my name, I am gathered there among them. (Mt 18: 20)

2. I pledge to carefully listen to Your Word. I will meditate and pray on your Word. I will put your Word into practice and do what you say, day after day.

And the Word became flesh and he lived among us. (Jn 1: 14)

3. I pledge to support the priest in his ministry and recognize that you are acting through him in the Eucharist and other sacraments.

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said: 'Take, eat: this is my body.' (Mt 26: 26)

4. I pledge to welcome your love by partaking of your body and to take the time to prolong our encounter in prayer and adoration.

I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry; whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. (Jn 6: 35)

5. I pledge to recognize you in all people, especially those who are the most difficult to love, seeing in everyone a brother, a sister, because God's Spirit dwells in everyone.

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? (1 Cor 3: 16)

6. I pledge to stand by you, Jesus crucified, along with your mother, the Virgin Mary, helping my brothers and sisters who suffer in body, mind and spirit.

Just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me. (Mt 25: 40)

INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS 2008

“1000 Days of Prayer”

The project “1000 days of prayer” consists in guaranteeing a continuous chain of prayer during the 1000 days preceding the International Eucharistic Congress of 2008. This project is already well under way however there is still time for you to become involved, either personally or as part of a parish or organization. Simply fill out the Following form and send it to:

Fr. Norbert Glasmacher
411 Reid Street, Box 175
Peterborough, Ontario
K9J 6Y8

Phone: 705.745.4681

Fax: 705.745.9258

Email: veyo@peterboroughdiocese.org

Name: _____

Name of Organization: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Fax: _____ . Email _____

Dates you wish to be registered for prayer (day, month, year)
