

REVIVAL

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Benedictine Sister Jeana Visel, director of graduate theology programs at Saint Meinrad, emphasized the connection between encountering Christ in the Eucharist and then making efforts to bring others to him.



Sr. Jeana Visel, O.S.B.

“Once we have had our own deep encounter with Jesus, we are invited to go preach the Good News everywhere,” she said. “We aren’t simply called to deepen our own relationship with God, as important as that is. We are called to share the gift we have received with others.”

While this can be challenging for some Catholics, Sister Jeana said, it is a mission that is integral to all vocations.

“This push toward evangelization may be a new experience, or a new way of looking at our faith,” she said. “Evangelizing is itself a strengthening force for faith. The Church exists to evangelize, and to gather all people into the body of Christ.

“Individually we each have to find our own way to fulfill that calling, whether it’s teaching our children about Jesus, serving the homeless in the name of Christ or telling our co-workers about what God has done in our lives.”

In launching the revival at this time, the U.S. bishops are responding to particular challenges in the Church and the broader society.

“We have seen through research that there are many people in the Church ... that don’t know or understand the teaching on the Eucharist, that Jesus is truly present in it, body and soul,” Rasp said. “It’s important for us to help them see the truth and to have an encounter with the Eucharist.”

Ogorek noted the timeliness of the Church’s focus on the Eucharist at a time when divisions and individualism are on the increase in society.

“The Eucharist is the ultimate unifying encounter with Jesus,” he said. “In some ways, the Eucharist can be a remedy for some of the polarization we see in some realms of life.

“For a lot of people, politics has almost become their religion. So, focusing on the Eucharist at this time in our country’s history will hopefully draw people’s attention back to our loving Creator.”

Sister Jeana noted the importance of the revival happening at this time in light of the challenges faced by society recently in the coronavirus pandemic and various social tensions.

“Christ wants to unite us, and we need it for our personal and social and spiritual health,” she said. “He wants to feed us and give us what we so deeply need.

“We’ve endured some really stressful times in recent years, and we need to be nourished by the One who can heal our deepest places. I think these are issues that go beyond our own regional area, but we have to respond



Deacon Oliver Jackson, left, and Archbishop Charles C. Thompson elevate the Eucharist during an Aug. 3, 2019, Mass at St. Rita Church in Indianapolis to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of St. Rita Parish, a faith community founded to serve Black Catholics. (File photo by Sean Gallagher)

to the invitation of Jesus where we are, which is here, now.”

In speaking about her hopes for the revival, Sister Jeana noted her desire for Catholics to spend more time in prayer before Christ in the Blessed Sacrament.

“Sometimes just encountering Jesus in the silence of eucharistic adoration can be a pivotal moment for those who might not otherwise feel spiritually connected,” she said. “... I think it would be a great thing if more of our parishes could have regular holy hours or perpetual adoration chapels, so as to provide more opportunities to encounter the peace of Christ in silence.

“We have to be grounded spiritually if we are to share the Good News with any authenticity and depth.”

Ogorek agreed.

“God connects dots in ways that we don’t always realize or appreciate,” he said. “Sometimes, it’s the fervent prayer of one person before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament that provides the grace for someone else’s conversion.

“It’s not all about cause and effect or tactics as we see it. We need to be prudent in our evangelization efforts. But God doesn’t always operate in the way we operate.

“If the revival causes more people to spend more time in intense prayer to Jesus Christ present in the Eucharist and people ask him to bless all of our evangelization efforts with abundant grace, then it’s going to bear fruit in ways that might not always be obvious.” †



A spotlight shines through the smoke of burning incense while Father Josh Johnson of the Diocese of Baton Rouge, La., celebrates Benediction on Nov. 22, 2019, in Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis during the National Catholic Youth Conference. (File photo by Sean Gallagher)

Eucharistic Revival to begin in the archdiocese on June 19

The three-year National Eucharistic Revival in the archdiocese will begin in the archdiocese on June 19 in Indianapolis with two Masses celebrated at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., both at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral, 1347 N. Meridian St.

The 1 p.m. Mass will be primarily celebrated in English. Other languages included in the liturgy will be American Sign Language, Korean, Vietnamese, Tagalog and Burmese dialects spoken in the archdiocese.

The 3 p.m. Mass will be primarily celebrated in Spanish. French will also be included in this liturgy.

A Festival of Faith, Family and Service will take place from 1-4 p.m. in the parking lot of the Archbishop Edward T. O’Meara Catholic Center, 1400 N. Meridian St., in Indianapolis. It will feature lunch, service projects, family games and music.

At about 4:15 p.m., following the conclusion of the 3 p.m. Mass, a eucharistic procession will begin

that will go from SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral to St. John the Evangelist Church, 126 W. Georgia St., in Indianapolis.

Children who have received their first Communion this year are invited to take part in the procession while accompanied by a parent, teacher or catechist.

All newly initiated Catholics, such as those received into the Church at Easter, can also take part in the procession.

Other Catholics are invited to line the procession route and bring banners, flags and other religious articles to decorate the route.

After the Blessed Sacrament arrives at St. John, a holy hour will take place that will conclude with benediction at 6:30 p.m. Men and women religious from across the archdiocese are especially encouraged to take part in the holy hour.

As more details about the June 19 event are determined, they will be posted on the archdiocesan website at eucharisticrevivalindy.org. †

El 19 de junio se iniciará en la Arquidiócesis un renacimiento eucarístico

El Renacimiento Eucarístico Nacional de tres años de duración comenzará en la Arquidiócesis de Indianapolis el 19 de junio con dos misas celebradas a la 1 p.m. y a las 3 p.m., ambas en la Catedral de San Pedro y San Pablo ubicada en 1347 N. Meridian St.

La misa de la 1 p.m. se celebrará principalmente en inglés. En la liturgia se incluirán otros idiomas que se hablan en la Arquidiócesis tales como coreano, vietnamita, tagalo y birmano, así como lenguaje de señas americano.

La misa de las 3 p.m. se celebrará principalmente en español. También se incluirá francés en esta liturgia.

El Festival de la Fe, la Familia y el Servicio se celebrará de 1 a 4 p.m. en el estacionamiento del Centro Católico Arzobispo Edward T. O’Meara ubicado en 1400 N. Meridian St., en Indianapolis. Habrá almuerzo, proyectos de servicio, juegos familiares y música.

Al terminar la misa de las 3 p.m., aproximadamente a las 4:15 p.m., se iniciará una procesión eucarística que irá desde la Catedral de San Pedro y San Pablo hacia la Iglesia de San Juan

Evangelista en 126 W. Georgia St., en Indianapolis.

Se invita a los niños que hayan recibido la primera comunión este año a participar en la procesión acompañados de uno de sus padres, un maestro o un catequista.

Todos los católicos iniciados este año, como los que pasaron a formar parte de la Iglesia en Semana Santa, también pueden participar en la procesión.

Se invita a todos los católicos a recorrer el itinerario de la procesión y a llevar pancartas, banderas y otros artículos religiosos para decorar el recorrido.

Tras la llegada del Santísimo Sacramento a San Juan Evangelista, se celebrará una hora santa que concluirá con la bendición a las 6:30 p.m. Se anima especialmente a los hombres y mujeres religiosos de toda la Arquidiócesis a participar en esta.

A medida que se definen más detalles sobre el evento del 19 de junio, se publicarán en el sitio web de la Arquidiócesis en eucharisticrevivalindy.org. †