DIOCESE OF MARQUETTE 1004 Harbor Hills Drive Marquette, Michigan 49855 www.dioceseofmarquette.org



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Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Diocese of Marquette,

The Diocese of Marquette and dioceses across the United States will soon begin a **National Eucharistic Revival.** This is a three-year effort to revive belief in and devotion to the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

The Revival will begin locally on the **Feast of Corpus Christi: Sunday, June 19, 2022.** I know many parishes are planning Eucharistic Processions that day, and I encourage all parishioners and families to participate in this public act of faith and love for our Eucharistic Lord.

This first year of the Revival will culminate with a **Diocesan Eucharistic Congress** at the Superior Dome in Marquette on *Friday, June 9th* and *Saturday, June 10th, 2023*. In the Catholic Church, a Eucharistic Congress is a large gathering of clergy, religious, and laity to bear witness to the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. A Congress brings together people from a wide area for Masses, Talks, Eucharistic Adoration, and Devotions over several days.

Visit *revival.yoopercatholic.org* to learn more about the Diocesan Eucharistic Congress. We anticipate an exciting event for the whole family with tracks for adults, teens, and children. I warmly invite everyone around the Diocese to mark your calendars for **June 9-10**, **2023** and make plans to come.

Let us pray for deeper healing, conversion, and unity through an encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist, and renew our mission to be sent out with Him 'for the life of the world.'

Most Reverend John F. Doerfler, STD, JCL

Bishop of Marquette



Sacrament of the EUCHARIST

CCC: 1324

The Eucharist is "the source and summit of the Christian life."

The other sacraments, and indeed all ecclesiastical ministries and works of the apostolate, are bound up with the Eucharist and are oriented toward it.

For in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church: Christ himself, our Pasch.

CCC: 1325

The Eucharist is the efficacious sign and sublime cause of that communion in the divine life and unity of the People of God by which the Church is kept in being. It is the culmination both of God's action sanctifying the world in Christ and of the worship men offer to Christ and through him to the Father in the Holy Spirit.

WHAT'S IT MEAN?

The Church is 'kept in being' by the Eucharist because it creates 'communion with God and unity with each other.' On our own, we can't attain this unity. Just look at our world splintered with divisions. The Eucharist calls us to recognize each other as siblings in Christ, with God as our Father. Only by remaining close to the Eucharist will we learn to overcome our self-focused lives and to live as part of God's family. We will learn to count others as more important than ourselves, to bear one another's burdens, and to live for one another's welfare, not just our own.

This is why the Eucharist is the 'summit' of God's work to make us holy. It calls us to turn away from our selfish and prideful ways. The Eucharist calls us to follow Christ in a 'cruciform' way of life: in humility, patience, kindness, service, faithfulness, chastity, poverty, obedience, and self-control. Then we will give more perfect worship to God – not just lip-service, but with hearts conformed to the heart of Jesus.

God knit our bodies together and sustains us in life. When we receive the Eucharist, we receive the resurrected body and blood of Jesus, who has power to raise our bodies after death. We also receive the charity of Jesus, who poured out his life for us on the cross. The more receptive we are to His love in the Eucharist, the more Jesus will empower us to follow His way of self-giving, sacrificial love for God and neighbor.

The Eucharist is the 'summit' of our life, the 'peak' we climb to every week. Our internal compass should always point us toward the Eucharist, where all our prayers, labors, sacrifices, and work is united with Jesus' offering of himself to the Father. Jesus offered His whole life to the Father on the cross for the salvation of the world. And this is what we do at every Mass, through the ministry of the ordained priest.

