

May 31, 2022



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

"I am the Living Bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world." John 6:51

Along with my brother bishops, I have felt the call of the Holy Spirit to emphasize the significance of the Most Holy Eucharist in our Church and in our world. The Bishops were troubled and disheartened by the 2019 Pew study showing just 30% of Catholics understand the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. I am very concerned by the number of leaders that proclaim a Catholic faith without an integrated witness of Catholic beliefs in their political/personal views. In this moment, we are all being called to witness to the truth of our faith in the Body of Christ.

On the Feast of Corpus Christi, June 19, 2022, our Archdiocese will officially launch the USCCB National Eucharistic Revival movement. The mission of this movement is "to renew the Church by enkindling a living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist." This effort envisions "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'."

We have prayerfully placed the work of this first year under the patronage of Blessed Carlo Acutis who died of leukemia in 2006, at the age of 15, and was beatified in October 2020. Blessed Carlo displayed a firm faith at a young age by using his gift for computer programming to develop social media resources encouraging Eucharistic devotion and Christian values. He sought to generously use his personal gifts and talents in service to God. Finally, he modeled incredible joy throughout the physical suffering he experienced in the final stages of his illness.

More information about this initiative – both locally and nationally – can be found at: USCCB National Eucharistic Revival website: https://eucharisticrevival.org/
ArchKCK Revival website: https://archkck.org/revival

Most recently, we have been working to create communities of praying, caring and sharing in your parish. I am excited to continue building on the work of missionary discipleship that began with the Archdiocesan Enflame Your Hearts Convocation in 2019. Each of us has been baptized into a life of service and love through the Sacraments of the Catholic church. I humbly ask that you prayerfully discern how you can continue to grow in this love by developing a deeper relationship with Jesus through the Holy Eucharist. In this unique time of the Church, we are called to contemplate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our lives. As children of God, we have been given the incredible gift of Jesus Christ in His Body to sustain us with the grace to witness His love to the world.

As a community, may we continue to serve as the Body of Christ to the world around us. Trusting in the divine grace we receive from the Eucharist and the generous outpouring of the Holy Spirit, I am

Sincerely yours in Jesus, the Bread of Life,

Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann