

August, 2019

Dear Parishioners of St. Margaret of Scotland-

I can't express how much I look forward to meeting all of you for whom I have been praying daily since learning of my appointment as your new pastor. I am truly honored that your current pastor, Fr. Benonis, will be passing the baton to me in the very near future. That "baton" is none other than the loving responsibility pastors are entrusted with to guide to heaven those souls entrusted to his charge.

I will have much more to communicate, I'm sure, upon my official arrival and start on Monday, September 2nd, 2019; but, I have a rather time sensitive announcement I would like to communicate so you may all plan accordingly.

As Catholics, we believe that the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ present in the Most Holy Eucharist is the source and summit of our precious faith. Every year, for the past 15 years, the Diocese of Charlotte has held a Eucharistic Congress at the Charlotte Convention Center to celebrate, and draw attention to, this sublime reality. It is an incredible opportunity for Catholics in western North Carolina (and beyond) to share their faith in Jesus Christ who is substantially present in the Holy Eucharist and to be edified and inspired in the process. I know this is true, because I have attended every single one since its inception – from the time I was a shy "younger" man not even considering the priesthood, through my time in seminary formation once I responded to God's invitation to the priesthood, to my time now as a priest of Jesus Christ. I haven't missed one.

The highlights of every Congress is a Eucharistic Procession through the streets of uptown Charlotte on Saturday morning and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass that evening offered by the bishop and concelebrated by the priests of our diocese – both of which are always magnified by the active participation of thousands upon thousands of faithful Catholics in our diocese.

I would like to share with you an excerpt from a letter Bishop Jugis sends annually, addressed to his priests. By explicit extension, it is addressed to you and all the faithful in the Diocese of Charlotte:

Thank you for your support of the Eucharistic Congress.... I thank you for canceling the Vigil Mass and confessions in your parish on Saturday [September 7th] so that you and your parishioners can participate in the Congress. Our joint priestly ministry at the Congress is a very powerful witness to the vitality of our local Church. I appreciate the sacrifices you make to be present.

*His Excellency, The Most Reverend Peter J. Jugis
Bishop of Charlotte*

I promised obedience to my bishop the day I was ordained to the priesthood. All diocesan priests make this promise. It is one I intend to keep! Therefore, **there will be no Masses or confessions offered at St. Margaret on Saturday, September 7th, 2019.** (*Please note: the vigil Mass celebrated during the Congress on Saturday fulfills the Sunday obligation.*)

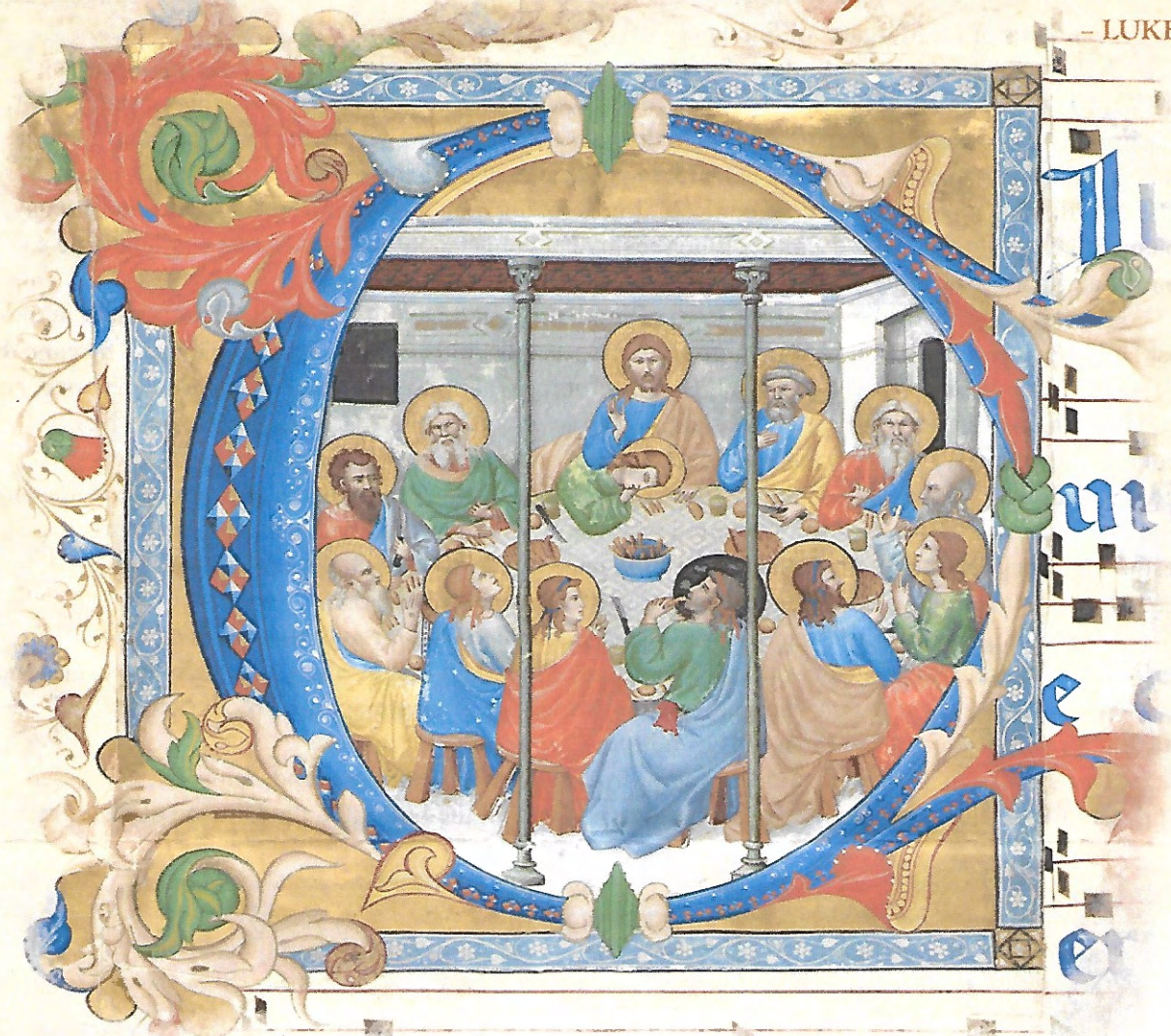
On the reverse of this page, you will find pertinent details regarding this year's Eucharistic Congress. I understand travel arrangements could prove difficult for some of you. If you are interested in reserving a seat on a bus departing from (and returning to) St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Waynesville, please contact our parish office at (828) 926-0106. Act fast as seats are very limited!

I invite you all to join me, the many priests and deacons serving in the diocese, professed religious, countless lay faithful, and His Excellency, Peter J. Jugis, bishop of Charlotte, for this year's Eucharistic Congress entitled: *Stay with us, Lord*. I hope you are able to attend and, if so (or even if you are not), please pray that God will deign to bless and bring to a successful issue this and all Eucharistic Congresses. May God bless you!

Sincerely in Christ,
Fr. Christopher Bond
Pastor
effective September 2nd, 2019

STAY WITH US, LORD

- LUKE 24:29



15th Eucharistic Congress

September 6 & 7, 2019 Charlotte Convention Center

Saturday Speakers

Eucharistic Procession, Holy Hour - Fr. Patrick Winslow - Homilist

Dr. Scott Hahn - The Eucharist and the New Evangelization

Dr. Edward Sri - Vibrant Faith in a Secular Age

Russ Breault - Shroud Encounter: Explore the Mystery

Holy Sacrifice of the Mass - Bishop Peter Jugis - Celebrant

FRIDAY EVENING: BYZANTINE VESPERS • DR. SCOTT HAHN - SCRIPTURE STUDY "STAY WITH US, LORD"
• COLLEGE NIGHT • EUCHARISTIC ADORATION • EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION

SATURDAY: EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION THROUGH THE STREETS OF CHARLOTTE
• CONFESSION • K-12 EDUCATION TRACKS FOR STUDENTS - REGISTER ONLINE
• RELIGIOUS DISPLAYS • VENDORS OF SACRED ART • VOCATION AND EDUCATION INFO



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