



**International Eucharistic Congress in Budapest
13-20 September 2020**

Information from the Most Rev. Louis Corriveau

Useful information

- A theological symposium will take place from September 10 to 12 at the St. Adalbert Centre in Esztergom, the town where Christianity was introduced to Hungary around the year 1000 AD by St. Stephen.
- The International Eucharistic Congress in Budapest will take place from 13 to 20 September 2020.
- The registration fees for the Symposium will cover food and lodging.
- Although visitors from many countries will be required to have visas, Canadians will not.
- Budapest is a safe city, much loved by tourists. It won top spot in a 2018 survey on Europe's best destinations, ahead of Paris, Florence, and other big cities.
- Morning sessions and lunch will take place at the Hungexpo Centre.
- Schedule for Monday to Friday:

8:45 a.m.	Morning Prayer
9:30 a.m.	Catechesis
10:30 a.m.	Personal witness
11:30 a.m.	Mass
1:00 p.m.	Lunch

Cultural activities will take place in the afternoon and evening.
- Simultaneous translation will be available in several languages, including English and French, for the duration of the theological symposium and the Eucharistic congress.
- The website (www.iec2020.hu) is currently available in Hungarian and English and will be available in French as of September 2020.
- Registration officially opened September 13, 2019 at www.iec2020.hu.
- Regardless of whether one is attending free or paid activities, registration is mandatory.
- In the case of groups, the group organizer must wait for the group to be completely formed before paying for everyone together and he or she can then be reimbursed in cash by the members. It is possible to pay online with a bank card.
- An approximate number of participants can be registered ahead of time. The earlier one signs up, the less expensive it will be.



- It will be possible to be lodged outside of the city centre. There will be hotels in the suburbs and hotels close to Hungexpo.
- Lodging will also be available in gyms or in families. The IEC will seek out host families but this will not be publicized on the website for security reasons.

Useful addresses for registration:

- Theological symposium: symposium@iec2020.hu
- Clergy: clergy@iec2020.hu
- Certification of clergy: clergy@iec2020.hu
- Pilgrims: registration@iec2020.hu

Various categories of registration:

- 5 days
- 3 days
- 1 day

- Early-bird registration (prior to March 13, 2020)
- Regular registration (prior to July 31, 2020)
- Late registration (prior to September 9, 2020)

After May 31, 2020, cancellations will entail penalties.

Registration includes:

- Pass for all sessions, workshops, public transit, lunches, and pilgrims' bag.
 - Bishops will receive a mitre and chasuble.
 - Priests and deacons will receive stoles.
- All clergy should bring their own albs.

Information about Hungary:

- The currency is the forint. 1000 forints are worth around \$4.66 CAD.
- Euros may be used but it is preferable to have a few forints on hand as pocket money (for things like purchasing a bottle of water in a gas station, for example).
- Many Hungarians are conversant in English.
- 60% of Hungarians were baptized Catholic. There are also Lutherans, Calvinists, Eastern Orthodox, Copts and other Oriental Orthodox, Jews, and Muslims.
- Religious orders have been experiencing a rebirth since the fall of Communism.



- The number of schools run by religious orders or by dioceses has increased in recent decades. The State is involved in the funding of schools and of church reconstruction. One should note that the Communists did not return confiscated property but instead sold it to financial interests, hence the Hungarian Church's lack of financial clout and the need for State funding.

Extracts from the preparatory assemblies in Rome (Nov. 2018) and Budapest (May 2019):

- Hungary's history begins with its Saint-Kings. We believe that countries are born with a mission.
- A Eucharistic Congress was held in Budapest in 1938 on the 900th anniversary of the death of St. Stephen the King.
- The theme of the 2020 Eucharistic Congress is "All My Springs Are in You", a theme inspired by a verse from Psalm 87. It evokes the hot springs one can find in Budapest and, more profoundly, it recalls that the Eucharist is the source of the Church's life and of our mission.
- Secularization is the order of the day in Hungary. The IEC offers a new hope of proposing Christ to people.

Extracts from a conference by Piero Marini on the meaning of the IECs in a postmodern context:

- The multi-coloured tapestry that is Europe has over the centuries been united by the golden thread of Christianity. The beliefs of the faithful are what established the foundation of the common culture. This faith is starting to disappear. Europe has become the most secularized region in the world. There is a growing phenomenon of belief without institutional belonging.
- It is this institutional belonging rather than belief that is most affected by secularization.
- The first challenge of the IEC is to make the celebration of the Eucharist an expression of the Gospel. Vatican II situated the Church in a dialogue with the world. Human beings of every era encounter the humanity of Jesus. *Evangelii Gaudium* reoriented the Church to its centre, which is the Gospel, Jesus Christ who died and rose again for us. The liturgy joins together the time of Christ and the time of the Church and celebrates the mystery of the Gospel. "If the Gospels say nothing of the liturgy, it is because the Gospels are the liturgy that Jesus lived in his time. The celebration of the liturgy began following the resurrection of Jesus. His words became our gospels and his actions became our sacraments" (Cardinal Martini).
- The Christian liturgy consists of the words and actions of Jesus made transparent. The future of the Christian faith depends on the celebration of the Eucharist.
- The liturgy must be welcoming and not exclusive, a place of community and mercy.



- Christ lived his life as a liturgy of proximity to people, hence the need for the Eucharist to be close to people – “*l’eucharistie de proximité*”.
- Jesus encountered people along his way, without regard for their affiliation. Our liturgies should be marked by this dynamic, welcoming all those who seek God.
- The Mass is a liturgical time that acts as a midwife, one that takes time to bring to birth, as was the case for Nicodemus who recognized Jesus but decided not to follow him. This was also the case for Joseph of Arimathea and the Syro-Phoenician woman.
- The Lord’s Day must be preserved. Technology cannot liberate humankind. Many people live an interior emptiness. Existential anguish, dramatic declines in birth rates, postponing of definitive decisions, egocentricity, ethnic conflicts, tensions between religions, the tendency to put one’s own interests first in every situation. The Lord’s Day gathers brothers and sisters in a celebration of the Resurrection. The miracle of Sunday is to gather people in unity. It is an anti-Babel. People gather in groups to enhance their pleasure or their power. The Eucharist gathers together diverse people by turning their attention away from themselves.