



ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

222 North Seventeenth Street • Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-1299
Telephone (215) 587-0506 • Fax (215) 587-4545

OFFICE of the ARCHBISHOP

May 12, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am delighted as the Archbishop of Philadelphia to embrace the initiative of the *Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious (CMSWR)* to hold a Eucharistic Congress this October 9 and 10, 2020, at our Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul and the Shrine of Saint Katharine Drexel. This Eucharistic Congress recalls for many of us the 41st International Eucharistic Congress held in our city in 1976 and all of its many blessings.

As I write this letter we are in the midst of the Coronavirus Pandemic. One of the most unfortunate impacts of this virus locally and throughout the country has been the suspension of public Masses. We are longing for the Holy Eucharist—the celebration of Mass, the reception of Holy Communion, and time spent in adoration. This Eucharistic Congress comes at a most providential time. A time to give thanks and praise to our Father for the great Gift of his Son’s Body and Blood to the Church, to each of us. I would like to see every parish and institution in the Archdiocese take part in the Eucharistic Congress in some way. Reserve these dates and make plans now to come to the Cathedral for some part of the Eucharistic Congress.

The overall emphasis of this Eucharistic Congress is prayer and adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament. As you know, adoration continues our union with Christ in his Sacrifice and our reception of Holy Communion. My hope is that this invitation to Eucharistic adoration will renew our local Church as we strive to live more profoundly our Christian lives for the glory of God and the service of our neighbors. Let us pray that this upcoming Eucharistic Congress will bless the Archdiocese in countless ways.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nelson J. Pérez". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'N'.

Most Reverend Nelson J. Pérez, D.D.
Archbishop of Philadelphia