



The Roman Catholic
Diocese of Phoenix

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May 10, 2011

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The 50th Anniversary of the Second Vatican Council, 1962-1965, is a historic moment for the Diocese of Phoenix and for the Church throughout the world. Blessed Pope Paul VI called Vatican II “The greatest religious event of the Twentieth Century,” and I want us to “mark the moment” by saying YES to Pope Benedict XVI’s invitation to the **50th International Eucharistic Congress in Dublin, Ireland!**

Our Official Ireland Pilgrimage for the Diocese of Phoenix will be led by Father Kilian McCaffrey and a Pastoral Team on **June 12-22, 2012.**

I invite every parish to consider forming a parish delegation to join with others in the Diocese of Phoenix in participating in this gathering of the Universal Church in Dublin. The International Eucharistic Congress is a rare moment of grace as the entire Church reflects on Vatican II’s teaching that the Eucharist is the “source and summit” of our faith because it is our encounter with the risen Christ himself. (*Sacrosanctum Concilium*).

Our Official Pilgrimage provider, **Faith Journeys**, has been in close collaboration with the International Eucharistic Congress (IEC) staff in Dublin. Those who have the blessing of going to the IEC will not only find the pilgrimage a great blessing for themselves; but upon their return, will help us all to deepen our Catholic identity, nurture lifelong faith formation, and encourage all of us to be better stewards of God’s gifts.

Be assured of my prayers as you take the spirit of Arizona to the faithful gathered in Ireland!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Thomas J. Olmsted
Bishop of Phoenix

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