

Most Magnificent Of Previous Eucharistic Congresses Closed

(Staff Correspondent, of the N. C. W. C. News Service).

Chicago, June 25.—After five days filled with manifestations of love for Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, the Twenty-eighth International Eucharistic Congress closed yesterday with vivid ceremonies and vast throngs of worshippers climaxing all the splendor and solemnity that had gone before. Bishops, priests and laymen who had attended all the most recent and most magnificent of previous Eucharistic Congresses described this as the greatest and most glorious of them all.

The last functions of the Congress were the celebration of Pontifical High Mass and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament by His Eminence Cardinal Bonzano, Papal Legate; a sermon by Cardinal Hayes of New York, and a mighty pagant-like procession of many thousands circling St. Mary's Lake, at Mundelein. There in the thousand acres of woodland, grass and flowers, with the silvery surface of the Lake mirroring the beauty of it all, Jesus Christ received a measure of homage, affection and adoration such as mankind in all the history of the Catholic Church has seldom or never accorded Him. Not even the majesty of ritual attending beatifications and canonizations, in the Basilica of St. Peter's in Rome, said those who had witnessed these, could match the gorgeousness and impressiveness of this series of function in a setting of forest, blossoms and shimmering waters at Mundelein yesterday.

In front of the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception, at the north end of the pretty lake, and on the rim of a little amphitheater, stood the altar at which the Pontifical Mass was celebrated and from which the great procession moved later in the day. The whole facade of the chapel was hung with a drapery of scarlet and gold, while all about fluttered American flags and the banners of many nations. Above the altar in letters of white was the key to the whole purpose and pomp of the Congress—"Ecce Agnus Dei". "Behold the Lamb of God." A canopy of gold and white, lined with scarlet, overhung the altar, the same that on the earlier days of the Congress, occupied the crown of a great green pyramid in Soldiers' Field. Red carpets ran the whole height of the stairs leading to the altar and to the thrones of the Cardinals at right and left of it.

The amphitheater in front of the chapel formed a sanctuary larger than any to be found in the monumental cathedrals of the world. Here were assembled Archbishops, Bishops, Abbots and other prelates in robes of purple and mitres of gold, radiant in the sunlight. Massed about the altar while the Cardinal Legate offered up the Holy Sacrifice were other prelates in resplendent vestments and Knights of St. Gregory, Knights of the Holy Sepulchre, and Knights of the Papal Household in brilliant uniforms. More lustrous still were the robes of the eleven Cardinals sitting upon their thrones, under scarlet canopies. Monsignor, Grano, Mgr. Resplighi, and Mgr. Caccia-Dominioni, who accompanied Cardinal Bonzano from Rome, were masters of ceremonies here as they are at the great services in St. Peter's.

Spread far in every direction—for more than a mile—was a multitude which for numbers had never been equaled in this country. If, indeed, in the whole world. Numberless thousands were on the move, seeking places nearer the altar; other scores of thousands fringed the lake and crowded the open spaces everywhere. Their voices made an eerie murmur till the Sanctus of the Mass. Then came a sudden calm. The standing masses fell to their knees and struck their breasts in humble piety. The Cardinals, too, knelt before their thrones. So, through the Mass, the three-quarters of a million people all about—some estimates put their number at a full million—spent the greater part of an hour on their knees in adoration of the Eucharistic King.

The procession which preceded the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was scheduled to move at 1 o'clock, but there was a delay of a few minutes. The Mass ended, the units of this procession began to take their places. The colorful banners of a hundred organizations sprang into the air, the plumes of helmets waved, the bands sent their melodies over the lake. Polish societies headed the procession. After them came Bohemians, and next Italian, French, Spanish and German groups—an army of the Church's children speaking many different tongues but all the same thoughts. Knights of Columbus, Knights of St. Gregory, Knights of St. Sylvester, Knights of St. George, Catholic Foresters and regiments of others, each in uniform; and behind them a half a mile of Laymen in civilian dress, marched to the music of bands. Seminarians and priests in black cassocks, monks in their white, or brown, or black habits—Dominicans, Franciscans, Benedictines, Augustinians—all the great Orders and congregations of the Church—were represented. The Monsignori in their Roman purple, Abbots in their touches of purple with grey or black, and Bishops in richer shades made a great section of color in the line. Eminent Cardinals followed in their scarlet silk giving a still

brighter glow to the picture. Now came the Cardinal Legate, his retinue preceding him, and a paladin of gold and white above him. He bore the Blessed Sacrament in an ostensorium that His Holiness had sent from Rome for this procession. Along every pace of that journey of three and a half miles around the lake knelt men and women beyond numbering, and back of them, deep into the woodland, other thousands. Acolytes strewed the path with roses and incense poured from the censers in the hands of a priest—these as tokens of the presence of Christ Himself in the Blessed Sacrament.

Thus far, a glorious day, with clear skies, a sun fervent, but not unbearably hot; breezes carrying the fragrance of the woods and flowers to the altar; birds in the trees singing the praises of their Creator along with His human creatures. But a sudden blackness came over the northwest horizon; the thunder rumbled, a heavy rain, mixed with hail, pelted down. But the procession continued and the vast majority of worshippers remained on their knees till Christ had received their praise and petitions and they His Benediction. This storm was a test of the faith and love of this multitude, and they met it plausily.

The myriads of marchers kept steadily and reverently on their way till the circuit of the Lake had been made and the Blessed Sacrament once more was placed on the altar. By this time the clouds had been swept far out to Lake Michigan. The sun was shining bright once more. The Lord of the Eucharistic had been borne in adoration through the storm. Now, as the Lord of Nature and Nature's forces. He quelled the storm while the priest and people of His Church performed this act of faith, hope and love with which the Eucharistic Congress was brought to an end.

Chicago is not too awed by the magnificence of this religious demonstration to take pride in the fact that it handled successfully one of the greatest congregations of human beings known to history.

Just how many pilgrims journeyed to Mundelein probably never will be known. The most conservative estimates say there were between 500,000 and 750,000. Others say there were nearly 1,000,000. At Mundelein it was generally accepted that there were 800,000 or more in attendance.

To one who had to contend for a place among the stupendous multitude that seemed to be everywhere on the vast seminary tract, the higher estimates do not appear extravagant. Pilgrims began to leave for the seminary town immediately after the solemn Pontifical Mass with which the program in Soldiers' Field was brought to a close on Wednesday. These were numerous but a mere handful, and hardly that, in comparison with the gigantic armies that moved upon Mundelein through out early yesterday and even when the Mass was over yesterday and thousands of the pilgrims who had failed to pick their way to a point of vantage turned for home, thousands were still pouring in.

The difficulty of estimating the multitude was added to by the fact that an incalculable number journeyed to the ceremonies in automobiles that covered parking spaces of acres after acre.

The vanguard of the legions that arrived yesterday first came upon Mundelein shortly after two o'clock in the morning. From then on they came in a steady stream that maintained floodtide long past noon.

Roadways leading from the station to the seminary gates were black with people and thousands walked on the grass borders, through the woods or any place that offered a good footing and a route more or less expedient. It was a tremendous parade and one marveled at the quietude and order which marked it. Surely no event other than a religious devotion, and one such as this, which hinged about a great principal of faith, could have brought forth a crowd so huge and yet so orderly and tractable.

Within the seminary gates it seemed as if a great river, each tiny unit of water a human being, had been released from a great river bed and was seeking release and expression in an ocean. Where people had been congested on a fairly wide roadway, here they were congested on tremendous tracts of land. They extended along roads, down through vales, up and over hillsides, across bridges, and hundreds even sought places in trees.

And this scene presented itself probably a half mile from the altar and the lake. It seemed impossible that one could penetrate this density to an extent sufficient to get a view of the Mass and the procession. Undoubtedly thousands did not.

Looking from the magnificent sanctuary established in front of the Church and overlooking the lake, one saw, extending down gradual slopes and up hillocks, what seemed to be tens of thousands of humans cast into one solid mass. These one knew were but a modicum of those that were somewhere on the grounds. And this was true. Over those hills and through the beautiful woodlands, thousands tramped on, climbing, perching, waiting, but never complaining. Thousands upon thousands of others, like troops resting from

a long advance, sat upon the grassy slopes and plateau to munch lunches they had brought in boxes and to prepare for the last lap of their journey. At noon, when the Mass and sermon were over, tens of thousands of these were far removed from the altar. Their only hope was to see and adore at the procession of the Blessed Sacrament.

One had to marvel at the fervor of these pilgrims, who not only braved these long marches and almost ceaseless contention for a place in the onward march of these armies, but also the heat from a brilliant sun. There were hundreds of cases of fainting, but there was no serious incapacitation and even these minor casualties were negligible in so tremendous an outpour of humanity.

A heavy rain, attended by hail, which fell about 2:30 o'clock in the afternoon sent some of the pilgrims scurrying for cover. But these were not missed from that astounding army which lined the route of the procession of the Blessed Sacrament. The aqua was of brief duration but it served to put streams into the grassy slopes of Mundelein and to turn the earth to mud. Into this uncomfortable, mussy mixture the pilgrims sank on their knees and reverently prayed as the ostensorium, borne by John Cardinal Bonzano, Papal Legate, passed along between the lanes opened in their ranks.

Tens of thousands, who had not got near the line of procession, rushed for the trains with the rain. This sudden tax upon the transportation facilities caused some congestion. But on the whole the great throng had been well prepared for and when this first great shock had been combated things went well. Every effort was made to cater to human necessities and water, soft drinks and other refreshments were passed freely among the awaiting throng.

Between 4:00 a. m. and 11:00 p. m. yesterday the North Shore electric lines handled 372 trains of eight cars each. There were between 216,000 and 250,000 passengers in these trains.

The Soo Line moved trains out of Mundelein in 15 car sections, less than 10 minutes apart. The St. Paul at Libertyville was moving trains with the same expedition. From Lake Bluff shuttle trains were caring for still more thousands. It was impossible to estimate the tremendous number that came and went by automobiles. One estimate said there were 18,000 automobiles parked near the seminary.

Because it was evident on every hand the tremendous size of the army, or armies, of pilgrims was the first thing to impress the onlooker. It was not the most impressive feature, however. One noticed with more satisfaction the fervor, the patience, and the real spirit of sacrifice of these thousands upon thousands of adorers of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament.

The example set in the procession when prelate, priest and layman braved the sheet-like downpour of rain and the battering descent of hail was one long to be remembered.

Another striking occurrence took place on the bridge within the grounds, where due solely to the pressure caused by the concentration of great numbers of persons upon a single point, an impasse was reached. Policemen, Knights of Columbus, and special assistants were powerless, it seemed, to cope with a situation which had come about in perfect order and was only the natural consequence of prevailing conditions. Someone had an inspiration. They brought forth a band which played "The Star Spangled Banner." The difficulty was quickly solved; under this influence the people were easily marshaled and traffic resumed.

But one sees and feels more need for thought. Here were not only the princes of the Church, but humble missionaries and parish priests, who mingled with the laymen and whose praises are unending in this unbelievable gathering. Here were laymen—hundreds of thousands of them—capitalist and toiler rubbing elbows, kneeling side by side, saying the same prayers, receiving the same blessing, one bowing as lowly and as humbly as the other. Here were not only Americans, but were Italians, Chinese, Slovaks, Lithuanians, Frenchmen, Englishmen, Germans, Irish, Indians and dozens of other peoples. Was this not a universal gathering, pervaded by a peace and an understanding which surpassed comprehension?

Rich and poor had been travelling since early morn. Women, old and poor in the things of life, slept all night in Mundelein on the concrete walks that surround the high statue of the Blessed Virgin. Some had been living for a day out of lunch boxes. Others forewent meals for a day. All were eager, all were anxious, all were tired, all were worn, but above all, all were content, reverent and happy.

(By N. C. W. C. News Service). Chicago, June 24.—Cardinal Bonzano was host last night in the refectory of St. Mary of the Lake Seminary at Mundelein to the members of the Hierarchy attending the Eucharistic Congress.

Eleven cardinals occupied the places of honor at a raised table at one end of the dining hall. Cardinal Bonzano occupied a raised throne chair in the center of the Cardinals'

table and above his head was the portrait of Pope Pius brought to the Congress by Count Tambourini. Cardinal Mundelein sat on the right hand of the Legate and to his left was Cardinal Czernoch of Hungary who is the oldest Cardinal at the Congress both in age and in length of service.

There were no speeches at the banquet except that made by Cardinal Casanova in presenting to Cardinal Mundelein, on behalf of King Alfonso of Spain the Grand Cross of Isabella, and to Bishop Edward F. Hoban, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago, the second degree of the same order.

The message of King Alfonso, as delivered by Cardinal Casanova, was that the decoration was given the Cardinal and Bishop "in appreciation of the extraordinary service to the Catholic faith for which Spain strived so ardently upon the American continent."

(By N. C. W. C. News Service).

Chicago, June 25.—His Eminence Patrick Cardinal O'Donnell, Archbishop of Armagh, expressed, during the days of the Twenty-eighth Eucharistic Congress, here, great admiration of the arrangements made for the celebration of Mass aboard the S. S. President Roosevelt of the United States Lines, which conveyed him and other members of the Irish delegation to the Congress to this country.

"It was a floating cathedral," Cardinal O'Donnell said with great enthusiasm.

Officials of the steamship company anticipated their every need and 50 Masses were celebrated aboard the liner each day, he added.

(By N. C. W. C. News Service).

Chicago, June 25.—Declaring that there is a "legitimate hope that there may be swept away any unnecessary restraint upon the soul's free access to the great human heart of God," the Rev. Joseph M. Corrigan, D. D., Rector of St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Overbrook, pointed out the good to be accomplished through an evening Mass, in an address to a sectional meeting of the Twenty-eighth Eucharistic Congress, here.

"The measure of eternal life," he said in part, "which may be rightfully ours in this testing time, reaches its highest perfection in the beautiful intimacy with Jesus Christ accorded to the human soul in the precious moments of Holy Communion. Nor is it necessary to believe that this union ceases as long as the bonds of love securely hold the soul to its incomprehensible Love."

"All desirable, however, in such love is the repetition as often as may be of that sublime act of union which is precisely Holy Communion. Of the yearning of loving hearts throughout the world for such happy repetition of Holy Communion in the stress of daily life is born the legitimate hope that there may be swept away any unnecessary restraint upon the soul's free access to the great human heart of God. If this hope soars to the sublime must it not look forward eagerly and confidently to the time when the return of evening Mass will bring to thousands of faithful souls the opportunity of Holy Communion that is not possible to them in the early hours of the morning?"

"To the workers of the world striving to keep faith with their loving Lord in the face of work, anxiety and hourly temptation what a safeguard and what power of holiness would it be that they were looking forward to the peace and consolation of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and the coming of God to their hearts at the close of every day. How sanctified would every day become if union with Jesus Christ was possible to every devout soul."

"What has been may well be again, and where may such an aspiring hope, which is meant as an act of loving toward the God-Man King, better be given utterance with hope of development and fulfillment than in a great Eucharistic Congress such as gathers us here to-day around the Sacramental Throne of the Royal Lover of the world?"

"We hope and pray, therefore, in the great largeness of Christ to the world on this occasion for the early coming of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass said at such times as will offer daily Holy Communion to the great body of the faithful."

"The same yearning hope for more and more union with the great High Priest Jesus Christ soars still higher for those who find themselves sharing the wondrous priesthood of the King. The prayer of this great Congress that Christ may give us Mass and Holy Communion at any hour when the people may come to Him, becomes in the hearts of His priests a humble petition that they be quickly released from the starving time which has come to mark the days which should be of such glorious feasting."

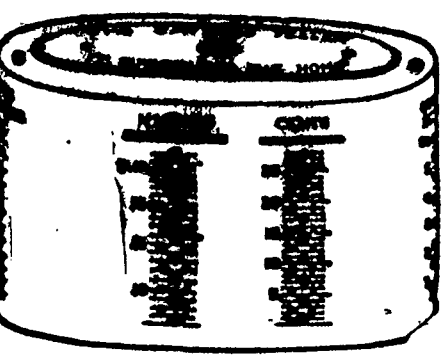
"The priests of the world are crying aloud for their Mass on Holy Thursday, the feast of the Divine Institution and they weep for the desolation that keeps them from exercising their sublime priesthood on the Good Friday anniversary of the great Sacrifice of their High Priest."

"Love dares all things and the priesthood dares to hope for the privilege of many Masses on the feast of the Last Supper and at least

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These words, composed by St. Donaventure, a contemporary of St. Anthony of Padua, have been echoed by millions of Catholics during the past seven hundred years out of the conviction confirmed by their own experience of the Wonder-Working Power of St. Anthony of Padua. It would be difficult to find a Catholic Church in the United States that does not contain a statue of St. Anthony.

But the Best Known Shrine of the Saint in America is that of the Graymoor Friars on the Mount of the Atonement.

By participating in the Perpetual Novena to St. Anthony conducted by the Graymoor Fathers—a new Novena beginning every Tuesday—thousands upon thousands of the clients of the Wonder-Worker of Padua have obtained their petitions.

The readers of The Catholic Journal are invited to follow their example, and test for themselves the efficacy of this special Novena. Mrs. G. R., Wis.: "It is with a heart overflowing with gratitude that I write to tell you of the wonderful results obtained through the prayers of the Friars of the Atonement to the Great Wonder Worker of Padua. My husband has been received into the Catholic Church, having received the Sacraments six weeks ago, and since then is a different man. Words fail me to express fully how I appreciate this spiritual favor which I long desired."

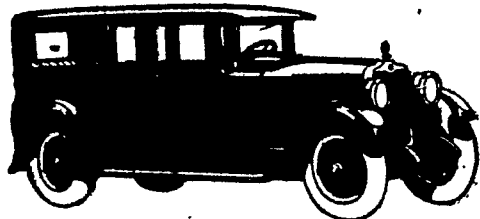
Mrs. L., New Jersey: "Some time ago I asked you to remember me in a novena to St. Anthony for a safe delivery and cure from extreme nervousness. After an illness of five years, today I am in the best of health. The enclosed offering is in fulfillment of my promise if request was granted."

Miss A. K., New York: "Many thanks to St. Anthony for assisting me in finding my purse containing a large sum of money. The enclosed thank offering is to be used for St. Anthony's Bread Fund."

Mrs. G. G., Fort Wayne, Ind.: "Many thanks to the good Friars and Sisters of the Atonement for the prayers offered for my intention during the Novena to St. Anthony, for my favor has been granted for which I can hardly express my gratitude. My husband has been successful in securing a very fine permanent position."

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Cleveland Bars Klan Parade (By N. C. W. C. News Service)

Cleveland, Ohio, June 25.—A permit to parade in this city July 31 has been refused the Ku Klux Klan by Safety Director Edwin B. Barry.

In a formal statement, Mr. Barry said: "I have taken this matter up with the heads of the police department, and after careful consideration have decided in the interests of public safety not to issue the permit."

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