



Pope Paul VI discusses with Church officials his plans for the 41st International Eucharistic Congress. With him are, from left, Cardinal James Knox, president of the Permanent Committee for International Eucharistic

Congresses; Auxiliary Bishop Martin N. Lohmuller of Philadelphia; and Father Walter J. Conway, executive secretary of the 41st International Eucharistic Congress. The pontiff is holding the symbol for the congress.



you. He who feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has life eternal, and I will raise him up on the last day." (John 6:53-54)

The mysterious reality of the Eucharist — "My flesh is real food and my blood real drink" (John 6:55) — is a puzzle to some, a scandal to others. It has always been so. After Jesus promised the Eucharist, "many of his disciples remarked, 'This sort of talk is hard to endure! How can anyone take it seriously?' . . . From this time on, many of his disciples broke away and would not remain in his company any longer." (John 6:60-66)

But for those who believe in Jesus' teaching, because they believe in Jesus Christ Himself, the Eucharist is, among all His gifts to us, the most cherished and the cause of our deepest gratitude. After some of his disciples had left Him, Jesus asked the Twelve: "Do you want to leave me too?" Simon Peter answered — for them and for us. "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe; we are convinced that you are God's holy one." (John 6:67-69) Let us pray that the Eucharistic Congress will help all of us to renew our faith, our hope, our love, and our gratitude for the great gift of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the Sacrament of the Eucharist; and to re-commit ourselves, in union with Him, to the task of responding generously to the hungers of the human family.

## Special Observance Set at Cathedral

During the past week when the American bishops met at Washington they formally announced that the 41st International Eucharistic Congress in Philadelphia, Aug. 1st through 8, 1976, our National Bicentennial Year.

The event had previously been announced but last week's statement emphasized the purpose of the Congress and most of all sounded a call for a period of preparation. The revised Roman Ritual directs that "in preparation for a Eucharistic Congress, primary consideration should be given to

- a) a thorough catechesis (study) concerning the Eucharist.
- b) more active participation in the Liturgy.
- c) research and promotion of social undertakings . . . following the example of the primitive Christian community. Thus the ferment of the Gospel, as a force in the growth of contemporary society and as a pledge of the future kingdom, may be diffused in some measure at the eucharistic table." (n.111)

The Year of the Church begins once

again with our annual Eucharistic Celebration — this time as the first step in our preparation for our country's Eucharistic Congress. If our cathedral parish is to sustain its leadership position in our diocese, it must be a Eucharistic parish! And its Eucharistic character must be noted by its growth and its witness.

The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for adoration by Sacred Heart Cathedral next Sunday after the 12:30 p.m. Mass. The observance will conclude with the celebration of Mass at 5 p.m. On Monday and Tuesday exposition will begin with the 8 a.m. Mass and end with Mass (and procession on Tuesday) at 5:20 p.m. Again to review symbolically and personally our friendship with Christ, priests who have had a special relationship with Sacred Heart Cathedral over the past several years will preach the homily at the closing Mass of each Eucharistic Day.

Sunday, Nov. 30 (5:00 P.M.) — Father Gerald Appelby.

Monday, Dec. 1 (5:20 P.M.) — Father William Gordinier.

Tuesday, Dec. 2 (5:20 P.M.) — Father Joseph Brennan.