Dear Pastors, Deacons, and Parish Administrators,

Happy Easter!

In the April 30th edition of the Catholic Times, you will see an article regarding the Eucharistic Congress happening on October 28, 2023 at the Bank of Springfield Center in Springfield, IL. We hope you are looking forward to this event.

The article will state, “To attend, you must contact your parish office as each parish in the Diocese of Springfield in Illinois will be designated a specific number of available seats. You can inquire with your parish starting July 1. If your parish has all their available seats reserved when you inquire, the public release of any more seats will be September 1, if they become available.”

As Fr. Goeckner and I mentioned at the Priest Overnight in March, each parish will be allowed a certain number of available seats (“tickets”). Please see the attached spreadsheet to see how many tickets will be given to your parish. Your parish leadership, lead by the Pastor, will be responsible for determining how to sign up your parishioners for the open spaces. In the week prior to July 1, we will provide you with an online form for **parish staff** (not individual registrants) to sign up those who are attending. You may choose to have sign ups happen in a variety of ways depending on how many open spots your parish receives:

* Ask the members of your pastoral/finance councils prior to opening to the parish
* Put up a paper sign up at the back of Mass
* Create a google form or QR code for your bulletin

Or whatever creative idea you have!

Again, you are responsible for collecting the information and then filling out the online form we provide.  These forms are due July 31st. We will also work with those who need more tickets for their parish.

On September 1, we will open up any remaining tickets to the public.

Those who SHOULD NOT/WILL NOT be included in the number of seats saved (“tickets”) for your parish:

* Clergy (priests and deacons)
* Deacon’s wives
* Parents of priests
* Any volunteers who sign up through the Diocesan sign up form (we will notify you of who)
* Religious whose orders are listed in the directory (we contacted their orders directly)

Your reserved seats are for your parishioners. This does not include Newman Centers or entities outside of your parish.

Please consider announcing this at your parish. Below is something you can announce and/or put in your bulletin. As it says in this announcement, we are asking for volunteers to help with the day. This message can also be found in the Bulletin Announcement section of Parish Link:

**You are invited to a historical diocesan-wide celebration at the BOS Center in Springfield.** To celebrate the Diocesan Year of the Eucharist and the 100th anniversary of the transfer of the See city from Alton to Springfield, the Eucharistic Congress is taking place Saturday, October 28 at the BOS Center in Springfield. This dynamic experience will include nationally recognized Catholic speakers, adoration, confession, and Mass. The arena will be packed with thousands of Catholics from across the diocese. To attend, contact the parish office as each parish in the diocese is given a specific number of available seats. You can inquire about reserving a seat through the parish office starting July 1, or if you are interested in volunteering, you can register now! For more information on the event or volunteering, visit **dio.org.**

To also help promote the event on your parish social media and/or in an eblast to your parishioners, please share this promotional video: [Eucharistic Congress | Oct. 28 | BOS Center in Springfield | An event like none other - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ilxo-ZKbEGQ&t=1s)

Please let me know if you have any questions!

In Christ,

Erin Danaher & The Diocesan Eucharistic Congress Committee

edanaher@dio.org