

# INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS MAY 1938

# BUDAPEST







# COME

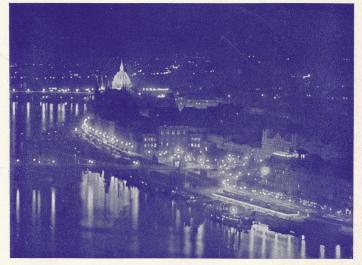
to the XXXIV Eucharistic World Congress at Budapest, Hungary, end of May 1938.

The Catholic World, it is unnecessary to state, celebrates every second year at different centres of the globe a great International Eucharistic Congress. With every fresh meeting these congresses tend to a larger and fuller expression. They can without doubt be regarded as the most impressive religious manifestations of the present. The Blessed Eucharist, the Mass and Holy Communion are mysteries which fill the Catholic mind with deep joy and represent the peak of religious fervour. In them the great Catholic family, embracing nearly 400 millions, feels itself compelled to give a corporate expression to its joy, its pride and thankfulness for this sublimest gift of God, and hence from decade to decade the growing interest of Catholic nations in Eucharistic Congresses, and the ever louder echo they awake in all parts of the World.

In accordance with a decision of the standing Committee for International Eucharistic Congresses approved of by the Holy Father, the next Congress, the XXXIV in the series, is to be held in Budapest in 1938.

Budapest, the charming capital of Hungary, with its fine royal Castle perched high above the river, its picturesque hills

and the green islands of the Danube, would appear even by reason of its unique position a worthy setting for a great Eucharistic meeting of the nations. Budapest is the only capital of Europe which is intersected by a mighty river, crowned on the one bank with the hills, while on the other it is built far into the plain — a metropolis which in the last few years has become the centre of European foreign tourist traffic owing to the special charm it exercises over visitors.



Budapest at night

However, it was not so much for its natural beauty that the Hungarian capital has been chosen as the venue for the next Eucharistic Congress, as for the occurrence in 1938 of the 9th centenary of the death of Hungary's Founder King, St. Stephen. In that year Christian Hungary will render thanks to God for the immense happiness of being called to the Catholic faith and through its first holy King incorporated in the Kingdom of Christ. Though this Jubilee of St. Stephen is to be celebrated altogether apart from the International Eucharistic Congress, yet the close of the latter will usher in the year of Jubilee, so that those who take part in the Congress will, if they remain



over for a day longer, be able to take part in the solemn inauguration of the Jubilee celebrations in honour of Hungary's national Saint.

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For more reasons than one a very special significance attaches to the Congress in Budapest: firstly it will mark, after a lapse of 14 years, the resumption of Eucharistic Congresses on the European Continent, the first since the Amsterdam one in 1924. This circumstance alone should guarantee a quite unusually large crowd of visitors from all European countries whose Catholic population will again have an opportunity of attending in great numbers a Eucharistic Congress without too great a sacrifice of time and money.

That the Congress is to be held in a comparatively small land of central Europe is also not without a deeper significance. The Congress authorities have chosen St Augustine's expression «The Blessed Eucharist the bond of love» as the motto for this Congress: we have evidently in this choice the desire to stress the power of the Eucharist in reconciling the nations one with another. Every allusion, however, to mere politics will of course be completely banned from the Congress.

But what lends most importance and actuality to the Congress is the state of the world to-day, when faith and infidelity, divine sonship and hatred of God, religious enthusiasm and militant atheism are locked together in such deadly strife in so many countries.

Russia, Spain, Mexico! Profaned altars, dynamited Churches, Sanctuaries in flames, priests, nuns, faithful murdered or tortured to death, consciences violated, youth seduced, mass poisoning of the soul of the people by means the most brutal, internationally organised, attack of militant atheism which would trample under foot all faith, all love of Christ, every vestige of Christian culture.

Now, in face of this peril which threatens all the nations, an International Eucharistic Congress stands forth offering a bulwark and a sure defence, calm and peaceful though



Church Procession in front of Parliament

not less **forceful and impressive**, uniting as it will all classes and nations. The enthusiastic gathering of hundreds of thousands of Catholics of every land present at the International Congress, as well as the spiritual participation of millions of others will reverberate through the nations as a great world manifestation.

«Reparation to the Eucharistic King!» will be the silent resolve of ardent hearts; «Resistance to the destructive designs of His enemies!» We shall not permit the consciences of whole countries to be enslaved; the holiest and greatest in man, his religion, to be outraged and persecuted; we shall not permit the very foundations of our Christian civilisation of the West

to be laid waste, and ourselves robbed of belief and worship and our children prevented from being brought up in the faith and love of Jesus Christ.

The more violently our altars are attacked by hate and ignorance, the closer shall we cling to them, the more devoutly shall we worship the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar! The more our Churches are violated and the tabernacles outraged and priests and faithful done to death, Christ and His Church made the object of hate, scorn and violence, the higher shall mount the flames of our religious enthusiasm and devotion to the Blessed Eucharist!

And thus the International Eucharistic Congress at Budapest will mean much more than a great religious manifestation of a few days' duration: it cannot help assuming proportions much wider in scope and permanency and becoming a great world-celebration and world-reparation in which all Catholics of every nation, class and cultural rank will gladly play a sincere part.

To deepen the purpose of the Congress in the minds of our own people, it has been decided to prelude the Congress with a full Eucharistic Year of Preparation and Atonement. It would be an excellent thing if the Catholics of other lands too, were to join in celebrating this Eucharistic Year of Preparation as well as the Congress itself, and thus help us to extend its scope to an atonement and manifestation of worldwide dimensions. In this way an opportunity of

who cannot come themselves to Budapest.
God grant that the International Congress in Budapest may mean for Hungary

sharing in its spirit would be afforded those



and the entire Catholic world a **new** awakening of its faith in answer to the infidelity of our day and the attacks of the godless.

God grant that the Congress may prove a new stressing of charity as the basic principle of individual life and human society in opposition to that system of hate and selfishness from which humanity in these days is suffering so sorely, and which men would fain build into the foundations of the new political and industrial life of the nations.

Who would not readily take part in such a Eucharistic celebration and do all in his power to secure for the Congress a complete success to the honour of God, the glory of the Eucharistic King and the salvation of perplexed and tortured humanity reduced to such sore straits of spiritual impoverishment?

Programme of the Congress. 23rd May, 1938

Solemn Reception of the Cardinal Legate.

25th May, Wednesday.

Afternoon: Solemn opening of the Congress. Reading of the Papal Bulls.

Address and greeting of the Cardinal Legate.

26th May, Thursday. (ASCENSION-DAY)

Morning: Children's Communion.

Afternoon: First public general meeting.



Coronation Church and St. Stephen's Statue

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Evening: Solemn procession of boats on the Danube. The Blessed Sacrament surrounded by Cardinals, Bishops and Prelates will be escorted in a specially decorated ship.

### 27th May, Friday.

Morning: Meetings of the various sections. Afternoon: Second public general meeting.

Evening: Scenic displays.



Village Church Procession

## 28th May, Saturday.

Morning: Holy Mass and meditation on foreign missions. Noon: Separate meetings of the various participating

nations.

Afternoon: Third public general meeting.

Evening: Night adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for men. Opportunities for men's confessions in different languages. 29th May, Sunday.

Morning: General Communion for all who have taken part in the Congress.

Afternoon: Closing Celebration. World-atonement Service World Broadcast of Celebration. Closing address of the Legate. Te Deum.

30th May, Monday.

Solemn Inauguration of the St. Stephen's Year in St. Stephen's Cathedral. Pontifical Mass in front of the Houses of Parliament. Solemn Procession with the Saint's Holy Right Hand. Briliant Historical Pageant.

The guests and pilgrims can also participate in the ecclesiastical festivities at Esztergom, the native town of St. Stephen on 31st of May and at Székesfehérvár, the old Hungarian coronation town on 1st of June.

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Ecclesiastical, historical and art exhibitions.

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Hospitable Hungary awaits with joy its visitors and will do all in its power to make the time of their sojourn days of happiness and spiritual uplift which they will not soon forget.

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