

Spirituality Center director to speak at International Eucharistic Congress

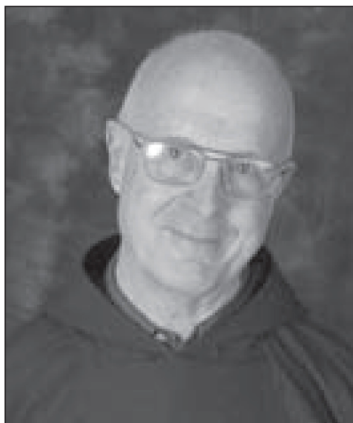
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MILWAUKEE – Capuchin friar Father Daniel Crosby, director of St. Anthony's Spirituality Center, Marathon, has been asked to address the 50th International Eucharistic Congress in Dublin, Ireland, June 15. His topic will be "Becoming the Eucharist We Celebrate." It is anticipated that more than 80,000 will be attending the Congress, who will have traveled from five continents.

The Eucharistic Congress is a worldwide event and is held every four years.

"It is very humbling to be asked to speak," Father Dan said. "I remember as a child hearing the stories of my family attending the 1926 Eucharistic Congress held at Chicago's Soldier Field. It was an indelible impression in my father's faith life. Now to think that I am returning to my family's homeland and speaking at this event, it is a deep honor.

"I appreciate that the Eucharistic Congress is taking place



Father Daniel Crosby

in Ireland. The Eucharist has always been central to the Irish people. In the penal times during the centuries after Cromwell, it was forbidden to celebrate Mass. The people would gather anyway, at 'Massrocks' in the hills, where they found strength in those oppressive times. Now Ireland is going through turmoil again. There is much hurt and anger due to their economy and their relationship with the Church. The pain is deep. My prayer is that the Eucharistic Congress will be

a healing event; that it will help the people discover again the importance of the Eucharist for this moment of pain; that Christ is with them to bring about that healing.

"The title of my presentation, 'Becoming the Eucharist We Celebrate,' demonstrates that the Eucharist is not just a ritual we attend, but a ritual which calls us to become what we celebrate: to be the Body and Blood of Christ in our world. Think of the four verbs of the Eucharist: Jesus took, Jesus blessed, Jesus broke, Jesus gave. We are taken; we are blessed; we are broken – and only then are we shared. It is in our brokenness that Jesus comes to us, gives us salvation and makes us good for others. I am praying that the brokenness of the people will itself be an opening to greater identification with Christ and bring healing for all attending the Eucharistic Congress."

Father Dan's topic is based on his series of four CDs of the same name. It includes twelve, 25-minute presentations.