



Dear brothers and sisters,

I am writing this letter to you on the day in which the church celebrates the liturgical memory of San Pasquale Baylon, a Franciscan religious who lived in Spain between 1540 and 1592. Throughout his life he showed a great love for the Blessed Sacrament of the Eucharist and, even without having ever completed in-depth theological studies, he wrote a small book to illustrate the truth and beauty of this great mystery of love that the Lord has left us as a memorial of his Easter. For this reason Pope Leo XIII in 1897 declared him patron of the Works of Eucharistic Congresses. Looking at his example, we ask him to help each of us to make the Eucharist, celebrated and adored, the beating heart of our life and of our faith. We also entrust to his intercession the path of preparation for the 53rd International Eucharistic Congress which will take place in Quito in 2024 and the 1st National Eucharistic Congress of the Church of Turkey which we wish to celebrate together in the same year.

I am pleased to inform you that in recent days the official logo of the International Eucharistic Congress (Quito 2024) was presented, "Fraternity to heal the world. You are all brothers." Let's look at it together:



As the filmmakers explained in a press conference that I watched from a distance, the two lower elements symbolically represent humanity's spiritual and material wounds. However, the logo wants to be the announcement of the love of God that heals all suffering, as demonstrated by the other three signs. First of all the cross of Jesus, which heals the wounds that sin has opened. Jesus spread his arms over it to show that he awaits everyone, embraces everyone, reconciles everyone with the Father. An open heart is a sign of the love that makes all things new. And also remember that the 2024 International Eucharistic Congress will take place in Quito to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Ecuador's consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The host, depicted luminous above, similar to

the sun, reminds us that the The Eucharist is the source and summit of the life of the Church and is the architect of fraternity among men. The 0° symbol indicates the most famous geographical feature of Ecuador, that of being at the "mitad del mundo", halfway around the world. Finally, I would like to underline how the gray color appears in the logo. It is not a random fact, but a clear reference to the ashes which, at the beginning of each Lent, are placed on our heads. This is meant to be for all of us a clear invitation to conversion, without which we could never live as brothers and sisters, as the Lord wishes and has taught us.

Along with the logo that we looked at together, the official hymn of the Eucharistic Congress of Quito was also presented. With its title "Around your table" it really puts the theme of fraternity at the center. The verses of this song develop the meaning of the Sacrament and help us recognize the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist who accompanies us and strengthens us in our lives. The refrain states that the fraternity to heal the world is what the Lord shows us from the cross. What seems to me particularly beautiful about this hymn is the fact that it doesn't limit itself to speaking of fraternity, but builds it concretely: in fact, it does not arise from the ability of a single artist, but from the collaboration between the young singer Marco Antonio Espín and "Solideo" a musical group of three Franciscan friars. Unity is strength! I wish to do everything possible to ensure that this chant is translated into Turkish so that it can also be made available to the Church of Turkey for its liturgical celebrations.

I thank you for your attention which is a concrete sign of fraternity. My wish is that these last days of the Easter season will help us to achieve ever more what the Church wishes to accomplish also through the Eucharistic Congresses for which we are preparing: to change the world with the revolution of love. It is certainly a demanding journey, but I am sure it is not an unattainable utopia if we recognize Christ living in the world, if we welcome the Gift of the Holy Spirit that he offers us, if each of us does his part.

I greet you fraternally in the Eucharistic Christ.

Izmir, 17th May 2023

Liturgical memory of St. Pasquale Baylon



P. Alessandro Amprino
National Delegate
for International Eucharist Congresses