

**Welcoming Remarks by Bishop Felipe J. Estévez
for the Eucharistic Congress
March 16, 2018**

Theme: “Live in My Love – Vivid en Mi Amor”

It is a privilege and honor to welcome you to the 2018 Florida Eucharistic Congress.

Your yes, your presence, is a source of joy to me as we gather as a diocesan family today. I also want to warmly welcome our brothers and sisters from Orlando who are celebrating their 50th anniversary of establishment as a diocese – and to so many others who have traveled here today from other faith communities.

Live in My Love is a perfect theme because the love of Christ is the core meaning of the Eucharistic Mystery.

The love of Christ is the gift of God for us – par excellence. No greater love can ever be imagined.

This love is redemptive – it flows from His Paschal Mystery – His act of dying and rising for our salvation.

This love builds true community. From doing this in memory of me, as the Lord Jesus mandated to his Apostles, the Church is born as brothers and sisters centered in the Eucharist. The violence in our schools, in our society, needs to be healed by this selfless Eucharistic love.

Live in My Love is about the real presence, substantial presence: his body, soul, the divinity of Jesus Christ, the mystery of faith.

Live in My Love happens each Sunday – the day of the Lord – the day when families come to the parish to pray together as a family and to build the domestic Church. What would a week be like without Sunday?

Live in My Love is the source of active service for others just as St. John, 13, does in washing the feet of others.

Live in My Love builds unity. I am so grateful for our brother priests who will spend hundreds of hours as ministers of mercy bringing Christ’s healing and reconciliation to the souls here at this Congress.

Live in My Love inspires our young people to dream a selfless love in a life of total dedication to the Body of Christ, His beloved Spouse, saying here Lord, I am all yours, take Me!

Live in my love builds peace and justice in society, energized by Christ’s love. We hear: Go, the Mass is ended. Go to serve, to care, to heal, and to build the City of God as St. Augustine dreamed it.