

My experience of the 50<sup>th</sup> International Eucharistic Congress held in Dublin on the 10<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> June 2012 was amazing. From the moment I heard about the International Eucharistic Congress being held in the R.D.S., I knew I wanted to be part of this very special event.

I found all the information I needed online on their very helpful website. My job for the week was to "meet and greet". I went to the opening ceremony and Mass on June 10<sup>th</sup>. The music and atmosphere was "out of this world"! It gave me an uplifting feeling that words could never describe. Everybody was so nice and friendly and I made a lot of new friends.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> of June, I worked at the airport and met a lot of wonderful people from all over the world. I went back to the R.D.S. for the rest of the week. On the Wednesday night, the Eucharistic Procession was led through the streets of Dublin. The streets were lined with hundreds of people and the Blessed Sacrament was followed by Cardinals, Bishops and Priests. It was wonderful to see.

Adoration of the Blessed Eucharist took place every day. It was very good to see so many people praying. I felt that the presence of God was all around.

There was a box on display with words from Scriptures. This is the Psalm I got:

This is the word of the Lord to .....

“You, ..... Are always in my presence,

And I hold you by your right hand;

Now I will guide you with advice,

And in the end receive you into glory.”

Psalm 73; 23-24

The closing mass in Croke Park was "something else"! When I stood up and saw the crowd, I felt so proud to know that somewhere in the thousands of pilgrims was my daughter Tracy, my son-in-law Davy and my 7-year-old grandson Coady. They really enjoyed it.

This, for me, was a once in a lifetime opportunity. I was so delighted that I was one of the volunteers and at the end of Mass it was great to get the Apostolic Blessing from Pope Benedict XVI.

An amazing week of Pilgrimage - I pray I will never forget it and I thank God for it.

Lily Connor