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Homily Opening the International Eucharistic Congress

Cardinal Bo

The 51st International Eucharistic Congress kicked off with Pope Francis' representative, Cardinal Charles Bo of Yangon, Myanmar, declaring war on poverty. The Eucharist calls for "a third world war against poverty," said Cardinal Bo, "a third world war against the cruelty of dogs fed with sumptuous organic food while poor children scramble for crumbs from the table." Tens of thousands of people waited at least an hour under a punishing sun to attend the Jan. 24 opening Mass led by Cardinal Bo at the Plaza Independencia in Cebu, Philippines. With greetings in the

"Our adoration of the Eucharist affirms our unalienable faith in human dignity."

Visaya dialect and the national language of Tagalog, Cardinal Bo told the faithful that Pope Francis loves them very much. He called Filipinos the "beacon of evangelization" to the world, saying that having a Philippine presence in any country means there will be Catholicism. Close to 10 million Filipinos live and work outside the Philippines, with most practicing their Catholic faith, often in countries that do not have majority Christian populations. Cardinal Bo remarked on the Philippine church and its people being "the only place that welcomed" priests from his country, which he said was a "suffering church" for more than five decades under military rule. Cardinal Bo said the Eucharist strips the faithful of their social status and makes everyone equal. Cardinal Bo's homily follows.

a ko ay masaya na makarating dito sa Cebu!

I stand on this holy ground, full of gratitude and joy, bringing the message of hope and joy from the prophet of the millennium, our dear Holy Father Francis.

Pope Francis loves you very much!

Ang atong San Padre gihigugma kamong tanan!

Kayong lahat ay mahal na mahal ng Santo Padre!

We are grateful today. Grateful to God that an event of immense significance as this International Eucharistic Congress has brought together the Catholic Church to the

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