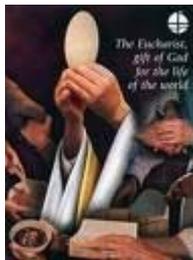


## The world's first Eucharistic Encounter

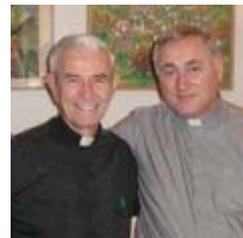
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**Fr. Donnon Murray OFM introduced the most recent two-day Encounter program by Fr. Gabriel Calvo in Hungary for the first time in the world.**

Over 80 people from all over Hungary made the spiritual program about the Eucharist presented twice on two successive weekends in June and July by Fr. Donnon Murray, a Franciscan missionary working in Japan. Among the participants of the July weekend were a priest and a couple from Venezuela, who made this trip to Hungary with the aim of introducing this program in their country after having experienced it themselves.

"I have been working in Japan for 50 years, presenting the original Encounter programs by Fr. Gabriel Calvo on a regular basis for 40 years, and my experience is that each and every one of these programs has produced excellent and permanent fruits. Christians are a very small minority in Japan, therefore the participants of the Encounters are non-Christians, who usually come because some friends invite them. During the past four decades, more than 2000 Japanese people have been baptized and have been living committed Christian lives as a result of the Encounter programs" – says Fr. Murray, Fr. Gabriel Calvo's colleague, who has recently compiled a book of the testimonies of Encounter participants. (The book called *Graces from FIRES* can be read and downloaded [here](#).)



The Spanish founder of Marriage Encounter Fr. Gabriel Calvo has designed over 20 programs for married and engaged couples, sons and daughters as well as individuals during the past 50 years; the number of participants has been several *millions* all over the world. **In Hungary** nearly three thousand people have made Encounters within the last 9 years.

"Everywhere in today's world people rediscover the significance of the Eucharist. Fr. Calvo, aged 81, was reading the apostolic letters by Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI last year, when he was inspired by the Holy Spirit to create a new Encounter program about the the Eucharist, which is the only true source of strength and the sacrament of love and unity. While his earlier programs were meant for particular groups of society like the youth or the married, the message the Eucharistic Encounter, which is the message of unity, is for everybody. Therefore I gladly accepted the invitation to introduce this new program in Hungary, where I had introduced each one of the original Encounter programs by Fr. Calvo between 1999 and 2005" – the Franciscan missionary says.

Magyar Kurír

Photo: Fr. Donnon Murray OFM (left) with Msgr. Laszlo Biro, Bishop for the Family, Hungarian Catholic Bishops' Conference

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