

# ~ ~ ~ THE INTERNATIONAL ~ ~ ~ EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS 1924

**Reading by Maurice Essers**  
*With unique film footage*

**Tuesday 21st of May, 2024**  
**Church of Our Lady, Amsterdam**

The International Eucharistic Congress that took place in the Olympic stadium in Amsterdam in 1924 is an important moment in the Catholic emancipation of the Netherlands. The 'Miracle City' of Amsterdam was a location for this conference standing to reason, but Catholics were barely accepted and represented in the upper social strata of this country and there were also legal restrictions on expressions of faith that had to be taken into account when conducting the conference.

Ultimately, this first Catholic mass manifestation became a great success. The innovative use of amplified speakers made the conference easy to follow for the many participants. Foreign guests enjoyed the hospitality of Amsterdam's Catholic population for days, who participated in the conference by attending lectures, Holy Masses and concerts in the many churches and monasteries of our city and by decorating the Catholic working-class neighborhoods.

Dutch Catholic artists were used to promote the conference and were thus given an (inter)national stage for the first time. New techniques were used to bring the conference to the attention of Catholics elsewhere in the Netherlands.

We do this with a silent film, which will be shown again for the first time in 100 years during the reading on May 21. In addition to an impression of the conference, the film also gives an impression of Amsterdam in the 1920s. By combining the film with a video of Cardinal Van Rossum's entry into Amsterdam on the occasion of the congress, a film with a total length of 40 minutes was created.

The film will be introduced by Maurice Essers, expert in the history of Catholic Amsterdam. The film will then be shown and Maurice will provide an explanation of the images shown.

**Where:** Meeting centre Church of Our Lady  
Keizersgracht 218 B, Amsterdam

**When:** Tuesday, May 21st, 20.00 - 21.30

**Participation:** Free. Voluntary contribution is welcomed.

