



Office of the Archbishop

## Archdiocese of San Antonio

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December 10, 2009

Dear brother priests,

Pope Benedict XVI challenged us to ponder what was discussed at the recent Synod of Bishops on “The Word of God in the Life and the Mission of the Church”, asking us:

*“Are we truly pervaded by the Word of God? Is that Word truly the nourishment we live by, even more than bread and the things of this world? Do we really know that Word? Do we love it? Are we deeply engaged with this Word to the point that it really leaves a mark on our lives and shapes our thinking? Or is it rather the case that our thinking is constantly being shaped by all the things that others say and do?”*

As a response to this challenge from the Holy Father, we continue to develop various evangelization and “Word of God” initiatives, including Bible Seminars and Bible Studies with Jeff Cavins, Lenten Evenings of Lectio Divina, and the development of a bilingual Archdiocesan Bible School. Additional activities will continue to be publicized to encourage Scripture literacy. We are now adding one more initiative: a 40-day New Testament listening program, as was mentioned at our Presbyteral Convocation and at your Deanery Meetings where Pastors Packets were distributed to you.

I encourage your support and the participation of your parish this Lent in this exciting audio Bible listening program called “You’ve Got The Time”.

I am asking that you invite your parish community to listen to the New American Bible (NAB) New Testament 28 minutes a day, for 40 days. With some effort, we can all find the time to listen to the Word of God - alone, as a family, with a group... at home, in the car, when walking, or before or after daily Mass, allowing the life-giving words of the New Testament to deepen our faith and change our lives. The recordings of the readings for each day will be provided for free on an MP3 CD.

To make this possible, the Archdiocese of San Antonio has partnered with an international Bible recording ministry called Faith Comes By Hearing. They are making available a free MP3 disc of the dramatized New American Bible, in English or Spanish, to every adult in each participating parish. They will also provide a free dramatized KIDZ Bible MP3 disc just for the children, in English.

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We will launch this listening program on Ash Wednesday of 2010. If this does not work in your current pastoral plan, I hope that you will look for another time when this initiative will have the greatest opportunity for success.

- The free recordings will be made available to you through *Faith Comes By Hearing* before that date.
- The whole parish is encouraged to listen to the readings within the same timeframe to provide spiritual energy and momentum.
- Participation includes taking up a special Second Collection on Sunday, February 28 that will go directly towards making this program available to Catholics in other countries. Through our joint efforts we can bring the great treasure of the Sacred Scriptures to our people as well as to others in great need. Please make checks payable to the Archdiocese of San Antonio for *Faith Comes By Hearing*.
- Please review the enclosures and return the Parish Coordinator Form before December 11. A *Faith Comes by Hearing* staff person from Albuquerque will call you or your Parish Coordinator within the next weeks, and will send you a DVD message, materials, and an Order Form for the free MP3 disks.
- If you have any questions or needs, feel free to contact our Office for Evangelization: 210-734-1990 / [lora.balusik@archsa.org](mailto:lora.balusik@archsa.org).

I recommend this initiative and urge you to encourage your parishioners to participate in this program and in other archdiocesan opportunities for study and reflection on the Sacred Scriptures, including our Lenten Evenings of Lectio Divina, and our “Acts in a Day” Bible Seminar with Jeff Cavins on May 15, from which Bible Study groups will form in the fall (*The Bible Timeline, Adventures in Matthew, Adventures in Acts, etc.*).

I ask that you please use this letter or the information it contains as you deem most effective. Your community remains in my prayers.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ José H. Gomez

Most Reverend José H. Gomez, S.T.D.  
Archbishop of San Antonio