



Archdiocese of San Antonio

Most Reverend Gustavo Garcia-Siller



**Homily - Super Youth Spectacular
February 6, 2016**

My dear friends, how amazing is this? We are gathered together, hundreds and hundreds of the people of God, young missionary disciples of the Lord, Jesus Christ. We are gathered here to love him, to praise him, and to proclaim his glory to the world. Are you ready to worship the Lord? (Pause) Are you ready to proclaim his glory to the world? (Pause) Because this is who we are, my friends. You are the youth of the Church. You are not waiting for the day when you can start being missionary disciples of Jesus, you are missionary disciples right now! Right this very moment, and your witness to the truth is powerful, life-changing, and challenging to a world that thirsts so much for the way, the truth, and the life.

Do you believe this? Do you believe that right now you are called to be fishers of men and women? Do you believe that you are a missionary disciple of Jesus Christ? Maybe you feel like Peter, who told the Lord on the lake in today's Gospel: "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man." But the Lord chose sinners; he chose us regular

humans to proclaim his glory. He chose twelve sinners, the twelve Apostles. He chose a sinful woman, Mary Magdalene, to be the first person to proclaim his resurrection. He chose sinful men to be priests, sinful women to be religious sisters, sinful couples to marry each other. He chose us, the sinful people of the world, to carry out his will. His Holy Spirit lives inside of us. God dwells within us! My sisters and brothers, you are temples of the Holy Spirit and missionary disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, in the will of the eternal Father! How amazing is this? That is how much God loves you. That is how much God trusts you. He has made you his own missionary disciples, through your baptism, to be fishers of people. He tells you today, as he told the disciples so long ago, "Put out into deep waters."

What are the deep waters in your lives? Maybe it is that friend who is always sad. Maybe it is that part of Church teaching that you have such a hard time with. Maybe it is your parent, or your friend, or your sibling that you just cannot forgive. My friends, you are the disciples of the Most High God! You can do anything in Christ Jesus. Nothing can stop you from following the divine will. Put out into the deep. Nothing can stop you from witnessing to the truth – even in this world that does not want to hear it. Put out into the deep. Nothing can stop you from offering mercy to those who have hurt your or

those who hate you. Not because it is “fair”, but because it is what *love* does! Put out into the deep.

My friends, what I see before me is a huge number of disciples of Jesus, the King and Savior of the Universe. I see a congregation of missionary disciples who, as Pope Francis said in *Evangelii Gaudium*, “finds a way to let the word take flesh” in their lives, who “is ready to put his or her whole life on the line, even to accepting martyrdom, in bearing witness to Jesus Christ” (24). Also let me repeat the words of St. Paul, “I am reminding you, brothers and sisters, of the gospel I preached to you, which you indeed received and in which you also stand.” Answer the call God has given you. Some of you are supposed to be priests, some of you are supposed to be religious sisters, some of you are supposed to be religious brothers. Some of you are supposed to be married with amazing families. Stand for the truth, stand for the love of God, stand for the Gospel.

God is amazing. You are amazing! We are just sinners, trying to serve the Lord, but he takes our love and our passion, and makes us missionary disciples that put out into the deep and bring light to those in darkness. “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts!” (Is). May Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe, intercede for each of you. You have been chosen, just like her, to bring the light of her Son to the world. Answer the call. Put out into the deep. Be missionary disciples, and bring light

to the world. “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men [and women]” (Lk). May we join our voices with the Prophet Isaiah today, “Here I am, send me!”