

**Mass at St. José Sanchez del Rio School – Placing of Relic  
October 18, 2019**

**“Behold, I am sending you like lambs among wolves.” It is always an interesting day when Jesus says this in the Gospel at Mass. Wow. What a statement. Think of Jesus saying this to you. “I am sending you like lambs among wolves.” It seems very intense, almost cruel. But we know that the Lord is not cruel. So why did he say it? Well, let’s look at the saints we celebrate here today for answers.**

**Today is St. Luke’s feastday! St. Luke followed St. Paul. Both lived difficult lives. They were rejected, mocked, and beaten. They were thrown in prison, and they were persecuted. But through them we got the majority of the New Testament. The Gospel of Luke, the Acts of the Apostles, and all of Paul’s letters. They proclaimed that “the Kingdom of God is at hand!” It is true that Paul died by the sword, and it is tradition that St. Luke was also martyred. But they gave their life for the love of God. They faced the wolves because they loved the Lord.**

**And here we are at the school named after San José Sanchez del Rio. I hope you know well the story of this amazing young disciple of Christ. He came to know the Lord through the ministry of a priest, and he fell in love with Jesus. He wanted nothing more than to share the Gospel of the love of Christ the King. Though only 14, José longed to join the movement against persecution of the Church that was happening in the 1910s in México. He was eventually allowed to join the resistance as a flag bearer. He was captured and was tortured in order to make him give up his faith and speak against Jesus. But he would not do it. This young man, who was a young**

person just like you, dear students, he would not reject the faith. His love of Jesus was his reason for being. When he would not stop professing the faith, the torturers cut his feet, and made him walk on hot rocks to a grave that was dug for him. He gave a shout “Viva Cristo Rey!” and then gave his life for the faith.

We are sent as well as lambs among wolves, just like these heroes of the faith. Here in the United States, we are not suffering such persecutions. But we do find that we are mocked for loving Jesus. We are mocked by those who do not profess Jesus as the King. We are also mocked by those who say they have faith, but really are just following worldly or political ideals. My friends, you are the ones who will show your fellow young people the love of God. It does not matter that they do not understand. It does not matter if they are mean to us. We know that God loves us. We know that we love each other in the Church. We have the GOOD NEWS! Isn't that amazing? We are sent out to proclaim that the Kingdom of God is at hand. Right now! Jesus is calling people to love him and to love each other. As Pope Francis said it in his recent exhortation: “Filled with the love of Christ, young people are called to be witnesses of the Gospel wherever they find themselves, by the way they live” (*Christus Vivit*, 175).

The Lord wants your help in sharing his Good News. The Holy Spirit is within you to help you answer with joy! It is true that the world has many wolves, and that is scary. But the Lord tells you: “I chose you from the world, to go and bear fruit that will last” (verse before Gospel). May we answer him! We are your friends! And “your friends make known, O Lord, the glorious splendor of your Kingdom” (Psalm 145).