



Archdiocese of San Antonio
Most Reverend Gustavo Garcia-Siller



Homily – Detainees in Migrant Detention Center Mass
October 22, 2015

My friends, the readings of the Mass today are quite serious. Jesus is trying to get his disciples to understand that he has come as the greatest of prophets, and the prophet's job is to speak the Word of God. That Word is challenging, and it often causes division in the world. However, that Word also brings life to the world. "The gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23). Today, I ask you to once again choose the light of life.

The challenges of the Gospel are real. The people of God are to choose to help those who are in most need before all others. We are challenged to love those who have been rejected by others. We are called to welcome those who have not found welcome. This is why we are here today with all of you. We love you and are here to share God's love with you. He loves you more than we can express, and so we come to share in that love with you.

But we have also come with the challenge of the Gospel. Even here in this place where so often it seems difficult to hope, we are challenged to remember the Word of God: “Blessed are they who hope in the Lord” (Psalm 40:5). I ask you my dear friends in Christ, are you holding on to the hope we have in Christ Jesus? The circumstances in which you live are very difficult. I know that I cannot truly imagine how much you have been through. But, I do know that God’s grace and God’s love cannot be overpowered by the hardships of this life. We who hope in the Lord have the promise of life given by the Psalm: “[We are] like a tree planted near running water, that yields its fruit in due season, and whose leaves never fade” (Psalm 1:3). No matter what, in God’s grace, we never fade.

So renew your trust in the Lord today. Renew your love for God’s people, even those people who have hurt you in the past. Ask God to help you release any fear or anger that is keeping you from his peace. The Church will always be here for you. We will always love you, and we will not leave your side in your need. We follow the Word of God, and we will not be torn apart. We are one in Christ. I share with you the words our Holy Father shared with those in prison in New York during his visit here to the United States: “I have come so that we can pray together and offer our God everything that causes us

pain, but also everything that gives us hope, so that we can receive from him the power of the resurrection.”

May the prayers of our Blessed Mother, Our Lady of Guadalupe, strengthen us. May she who followed the Word, and bore that Word into this world bless you and your families through her prayers. Trust in the Lord always, just as she did. Together, may we stand as people who hope in the Lord always, and follow his Word to new life.