



Archdiocese of San Antonio
Most Rev. Gustavo García-Siller



**Thanksgiving Mass with Pastoral Center Staff
Our Lady's Chapel
November 26, 2014**

Gratitude is not something you can do by yourself. When we say “Thank you,” or “I am grateful for this,” it implies that there is someone we are saying “thank you” *to*, that there is someone *to whom* we are grateful. The readings remind us of this simple but profound fact.

The ten lepers in the Gospel all went away feeling grateful. They rejoiced that they were made whole and well again. Each of them experienced the beautiful inward feelings that come with being grateful. But only one of them returned to offer his thanks to the one who granted the great blessing of this health. In our Thanksgiving celebrations it is very easy to forget, just like the other nine did, that all good things come from our God. And just like the other nine, we can miss the whole point of gratitude itself.

If gratitude becomes a personal thing, just an exercise in feeling good about our lives, we do not open ourselves to the fullness of the blessings that have been offered us. It is a strange paradox. We express this selfish gratitude for being blessed, but miss the best blessings. While those who remember to “bless the God of all, who has done wondrous things on earth” (Sir), receive the fullness of the gift that Jesus came to offer, the gift of eternal life. But they only find it because they are not seeking any further blessing for themselves. They only seek to bless the Lord and praise his name, but then find even greater blessings. Our God didn't come just to heal us from sickness, hurt, or even just from death. He came to make us one with himself! Jesus

told the grateful former-leper that “his faith has saved him!” Only true thankfulness can do this. Only living in the fullness of love that we were made for. Only this allows us to be who we were truly created to be. We are called to this gratitude not for ourselves, but for the glory of God, but even then our God will not be outdone in love.

As Paul tells the Corinthians, “I give thanks to my God always on your account for the grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus... that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ.” It is God who graces us with all our gifts, so may we celebrate this Eucharist today, which literally means “thanksgiving”, remembering the gifts we received from God. May we pour all that we are into them in gratitude to our God for his unbelievable blessings. Then may we rejoice as the God, through the power of the Holy Spirit guides us in our service of his beloved people.

Today don't just be grateful for the blessings you “have.” Be thankful TO the one who has shared with us his own divine life. May Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe, teach us to grow every day in gratitude and in stewardship of the great gifts we have received in Christ Jesus for the service of God's people.