



Archdiocese of San Antonio

Most Reverend Gustavo Garcia-Siller



**Homily – All Saints Day
(Opening of National Vocation Awareness Week)
November 1, 2015**

“See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God.” These words of St. John in his first letter are truly amazing. God created us humans, not to be mere animals or simply part of creation like any other. He created us to be his daughters and sons. This is the meaning of the human race. The great feast we celebrate today is a celebration of what humanity was created to be. We were created to be saints.

The great saints of our Church realized the reason for their lives. They lived the beatitudes, and showed the world a better way. It is easy to live in this world like we are not meant for more, but this way of life cannot satisfy. It is not who we really are. Who are some of your favorite saints? Think about them; think about their lives. They are the ones who show us how to live with poverty of spirit, how to be meek, how to thirst for righteousness, how to

mourn, how to show mercy, how to live clean of heart, and how to be peacemakers. In the case of the martyrs, they teach us how to be people of joy and of hope, even when the world persecutes us and acts against us because of the name of Jesus. These saintly brothers and sisters of ours show us what it really means to be children of God.

Today is a day to thank the saints for their witness, but it is also a day to ask them for their prayers. We are the people that longs to see the face of the Lord – just like the psalm says. May we ask the saints to help us with their prayers, to put aside anything that distracts us from the love of God, and from sharing that love in truth with all we meet.

This is especially important as the Church throughout the United States celebrate National Vocation Awareness Week. The saints show us how our lives are truly fulfilled when we live the vocation that God has given us. My young sisters and brothers, today we start a weeklong celebration in which we pray for you, so that you can discern what God is calling you to in your lives. Many of you are called to be religious sisters or religious brothers, many of you young men are called to be priests for the Church. God calls his

sisters, brothers, and priests from the members of the Church, from among you. Ask the saints today, throughout this week, and always to pray for you, so that you can find out what God is calling you to be. Then follow that call with joy and confidence.

To our families, I ask you to also be aware of your role. Do you speak to your children about how they may be called to religious life or priesthood? If one of your children has expressed interest in a Church vocation, have you helped them explore it? Our pastors, our religious communities, our Vocation Office, the Vocation Committee, and the Lay Vocation Promoters working here in the Archdiocese are all ready to help you if you need guidance. But make your home part of the vocation culture. Our youth and young adults need to be free to follow God's call in their lives. This is how we help them to find true fulfillment in life. As Pope Francis said it in his message for the World Day of Prayer for Vocations: "The Gospel is the message which brings freedom to our lives; it transforms them and makes them all the more beautiful. How wonderful it is to be surprised by God's call, to embrace his word, and to walk in the footsteps of Jesus, in adoration of the divine mystery and in generous service to our neighbors!"

“Beloved, we are God’s children now” (1 Jn). Our God has called us to follow the saints in light. He has called us to proclaim the Good News to the world, and he has called many among us to consecrate ourselves in religious life or priesthood. What great blessings our God has given to us!

Saints of God, come to our aid, so that we may live this life as true children of God, following his call wherever it leads us. May the queen of all the saints, the Blessed Mother, Mary, intercede for us on this great feast. May she help us to always do as she did, and say yes to the Lord. “Blessing and glory, wisdom and thanksgiving, honor, power, and might be to our God forever and ever. Amen” (Rev).