



Archdiocese of San Antonio
Most Rev. Gustavo García-Siller



Mothers' Day Mass with Female Inmates
Bexar County Jail Annex
May 13, 2014

The people in the Gospel passage today are frustrated with Jesus because he will not tell them what they want to hear. They are frustrated because they do not have faith, but want Jesus to do what they want. Jesus rebukes them for their lack of faith. He reminds them that the Father has been building up his flock for centuries. Our God has been building up Zion

Zion is a name for the people of God, the heavenly Jerusalem, the flock of the Lord. In the Psalm we hear of Zion in all of her beauty. "The Lord loves the gates of Zion, more than any dwelling of Jacob. Glorious things are said of you, O city of God!" Zion is our home, she is the Church, and she is our Mother. Have you ever heard this said? That the Church is our Mother? This is our belief. The scriptures says that, "One and all were born in her; and he who has established her is the Most High Lord." Our Father has given us the Church as our Mother. She guides us, teaches us, loves us, cares for us when we are hurt, feeds us from this divine table, and she helps us as we struggle to live holy lives and follow the Good Shepherd. The Church loves us and shows us the path of faith. We can see her doing a mother's work in the first reading today through those first Apostles. Peoples from all over the world started to believe in Jesus through the presence of the Church that continued to spread. Today we see the Church give a name to her children there in Antioch; she named us "Christians."

So as Christians, when we celebrate Mothers' Day, we have a special devotion to the Church who calls us together in her love. There are many of you who are

yourselves mothers or who have mothers who love you. Others may have been mothers and have lost your children or are separated from them. Others may not have known your mothers, or maybe your mothers were not loving like mothers should be. My sisters in Christ, today we can be united as children of our loving Church. We can celebrate Mothers' Day with her, as one family of faith! We celebrate you who can learn from her example and become mothers who care for your children, and women who care for those around you. Being a mother is difficult, but it is a great blessing and a gift from our loving God. Let the Church teach you how to live out your motherhood – both physical and spiritual motherhood – for the glory of God and the good of the flock.

My sisters, we have another example of motherhood and of womanhood. Our example is Mary, mother of Jesus, and a model of the Church. She rejoiced in the life of her Son, taught him life lessons, wept when he was hurting, suffered when he suffered, waited for him when he was gone, and sang praises to God when he rose from the dead. She is a woman of faith, and a Mother unlike any who have ever been. Mary, our Mother, pray for us today who call upon you and worship your Son with you. Teach us to be people of faith, and comfort your daughters when they are hurting. Bring them to closer to your Son and to the Church. Help us all to remember the love of the Church who guides us in love and in faith. Hear us as we pray:

Hail Mary...