



Archdiocese of San Antonio
Most Rev. Gustavo García-Siller



**Feast of St. Anthony
CTSA Mass
June 13, 2014**

It is often said that the one who shouts the loudest is the one who gets heard. It may be surprising to us then that the Lord our God often seems to act in the opposite way. He tends to come in little ways, simple ways, when he acts in this world. He picked a small nation to be his people in the covenant, he chose a working class young woman from an unremarkable town to bear his Son to the world, and when the Son came into this world, he chose to do so as a helpless, tiny child. God continues this way of acting in his revelation to the prophet Elijah.

When God chose to reveal himself to the great prophet, he was not in the great heavy wind, or the crashing rocks, or the powerful earthquake, or the searing fire. No, the Lord made himself known in the quiet of a "tiny whispering sound" (1 Kings). This was an intimate moment with his beloved servant Elijah, the great God of the universe whispering into the heart and soul of his prophet. God made his dwelling in Elijah's heart, and thus revealed his greatness in Elijah's preaching. This is how the Lord works. He reveals his greatness in the stillness, in the quiet, so that we can join him in his resounding glory when it rings out through our life lived in his grace.

Listen to the words of the Lord Jesus in Matthew's Gospel. He names the great sins, sins that are obviously against the law of the Lord, but he challenges us to go even deeper. The Lord challenges us to look at the deep and quiet parts of our hearts and

our souls. We must work for holiness there, in the stillness of our inner lives, so that we can join our still quiet voices to his and reveal his greatness.

Our great patron, St. Anthony knew this to be true. He taught that “the spirit of humility is sweeter than honey, and those who nourish themselves with this honey produce sweet fruit” (St. Anthony). Instead of always seeking the grand gesture, the great miracle – and instead of seeking the esteem that comes from being the loudest person in the room – St. Anthony preached humility. May we call upon the Holy Spirit to teach us how to search the quiet of our souls, in those hidden corners of our lives that we only find in prayer.

We have just celebrated together the joy of Pentecost and the Consecration of our Archdiocese to the Holy Spirit. May we live this consecration according to the teaching of our great patron. St. Anthony once said: “The apostles ‘spoke as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech.’ Happy the man whose words issue from the Holy Spirit and not from himself! We should speak, then, as the Holy Spirit gives us the gift of speech. Our humble and sincere request to the Spirit for ourselves should be that we may bring the day of Pentecost to fulfillment.” The Holy Spirit speaks to us in our hearts, in our souls, through his inexpressible groanings. May we never grow tired of listening for that “tiny whispering sound”, that “still small voice.” “Wait for the Lord with courage; be stouthearted, and wait for the Lord” (Ps). But do not expect the Lord to act like we humans often act. The quietest voice in the room is the one who will reveal to us the glory of the ages.

May, Mary, our mother teach us to open our souls to the Holy Spirit. Through her intercession and the intercession of St. Anthony our patron, may we learn to hear the voice of the Lord in the quiet of our hearts.

Most Holy Spirit, speak to us and guide us in your ways, that we may always speak the Good News to everyone we meet.