



Archdiocese of San Antonio
Most Rev. Gustavo García-Siller



Homily – Mass with Children Detainees at Lackland Shelter
Sts. Peter and Paul
June 29, 2014

My dear friends in Christ, today is a great feast in the Church. We celebrate the lives of two of the greatest saints our Church has ever had: St. Peter, the first Pope; and St. Paul, the great evangelist. These saints did such wonderful things in their lives, and they are praying for us right now.

But as happy as this feast is, the readings are a little sad. The first reading is about St. Peter being arrested unfairly during his life, the second reading is from a letter written by Paul when he was in jail, too. The readings are sad, because this is not a perfect world. Both of these wonderful saints gave their lives for their love of Jesus, but many of the people around them rejected them and hurt them.

This is sadly how the world is sometimes. We are children of a loving God, so our homes should not be dangerous places, we should not have to feel scared or alone, we should not have to worry about what is going to happen to us. But the world is not always fair or happy. St. Peter and St. Paul knew that. But they trusted that the Lord would be there for them, and that is what we are going to do today.

My sisters and my brothers, I am here today because we in the Church love you, and we are here for you. I know that you are so far away from home, and that it is scary, but you are not alone! Our God is here with us, right now. The Holy Spirit is here to keep us together in faith, and in hope, and in love. You also have so many people in the city of San Antonio and all over the United States who are thinking about you, and trying to find ways to make sure you are cared for.

It is true that the world is not fair, but God promised us that the darkness of this world will never overpower his love and his grace. He is “the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Mt), and he loves us. He loves you. So today, my friends, remember the power of our God and remember the Church who is here for you. You are not alone. St. Peter and St. Paul and all the angels and saints in heaven are praying for you. And all of us in the Church will keep working to help you because you are our brothers and sisters.

We ask our beautiful Mother Mary for her prayers today. May you always remember her love for you and ask her to help you remember that you are loved and are not alone.