



*Ven, Holy Spirit, Ven!*

*They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?"*  
Luke 24:32

November 27, 2019

My Dear Brother Priest,

A few weeks ago, Pope Francis issued a motu proprio, *Aperuit illis*, designating the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time as the **Sunday of the Word of God**. "Devoting a specific Sunday of the liturgical year to the Word of God can enable the Church to experience anew how the risen Lord opens up for us the treasury of his word and enables us to proclaim its unfathomable riches before the world."

In communion with the Holy Father and the Church throughout the world, I would like parishes in the Archdiocese of San Antonio to celebrate this Sunday, which will fall on January 26, 2020.

*Aperuit illis* makes several suggestions about how parish communities can observe this Sunday celebration, including enthroning the sacred text during the Mass; commissioning lectors; teaching the practice of lectio divina, and highlighting the proclamation of the word of the Lord, emphasizing it in the homily. In addition, this celebration will coincide with the beginning of Catholic Schools Week offering the opportunity for emphasis on God's Word during that week in both our Catholic Schools and Religious Formation and Education Programs

I encourage you to read, study, and pray over the full motu proprio which you can find on the landing page of the Archdiocesan website, [www.archsa.org/word-of-god-sunday](http://www.archsa.org/word-of-god-sunday). There you will also find links to additional resources to assist you in celebrating this first **Sunday of the Word of God**. Just a few of these resources have been included with this letter.

At the same time, the Pope Francis reminds us that, "The role of the Holy Spirit in the Scriptures is primordial. Without the work of the Spirit, there would always be a risk of remaining limited to the written text alone."

Please take advantage of this unique opportunity on January 26, 2020 and help the People of God entrusted to us to "listen to sacred Scripture and then to practice mercy: this is the great challenge before us in life. God's word has the power to open our eyes and enable us ... to embark on a new path of sharing and solidarity."

Yours fraternally in Christ,

+Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller, MSpS