



¡Ven, Holy Spirit, Ven!

March 31, 2020

My dear people,

Please take action to support faith-based nonprofits!

The White House, Department of Treasury, and the Small Business Administration are moving fast to finalize implementing regulations for the Paycheck Protection Program -- forgivable loans -- in the recently passed CARES Act.

We are concerned that religious nonprofits will be disqualified or severely deterred from applying for forgivable loans under CARES. We ask you to contact your member of Congress and advocate for SBA regulatory and other agency guidance that will ensure the inclusion of faith-based nonprofits in this program. We have created a tool for you to easily contact them at OneClickPolitics at https://oneclickpolitics.global.ssl.fastly.net/messages/edit?promo_id=8425

First, Catholic institutions may be disqualified due to the size of our dioceses under SBA affiliation rules in CARES. In the Archdiocese of San Antonio we employ a great number of individuals through our parishes, schools, and other non-profit entities and ministries that may disqualify us, in particular.

Second, without access to these forgivable loans, we believe many faith-based nonprofits and their employees throughout the country -- who perform extraordinary works of ministry for the least of these -- will themselves face severe financial hardship during this pandemic. As a result, it is critical that SBA regulations and guidance on loans available to nonprofits under the CARES Act make several things explicit.

We urge the SBA to relax the affiliation rules and 500 employee threshold in considering loans to non-profits and religious organizations, in particular.

We believe that, consistent with existing charitable choice provisions, a religious nonprofit that receives a loan or other funding under the Act must retain its independence, autonomy, right of expression, religious character, and authority over its governance, and no religious nonprofit should be excluded from receiving funding under the CARES Act because leadership with,

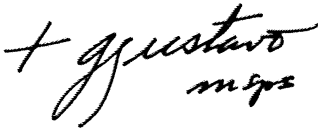
membership in, or employment by that nonprofit is limited to persons who share its religious faith and practice.

We urge that no funds be deemed to be federal financial assistance for purposes of compliance with federal requirements outside the specific program in which the funds are sought or received.

Please use the OneClickPolitics tool to advocate.

Thanks you for your advocacy to protect faith-based nonprofits!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gustavo" in a cursive script, with "msps" written in a smaller, simpler font below it.

Most Rev. Gustavo García-Siller, MSpS
Archbishop of San Antonio