



Archdiocese of San Antonio

Most Reverend Gustavo Garcia-Siller



Homily – Blue Mass

September 29, 2015

“The common home of all men and women must continue to rise on the foundations of a right understanding of universal fraternity and respect for the sacredness of every human life, of every man and every woman, the poor, the elderly, children, the infirm, the unborn, the unemployed, the abandoned, those considered disposable because they are only considered as part of a statistic.” These were the words of our Holy Father to the General Assembly of the United Nations just four days ago as the Pope came among us here in the United States. During that pastoral visit, Pope Francis constantly reminded us of our God-given mission to respect and protect the life and dignity of all his people, indeed of his whole creation.

It is beautiful, then, that we should gather on the Feast of God’s holy Archangels. We heard in the first reading how God charged them with driving from creation all that sought to destroy it. They protect us from all that would threaten our life in him. Each of us, regardless

of our status, our past, our present way of life, each of us is loved and protected by God through his angels.

But my sisters and brothers, we are also here for the Blue Mass. It is a day in which we celebrate other protectors of the common good, other protectors of the life and dignity of God's people. To all of you police, law enforcement officers, and first responders, I say thank you. On this the feastday of your patrons, the Archangels, I say thank you. You have sworn to protect and serve. I ask you to take this moment and reflect on what kind of protector are committed to being.

We who have been given the public trust must constantly recall the purpose of that trust. Again the list that Pope Francis has given us is vitally important. We are called to foster and protect "every human life, of every man and every woman, the poor, the elderly, children, the infirm, the unborn, the unemployed, the abandoned, those considered disposable because they are only considered as part of a statistic." In your work in serving the common good, where can you be more attentive? In what ways can you serve even more faithfully than you already have? Who is in most need of your protection? Who may still be left on the fringes? These are difficult questions that require us to look honestly at ourselves. But we have no cause to fear

these questions. We have the confidence of those who trust in the Lord.

While we have been called to serve the common good, each in our own way, we know that our true protector is God himself. He has already won the victory over darkness and death. In him, light conquers the darkness. In the light of the Lord, may we look once more at where we stand in the mission we have been given. Dear protectors of the common good, especially of the poor and forgotten, allow me to once again borrow the words of Pope Francis, this time from his address to the United States Congress: May your response to the work you have undertaken “be one of hope and healing, of peace and justice.”

May Our Lady, Queen of the Angels, guide you with her prayers and her example. May your patrons, the great Archangels of God, always come to your aid and to the aid of those you serve. Together may we trust in the Lord. In the sight of the angels, may we sing the praises of the Lord.