



Archdiocese of San Antonio

Most Reverend Gustavo García-Siller



Homily - Catholic Community Foundation Mass

April 14, 2015

Today we celebrate with great joy, the generosity represented by the many who use the Catholic Community Foundation to enrich the ministries, parishes, and schools of the archdiocese. We all benefit in some way by their willingness to “become a little poorer becoming more like Jesus.” In this way the work that you do reflects the spirit in the Acts of the Apostles, when the gifts of our benefactors are “distributed to each according to their need.”

It is interesting, but not surprising, that the early Church would be built on a foundation of love and sharing. This foundation of love and sharing helped the apostles to understand that the fruits of Jesus’ resurrection should be the establishment of God’s Kingdom in which there would be no “needy person among them.” It is obvious that there is much work to be done in order to fulfill that promise, but today is a sign that this spirit of love that unites us is possible.

Pope Francis, speaking about the quality and purpose of stewardship, calls us all benefactors and recipients, to carry out our respective missions with faith and dedication. He said: “Set your stakes on

great ideals, the ideals that enlarge the heart, the ideals of service that make your talents fruitful. Life is not given to us to be jealously guarded for ourselves, but is given to us so that we may give it in turn.” Many ministries will be enhanced by the generosity reflected by the donors to the Catholic Community Foundation. Through their gifts that the foundation will share with you today, **faith** is shared in the spirit of the New Evangelization. The homeless are given hope, young pregnant girls are prepared to nourish their children physically and spiritually; Catholic values are instilled in our children; the fight for social justice is fortified; and men who are called to the priesthood are prepared to answer God’s call.

It is through the loving witness of those who give and those of you who are the beneficiaries of the work of the Catholic Community Foundation, that we catechize and evangelize those we serve and those who see us, to see in practice Jesus’ message of love. In today’s gospel, Nicodemus feigns ignorance of what it means to be born again in the spirit. Jesus challenges his disbelief. It is our task to help others to understand that to be authentic followers of Jesus we must also live a life of mercy and love. In this way we are called to live a vocation of unity. It is through your ministries and their gifts that we help others to truly connect with our brothers and sisters who are served through the faithful use of time, talent, and treasure.

As missionary disciples, we are entrusted to carry out God’s will and build his kingdom. Let us listen to the words of Mary, Our Blessed Mother, at the wedding at Canaan, **“Do what he tells you.”** Some would consider this was a **command**, but I think it was simply **HER BEST MOTHERLY**

ADVICE. It was then that the water turned to wine, the common was transformed into the best, and all were satisfied.

It is up to each of you who are dedicated to ministry, and those who share their gifts with you, to affirm each day the words of St. Teresa of Avila, “Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours. Yours are the eyes through which He is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which He is to bless people now.”