



Archdiocese of San Antonio

Most Reverend Gustavo García-Siller



Mass at Karnes County Immigration Detention Center for Mother's Day

Our God is so good to us. He makes us his own people. In fact, we pray in the psalm today that “the Lord takes delight in his people.” He even – as we heard in the Gospel – sends his Holy Spirit to us. The Holy Spirit is our advocate and dwells within us. The Lord loves us and delights in us so much, that he dwells within us. What an amazing gift! But then we are also faced with the other part of being filled with the Holy Spirit, that is the reality of the Cross.

To follow our Lord as his beloved, means that we follow him through the Cross. The Lord Jesus warned his disciples in the passage of the Gospel we just heard. He tells them that the days are coming that people will persecute Christians and think they are doing good. He warned them of the difficult times ahead. But he shared with them the good news of the Holy Spirit dwelling within them so that they would not fall away. This strange mixture of joy and the Cross is a part of life for all of us Christians. Each of us experience the Cross in our own ways, but each of us can stand united in the joy that flows from the Holy Spirit dwelling within us.

We take for a special example in these days when we celebrate mothers, the life of our Blessed Mother, Mary. She was overshadowed by the Holy Spirit. That same Holy Spirit filled her so powerfully that she conceived a son in her womb, the Lord Jesus. She carried her Lord in her womb, felt him kick, and awaited his birth. Our Blessed Mother was filled with joy when her son was born and she could look into the face of the one who was both her own flesh and her God. She raised him, taught him, loved him, and was filled with joy at each step he took. But, she also was subject to the Cross. Her heart was pierced when she saw her son beaten, mocked, and tortured. She felt his pain in her heart each time he fell under the weight of the Cross. She wept bitterly when they laid his lifeless body in her arms and as they laid him in his tomb. This pain however gave way to even more joy when she saw the face of her son, the redeemer, resurrected in glory, and waited with hope to be reunited with him in heaven after his ascension.

So, my dear women – you who are mothers – have a great example in our Blessed Mother. You have walked in love and joy with your children. You rejoice with them and take delight in them. However, your lives have been marked with the struggles of your own crosses. You have had to flee violence and danger, you have witnessed how dark humanity can be, and now you wait in this place unsure of what your future will hold. My friends – all of you whether

you are mothers or not – please know that we stand in solidarity with you. We love you, and we never stop praying for you. But even in all of this, we come together today at this Mass united in love and joy. How is it possible to have joy through the pain of the Cross? It is possible because the Holy Spirit lives in us! The Holy Spirit of God stirs our hearts and our souls to give glory to God and to rejoice in each other. We do not deny the Cross, but we remember the absolute truth of the resurrection.

Dear mothers, I wish you a heartfelt Happy Mother's Day. For you who have lost children, or for you who have lost your mothers, I offer you my condolences. We do not deny the sorrows we experience in this world, but we do not withhold the joy we can share together. May we be united in the joy and peace that come from the Holy Spirit. With the Blessed Mother, Our Lady of Guadalupe, may we rejoice in the Lord who has made us his people and delights in us.