



Archdiocese of San Antonio

Most Reverend Gustavo García-Siller



Homily – Vigil of Pentecost

May 23, 2015

Hermanos y Hermanas misioneros discípulos de Jesucristo, bienvenidos a esta celebración de la Vigilia de Pentecostés.

Estamos aquí en comunión de Fe, en la Esperanza de la vida que nos da Dios y en el amor que el Señor nos mostró con el dar su vida por cada uno de nosotros. Pongamos a todos nuestros hermanos en nuestro corazón, y así, hagamos la ofrenda de esta Eucaristía un espacio de solidaridad y de alabanza por la fiesta del Espíritu Santo.

Sea esta noche un NUEVO PENTECOSTES.

People of God, missionary disciples of Christ Jesus, welcome to this Pentecost Vigil Mass! We are gathered in faith and fellowship here this evening. Wherever the bishop is, the whole local church is present. So, we also gather in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in hospitals and nursing homes; in orphanages, prisons, and detention centers; the homebound, the elderly, children, young adults, those alienated and marginalized by poverty or substance abuse! May all people find a home in this Eucharistic Celebration.

We gather to celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit to each of us and to all of us as a community of faith. We are at a new moment in our pilgrim journey as an Archdiocese. We are entering a new avenue of pastoral conversion, a *pastoral de conjunto*. We need to take personal responsibility for the mission and ministry of this local church. Let us reflect on the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

The story of the Tower of Babel describes chaos, alienation, the inability to communicate with others. At Pentecost through the power of the Holy Spirit, this is reversed: The Spirit transforms the fearful disciples into bold proclaimers of the Lord Jesus and his gospel. Todos escuchan y entienden el mensaje del Evangelio en su propia lengua. Recordemos que se encontraban en Jerusalem personas de todo el mundo. The power of the Spirit opens the way to encounter and dialogue and evangelization!

We also heard how God made a covenant with his chosen people at Mt. Sinai. The Spirit of God helps us walk in God's ways, showing us the way, giving us all we need to be faithful to God. In Ezekiel's vision of the dry bones, the Spirit of God gives life and energy to parched souls, new life to those alienated from God. The Spirit guides us back home to God's abiding presence where we are meant to be. The prophet Joel's vision foresees a time when God's

Spirit will come upon a remnant, the faithful survivors of his people, who will dream new dreams and see a new vision of their future. St. Paul says that “the Holy Spirit comes to the aid of our weakness” and makes us strong!

In today’s Gospel Jesus calls out to us: “Let anyone who thirsts, come to me and drink . . . rivers of living water will flow from within him,” Que todo el que tenga sed venga a mi y beba... hablando asi del Espíritu Santo. This is a reference to the renewing, refreshing gifts of the Holy Spirit. St. Cyril of Jerusalem asked why Christ calls the grace of the Spirit water-agua. He answer: “because all things are dependent on water; plants and animals have their origin in water. Water comes down from heaven as rain, and although it is always the same in itself, it produces many different effects, one in the palm tree, another in the vine.” He adds that the Spirit’s “action is different in different people, but the Spirit himself is always the same. . . the Spirit comes with the tenderness of a true friend and protector to save, to heal, to teach, to counsel, to strengthen, to console. . . As light strikes the eyes of a man who comes out of darkness into the sunshine and enables him to see clearly things he could not discern before, so light floods the soul of” the one who receives the Holy Spirit. En estas últimas semanas hemos podido ver

con nuestros ojos el bien que hace a la tierra y a nuestras vidas el don del agua. El agua da vida!

The Second Vatican Council said that, by the power of the Gospel, the Holy Spirit “enables the Church to grow young, perpetually renews it, and leads it to complete union with its Spouse,” Christ himself. (*Lumen Gentium*, 4).

Pope Francis often speaks about the role of the Holy Spirit in the Church. The Holy Spirit is the source of unity amid diversity: “differing currents of thought in philosophy, theology and pastoral practice, if open to being reconciled by the Spirit in respect and love, can enable the Church to grow, since all of them help to express more clearly the immense riches of God’s word” (*E.G.*, 40).

The Holy Spirit helps us to see with the eyes of faith, to see events and people as God sees them. The Holy Father says that “seeing reality with the eyes of faith, we cannot fail to acknowledge what the Holy Spirit is sowing” (*E.G.*, 68). The Holy Spirit is also sent “into our hearts to make us God’s children, transforming us and enabling us to respond to his love by our lives” (*E.G.*, 112).

Because of our Baptism and Confirmation, we are empowered to proclaim the Lord Jesus and his gospel. “In all the baptized, from first to last, the sanctifying power of the Spirit is at work, impelling us to evangelization” (*E.G.*, 119). Indeed, the “Holy Spirit enriches the entire evangelizing Church with different charisms. These gifts are meant to renew and build up the Church. They are not an inheritance, safely secured and entrusted to a small group for safekeeping; rather they are gifts of the Spirit integrated into the body of the Church, drawn to the center which is Christ and then channeled into an evangelizing impulse” (*E.G.*, 130). “Diversity must always be reconciled by the help of the Holy Spirit; he alone can raise up diversity, plurality and multiplicity while at the same time bringing about unity” (*E.G.* 131). La diversidad de misioneros discípulos del Señor Jesús presentes esta noche nos invita a ver la manifestación amplia y fecunda de la acción del Espíritu Santo en la Iglesia y en el mundo. (Grupos, asociaciones y Movimientos). Nuestra Arquidiócesis esta muy bendecida por la acción del Espíritu Santo, por sus dones y sus frutos. ¡VIVA EL ESPIRITU SANTO, VIVA!

My dear brothers and sisters, we need the refreshing, renewing gifts of the Holy Spirit as we need water itself. We need the light of the Holy Spirit to see things as God sees them and to respond in love.

We need the Holy Spirit, working in each and every one of us, to build up the kingdom of God in the Archdiocese of San Antonio. !VIVA EL ESPIRITU SANTO, VIVA! We need to recognize one another's gifts and to channel them through the power of the Holy Spirit to bring about unity amid our diversity – not uniformity, but communion with one another and with the triune God. Last year we made it clear, WE ARE ONE! Yes, it is the power of the Holy Spirit and the docility to the motions of the Holy Spirit that we are ONE. YES, WE ARE ONE! Sí, somos UNO por la obra del ESpíritu Santo.

This is all very beautiful and inspiring. But living in accord with the gospel can be difficult. Thousands of Christians are living in fear and many have been martyred in the past year because of their faith in the Lord Jesus. Today in El Salvador, the martyr Archbishop Oscar Romero, has been beatified . . . a step on the way to canonization. He gave his life, like the Good Shepherd, for his flock. He was fully committed to striving for justice for the poor, and this led to his murder. In the beatification of this Central American Archbishop, we see Pope Francis' vision of the Church's mission and ministry to which we are all called – even though it may lead to persecution, suffering, and even death. En ora Buena a todos nuestros hermanos Salvadoreños. Que momento de esperanza y

cuanto trabajo de amor aquellos años en que Monseñor Oscar Romero predicó y vivió con su testimonio el Evangelio para aquellos lugares de Centro America. Sí ese trabajo evangélico es hoy un signo de esperanza para todos nuestros pueblos. En nuestro trabajo con los pobres Dios quiere darnos su vida y su amor. Blessings to our brothers and sisters from el Salvador. Thank you for giving to the Church such a man, priest and bishop, Archbishop Oscar Romero, prophet of hope. De ahí que no tengamos miedo a testimoniarnos la vida y obra del Señor Jesús, su Espíritu nos acompaña.

Let us not fear, however. God is with us! Let us draw near to the Lord because we thirst for new life, because we are called to be missionary disciples and challenged to go out of ourselves in service to others. We need the Holy Spirit in our lives! Let us invite him into ourselves this evening in a special way. Let us entrust our lives – as individuals and as a community of faith – to the Holy Spirit.

Let us pray fervently and boldly: Come, Holy Spirit, Come! Ven, Holy Spirit, Ven! (3 veces)