



Archdiocese of San Antonio
Most Reverend Gustavo García-Siller



Homily for the Rites of Election

Lent 2015

The rainbow has long graced the skies over the beauty of God's creation. We who love and worship the God of Abraham and Sarah, the God of Noah, the God of Adam and Eve, we all know the rainbow as a reminder of God's promise not to destroy the world ever again because of our sinfulness. This is an amazing thing. We are God's humble creatures, but we are creatures who sin – rejecting God and hurting one another. But still our God made a promise not to reject us, even though he would be justified in doing so. The rainbow is more than colorful light bending in the sky; it is sign of a miraculous promise from our God.

We hear today in the Gospel about how God chose to honor that great promise. The Father sent his Son into the world to offer himself for our sinfulness. The Son, Jesus Christ, became like us in all things but sin. He experienced hunger, restlessness, sorrow, and even temptation. He experienced all that it is to be human, remaining one with all that is divine. In Jesus Christ is the living

harmony of the human and the divine, far more beautiful than the most magnificent rainbow. In Christ Jesus, the promise was fulfilled. He was not sent to reject or to destroy. No, my brothers and sisters, he was sent to bring us back into that harmony. Jesus calls us even today using these words: “This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

You are all here today because you have answered the calling of Christ to conversion of heart. The gospel has called you out of your former way of life into the life of Christ. This is a cause of great rejoicing and it brings me great joy to be with you all as your Archbishop! Thank you for your faith, thank you for your openness to the Holy Spirit. I also thank the sponsors of our catechumens and candidates. You have said yes to walking with these brothers and sisters of ours as they come into full communion with Christ and his Church. This is a very beautiful time. May we celebrate well in faith and fraternity.

My friends, this calling you have received is not just a blessing to you. No, you have been called to be missionary disciples of Jesus Christ, going out, like he did, to proclaim this “time of fulfillment,” that “the kingdom of God is at hand!” As Pope Francis has said: “God did not create us to be alone, or closed off in ourselves. He created us so we could encounter Him, and

through Him, He leads us towards others” (2014 Rite of Election). Each of you must say yes to the call to be missionary disciples, evangelists of the good news. Thank you, my sisters and brothers, for taking seriously the call you have received, for giving your promise to help fulfill the promise of God.

On this joyous day, I ask our Mother, Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe, to intercede in a special way for each one of you: Catechumens, Candidates, and Sponsors. May the loving prayers of our Mother open your hearts to the Holy Spirit, who will strengthen you as you continue your journey of conversion. Praise to God, the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. God has called and you have answered, as once again He upholds his great promise in your lives. Today the Church rejoices with you. “This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand.”