

Homily - May 29, 2021 - St. Vincent de Paul Church
Diaconal Ordination of Jorge Haro and Rodolfo Martínez, MSpS

Dear brother priests, superiors and formators, dear parents and relatives of Rodolfo and Jorge. Dear brothers, Missionaries of the Holy Spirit, religious sisters, seminarians. Dear faithful. Dear Rodolfo and Jorge,

A few days ago, on the solemnity of Pentecost, our Holy Father, Pope Francis, recalled three “suggestions that are typical” of the Holy Spirit. The First: **“Live in the present”**. The second: **“Look to the whole,”** not the part. **“The Paraclete affirms the primacy of the whole. ... Say no to ideologies, yes to the whole,”** to the community as a whole, to **“us”**. The third: **“Put God before yourself. ... humble openness to God. ... Only by emptying ourselves, do we leave room for the Lord... only by becoming poor in spirit, do we become rich in the Holy Spirit.”**

The three suggestions complement each other, but let me focus on the first one: **living in the present**. The nature of a calling implies a path, from where we are to where God wants us to be. So, what does this suggestion, to live in the present, mean?

The sacrament of Holy Orders that we celebrate today illustrates this suggestion very well. Although your path of preparation for the priesthood continues and your diaconate may be called transitional, however, you must live the gift of the diaconate not as an incomplete reality, but as a present mission. The gift turns you into a gift by the act of ordination. Live it intensely, bearing witness that Jesus is alive today, as yesterday and forever. In the proclamation of the Word, service of the altar and the ministry of charity, proper to deacons; helping priests and bishops, being **servants of all**; you yourselves will be witnesses of the love of God, of the Holy Spirit that is already **present** among us. The reward has been given to us through the merits of Christ, so that fulfillment of his word is its own reward.

Ask the Holy Spirit to give you his comfort, making you feel the joy of the presence of Christ through your diaconal ministry, for which you have

been prepared by him since he formed you in your mother's womb. (Cf. Jer). Proclaim Christ with your deeds and attitudes at every moment, following the voice of the Son to the Father, praying with the psalm: Your "mercy is established forever;" your "faithfulness will stand as long as the heavens." Thus, your present will be transformed, by the work and grace of the Holy Spirit, into "forever", integrating itself into the eternal present of God.

Like the first deacons, you come from among the community. You are the good fruit of your families, of society and of the Church, and you are taken from them to serve them in the name of the Church herself and of Christ. But don't forget the fate of Stephen. Saint Augustine says that although Stephen was ordained by the apostles, he was crowned before them. And while he was being stoned and Saul approved of the murder, Stephen prayed for them. The Holy Spirit, who inspired this prayer to Stephen, made it reach the ears of Saul so that later it would bear fruit in Saint Paul.

The future belongs to God, but he invites us to take part in it by living our present moved by the Holy Spirit, so that we love intensely today and have no anxiety, but rather yearn – like Conchita expressed – saying, "Jesus, give me the fire that inflamed Saint Paul, so that I love you and make others love you..." As deacons, love and make others love.

"No slave is greater than his master." Brothers, if you are to yearn, like Conchita, for the fire that inflamed Saint Paul, also yearn for his fate, and that of Saint Stephen and of the Lord, because **the cross** is its own reward.

With your holy Cross, Lord, you turned your flesh into our sweet food, so that the Comforter may come and be our strength, for us to live united to you, Victim, Priest and Altar, and be consumed by the same fire of infinite charity that consumed you. Our Lady of Guadalupe, bless your children who are being ordained deacons today, so that they may enjoy the consolation of knowing that they are your ambassadors.