

**Homily – Transitional Diaconate Ordination
St. Anthony Mary Claret Parish – September 10, 2022**

Great peace comes from the conviction that Almighty God knew us before He formed us in the womb. His first invitation to you today is to trust him wholeheartedly. As you began to gain consciousness, you became aware of yourselves. However, over time the Holy Spirit revealed to you that you were created for a purpose other than yourselves. Your existence is meant to be a participation in the life of the Trinity, the God who is Himself love. You were dedicated by God to his service through his Holy People. You were taken from among the people to serve them in the name of God, for the greater glory of God. He has appointed each of you a prophet to his people.

It would be fair to utter an expression with the same overwhelming sense of awe, as Jeremiah: “Ah, Lord God!” Always remember the Lord’s response: “To whomever I send you, you shall go; whatever I command you, you shall speak. Do not be afraid...” These words will not only help relieve you of the weight of the responsibility, but they should unburden you of the natural impulse to seek refuge in yourselves. He will deliver you from the delusion of self-sufficiency. You will be faithful not so much in the measure of your determination, but insofar as your trust and abandon yourselves in God alone.

Pope Francis has said that “Deacons – precisely because they are dedicated to the service of this People – remember that in the ecclesial body no one can elevate himself above others. In the Church, the opposite logic must apply, the logic of lowering oneself. We are all called to lower ourselves, because Jesus stooped to us, He made

himself the servant of all. (...) deacons are the custodians of service in the Church, so we can say that they are the custodians of true 'power' in the Church, so that no one goes beyond the power of service.”

As Saint Paul says, “since we have this ministry through the mercy shown us, we are not discouraged.” The Holy Spirit himself will guard the treasure you hold in earthen vessels. By the mercy of God – and only by his mercy – will you be able to preach not yourselves, but Jesus Christ Our Lord. Become more than slaves of that mercy; be friends of the Lord of mercy. Beg for it often. Beg for the grace to keep the commandment of love. The greatest of your ministerial duties is prayer leading to mercy. And the brightness of God’s mercy will dispel the darkness in the world around you. Through you, by your charitable service, the Father will make his face known to others.

Contrary to human treasures, the treasure of charity is protected and increased as it is given away to others. Remain in the love of the Lord. Serve the altar as the guardians of charity. As you serve the source of the greatest of loves, you will be fed in order to feed the bread of God’s Word to others in His name.

Do not be afraid! The Lord says to you today: “It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you: love one another.”

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of Mercy, guard, protect and guide your Son’s Holy People with the help of worthy ministers.