



July 28, 2011

It was with great sadness that I learned the news of the death of the Papal Nuncio to the United States, Archbishop Pietro Sambi. His great love for the Church and his distinguished ministry as the Pope's delegate to our country will be long remembered.

It was he who personally extended to me the request of the Holy Father that I serve the Church of San Antonio as its Archbishop. It was a life-changing moment for me, and his warm and loving invitation will always remain in my heart.

We in the Archdiocese of San Antonio have been blessed to have him in our midst; when he participated in the installations of Archbishop José Gomez and me. He again impacted the archdiocese in a positive way when he extended the papal invitation for Bishop Oscar Cantú to serve as auxiliary bishop.

We will always remember Archbishop Sambi as a faithful priest, archbishop and an inspired Vatican diplomat. His gentle voice, his intelligent wit, his uncommon dedication to service of the Church will be his legacy, but for me his kind and gentle invitation will be a lasting memory.

We mourn his death, but we celebrate the life of this true servant of God.

Most Reverend Gustavo García-Siller, M.Sp.S.
Archbishop of San Antonio