



December 17, 2010

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It has been a short time since my arrival in San Antonio as your new archbishop. I first want to thank you for the welcome I have received and the kind spirit you have shown to me since my installation. You have been a blessing to me and I look forward to the work God has waiting for us as we embark on a new year.

As a newcomer to the Archdiocese of San Antonio, I am truly inspired by the generosity of our Catholic community in support of the many ministries of the church that is reflected in our annual financial report. We, as a nation, have struggled through historically difficult times, and through it all, we have been able to sustain the work so critical to our acts of charity, our ministries of evangelization, and the continued faith formation of children and adults.

Regardless of the amount you have given in the past year, your sacrifice is pleasing to God when it reflects an unselfish heart. As Mother Therese of Calcutta said, "We cannot all do great things, but we can all do small things with great love."

I have been asked many times about my priorities for this coming year and my answer has consistently been, "To listen to the people of the archdiocese and discover the hopes and the needs of the local Church." In that spirit, I ask for your prayers that, as I approach this year with an open heart, I hear clearly the voices of the people, and that the Holy Spirit will guide us all as we work collaboratively to meet the challenges and make the best of the opportunities that lay before us.

As we approach the holy celebration of Christmas, we are reminded that God sent his only son into the world to teach us that unconditional love is possible and that we are indeed loved by the Father. I pray that your heart will be filled with His love and mercy so that you will receive a special Christmas blessing that will last all year.

God is with us! God is with You! Merry Christmas!
The Most Reverend Gustavo García-Siller
Archbishop of San Antonio