



# Archdiocese of San Antonio

## Most Reverend Gustavo Garcia-Siller



### Invocation and Remarks for the Hope for the Future's Khaki and Plaid Gala

January 23, 2016

Good evening, and welcome to all as we celebrate Catholic schools, their rich history and the foundation that has given so many a life of dignity and promise. The unrivaled education we received and the education our schools still provide is second to none!

In just a week we will begin Catholic Schools Week. The theme this year is "**Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service.**" Tonight the theme comes alive in this gathering. It is wonderful to feel such a spirit of community here tonight in each of you who represent the many Catholic Schools, parishes, and families who have come together as a sign of your continued commitment that will ensure the many blessings that pour from the mission of our Catholic schools; a mission which holds the key to the future of our Church and society.

Our archdiocesan Vision of '**Encountering Christ, United as Church, Sent by the Spirit,**' is evident every day in the classrooms in our 43 Catholic schools. Our children can truly encounter Christ in their families and parishes, but also in their lessons, teachers and their daily encounters with their Catholic school classmates. These encounters

with Christ emboldens students to go out as missionary disciples of Jesus, ready to engage and evangelize to the world.

As Catholic school alumni and some of the city's top business and civic leaders, **YOU** are beautiful examples of the goodness that comes from a Catholic school education. We know more families would like the opportunity for their child to attend one of our schools. Tonight, you are making a child's Catholic school education possible with your contributions.

We celebrate especially all the teachers and students who make up our school communities; we celebrate the parents who sacrifice daily, because they choose to give their children the gift of an excellent Catholic school education. And, we celebrate and thank God for **YOU** – our benefactors. Because of your support, your prayers and your commitment, there are 2,200 grateful and hope-filled children, who are thriving in their Catholic school classrooms today!

Have **FUN** tonight and thank you for helping those in need in our Archdiocese. And, may God bless our Catholic schools and all of you who support them by your prayers and financial help.

Speaking to young people at the World Youth Day in Brazil, **Pope Francis** challenged and encouraged young people with these words: "**The life of Jesus is a life for others. It is a life of service.**" So it is in that spirit we pray.

Heavenly Father, we ask that you will continue to shower your blessings on all those who bring our children to your Son through Catholic schools. May we always be guided by the Holy Spirit as they journey on a life in Christ through their love and inspired leadership.

In this Year of Mercy, we ask that your blessings be showered on our many benefactors. May they continue to show their love and compassion by their generous support of the families who seek a quality education based on true gospel values for their children.

Tonight we come together as a family of faith and as signs of your presence among us. May this moment of grace make us always mindful of our brothers and sisters who are most in need.

And so together we pray: Bless us, O Lord, and these thy gifts, which we are about to receive from thy bounty, through Christ our Lord. Amen.