



Archdiocese of San Antonio

Most Reverend Gustavo García-Siller



Remarks at Archbishop's Medallion Ceremony

June 7, 2016

It is strange part of human life that those things we work the hardest at always seem to surprise us when we finish them. You have been working to finish your time in High School for years now, and I know you have been looking forward to it. But now that it is here, I would bet that you are a bit surprised that graduation has come already! Thanks be to God for such a wonderful surprise! We are so very glad to have you here with us here this morning to celebrate your reception of the Archbishop's Medallion Award.

This award is being given to you, my friends because you have worked to "assist your school, parish, and community to encounter the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to promote Catholic teachings and values." While I am very excited to be awarding you with this honor, I want you to know that I am honored to be here with you.

You have probably been hearing a lot about our Archdiocesan values and goals. You are receiving this award precisely because you have been living out our Archdiocesan priorities in your own lives. We hold as a priority the witness and faith of you, our Youth and Young Adults.

We have a priority of quality Catechesis and Formation, which you received and excelled at in at your respective high schools and in your parishes. Lastly, you are being given this award because you have helped make disciples in the mode of the New Evangelization. For all of these reasons, I am honored to be here with you and proud to bestow this award upon you.

You have also probably been hearing this phrase, that your graduation is not an end but a beginning. You have accomplished a great beginning in your life so far. I hope you see in this award that we, your brothers and sisters in Christ, are proud of you and have great confidence in you. God has a wonderful vocation planned for each of you. He has called you to a life that will bring you great joy and will benefit the Church and the people of God through you. Be open to that calling! Keep witnessing to Christ in your colleges and in your workplaces, when you find the future spouse God has for you or when you enter seminary or a religious order. Do not be afraid; you walk in the Light of Christ, and the future is bright. Thank you for your discipleship. Thank you for your faithfulness. Through the intercession of our patron Saint Anthony, and of Our Lady of Guadalupe, may you be blessed as you continue your life of faith, hope, and love in God and service of God's people.