



Archdiocese of San Antonio

Most Reverend Gustavo García-Siller



Remarks for Clergy Day

June 7, 2016

Thank you, my brothers, for your presence here today, I know it has been a difficult and busy weekend. We recently gathered for the funeral of our dear brother priest, Fr. Eddie Bernal. May we continue to be united in prayer for him, for his family, for all our departed priest brothers, and for each other. Our brotherhood is strong, and we will get through our sorrow and mourning together. I want to thank you all for your prayers, mutual support, and for your presence in the recent services and liturgies for the repose of Fr. Eddie's soul. It is a blessing for us to be united in this.

Now, changing gears quite a bit, I want to offer my encouragement and thanks to all of those brother priests who soon will be transitioning into new assignments. As June rolls along and you make your last preparations for a move, please know that my prayers are with you. Remember to connect well to the priests in your new deaneries, so that you can find that network of support you need as you start your new ministry to a new congregation of God's people.

The Feasibility Study to determine if a capital campaign will be viable here in the Archdiocese is currently underway. We will be interviewing hundreds of people from all different demographics and categories in our communities, including our priests. Thank you for your help and collaboration in this study. We will continue to look to the future of our Archdiocese and do whatever we can to plan accordingly.

Many Archdiocesan properties have experienced damage in the last two months. Between hail, water, and wind damage, a great many repairs need to be made. If you need to discuss such repairs and coverage with the Archdiocese offices, please do not hesitate to contact Risk Management at the Pastoral Center. Let's be proactive about this so we can make the repairs we need to our facilities and provide solid spaces for our parishioners.

Lastly, I would like to speak to the evaluation of our parish goals. We celebrated the goals that had been created for many of our parishes during the Archdiocesan Pentecost Vigil Mass. I offer my thanks to those priest and parish communities who have worked diligently to craft meaningful and helpful goals for the future, uniting yourselves to the priorities and values we share as an Archdiocese. I would also like to very seriously urge those communities, and you my brother priests, who have not made progress in this. This is a vital and necessary part of our life united as the Church of San Antonio. Please redouble your

efforts and spend the energy necessary to create goals that will truly bless and inspire your parish communities.

Thank you for your presence here today, and may we stay united in prayer and fraternity with one another.