



Archdiocese of San Antonio
Most Rev. Gustavo García-Siller



Mass with Detainees
Karnes County Detention Center
August 21, 2014

The Beatitudes are very well known sayings of our Lord Jesus. These words, “Blessed are the poor in spirit, blessed are the meek, blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness,” are words we have all heard many times in our lives. But my friends, in this place it is important to hear the truth of these words. These words remind us that we need God, and that those who are most in need are truly blessed because they rely on God in their lives the most. You who are here, meek, thirsting for justice, suffering for the good of your family or because of injustice, you know what it is to rely on God. This is why you are blessed.

As St. Paul said it: “For to you has been granted, for the sake of Christ, not only to believe in him but also to suffer for him.” You are experiencing in a very powerful way the suffering that is possible in this world. This is why we have come to see you and be with you. We want to be here to help you as you walk in this very painful time. But more than that, we are here not only to be here for you, but to learn from you. You, in your great faith, teach us what it is to be blessed. You show us in the simple ways you reach out to God, when others would feel all alone and turn away from him. You show us in the ways that you are here for each other, even though you are strangers to each other. You show us in the courage you had, and the trust in God you had, to set out on such a long and dangerous journey for the good of your family and those you

love. You show us what it is to be blessed. Thank you for your faith! Thank you for your witness. "Blessed the one who trusts in the Lord!"

Today, my friends, we ask Our Lady of Guadalupe to pray for you. Pope Francis reminded us of her motherly love, when he said: "As a concerned mother, she accompanies [us] on [our] way through life. She shares all the joys and hopes, the sorrows and troubles of God's People, which is made up of men and women of every race and nation." May we place our trust in our Lord Jesus Christ, and on his Mother, whom he gave us as our own Mother. Remember that you have her prayers, and remember that you are in our hearts and prayers here in Texas and throughout the United States. Through the grace of our Lord and the prayers of our Lady, may you find comfort and blessing, solidarity and peace, **and may you always know that you**