



Archdiocese of San Antonio
Most Rev. Gustavo García-Siller



Mass with the Commissioning of Campus Ministry Leaders
San Fernando Cathedral
Saturday, September 27, 2014

¡Ven, Holy Spirit, Ven!

“But it’s not fair!” This is one of those exclamations that we expect to hear from a little kid who is not happy because he did not get his way. It is not surprising to hear these words coming from little ones. But sadly, I think we have heard these words coming from our own lips sometimes, too. At the very least, we certainly think these words sometimes. We complain that things are not fair, and that “the Lord’s ways are not fair” (Ez). We grumble because of what he is asking from us. And yet, he has given us so much.

The Prophet Ezekiel tried to teach God’s people the amazing truth: all we had to do was turn away from our sinfulness and God’s mercy would be ours. People were complaining about the difficulties in their lives and their hardships, and they were pointing fingers at each other trying to pass the blame to someone. Ezekiel tried to get them to see how they should have been opening their hearts to God’s mercy, the mercy that saves. The Psalm today teaches the same truth: “Good and upright is the Lord; thus he shows sinners the way. He guides the humble to justice, and teaches the humble his way.” God is good to us; all it takes for us to see this is a little humility. Of course, this is the problem isn’t it? Humility is very difficult for us.

Jesus tells a parable of two brothers. Their father tells them to go out and work in the vineyard. It seems that neither one really wanted to go out and work, but they both handled it differently. The first son told his father “no” to his face: “I will not.” He didn’t want to go, and that was that. However, later, the son found his humility. He remembered how much he loved his father and he went and did as he was told. The second son had a much harder time finding

his humility. When the father asked him to go and work, he didn't want to go, but he also didn't want to look bad. So the son told his father "Yes, sir!" However, his words were empty, because he did not actually go. Jesus asks the question: "Which of the two did his father's will?" The answer of course is: "The first." Jesus was making the point that we are all sinners, we all tell God "no." We all struggle with going out into the vineyard, but we will always find the true love of God if we have the humility to go back to him and follow his will. Simply appearing obedient to his will on the surface is not the way to holiness.

This is the exhortation St. Paul gives to us, just as he told the Philippians: "Be of the same mind, with the same love, united in heart, thinking one thing. Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but also for those of others" (Phil). This is easy to say, but so much more difficult to actually do. After all, Paul is asking us to have in us "the same attitude that is also in Christ Jesus." Jesus, who as God the Son, emptied himself of all glory and became one of his own lowly creations. He humbled himself completely, putting up with all the ways he would be treated unjustly, unfairly. He accepted it because he loves us. And with that humble way of being, he drew people to salvation, so that now "at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." This is the power of humble service to our brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. This is the humility that draws people to salvation.

Listen to the words of our Holy Father, Pope Francis: "Christian humility is not within the virtue of saying: 'I am not important' and hiding our pride. No, Christian humility is telling the truth: 'I am a sinner'. Tell the truth: this is our truth. But there is another truth: God saves us. He saves us when we are on the margins; He does not save us in our certainties. Let us ask for the grace of having the wisdom to put ourselves on the margins, for the grace of humility so that we may receive the Lord's Salvation" (Pope Francis, Homily, March 24, 2014). Not only can our humility open us up to salvation by God's great mercy, but it also is the best way to bring others to salvation. Our humility allows others to see us as sinners – just like they are sinners. When we are not afraid to show others our encounter with Christ who saves us, then they will be able to see the beauty of God's mercy and open their own hearts to his saving grace.

All of you gathered here, and you who are here to be commissioned as Campus Ministers, this is such an important lesson. There are so many people in our communities, on

your campuses, who do not know how much God loves them, and how great God's mercy is. They have never been shown the true face of God, the God of mercy. These brothers and sisters of ours live in fear, isolation, and loneliness, but the whole time they are like the second son in the Gospel, putting on a good face for the world. Trust in God, and allow yourself to be vulnerable. Humble yourself and show how much you need God's mercy, and just how much he has helped you. Let them see his mercy at work in you, so that they will in turn call upon the name of the Lord.

Most Holy Spirit, give us the gift of humility, so that we may draw others to salvation. May Our Lady of Guadalupe, who submitted herself completely to the Lord's will, teach us to walk the path of humility and follow God's will, drawing those around us always to her Son.
¡Viva Cristo Rey!