

Statement of Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller, MSpS, regarding the election of Donald Trump as President of the United States of America

I, and the faithful in the Archdiocese of San Antonio, pray for President-elect Donald Trump and the United States of America. Election day and its aftermath have revealed a deep divide in America. After a bruising campaign, the people of our country must find ways of healing and to avoid inflicting new hurts, along with searching for the common good. Unity, charity, compassion and understanding for those who are hurting are bedrock principles of our nation.

Our nation is not just the flag or its geography; it is the people. The presidential campaign has been tough and sad and damaging in many ways, and now is the time to work for unity; respecting the dignity of every human person. Many people are just waiting for the opportunity to use their gifts and talents.

Let's build up this country. This is not just the role of the president. A true leader is a servant first, and then a leader. We need to help the president-elect.

In his acceptance speech on election night, President-elect Trump said he wants to work with everybody. Let's take him at his word. We need people who are disenfranchised -- minorities, the poor, the sick, the elderly -- to be part of this effort. A claim made during this campaign was that the political establishment has not helped those most in need. In addition, the president-elect espoused a strong pro-life position during the election. Let's have hope and see what the new administration can do in these areas; we will be paying close attention.

Our people must not only be helpful, useful, and creative in solving our nation's problems, but we need to be a catalyst for change for the whole world. We can't be content to just feel good about our country, our one piece of the world. We will not be great unless we foster positive transformation beyond ourselves.

This is a new chapter, so let's work together. We do not need to add more pain to the country; we are already in a lot of pain. With humility, we need to help people to heal, especially those we may have offended. We have to contribute to positive discourse instead of offering disparaging comments.

Peace is the fruit of freedom and liberty, and our country was born out of that. It is a process. All of us can grow and show the fruits. A tree is known by its fruits.

With humble hearts, let's work together to restore trust and unity among all of our people. We have a lot of work to do and we must do it together. It will not be easy and will entail a lot of sacrifice. If everyone participates we have a different picture. Many young people have become engaged in the political process. I am very hopeful that they will help us to take these next steps.

One area seldom discussed during this campaign was the spiritual dimension of our nation. While economics and other elements of government are important concerns, the fraternal, relational, and spiritual development of people has to be addressed. We are struggling with that.

For Christians, our hope is in Christ, and in him we will achieve reconciliation and build unity.