

**Assumption Seminary Gala
August 29, 2019**

My dear brothers and sisters, it has been a joy and an honor to be here with all of you this evening supporting the mission of our beloved Assumption Seminary. My brother, Bishop Barnes, thank you for joining us and allowing us to express our gratitude for your time in leadership and service at Assumption and in the Archdiocese of San Antonio. We are truly blessed with your presence this evening, and in the legacy you left with us. As you look forward to the next chapter in your life, know that our prayers will be always with you.

For all of us, the Gospel presents challenges every day. The mission left to us by Christ is not an easy one. It demands our conversion of heart and of mind. We are called to be shaped by the Gospel and this requires a deep assent of our will. It important then to remember why we are here supporting our Seminary. For more than 100 years the seminary has been tasked with forming men with the heart of Christ the High Priest for faithful service to the Gospel in today's Church.

My brother seminarians, we thank you for answering the call of Our Lord Jesus. Always let the Gospel challenge you. Keep your mind and heart open to the conversion and course-correction that will always come with listening to the voice of the Lord, and saying with confidence, "Here I am, send me... and send me where You, O Lord, want me to go."

I hope you see the love and support of these wonderful people of God gathered in this room. They are here because they care about you, but also because they care about the Church. They want you to be men of integrity and passion, men of fidelity and vigor, men who cannot wait to take another step in the Gospel you have been sent to serve and to share.

My sisters and brothers, I ask you to renew your convictions in your support of these men. Those challenges are still present as they have always been, but the Church remains alive and bold, facing the challenges with the faith that is built on solid rock. May we stand united in faith and love, and may we continue to share together in the mission Christ has entrusted to us, and to the seminarians formed at our seminary.

We ask the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe today. She said yes to the calling of God, and she raised the High Priest with care and joy, forming him with the help of the Holy Spirit. When she was assumed into heaven she began her ministry of intercession and of calling the world to conversion. She continues to tell us all: "Do whatever he tells you." May we hear her appeal once more and in a new way tonight, and follow the Word of the Lord in faith and service.

May God bless you all. Thank you all again for joining us. Good night.