

City Council prayer

June 17, 2019

The other day, as I reflected on this opportunity to offer prayer and to ask God's blessings upon you, as leaders, and upon us, as a City, these words from Pope Francis leapt out at me. The context is the Season of Pentecost, which, in the Christian calendar, is that time when we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon God's People. We recognize the Holy Spirit as our Advocate and Guide. Tweeting, as many leaders do these days, the Holy Father Francis said:

“Holy Spirit, make us artisans of harmony, sowers of good, apostles of hope!” - (Pope Francis Tweet 6/10/19)

It struck me that in your role of secular and civil leadership, especially in times as divided as our own, that it is very much your task to be artisans of harmony, sowers of good, and apostles of hope within our City of San Antonio. Actually, it is true of all of us! Whether in the spiritual and religious realm, or in the normal tasks of promoting human flourishing in the *seculae*, the regular world, we must be those artisans of harmony!

I pray for you this day because I know that you are dealing with many competing interests all the time! Many optional choices may seem good, and it is hard to discern what is the best choice, the best thing to do for the people of this City. And, although many of you on this Council are people of faith, there are many in our community of

differing faiths, or no faith, or other sets of human values. Working to promote unity and harmony in this situation can be a Herculean task! And so, we need to pray for guidance.

Let us pray,

Oh God, source of all that is good, that is true, that is beautiful, that is right, that is just, and that is for our benefit, hear us as we ask for your blessing! Show us the path to unity, harmony, and hope. Send your Spirit to guide us, to strengthen us, to give us courage when we need it, and gentleness of heart when needed. Most of all, give us wisdom, and help us to protect the members of this community of San Antonio, respecting their right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Help us to embrace sacrifice when needed, and to be generous of mind and heart with those whom we have been called to serve. And may God bless the great City of San Antonio! Amen!