

## **Homily – Episcopal Ordination of Msgr. Michael Boulette**

**March 20, 2017**

**We are aware of the presence and action of the Holy Spirit in this event -- in this Eucharist. We call upon him saying VHSV.**

**El Señor Jesús envió a los apóstoles al mundo para continuar su misión y su ministerio de salvación. Aunque eran débiles e imperfectos, fueron capaces de llevar a cabo el mandato de Jesús porque el don del Espíritu Santo les dio poder para realizar la obra del Buen Pastor. Por medio de la imposición de manos, los apóstoles también transmitieron este don del Espíritu a aquellos que debían guiar a la comunidad de fe después de ellos, extendiéndose por todo el mundo. Hoy impondremos nuestras manos sobre ti, Mons. Boulette, llamando al Espíritu para que descienda sobre ti.**

**Today, we will lay our hands on you, Msgr. Boulette, calling down the Spirit upon you. VHSV**

**Today is the Feast of St. Joseph. When Pope Francis began his Petrine ministry on this feast four years ago, he pointed out that Joseph's mission, entrusted to him by God, was to be the protector -- not only of Jesus and Mary but also of the entire Church in every generation. St. Joseph does this "discreetly, humbly, and silently but with an unfailing presence and utter fidelity even when he finds it hard to understand." Msgr. Mike, given your gift of eloquence, we will not expect you to keep silent in your episcopal ministry! But we pray that you will be utterly faithful to your call to episcopal ministry,**

even when you find it difficult to understand what God's will is in certain circumstances.

San José es nuestro protector porque vivía “con la atención constante a Dios, abierto a sus signos, disponible a su proyecto, y no tanto al propio”. Esto recuerda lo que oímos del rey David en la primera lectura. Había querido edificar a Dios un templo maravilloso, pero Dios tenía otros planes para él. Sin embargo, Dios hace un pacto con David, prometiendo que su trono permanecerá firme para siempre, como lo hace en Cristo Rey.

A similar thought is echoed in St. Paul's Letter to the Romans where, as we heard, Abraham “believed, hoping against hope,” trusting in God's promises as unbelievable as they seemed. Paul says that Abraham was in a right relationship with God because he believed in God's promise. Abraham the man of faith *par excellence* -- a model for us. In our world today, marked by so much darkness and violence, we need to walk in the light of Christ, to be people of hope, ministers who bring hope to others, especially the most vulnerable among us. Hope is often a neglected virtue. Hope is a vital part of building up the Kingdom of God and helping people to cope with all the ugliness, hatred, racism, and mean-spiritedness.

The vocation of a protector, Pope Francis said, means “protecting people, showing loving concern for each and every person, especially children, the elderly, those in need . . . [opening our arms] to protect all of God's people and embrace with tender affection the whole of humanity, especially the poorest, the weakest, the least

important” in the eyes of the world. This calls for the assistance of the Holy Spirit. VHSV

This requires constant change and conversion on our part as members of the Church and, especially as pastors. Pope Francis has both spoken about the kind of bishop the Church needs today and has himself been an eloquent model of such a leader:

Bishops must lead, which is not the same thing as being authoritarian. . . Bishops must be pastors, close to people, fathers and brothers, and gentle, patient and merciful. Men who love poverty, both interior poverty, as freedom before the Lord, and exterior poverty, as simplicity and austerity of life. Men who do not think and behave like “princes.” Men capable of watching over the flock entrusted to them and protecting everything that keeps it together: guarding their people out of concern for the dangers which could threaten them, but above all instilling hope: so that light will shine in people’s hearts. Men capable of supporting with love and patience God’s dealings with his people. The Bishop has to be among his people in three ways: in front of them, pointing the way; among them, keeping them together and preventing them from being scattered; and behind them, ensuring that no one is left behind, but also, and primarily so that the flock itself can sniff out new paths. This message of Pope Francis calls for Bishops filled with the Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit Bishops. VHSV

¡Mi hermano Michael, camina conmigo delante de nuestro pueblo, entre nuestro pueblo, y detrás de nuestro pueblo! ¡Seamos ambos,

**pastores según el modelo del Buen Pastor! Guiemos juntos al rebaño que nos ha sido confiado, a través de la enseñanza y la predicación auténticas, cuidando de la comunidad de los creyentes, entregándonos nosotros mismos hasta el punto de dar nuestras vidas por nuestro rebaño.**

**As the spouse of Mary, St. Joseph is at her side constantly, in good times and in difficult times. Mary, in turn, promises to be with us, telling us not to fear the darkness, the violence, the oppression that is so much a part of our world. She is the protector and liberator of the poor, the downtrodden, the neglected. Our Lady of Guadalupe is at one with all people, she is the Mother of us all.**

**May Our Lady of Guadalupe be always at our side, teaching us, by her image and her example, true Christian witness, authentic discipleship. May she embrace you, Michael, in a special way today with her maternal love!**