

## Archbishop calls on faithful to proclaim the Gospel of life, light, and love

Following are the comments by Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller, MSpS, at the *Lumen Gentium* and *Christifideles Laici* Awards ceremony held Feb. 2 at St. Dominic Church.

This evening we honor members of our parishes from throughout the archdiocese who have been nominated by their pastors for their exemplary work on behalf of their communities of faith. These sisters and brothers have brought the light of Christ to others. Each of them has been — in that sense — a *lumen gentium*, a reflection of Jesus' light to the nations. I congratulate and thank all of them for their witness of Christian discipleship.

Our reading from the Letter to the Hebrews reminds us that Jesus, our high priest, was fully human as well as divine. So, he understands our weakness, our temptations, our suffering. He came into the world to proclaim the good news of God's mercy, compassion, and healing love for everyone — without exception!

In announcing this spe-

cial Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis called upon each of us to “contemplate the mystery of mercy. It is a wellspring of joy, serenity, and peace. . . Mercy [is] the bridge that connects God and [us], opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness” (*Misericordiae Vultus*, 2). The Holy Father's new book is entitled *The Name of God is Mercy*.

It is not enough to recognize our personal need for God's mercy; we have to share it with others. We too must be merciful and compassionate — especially towards the poor and the needy, the stranger and the outcast, the neglected and the forgotten, the suffering and the oppressed, the confused and the arrogant — not only praying for them but reaching out in Christian love, mercy, and compassion.

At the heart of our baptismal commitment to Christian discipleship is the challenge to be light in the darkness of contemporary life. As members of the church, each of us

shares the responsibility to proclaim the gospel of life, light, and love — to facilitate the encounter between all people and God whose name is mercy. My dear friends, our world — the nations — our nation — desperately needs to hear God's healing, reconciling word today!

Pope Francis holds up Mary as a model for us. He says that “Mary was able to turn a stable into a home for Jesus, with poor swaddling clothes and an abundance of love. She is the handmaid of the Father who sings his praises. She is the friend who is ever concerned that wine not be lacking in our lives. She is the woman whose heart was pierced by a sword and who understands our pain... As a true mother, she walks at our side, she shares our struggles, and she constantly surrounds us with God's love” (EG, #286).

May Our Lady of Guadalupe be with us and teach us the importance of mercy and compassion.

### Christifideles Laici Award presented in honor of Archbishop Patrick F. Flores

The *Christifideles* Award is bestowed upon a Catholic couple who have demonstrated by participation in parish life, the personal and ministerial renewal called for by the Papal Exhortation, *Christifideles Laici*, calling the laity to the vocation of responsibility for the church's life springing from the gift and mission of their baptism. Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller, MSpS, chooses the recipients of the *Christifideles* Award.

#### JUAN MANUEL AND TERESA MAYA

Juan Manuel and Teresa Maya were blessed with three children and are the proud abuelos of their granddaughter Alessandra. They will be celebrating 50 years of faithfulness to family next year.

Juan Manuel and Teresa moved to San Antonio from Mexico City 10 years ago to hold the family together and help raise their granddaughter. They experienced a welcoming, vibrant community in Holy Spirit Parish where they are active in the Spanish ACTS retreats and Eucharistic ministry.

Their commitment to family and church helped each of their children to develop their own vocation to service and citizenship. They believe strongly in Catholic education and sent their children to Catholic schools and universities with great sacrifice. They even have a lifelong friendship with the Dominican Sisters to prove it. Fruits of their service include serving on the school Board and Parent Booster Club.

They nourished the vocation of their daughter Sister Teresa Maya, a sister of Charity of the Incarnate Word, by their example of Christian service. They have always demonstrated great compassion for anyone in need of help, advice or friendship. When Sister Tere entered religious life, they assumed the risk with her, hoping this would be the right life for her. As the years have gone by, they have welcomed the Sisters of the Incarnate Word as their family, supporting the congregation, welcoming Sisters into their home and promoting religious life with their friends.

# CONGRATULATIONS

Father Carlos and the parish community of Holy Spirit Catholic Church wish to congratulate the honorees

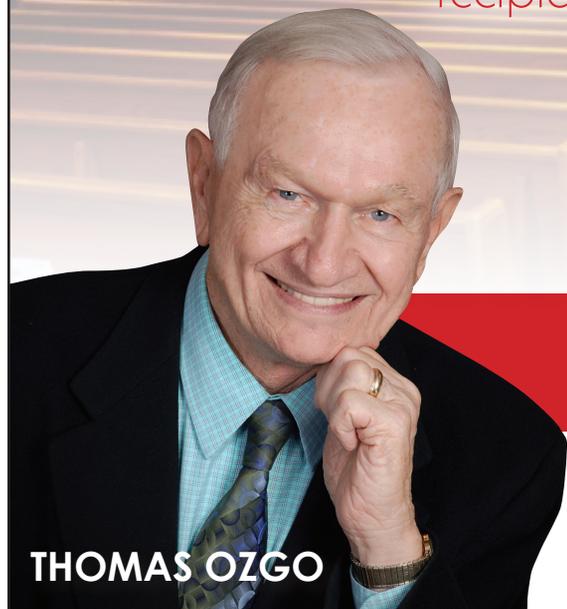
## JUAN MANUEL AND TERESA MAYA

recipients of the 2016 Christifideles Laici Award

## & THOMAS OZGO

recipient of the 2016 Lumen Gentium Award

# THANK YOU



THOMAS OZGO



JUAN MANUEL AND TERESA MAYA