

Remarks from Auxiliary Bishop-elect Michael Joseph Boulette

January 23, 2017

Good Morning, y una vez mas, bienvenidos.

A week ago Sunday evening I received an unexpected phone call from Archbishop Christophe Pierre, recently appointed apostolic nuncio to the United States, el embajador del Santo Padre Francisco. He asked in a most congenial way if I knew why he was calling me. I said I couldn't think of anything terribly wrong I had done lately to make him call me, and he laughed! Then he told me that Holy Father Francis had appointed me as an auxiliary bishop to the archbishop of San Antonio. "Of course, you will accept?" he said — "Por supuesto que usted aceptara?", dijo. Despues de haber hecho algunas preguntas, he summarized that my vocation would be to assist the ministry of my Archbishop, Gustavo Garcia-Siller, MSpS, de pastorear a la Arquidiocesis de San Antonio. Su calido estimulo me motivo finalmente a pedirle to convey to the Holy Father that I accept this ministry in all humility counting on the grace of the Triune God, la presencia amorosa de nuestra Santisima Madre, especialmente bajo su advocacion de Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe, the strong protection of St. Joseph, Spouse of Mary, and the patronage of the Archangel Michael, cuyo nombre mismo afirma el culto de Dios Todopoderoso.

I also came to accept Pope Francis' call because of his moving description of the bishop's ministry: proclamar la Palabra en cada ocasion oportuna o inoportuna; seek grace for yourself and your people; cuidar amorosamente a los fieles, orando por ellos con las manos en alto como Moises; stay close to the flock so that you even smell like sheep; ensuciarse los zapatos con la tierra de sus vidas; love as a father and a brother, especially priests and deacons, the consecrated religious, and all who collaborate in ministry; mostrar especial cuidado por los pobres y los indefensos, the unborn, los migrantes, the imprisoned y los enfermos.

The Holy Father uses words not merely informative but evocative, en un lenguaje que me habla al corazon. He speaks of the bishop's task of helping people believe they are "anointed", que son "ungidos" -- that is, called to God's loving friendship Y llamados a proclamar el Evangelio with words and deeds, for we are on a "common journey," un "camino juntos."

The call put this was is not foreign to me; therefore it is easier to proceed on this new journey. There will be time to say more of these things later.

Por lo pronto, permitanme reiterar mi agradecimiento a Su Santidad, Beloved Francis, who surely caste the nets wide in search of an auxiliary bishop for San Antonio. The Pope would never have found me, happily ensconced in my ministry on Indian Creek in

Ingram, Texas, without Archbishop Gustavo pointing the way. I am not at all sure, Archbishop Gustavo, that I am grateful for the directing hand as regards myself; however, estoy profundamente agradecido con Dios por su ministerio entre nosotros lleno de Espiritu and guided by that Holy Spirit. Your joyful, even tearful, reception of the news of my appointment further humbles me and deepens my joy. !Hacia adelante en el future de Dios.

With me today is my mom, Philomena Mary "Pat" Boulette, the constant joy of my life. Yesterday she turned 96 years old, and I am profoundly blessed to have her witness this day. She has NEVER been jealous of God's call on my life and has always directed me to His Presence and Love. Happy Birthday, Mom, and thank you for faithfully loving God and leaning on His protection. Thanks also to my brother Pete and sister-in-law Linda for taking care of her today and always.

A los obispos que han ejercido el ministerio para la iglesia de San Antonio: su testimonio ha sido una gracia y una bendicion. Muchisimas gracias! And let us pray for the recovery of Bishop John Yanta.

My brother priests, I am grateful for the 40 plus years we have shared in the presbyterate, and the 12 years of seminary formation before that! Espero seguir siendo no solo un presbitero, sino parte del presbiterio. Msgr. Larry Stuebben has always been a model of the priesthood for me, and a dear friend. I also thank my priests' prayer group for keeping my ministry alive in Christ.

The team with whom I serve in the formation of Spiritual Directors, along with the graduates and participants of the program of St. Peter upon the Water: A Center for Spiritual Direction and Formation in Ingram, Texas, have been the MOST JOYFUL and grace-filled ministerial relationships of my life. Our journey is not over.

To all of the faithful with whom I have served at my parish assignments, especially for the 24 years that I have spent in Kerr County and Notre Dame Catholic Church and School I give thanks for you have taught me to be a priest.

Hay tantos a quienes agradecer ... y una vida por delante para hacerlo. Ahora preparemos nuestros corazones y nuests mentes para los proximos dias de alabanza a Dios, thanking God, and washing feet according to His example

Gracias nuevamente! Thanks again!