



Archdiocese of San Antonio

Most Reverend Gustavo Garcia-Siller



Homily for Rites of Election Lent 2016

I am so honored to welcome each and every one of you catechumens and candidates. What we are doing here today is a sacred ritual that welcomes you and calls you to the final stage of your full entry in to our Church. This is a huge step, and it is not without consequences. You will stand here today and accept into your lives the last step before entering into the Church. You who are not yet baptized will become the Elect of the Church. Every parish will look to you to show them the fire and passion of those called by God to new life in the Holy Spirit. You who are completing their initiation are called to be fully recognized Candidates, who will stand as examples of the desire all Christians should have to follow the will of God. You are all a blessing to the Church, and that is why it is such a blessing to be with you in this moment.

Our Gospel in the ritual of today reminds us of Jesus' temptation in the desert. It is a perfect reading for what we are doing here. Jesus

is tempted first with hunger. You have come to us because you hunger for something greater. May you always draw your satisfaction, not from worldly fulfillment, but from the love of God and the love of the Church. The Lord of the Universe loves you! How amazing is that? We in the Church love you. I, as your Archbishop, and each and every parishioner in the Archdiocese – especially in your parishes – loves you. Fill yourselves with the love of God and the Church. Next, Jesus was tempted with glory. This is a tricky one. The world around us teaches that the most important thing is personal glory. Whether it is showing up a co-worker at our jobs, finding affirmation on Facebook or YouTube, or showing how special we are with friends or family, the world teaches us that getting personal glorification is the key to life. But we teach that the most important thing is bringing glory to God, and because of God’s greatest commandment, bringing honor to our brothers and sister is key. Lastly, Jesus was tempted by showing the power of the angels who loved him, showing how loved he was by the Father. We know that you are loved by the Father. This is a fact, and it is amazing. But, my friends, do not boast in the love that God has for you. Share it! Be filled with God’s love, and honor your brothers and sisters by sharing that love with them. There is nothing that should keep a Christian from loving those around him. As Pope Francis has

said: “The love of God impels us to do as Jesus did – to love the unlovable, to touch the untouchable, and to forgive the unforgivable. Do you allow the Holy Spirit to fill your heart with the love and compassion of Christ for others? If not, what is holding you back?”

May Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe, help you with her prayers. Be bold, be Christian, be children of God. Nothing can stop you from being faithful. The Holy Spirit lives in you. Do not be afraid.