

Inaugural Installation Address of Very Reverend Jaime E. Robledo, PSS
as the New President-Rector of Assumption Seminary
Our Lady's Chapel, Assumption Seminary,
San Antonio, Texas, August 15, 2018

This year Pope Francis issued an exhortation called “Rejoice and Be Glad,” on the call to holiness in today’s world. Today I make it the theme of my inaugural address; for I wish it to be the guiding light for my fulfilling responsibilities that God has called me to fulfill and I will be accountable for how I respond to this service to the Church of San Antonio, a church of pilgrims in the heart of the Americas.

Being faithful to his Ignatian formation, Pope Francis uses the expression “to seek and find God in all things.” This is what God calls all of us to do. We are to put God at the center of our lives, He is to be the heart of every personal, ecclesial, and societal-wide effort that we make to achieve holiness in response to His divine call.

In order to be holy, Christian spirituality challenges us to embrace the mission. There is not holiness without vocation and mission. And in all of them God has taken the initiative. He has called us, he has given a vocation to us to be holy as He, the Father, is Holy; but he has given a mission that commit us to be people for and with others –especially those effectively left out, –the emotionally, mentally, physically disabled, those left behind economically; those shunted aside because of race, ethnic origin, religious faith; immigrants fleeing oppression for lacking opportunities in the society of their birth.

The Lord, Pope Francis reminds us, wants everything from us; in return, He offers us true life and the genuine happiness for which we were brought into being. He asks us to be holy and not to settle for a bland, mediocre existence but to make for a better world.

The magisterial document *Gaudete et Exsultate* is not an abstract document on holiness. It is a practical call, for it asks us to re-envision what this call means to search in practical, realistic, but effective ways we, both as individuals, as a society, and as church, can contribute to making for a better world. It is a challenging call, filled with risks; for we live in a very complex world and most of us will have to hear and respond to it from the very humble corner where we happen to find ourselves.

Five points about the call to holiness are the synthesis of this document that enlightens our ecclesial path in this historical moment: First, it is a call to everyone. Second, our response is not to be elitist, abstract, ideological, but generous, firm, and determined. Third, Jesus the Lord Crucified gives us an example with His words and His deeds. Fourth, we are to follow in Jesus' footsteps and be persons for and with others. Finally, we must struggle, be vigilant, against the power of evil, and discerning about lower selves.

Archbishop Gustavo I want to assure you that in communion with you and your auxiliary bishop Michael, the Sulpicians Fathers come to help in your ministry of sanctifying this local Church of San Antonio. We, Sulpicians come here with the main goal to accompany the seminarians from your archdiocese and the diverse sending dioceses. We want to accompany them in making the discernment that the gospel of Jesus is permanently asking for, the same discernment that the Church is asking to do according to the words and deeds of Pope Francis. We, Sulpicians come here to help the seminarians in making a challenging discernment, that is, to make possible for these brothers to be already—as you have asked us in the Proclamation of the Pastoral Vision of the Archdiocese of San Antonio— people who have encountered Christ, people who are united as a Church, sent by the Holy Spirit, and ready to commit themselves in fostering the culture of Encuentro.

Thank you, Archbishop, for your supportive welcoming and keep us in your personal prayer. Thank you, Jeff, for making this process easier for us. Archbishop, please talk with Jesus about every one of the members of this formation community. Ask Jesus for His wisdom and ask Him that He who lives in Mary come to live in His servants. We want to be servants of the Lord, servants of the only One who can give meaning to our life.