

Bishop Cisneros' Comments

Tonight, the program is light. We get a chance to celebrate with one another, to enjoy. But, before we do, I am excited and have the pleasure to introduce Bishop Octavio Cisneros, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Brooklyn. Bishop Cisneros came to the United States in 1961 as a political refugee. I imagine it was not easy, but he is an example and we are proud to have Bishop Cisneros with us tonight. A round of applause for him.

Good evening. Affectionate and warm greetings from New York, Region 2.

We have come together these three days to continue the process of the Encuentros. The journey of this process is developing an awakening to the presence of a community of faith with roots and culture that continues to grow in all the dioceses of the United States. Yes, brothers and sisters, we are people on the move, who journey with a prophetic voice. Throughout this process throughout the years, we have remembered the events of our redemption. The disciples, sad and dejected, are returning to their villages and homes, heartbroken from the crucifixion. But soon they begin to understand the mystery. Along the way, they find someone - someone that enlightens them, who reminds them of the historical memory of the people of Israel. He speaks to them about Moses and the prophets. He declares he is the one that all the Sacred Scriptures were talking about.

Brothers and sisters, today Grapevine becomes a new Emmaus. Are not all of your hearts burning within you? That prophetic voice cannot be extinguished. That voice cannot fade. It has to continue announcing the message of Jesus. Tomorrow we return to our dioceses, parishes and movements, to bring to others what we have seen and heard. We have shared the experiences, the joys and the challenges. We have prepared to go out to prepare new, everyday missionaries and to share new experiences. We entrust our work to the Empress of the Americas, the blessed Virgin Mary of Guadalupe and we ask for our Holy Mother's protection in our evangelizing efforts. Onward, people of God, walking together, missionaries and disciples, witnesses of the love of the Father.

And now, let's bless the food. Heavenly Father, we thank you for all the messages we have received today in this V Encuentro. Bless those who have communicated your word, your message. We want to get involved, we want to sow and water seeds, take care of them, so that they bear fruit. We want to continue being missionary disciples, accompany us on our journey back from Emmaus, so that we may be faithful witnesses of your love. Thank you for the gift of Mary. May our yes, like hers, also allow the things of God happen. We thank you because you make us participants of your wonders. We praise you for the gifts of your love and we bless you for the friendship you allow us to live around this table. Bless this food that we are about to receive. Bless those who provide it to us and those who have prepared it. Make us always generous with your gifts, especially with the poor. May our dinner tonight be a place of fraternal exchange, of human affection and of Christian joy. We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Bon appetite and have a good celebration!