

Bishop Gustavo García-Siller's Closing Remarks

Thank you. Well we are here, Bishop Barnes and myself, in the name of our brother bishops of the entire nation. This effort has been of all the Bishops, and above all, of all of you, who have been journeying day by day in your communities, parishes, dioceses, regions.

We are very grateful to the Holy Father for his message at the beginning of the process of Encuentro, in the past and the message that he gave to us these days. The Holy Father needs to know that these difficult times, also for him, that we believe that he is Peter for us today. The Pope is Peter for us today and we love him.

We also give thanks to all the service given to us, for their guidance, from the USCCB. So many people giving their time, talent for this moment in our lives. Especially the Cultural Diversity Committee and the Hispanic Affairs. We remember with much affection our Bishop Perez who is doing a little better, although he is still in ICU.

But most importantly, brothers and sisters, and this has come up constantly, is you and us with you as delegates. Because there are so many people behind each one of you, making up the people of God. Thank you. Thank you also to the regional and diocesan delegates.

This moment, as we have been told, has been like a caress from God. This is new affection! New affection from God and from some toward us. I could say that what I have noticed the most is that it has been a conversation or conversations from the heart. We have revealed what is in our hearts. Dialogue from the heart is - cannot be replaced by anything. That dialogue - heart to heart - has taken place in this event. To continue loving, continue loving. Yes. As we said at the beginning: living crosses. Meaning, crosses with hearts. Crosses with hearts.

And I could summarize, what I have lived with you, what we have lived together, what we have heard, that yes, it is a moment of Transfiguration. Jesus transfigured his disciples. He brought us here. The other day I saw the River Walk here in Fort Worth, the replica of the Alamo, the church tower of a mission. I don't know about you, but I feel at home. It's so nice to be here, isn't it? Yeah! We could propose to the Lord like Peter did: Let's make three tents. Why don't we stay here?

But also I have been flavoring, tasting the great love that we have for the Blessed Mother, especially the advocacy of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Morenita, who has been accompanying us during all the Encuentros and during this Encuentro as well, and during this process. St. Juan Diego also had an encounter. And then what did he do? Did he move on with his life like before? No. Of course not. The encounter he had with the Most Holy Virgin Mary, who carried Jesus in her womb, changed his life! And he dedicated the rest of his life to sharing her and the message has come to us thanks to this encounter the St. Juan Diego had with the Virgin.

Returning to the Transfiguration, the point is not just the Encuentro. It's the mission! The mission, the commitment. I have heard that the Transfiguration, yes, was an anticipation of the Lord's glory, but, together with the Lord, the went back to the experience of the Cross. With the Virgin of Guadalupe and Juan Diego, after the first mission, Juan Diego continued as a missionary. We must go on mission, mission. And we have shared it with the experience of the disciples from Emmaus. Encounter. Mission.

And now is the commissioning. And we are going to have a Mass in which we will once again recognize in the Word, in the breaking of the bread and in our fraternity, that the Lord is sending us! And that he gives us his Holy Spirit to be faithful to the mission. Today Jesus sends - sends us back on a mission. He does not promise us that everything is going to be perfect and easy. From the D.F. (Mexico City) But certainly: What we have eaten and danced, no one can take away! No one can take it away! Let no one rob us of our hope, joy and apostolic zeal, that have emerged in our hearts during these days. Let nothing, nor anyone take them away!

In being sent, we are promised the beatitudes, which are the path of the cross. The Lord sends us to help others to carry their cross, remembering above all, the cross of the Lord, in the faces of our brothers and sisters. For this we are going to continue this Encuentro process, with discernment, we must discern. In other words, to ponder. And certainly, these days have been very full, right? Like they really put us to work. But there will be time out there, with our communities, to continue discerning in our local churches. There is much of the path left to discover.

Our lives have been awakened for the good of the Catholic Church in the United States at this time. With the light of the Holy Spirit, let us discern together as a Church. That has been very clear. Bishop Barnes said it very clearly, right? Accompany each other. Brothers and sisters, it is true that you need accompaniment and we can say, us your bishops, that we have felt accompanied by you during these days. Thank you. And so, let us go return, then, to share the fire of the encounter with Jesus. And if it was a dialogue from our hearts, may our hearts burn within us! Let's show it! Let's show it! Let's inflame - Look, even my Spanish is failing me. Bishop Lori had a better time with it this morning. Let us set the world on fire with the fire of the Holy Spirit, as we began this Encuentro: Come, Holy Spirit, come! Come, Holy Spirit, come! Come, Holy Spirit, come! Come, Holy Spirit, come! We are guadalupanos, ambassadors of the mission that the Virgin of Guadalupe entrusted to St. Juan Diego. We will lack nothing. She is our mother. The strong pillar of faith at the foot of the cross and so we say: Long live Christ the King! ¡Que viva!