

Remarks at Priesthood Ordination by Bishop Jaime Soto 6/1/13

“For we do not preach ourselves but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your slaves for the sake of Jesus.” (II Cor. 4.5)

“No nos pregonamos a nosotros mismos, sin que proclamamos a Cristo Jesús como Señor; y nosotros somos servidores de ustedes por Jesús.” (II Cor. 4.5)

These words of Paul, speaking of the ministry of him and his co-workers, resonate with the work we have accomplished today. *Lo que Pablo reconoció y anunció, ustedes también llegarán a conocer.* The Lord Jesus called Paul on the road to Damascus to be his chosen instrument. Paul, charged with the Spirit, would call others to join him in the apostolic mission of proclaiming Christ crucified as Lord.

There is no indication in the scriptures that Paul knew the Lord Jesus during his earthly ministry. He came to know the Lord through suffering and sacrifice. First, that of the deacon Stephen of whose brutal death he witnessed and approved. Then, of those disciples which he himself persecuted with an angry rage. Finally, Paul came to know Christ intimately through the sufferings and sacrifices he, himself, would endure because of his own preaching. He came to know and love Jesus by his personal communion with the Lord's cross.

The Lord Jesus has called you his friends. *Les ha llamado sus amigos.* This friendship with the crucified Lord makes you now the slaves, *servidores*, of the Church as was Paul. Like Paul, you will become familiar with the Lord Jesus through his suffering and sacrifice. You will find him in the sufferings and sacrifices of the people you serve. You will recognize him in the sacrifices your brother priests and deacons make for the sake of the people they serve. You will know him intimately through mysteries you offer at the altar of sacrifice. Time and time again, you will have the privilege to be near that altar as you remember and witness with what great love Jesus says: Take this all of you and eat. Take this all of you and drink. *Tomen todos y coman. Tomad todos y beban.* Make these mysteries your own. *Conocerán intimamente la muerte del Señor.* Do not be afraid, *no tengan miedo*, to join yourself more closely to Christ. The more you give of yourself to His sacrifice, the more you will know the Lord and proclaim only Him to the glory of God, our Father.