



DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH THE BISHOP'S OFFICE



University of Dallas School of Ministry
Biblical School Graduation
May 14, 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters, graduates of the Biblical School,

I am very grateful and blessed to be back with you today. I want to thank especially President Keefe and Dr. Brian Schmisek for their welcome and invitation to be back with you again this year. This has become part of my life and ministry here in North Texas in the month of May!

Me siento muy agradecido y a la vez bendecido de estar de Nuevo con Ustedes este día. Les doy gracias, especialmente a Presidente Keefe y a el Dr. Brian Schmisek por la amable bienvenida e invitación para estar con Ustedes otra vez este ano. Ya se ha hecho parte de mi vida y de mi ministerio aquí en el norte de Tejas en el mes de Mayo.

Today is the feast day of St. Matthias. We have his call to ministry narrated by St. Luke in the Acts of the Apostles, and it appears that his calling seems somewhat by chance: the casting of lots. We have another narration of a call to follow Jesus in St. John's Gospel, when the Lord Himself says that "It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you."

Hoy es el día de destino de San Matías. San Lucas nos narra en Hechos de los Apóstoles como fue el llamado de San Matías, y parece ser que fue casi como por un tirar de dados, como por "chanza". Tenemos otra narración de un llamado a seguir a Cristo en el evangelio de San Juan, cuando el Señor mismo nos dice: "No fuiste tú quien me eligió, sino yo quien te elegí."

Do we have a contrast here in the calling of Matthias and of St. John by the Lord? I would say that it is two examples of how the same Lord calls each of us. If we reflect on our lives, we can think of how the call to ministry, study and service came. Perhaps we thought it was our idea, and maybe it was an invitation by someone or an inspiration of some kind? Yet, it is the same calling to be a friend of the Lord and to be sent by Him. No matter how it came about, God's providence brought you to study and ministry, and it is this call to service that strengthens the bonds of communion in the Church, and the call to prayer. This call, in whatever circumstances the Lord used to make it known to us, and wherever it will take us, begins with the free choice of the Lord. It is personal for each one of us. This is a call to mission -- to seek holiness and to spread the Gospel, and it is a call to prayer.

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If our years of study are to bear fruit, no matter where they take us, our ministry in the Church, the broader Christian community, and the wider world needs to reflect on all of the above: in the same way as one ray of light is broken into many colors when reflected.

¿Tendremos aquí un contraste, en el llamado de Mafias con el deliberado llamado Juan? Yo diría que son dos ejemplos de cómo el Señor nos llama a cada uno de nosotros. Si reflejamos en nuestra propia vida podemos ver cómo fue nuestro llamado al ministerio, al estudio y a servir. Podemos creer que fue nuestra propia idea, quizá por invitación, o por alguna inspiración cualquiera. Aun siendo así es el mismo Señor quien te invito a ser su amigo y es Él quien te envía. Es un llamado a servir, un llamado de comunión y un llamado a la oración.

Si nuestros años de estudio van dar buen fruto entonces nuestras vidas deben reflejar , no importa a donde vayamos en nuestro ministerio, todo lo que hemos dicho aquí, como u solo rayo de luz que se esparce en un montón de colores brillantes.

Today is the feast day of St. Matthias. Pope Benedict remarked that *"We know nothing else about St. Matthias, if not that he had been a witness to all Jesus' earthly events, remaining faithful to the end."* May your lives and ministry also bear witness to the Crucified and Risen Lord, and may each of you remain faithful to the lived experience and possibilities of that call which the Lord Himself will offer you each and every day.

God bless,

+ Most Reverend Bishop Kevin Vann

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