



ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI

Office of the Archbishop

ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD

Reverend Emmanuel Bastien
Reverend Luís Largaespada
Reverend Randall Musselman

Metropolitan Cathedral of Saint Mary
Miami, Florida
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- Homily -

“Anything you ask me in my name I will do” (John 14, 13). What confidence and trust those words must have meant to the apostles on their ordination night. Again listen to what Jesus says, “Anything you ask me in my name I will do.”

I wonder how many times the apostles had to recall and rely on those words. When their preaching was rejected, when they were challenged in their teaching, when they were persecuted and put into prison, as we heard in the first reading today, when they were lonely and discouraged, when they were in doubt, in temptation, in trial, surely they must have remembered and relied on Jesus’ words “anything you ask me in my name I will do.”

The Lord made this commitment to his new priests because he wanted to be sure that the mission he gave them would be accomplished. He wanted to assure them that no obstacles would impede his and their ministry. He wanted to assure them that the work they would do was to focus on him not on themselves. Hence, “ask for anything you need, I will do it, means that accomplishing his work depends on divine assistance, not human endeavors and personalities.

We have such a treasure in the Words of Jesus in the Sacred Scriptures. We have a wealth of wisdom and strength and power. The question we all should ask is, do we really believe those words of Jesus and do we really believe that those words are Living Words for me in my time, in my circumstances. “Anything you ask me in my name I will do.”

Just as these very comforting words of Jesus accompanied the apostles and disciples in the early Church, they will accompany you, Emmanuel, Randall and Luís, as you begin your priestly ministry today. The gospel gives you holy assurance from the Lord himself that you will lack nothing you need to be a holy priest, to be a faithful priest, to be a good servant priest. You will have everything you need even if you find yourself seemingly unsuccessful or unpopular as a priest. “Anything you ask me in my name I will do.”

Holy assurance from the Lord requires faith from you and a constant remembrance of his words. But you must ask. As long as you remember his promise and ask, you will be his good servant and a good servant of the Church. It is when you forget to ask or lack faith in his promise that you can go astray. But for the wise priest, what a joyful journey lies ahead because you know that Jesus assures you “anything you ask me in my name I will do.”

+ John Clement Favalora
Archbishop of Miami