



Father Clay Hunt offers a blessing to the newly confirmed and baptized prior to the end of a Mass celebrated at the Torres Unit on Oct. 29 by Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller, MSPS.

## *‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because the Lord has anointed me’*

The sacraments of baptism, First Communion, and confirmation were conferred on a group of men at the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Ruben M. Torres Unit in Hondo on Oct. 29 by Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller, MSPS.

Concelebrants at the liturgy were Father Anthony Bonela, MSFS, pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church in Hondo; and Father Clay Hunt with the archdiocesan Criminal Justice Ministry. Deacons at the Mass were Deacon Bob Leibrecht with Criminal Justice Ministry and Deacon Michael Vrzalik of St. Anthony Church in Elmendorf.

Also in attendance were more than a dozen volunteers with Kolbe Prison Ministry who served as sponsors and godparents for the men in the Torres Unit.

Archbishop Gustavo told those preparing to receive the sacraments that God chooses prophets to speak on his behalf, to bring good news to the poor, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives, to give comfort to those who mourn.

The archbishop then spoke about the celebration of the sacraments that were

to be conferred. “I will lay my hands on you and call down the Holy Spirit upon you. The Spirit will come into your lives in a new and powerful way. I will also anoint you for your mission with Sacred Chrism. God calls you to continue the mission of his beloved Son.”

The San Antonio prelate emphasized that the Spirit of the Lord that will be upon them is the same Spirit that was on Jesus all those years ago. “Isn’t that amazing?” he exclaimed. “The Holy Spirit will move in your life and enable you to speak God’s words, his Good News, to the world. Even here in this place, the Kingdom of God will shine through you temples of the Holy Spirit.”

The Missionary of the Holy Spirit stressed to listeners that this is a new, blessed moment in their lives, but is also a great challenge. He acknowledged that the men there know more than most people how painful life can be, and how much darkness there is in the world, pointing out that darkness has touched each of them there. Archbishop Gustavo then quoted the clear and powerful words of Pope Francis: “Around us there is presence of evil. The devil is at work. But in a loud voice I say God is stronger.”