

Selena & Amber Mendoza Quinceañera

Selena and Amber, we love you both and congratulate you on your quinceañeras today. You have both demonstrated a love for your family, the community and the church. You have worshiped here and helped us as altar servers. You have been very good sports especially when I can never tell which one is Selena and which one is Amber - which is like every day. Twins have something that the rest of us don't have - a mutual family member. Parents know their children from the first moment of their existence, and older children know younger siblings their whole lives too. But twins are special. They have each shared every day of the other person's life. I'm sure there are times when you each wish you could just be your own person, but there are many other times when it helps to have someone else who has experienced all of life the same way that you have.

When the Virgin Mary was a young lady around your age, the angel Gabriel visited her to announce that she would become the mother of God's son. We doubt that Mary had any brothers and sisters; we can be pretty sure she didn't have a twin. She probably would have appreciated having someone else with whom she could share this experience of God's messenger, so that she wouldn't have felt quite so alone or afraid. The angel had to tell her not to be afraid, that everything would be all right. Mary didn't have a twin, but she had the experience of being raised in a good family, and she had the assurance of her faith. Because she was a young woman who prayed and who was accustomed to doing what God wanted her to do, she made the right choice. She said yes to the angel.

Selena and Amber, there will be times when God asks each of you to do something difficult. There will be times when even though you have a twin, you have to reach a decision alone. But you will never be alone. You will always have with you your family, your friends and your faith. If you continue practicing your faith through prayer and service, you will always make the right decision whenever God asks you to do something special. You may be afraid. You may think you're the wrong person for the job. You may think that God made a mistake. But God made each of you and knows you better than your twin does, even better than you know yourself.

We rejoice with you today, and we assure you of our prayers and support as you step forward into a new stage of your lives, ready to embrace your faith more strongly and to do God's will more readily. Do not be afraid. Be confident. God loves you both.

SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 2015