

THE CITY OF NEW YORK
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**TRANSCRIPT: MAYOR DE BLASIO DELIVERS REMARKS AT IGLESIA EL
CAMINO**

Mayor Bill de Blasio: First, I want to give honor to God – without him this day would not be possible.

[Mayor de Blasio speaks in Spanish]

Everyone, I have heard such wonderful things about Iglesia El Camino.

[Applause]

I have heard that this is a place that is a friend to all immigrants.

[Applause]

This is a place that helps those who are hungry. This is a place that helps everyone dealing with the tragedy of coronavirus. And I want to thank you on behalf of the people of New York City for all you do for the community, and a special thank you to Pastor Castillo for his extraordinary leadership.

[Applause]

Because for a faith community to reach people there has to be a leader of faith you truly believe. Someone who draws people together and helps them believe. And that is your pastor, let's thank him.

[Applause]

Now I also want to thank you because this church has contributed something special to the City of New York – one of the people that helps me do my work, Edward Cerna.

[Applause]

So thank you for preparing him, thank you for giving him the strength so he can serve all of us. You've done well.

Now, everyone, this is a very challenging moment for our city. It's a moment where you might feel a little worried, a little depressed. In fact, if you turn off the television, if you open a newspaper, or if you go online, you probably will feel a little depressed. But there's something more powerful than all of those articles and stories, and that is the actions of the people, the will of the people, the faith of the people. That overcomes all the challenges. Remember when this city was the epicenter of the coronavirus. Remember in March and April, how difficult it was, remember the pain and the suffering of so many families. We could have given up, we could have felt defeated. But no one in Sunset Park gave up, no one in Brooklyn gave up, no one in New York city gave up. We found that. We fought back, because we believed in each other, because we had faith, and this city went from the worst in the country to the first in the country. We became the safest place, and yes, that was because of our healthcare heroes, and we honor them every day but even more it was because of the people. Everyone who put on a mask, everyone who protected each other. This city, when presented with a challenge, said "Si, se puede." Every single time.

So, we fought back the disease, and then we said, we will open our schools and we did and we're going to have to fight to keep our schools open. We're going to have to fight that second wave, we're going to have to fight the second wave of the disease. But we managed to keep our schools open because of what every one of you did, and I want you to know that we have a lot of work to do, many challenges ahead but school will be open tomorrow.

[Applause]

And then remember this. The people had a chance to decide the future. They had a chance to vote in an election, and the most important was would people show up to vote in the middle of a pandemic people felt fear, and you would not have blamed them if they didn't vote. But instead of people staying home, we saw people come out to vote in record numbers. The people decided they would take charge of their nation and this is where we find hope the strength of the people.

So you will hear many Doubting Thomas's. You will hear many people tell you what you cannot do. When someone tells you what you cannot do, tell them you're a person of faith, and you focus on what you can do. You focus on what is possible. You focus on a better future. We have that strength. Someone said to me, the other day – they said in a very sad voice – they said, will New York City ever regain its past glory? And I had to say to them, that was the wrong question, because New York City has been great for many years. But there are things we have to do better in New York City. There are things that we have to make more fair and just in New York City. There are people who work so hard, but don't earn enough in New York City. There are people need more affordable housing in New York City. Our past may have been great but there's someplace greater we have to go.

So the question is not, can we regain our past glory. The question is how can we reach our greater glory? How can we go farther together? Do you believe we can go farther together? Do you believe in the greatness of New York City? Do you have faith? Then we know the best is ahead, and I believe in every one of you, I believe in the greatness of New Yorkers, and every time people tell you what you cannot do, tell them they're wrong. Tell them you believe in the future. Tell them you feel a power within and tell them you're a person of faith.

[Mayor de Blasio speaks in Spanish]

God bless you all. Thank you very much.

[Applause]

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