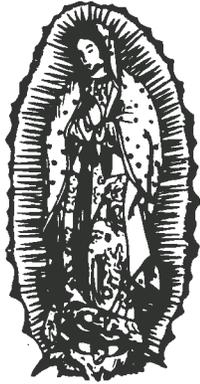


QUEEN



OF THE AMERICAS GUILD®



QUEEN OF THE AMERICAS GUILD•345 KAUTZ ROAD•P.O. BOX 851•ST. CHARLES, IL 60174



Fr. Jacob Joerger, O.P. (center) with Dr. Charles and Mrs Wahlig
See stories on pages 7 and 12

2003 Pilgrimage to Guadalupe

Footsteps of St. Juan

The annual conference of the Queen of the Americas Guild, with the theme "Footsteps of St. Juan Diego," was held October 16 through 20, 2003, in Mexico City.

The journey began on Thursday evening with dinner at the hotel, during which the group enjoyed getting acquainted.

Friday morning began with a briefing by Guild President Frank Smoczynski on the history and works of the Queen of the Americas Guild. This was followed by an inspirational talk by Bishop Joseph J. Madera, Guild Moderator and Auxiliary of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services, U.S.A.



Emma Rodriguez and Margaret Castro-Doniger present the offering.

With new, in-depth knowledge, pilgrims headed to the Basilica for 10 a.m. mass at the main altar. Guild members carried the Guild's floral offering to Our Lady during a short procession up the avenue leading to the Basilica.

After mass, while worshipers were still assembled in the Basilica, Bishop Madera presented the Queen of the Americas Guild gold medal to Rebecca Nichols for her work for Our Lady. (See "Guild Honors Rebecca Nichols")



Bishop Madera explains the many messages hidden in Our Lady's sacred image.



Pilgrims process to the Basilica with the Guild's floral offering.



Pilgrims receive an in-depth tour of the entire Basilica area.

Diego

Adding to the joyous atmosphere was a group of 20,000 Mexican pilgrims who had traveled by foot, bicycle, and bus from their village 100 miles away. Both the Basilica and the plaza were full of these colorful pilgrims, and they provided inspiration to the Guild, noting both their devotion and hardships in traveling to see Our Lady.



Diana Flores presents the readings during mass in the beautiful Chapel of the Angels in the Metropolitan Cathedral.

After celebrating mass in the presence of Our Lady's image, the group was led on a tour of the Basilica area, with in-depth explanations from the knowledgeable guide. Many of the group made the journey up Tepeyac Hill to visit the Chapel of the Roses, where Our Lady first appeared to St. Juan Diego.

The group was shown the house and property owned by the Guild. The location is ideal, nestled at the base of Tepeyac Hill and adjoining the Baptistery office building, just down Allende Street from a residence for priests. The



Pilgrims tour the Plaza of the Three Cultures including St. Juan Diego's baptismal church, Santiago de Tlalteloco.

Guild has hopes that the property someday will become a center for its work, in accordance with the wishes of Guild founder Bishop Jerome Hastrich.

The journey continued with an extensive tour of the Basilica museum.

After a full day spent with Our Lady, pilgrims enjoyed dinner at the hotel, along with lively conversation regarding the day's events.



Pilgrims enjoy a sample of Mexican culture at the performance of a talented Mariachi group.

(continued on page 4)

(continued from page 3)



Bishop Madera delivers his homily at the Shrine of the Fifth Apparition.

Saturday began with breakfast at the hotel, followed by a trip across town to the beautiful Metropolitan Cathedral. Mass was celebrated by Bishop Madera in the Chapel of the Angels, followed by a brief tour of the Cathedral. The location of Bishop Zumarraga’s tomb was noted, along with the possible location of the spot where St. Juan Diego presented the tilma to the Bishop, which may have been at the Bishop’s residence next door.

A tour of the Plaza of the Three Cultures followed, including a visit to the Church of Santiago de Tlateloco. One of the oldest churches in Mexico, this is the site of St. Juan Diego’s baptism, as well as the church to which he walked for weekly mass.

With enhanced knowledge of St. Juan Diego’s journeys to see Our Lady, pilgrims enjoyed the ride out to Teotihuacan, site of an ancient civilization. The most prominent features, the Pyramid of the Sun and the Pyramid of the Moon, towered over the many smaller structures.

Returning to the hotel, pilgrims enjoyed a delicious dinner along with entertainment by a talented Mariachi group.

Sunday morning began with breakfast at the hotel, followed by a short trip to Tulpetlac and the Shrine of the Fifth Apparition. This location marks the spot where Our Lady appeared to St. Juan Diego’s uncle, Juan Bernadino, and cured him of his illness. Bishop Madera celebrated mass in the lovely old church there, and the service, which

included many local worshipers, was especially moving. Pilgrims were able to gather some of the healing water that flows from the shrine’s well.

Pilgrims returned to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe for a final visit with Our Lady. The group enjoyed free time to re-visit favorite places on the Basilica grounds, and many spent time in quiet reflection inside the church.

After dinner at the hotel, many of the pilgrims chose to participate in an optional trip to the Palace of Fine Arts to enjoy Mexico’s Ballet Folklorico, a wonderful review of traditional Mexican song and dance.

Monday morning was reserved for packing, breakfast, and final goodbyes. Pilgrims were transported back to the airport, and left with a renewed feeling of closeness to Our Lady.

The Queen of the Americas Guild has its headquarters in the Rockford, Illinois diocese, at P.O. Box 851, St. Charles, IL 60174. Phone: 630-584-1822, Fax: 630-587-2200.

Officers and Board Members of the Queen of the Americas Guild

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Treasurer Beverly Smoczynski

Episcopal Moderator Most Rev. Joseph J. Madera,
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Father Christopher Rengers, O.F.M., Cap.,
Ruth Sloan, Ed Heinz, Archbishop Raymond Burke

Honorary Director Mother Marie Ramirez, M.C.M.

She Came To Stay With Us

by Bishop Joseph J. Madera, M.Sp.S.

Saint Luke narrates how Mary, our Blessed Mother, immediately after the conception of the Son of God in her womb, decided to visit her cousin, Elizabeth, who lived in Ikarim, in Judea, a three-day journey from Nazareth. The Angel Gabriel informed Mary that Elizabeth was also expecting a baby in her old age.

Mary, who was perhaps sixteen years old, had great courage to take that journey, but she earnestly wanted to assist Elizabeth during the last months of her pregnancy.

Mary was moved to compassion and concern toward her cousin, but she did not realize she was fulfilling a mission. She was bringing her Son, who rested in her womb, to accomplish his first missionary journey. He was coming to enrich John, Elizabeth and Zechariah with his presence and to share with them the gift of the Holy Spirit.

They were all "filled with the Holy Spirit." At that precise moment John's soul was purified of original sin and endowed with the graces he needed to be the herald of Jesus. Through the action of the Holy Spirit, Jesus enabled the three of them to understand, value and accept Him as the Messiah in their home and in their souls. Again, that was the first missionary journey of the Messiah, and His enthronement in the midst of the family through the ministry of Mary and the action of the Holy Spirit.

Elizabeth was illumined and exclaimed, "*Why should I be so honored as to be visited by the mother of my Lord?*" (Lk. 1:43).

Mary remained for three months at Elizabeth's house and then returned to Nazareth.

Our Blessed Mother of Guadalupe heard the voice and lamentations of all the people who were suffering in the midst of idolatry in the Americas. Moved to compassion, she came to our aid, appearing on Mount Tepeyac as a merciful Mother. She is a mother who brings Jesus to us.

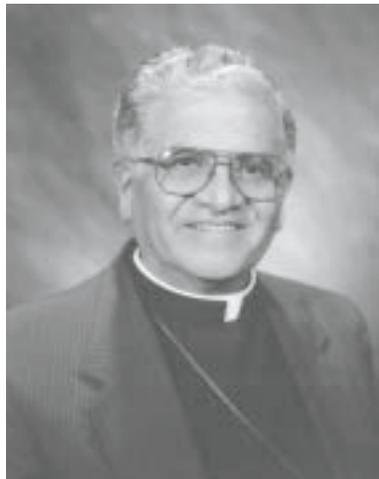
She asked Bishop Zumárraga to build for her a house - a temple - where she could receive her children and teach them about God. Bishop Zumárraga, his successor, and the people of Mexico have made that wish a reality. She has her beautiful house and ample space where she receives millions of her children.

They come to see her. They look and look at her. She reads their minds and hearts. It is a silent, sweet and rapturous encounter. Her children pour out their worries and concerns, and express their love for her, and she heals their sorrow and fills their hearts with joy and peace.

Millions upon millions come to their Mother's house. They come from all over the world. Her house in Mt. Tepeyac in México City, is the most visited Catholic Church in the world.

The Blessed Mother of Guadalupe came to stay with us. She has remained with her children despite the hatred of Jesus' enemies. Not the persecutions of the church - not even the wicked bombing or the effects of time and weather - have destroyed her lovely image. She came to stay with us.

The Queen of the Americas Guild is once more inviting us to go to the Blessed Mother's house. She wants to be visited by her children. Who are we to be visited by the mother of our Lord? Let's go to the Mother's house! Join the Queen of the Americas Guild as we follow the *Footsteps to Our Lady of Guadalupe* in October.



Visit Us on the Web

The Guild's web site continues to grow to offer more information and more services.

Soon to be added will be a "Shopping Cart" to make it easy for you to obtain Guild items. These will include a selection of rosaries, statues, medals, books, and other Guadalupe items.

You can reach us any day, any hour, from anywhere in the world at:

www.queenoftheamericasguild.org

Archbishop Raymond Leo Burke Joins Guild Board

The Queen of the Americas Guild is extremely pleased to welcome to its board of directors The Most Reverend Raymond Leo Burke, Archbishop of St. Louis.

Born in Richland Center, Wisconsin, Archbishop Burke attended the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. He undertook his studies for ordination at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome from 1971 to 1975 and was ordained to the priesthood by Pope Paul VI in 1975 at the Basilica of St. Peter.

He was an associate rector of the Cathedral of St. Joseph the Workman in La Crosse and taught religion at Aquinas High School in La Crosse.

In 1980, he returned to Rome to study Canon Law at the Pontifical Gregorian University. In 1984, he was named Moderator of the Curia and Vice Chancellor of the Diocese of La Crosse.

In 1989, he returned to Rome when Pope John Paul II named him Defender of the Bond of the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signature, the first American to hold this position on the Church's highest court. He was named Bishop of the Diocese of La Crosse in 1994.

On January 6, 1995, Bishop Burke was ordained to the episcopacy by Pope John Paul II at the Basilica of St. Peter.

In December, 2003, Bishop Burke was named Archbishop of St. Louis.



Raymond Leo Burke, Archbishop of St. Louis

Guild Honors Rebecca Nichols

On behalf of the Queen of the Americas Guild, Bishop Madera bestowed upon Rebecca Nichols the Guild's Gold Medal for outstanding service.

As National Coordinator of the Guild, Rebecca has spent the last six years working in the Guild's office. She plays a large part in organizing the Guild's pilgrimages and conferences. Rebecca declared she was deeply touched and honored to receive the Gold Medal at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe.



The Queen of the Americas Guild lost one of its founders and a longtime faithful supporter when Rev. Jacob J. Joerger (pictured on the cover with Dr. Charles Wahlig and Mrs. Wahlig) passed away on January 1, 2004 at the age of 80.

A Dominican priest, Father Joerger originally came from New Mexico where his fondness for the Indian population and his deep devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe began. As a young boy, he frequently attended mission churches in New Mexico where his uncle was also a priest. On occasion, he worked closely with Bishop Jerome Hastrich who resided in Gallup, New Mexico, the poorest diocese in the United States.

Farewell to a Friend



Father Jacob Joerger, O.P. (left) with fellow Guild founder Bishop Jerome Hastrich (right).

Because he was fluent in Spanish, Father Joerger came to Chicago to help immigrants from Mexico and the southwest adjust to life in America. While administering to newcomers in the U.S., he became dedicated to building a shrine to Our Lady of Guadalupe at St. Pius Church in Chicago where he served.

The Queen of the Americas Guild President Frank Smoczynski recalls how he, Father Joerger, and others dedicated to Our Lady, including several bishops, met in Emmitsburg, MD and discussed their dedication to Our Lady of Guadalupe and their intention to form a group.

The following year, there was another meeting, and it was decided unanimously to form an international organization dedicated to Our Lady to be named The Queen of the Americas Guild. Father Joerger immersed himself in the religious aspects of the new organization, as Frank took on the challenge of the business side, eventually accepting the presidency.

Frank says, "Through the years, Father Joerger helped me in a thousand different ways, bridging the religious and the secular challenges. He was dedicated to establishing a retreat center in Mexico City near the Basilica, a project we've worked on for years and continue to pursue."

For several years, Father Joerger lived and worked at the Basilica as the English speaking coordinator.

Father Joerger realized his dream of building a shrine at St. Pius Church in Chicago, and many have visited this beautiful place of worship. The church and shrine to Our Lady can be visited at 1909 S. Ashland Ave., Chicago, IL 60608.

"He was always a faithful and active member of the Guild and of our board of directors," declares Frank Smoczynski. "To me, and to the Guild, he was a friend, a companion, and a guide. He was one of the best supporters the Guild ever had."

Memorials to Fr. Joerger may be made to the Society for Vocational Support, c/o Dominican Provincial Office, 1909 S. Ashland Avenue, Chicago, IL 60608.

Entrustment to Our Lady is Important

By Fr. Christopher Rengers, O.F.M., Cap

On March 25, 1984, Pope John Paul II, in union with the bishops of the world, made an Act of Entrustment of the world to Our Lady. This Act fulfilled the request of the Blessed Virgin made at Fatima in 1917 that the world, and Russia in particular, be consecrated to her Immaculate Heart. Many believe that this Act was the beginning of the break-up of the Russian Dictatorship known as the USSR.

In the Jubilee Year on October 8, the Holy Father, joined by 1,400 bishops from around the world, made another Act of Entrustment. It was just before the last blessing of the Jubilee Year Mass.

The Act, in part, was:

Today we wish to entrust to you the future that awaits us, and we ask you to be with us on our way . . . We can turn this world into a garden or reduce it to a pile of rubble . . . Today as never before in the past, humanity stands at a crossroads. And once again, O Virgin Most High, salvation lies fully and uniquely in Jesus, your Son. We entrust to you all people, beginning with the weakest: the babies yet unborn, and those born into poverty, hunger and disease. We entrust to you all troubled families, the elderly with no one to help them, and all who are alone and without hope.

To you, Dawn of Salvation, we commit our journey through the new millennium..."

We notice that, in the Act of Entrustment, the Holy Father mentions first the unborn and those born into poverty, hunger and disease. This brings to mind the praiseworthy custom of dedicating or entrusting children to Our Blessed Mother. This may be done before or after birth or before *and* after birth. It may be renewed on the anniversary of the first Act of Entrustment. It may be renewed monthly.



Fr. Christopher Rengers, O.F.M. Cap.

Parents may make an Act of Entrustment to Mary right after baptism. The child may be carried before an image, or a statue, or placed on an altar of the Blessed Mother. The formula for Entrustment is then recited. The Act may be done at home before or after birth.

Any Formula of Entrustment may be used. A suggested formula dedicating a child to Our Lady of Guadalupe is the following:

Today we bring you our child . . . (as yet unborn). May this little one always know and love you as Holy Mary, Mother of the true God in whom we live and have our being. May this new soul, fresh-breathed forth from the Creator, giving life to the body, be like the soul of Saint Juan Diego, simple, pure and good.

Dear Lady of Guadalupe, touch this petal of our hearts with the wintry roses of Tepeyac, so that fragrant joy and peace may spread along its path of earthly life, reminding men of your love and sweetly drawing them to your waiting heart.

Take this child as your own, Lady, lovely and demure, enfolded in the mantle of your care, until the day when in a new land, all your children join with you, their merciful mother, endlessly giving praise and thanks to God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

(Suggested for use on the 12th of the month)

Parents may also like to use an Act of Entrustment to Saint Joseph, using their own words or the following:

Dear Saint Joseph, to you was given the care of the Child Jesus. We ask you now to care for our child . . . Guide and guard him (her) as you gave love and care to Jesus. Help our child to be obedient to us as He obeyed you and Mary. Help our child to grow as Jesus did in wisdom, age and grace. We entrust our child to you, for we know that you will guide him (her) in doing always as Jesus did, the will of our heavenly Father.

We ask this through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Spiritual Planning

Some of the Queen of the Americas Guild officers and board members met in Washington last September for a Spiritual Planning and Board meeting.

Back: Steve Banaszak, Mons. Hastrich, Ruth Sloan, Frank Smoczynski

Seated: Fr. Christopher Rengers, Bishop Joseph J. Madera



Photo of Queen of the Americas Guild officers and board members.

Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of the Americas, Mother of All Nations

By Stephen Banaszak

Over the 25 years I've been privileged to be a member of the Queen of the Americas Guild, I've wondered what great wonders or miracles await the world through our faith in her and in our Lord, her miraculous image painted by the "finger of God," the fulfilling of her requests, as St. Juan Diego and Bishop Zamarraga did in 1513.

A conclusion inherent in the messages, miracles, results, and events of these past centuries is that she wants to be known not just as "Our Lady of Guadalupe" and "Mother of the Americas," but also as "Mother of All Nations."

As she said to St. Juan Diego on December 9, 1531, *"I am your merciful mother, the MERCIFUL MOTHER of those who love me, of those who cry to me, of those who seek me, of those who have confidence in me."*

Once Bishop Zumarraga and St. Juan Diego (Patron of Lay Apostles) had placed their confidence (faith) in Our Lady and complied with her requests, the miracles and conversions began immediately. Love for her and for her Son, Jesus, has been literally "woven" into the fabric of the culture and the hearts of all of Mexico and other nations of South America.

Soon after December, 1531, what was a trickle of conversions soon became a river, and that river a flood, which is perhaps unprecedented in the history of Christianity. Five million Catholics had been lost to the church, owing to the Reformation in Europe at this time, but their numbers were more than replaced in a few years by over nine million Aztec converts.

A famous Mexican preacher of the nineteenth century, Dr. Ibarra of Chilapa, graphically expressed this tidal wave of conversions as follows:

"It is true that immediately after the conquest, some apostolic men, some zealous missionaries, mild, gentle conquerors who were disposed to shed no blood but their own, ardently devoted themselves to the conversion of the Indians. However, these valiant men, because of their fewness, because of the difficulty of learning various languages, and of the vast extent of our territory, obtained, in spite of their heroic efforts, but limited results."

Scarcely had the Most Holy Virgin of Guadalupe appeared and taken possession of this, her inheritance, when the Catholic faith spread with the rapidity of light from the rising sun through the wide extent and beyond the bounds of the ancient empire of Mexico. Innumerable multitudes from every tribe, every district, every race in this immense country... who were grossly superstitious, who were ruled by the instincts of cruelty, oppressed by every form of violence and utterly degraded... changed their hearts and lives at the incredible announcement of the apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe and recognized their natural dignity. They put off their instinctive ferocity and, unable to resist such sweet and tender invitations, came in crowds to cast their grateful hearts at the feet of so loving a Mother, and to mingle their tears of emotion with the regenerating waters of baptism.

The missionaries were all but overwhelmed by the endless multitudes clamoring for instruction and baptism. Some priests had to bestow the Sacrament of Baptism six thousand times in a single day. One of them, a Father Toribio, recorded, "Had I not witnessed it with my own eyes, I should not venture to report it. I have to affirm that, at the convent of Quecholac, another priest and myself baptized 14,200 souls in five days. We even imposed the Oil of Catechumens and the Holy Chrism on all of them – an undertaking of no little labor."

Several trustworthy contemporary writers, including a certain Father Alegre, relate that one missionary, a Flemish Franciscan named Peter of Ghent, baptized with his own hands over a million Mexicans.

"Who will not recognize the Spirit of God in moving so many millions to enter the kingdom of Christ," wrote Fr. Anticoli, S.J. "And when we consider that there occurred no portent or other supernatural event...to attract such multitudes, other than the apparitions of the Virgin, we may state with assurance that it was the Vision of the Queen of the Apostles, Mother of all Mankind, Mother of all Nations that called the Indians to the Faith."

What were the requests and "ingredients" that brought about such results then, and will renew them in the entire world now?

- To have confidence (faith) in Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of the Americas, Mother of all Nations.

- To comply with her requests, to make a place for her in our hearts, homes, our churches, our communities, our nations, just as the Apostle St. John did... he took Mary into his home.

- To continue to retell the story, spread the messages and images painted by the "finger of God."

- Also to bring your requests to her in prayer. She will then fulfill the promise she made to St. Juan Diego, "I will make you worthy... I will make you happy."

And when we become discouraged or overwhelmed by the responsibilities, the crosses, the anxieties of our lives, as Juan Diego was with the pending death of his uncle, Juan Bernardino, she gives each one of us the same complete promise and encouragement she gave to St. Juan Diego on December 12, 1531.

"Hear and let it penetrate your heart, my dear little son. Let nothing discourage you, nothing depress you. Let nothing alter your heart or your countenance. Also, do not fear any illness or trouble, anxiety or pain."

"Am I not here who am your Mother?"

"Are you not under my shadow and protection?"

"Are you not in the fold of my mantle, in the crossing of my arms?"

"Do not be troubled or take thought of your uncle's illness, for he will not die now of this. He is well already. Is there anything else you need?"

To fulfill her requests, and to walk in the footsteps of St.

(continued on page 10)

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Juan Diego, the Queen of the Americas Guild offers a formula to help. This practical formula is called "The Four Steps of Tepeyac" and may be remembered by the abbreviated name of IRAC. The key words are Image, Roses, Angelus, and Cristo Rey.

The Four Steps of Tepeyac are:

a. Honor Our Lady's Guadalupe Image. Give away a copy of her image once a month, preferably on the 9th, 10th, or 12th.

b. Carry a Rosary to recall the roses given at dawn.*

c. Pray the Angelus daily.

d. Visit Christ the King often in a church or chapel.

* Roses at Dawn is the recommended practice. Holy mass, followed by the rosary... the general intentions of the Roses at Dawn Hour is for Hope and Healing according to the plan of the Merciful Mother and Jesus.

We always need to remember the consistency and

simplicity of Mary's and Jesus' requests, and the infinite results when we comply. Just as when the physical and spiritual ingredients requested by Our Lord for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass are fulfilled, they bring into the world the infinite treasure of the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Our Lord and God, Jesus Christ.

So, too, will the miraculous results after 1531 be repeated in today's world with the fulfillment of her request(s) by our Faith and confidence in our prayers to Mary, the spread of her images, messages and promises to all the nations of the world.

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Drafted and edited by Stephen M. Banaszak, vice president of the Queen of the Americas Guild from publications by Father Christopher Rengers, O.F.M. Cap Bro., Francis Mary Kalvelage, F.I.; Francis Johnson; and the Queen of the Americas Guild.

A Look at Mary in "The Passion of the Christ"

Mons. George Hastrich

When asked to write an article on Our Lady of Guadalupe for this newsletter, I thought of her image on the tilma of San Juan Diego. But I could not forget her portrayal as the Mother of Jesus in the recently-released film "The Passion of the Christ." It is the same Blessed Mother whom we see, as Mary identified herself to Juan Diego as "the ever-blessed Mother of God" – and followed with those kind words to him: "Am I not your Mother?" Let us compare these images.

The film "The Passion of the Christ" portrays Our Blessed Lady as the "Stabat Mater" hymn describes her: as the "Mulier Fortis" ("strong woman") of the Old Testament, not the swooning, fainting woman often presented. In "The Passion" we become so engrossed in the Person of Christ that we tend not to observe the role of Our Blessed Lady. Perhaps a second viewing would allow us to observe her more closely.

There is a similarity in her image as Our Lady of Guadalupe, an image of serenity and simplicity, of prayerfulness and motherly solicitude for her Son. I was moved when we saw Mary and the other women gathering the Precious Blood of Jesus from the pavement where he was scourged on cloths which they tenderly caressed as they carried them away. As a Priest, I could not help but relate this to the Church's directives when washing the Sacred Linens and Purificators that are used in the Sacrifice of the Mass. How *precious* is the *Blood of the Godman*.

As I see Mary's portrayal in "The Passion," it would seem that she considered her role as one of the consequences of her 'FIAT' of the Annunciation, when the Angel Gabriel told her she was to be the Mother of the Messiah, her 'FIAT' – "Let it be done to me according

to thy word." This Passion of Jesus was the prophecy of Simeon to Mary, when Jesus was presented in the temple: "and you yourself shall be pierced with a sword" (Luke 2:35). In her maternal role, Mary was closely associated with Jesus' sacrifice. When Jesus agonized in the Garden of Gethsemane, He echoed His Mother's 'FIAT' as He said, "Father, if it be possible, let this chalice of suffering be taken from me. Nevertheless, 'FIAT', may your will be done."

In her subsequent appearances at Guadalupe, Lourdes, Fatima, etc. Mary reminds us of Jesus' mission and urges us to follow His teaching in our lives – as if to perpetuate her last words contained in Sacred Scripture at the wedding feast at Cana: - "Do whatever He tells you."

The image of Our Lady of Guadalupe is a permanent, tangible, visible reminder to us of her Motherhood of Jesus and her Queenship of the Americas and for us to live our lives according to the teachings of Jesus. That image has had so much power to move people through the centuries, beginning with the conversion of some seven million Indians in the 16th century, and keeping the faith alive for millions of people during the days of war and revolution, through the persecutions and the scarcity of priests and the sacraments.

The inscription by Pilate for the cross: "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews" now finds expression in the words of the Mexicans and others: "Viva Cristo Rey" – "Long Live Christ the King."

Our Lady of Guadalupe continues her humble role as the "handmaid of the Lord," who brought Jesus into the world, and now leads the world to Him, as the Latin expresses it: Ad Jesum per Mariam ("To Jesus through Mary").

Shrine Prepares to Welcome Pilgrims

The groundbreaking of Phase I of the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe of the Diocese of La Crosse, Wisconsin, was many things. It recognized Pope John Paul II's confirmation of the continued importance to shrines in our spiritual life, and it celebrated the realization of a longtime dream of Bishop Raymond Burke during his years as Bishop of La Crosse.

Bishop Burke, now Archbishop of St. Louis said, "Those who come to the Shrine will recall the pilgrim nature of our earthly existence and ponder our lasting home with God the Father toward which we journey each day. They will come to the Shrine to hear again the message of Our Lady of Guadalupe and to draw from it inspiration and strength for their daily living."

The first buildings, the Pilgrim Center and the Our Lady of Good Counsel Votive Chapel are under construction. The Shrine church groundbreaking took place on May 13, 2004. The remaining phases of the complex will begin upon completion of the Shrine church.

Although the day was wet, spirits were high for the pilgrims who attended the groundbreaking, including Guild President Frank Smoczynski.

The Shrine's mission is to pay homage to the blessed Virgin Mary, under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe America and Star of the New Evangelization,

- ... to honor Our Blessed Mother as the Patroness of the Unborn,

- ... to be a fitting and efficacious instrument of the New Evangelization,

- ... to be a place of sacramental encounter with Christ, especially in the Holy Eucharist Penance,

- ... to be a place of thanksgiving for God's many blessings, especially at the time of reception of the Sacraments or at personal milestones,

- ... to offer solace and strength to the physically and spiritually afflicted,

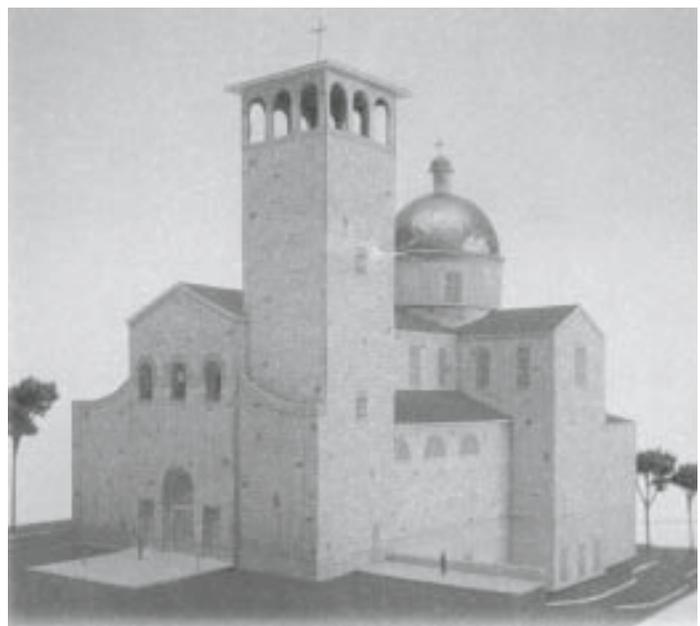
- ... to provide a place of rest and renewal for the weary,

- ... to educate adult Catholics in their faith and its practice,

- ... to apply to daily life the teachings and guidance of the Catholic Church, especially the words of Pope John Paul II.



Bishop Burke crowns the beautiful bronze statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe.



Proposed Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, LaCrosse, WI.



Guild President Frank Smoczynski says, "I've never seen so many wet people so happy."

In the Eyes of *Our*

Pictured with Father Jacob Joerger on our cover are Dr. Charles Wahlig, O.D., and his wife, Isabelle, an optician. The Wahligs played an important role in revealing the miracles of the Virgin's eyes on St. Juan Diego's tilma.

As early as 1929, a professional photographer enlarged a photograph of the sacred image and was amazed to discover what appeared to be a human face in the eyes of Our Lady.

In 1951, a draftsman was examining a photograph of the face of the sacred image under a powerful magnifying glass, and was astonished to see the features of and bust of a bearded man. The image was positively identified from various paintings traced back to the 17th century as that of St. Juan Diego.



The following year, examining both eyes in the image with an ophthalmoscope, Dr. Lavoignet, an optometrist, found the light of his instrument gave a light reflection on the outer circle of the eye. By following this reflection and suitably changing the lenses of the ophthalmoscope, it is possible to obtain the image at the back of the eye. By directing the ophthalmoscope light onto the pupil of the eye of the Image of the Virgin, the same light reflection appears. The pupil lights up in a diffused manner, giving the impression of hollow relief. This reflection is impossible to obtain on a flat surface and one that is opaque as in this picture.

Upon examining other pictures, both oil and watercolor, Dr. Lavoignet found none in which the least reflection could be seen.

Ophthalmologists have testified that, even though they are opaque, both eyes in the Image show depth and become filled with light when the ophthalmoscope's light is trained into them. They have asserted that it would be impossible to produce with paint such perfectly placed reflections in eyes offering so little space with the Virgin looking down and on such rough material as the tilma.

Experiments showed the silhouette of the same bearded man reflected in the nasal region of the right eye and also in the temporal corner of the left eye. The distortion of the reflected image is even more striking, for it is in perfect obedience to the laws of curvature of the cornea. It was as if Juan Diego's tilma had been an exposed color film which had photographed the Virgin (although invisible to the

human eye) at the very moment when he was reflected in her eyes – an incredible fact that has lain concealed for over four hundred years and has finally been revealed and confirmed by modern science.

In 1967, Dr. and Mrs. Wahlig examined a photograph of the sacred image enlarged 25 times. They found not only two more faces reflected in the eyes, but by applying the law of reflections in convex mirrors, were able to reconstruct the exact circumstances under which the celestial portrait was created.

With the help of family members, Dr. Wahlig set up an experiment that showed how three persons could be reflected in the eye of Our Lady's Image.

He reported, "Our daughter, Mary, posed as Our Lady. My wife, myself and our daughter Carol took positions in front of Mary, and our reflections appear in the cornea of her eye, as can be seen in the photographs we took with a camera especially constructed for taking close-up photographs.

"At the time when Juan Diego presented the bishop with the flowers, Our Lady was actually present in the room, but chose to remain invisible. Instead, in order to give a visible, lasting indication of her presence, she chose to



The image of Juan Diego reflected in the eye of Our Lady of Guadalupe similar to an early painting of the seer.

imprint upon Juan Diego's blanket an authentic picture of herself as she stood there watching the scene.

"The picture is complete in every detail, even to the reflections in her eye of Juan Diego and two other people standing near him and of someone apparently looking over his shoulder. It seems from the posture of Juan Diego and the other two that they were not aware of Our Lady's presence. The two appear to be looking at Juan Diego and he, we may assume, is looking at the bishop."

Dr. Wahlig acknowledged that he had collaboration of an

Lady

impressive number of distinguished specialists in this technically difficult experiment.

Shortly after these discoveries, the second figure reflected in Our Lady's eyes was tentatively identified as Juan Gonzales, the interpreter who had been standing beside Juan Diego when he unfolded his tilma in front of Bishop Zumarraga, based on a 1533 painting. The painting was executed by three artists who were personally familiar with the leading characters of the Guadalupe story and were therefore able to delineate an accurate likeness of them. It was discovered behind the altar of the old 1622 church when it was restored in 1960.

The third image, although very indistinct, is strongly reminiscent of the features of Bishop Ramirez y Fuenleal who was known to have been in the room at the time.

About 1750, Mexico's greatest colonial painter, Miguel Cabrera, shows the three persons in about the same positions as they are reflected in Our Lady's eyes. The history of the painting indicates there must have been a strong tradition that those were the circumstances existing at the moment of the creation.

The painting is presently hanging in the old Basilica of Guadalupe and shows Bishop Zumarraga facing Juan Diego, Juan Gonzales and Bishop Fuenleal. Therefore, Our Lady must have been present immediately behind Bishop Zumarraga and facing the three men standing before him, whose images would be reflected in her eyes – an amazing revelation preserved by Providence for discovery by science in an unbelieving age four centuries later.

More studies have been done. One Japanese optician who was examining the eyes in the 1970's fainted. When he recovered, he said that the eyes were alive and looking at him!

The facts known to date about the Guadalupe eyes should be enough in themselves to change the minds of persons of good will who have assumed the story of the Apparitions to be mere "legend" and the Image a Franciscan concoction. The reflections in the three-dimensional eyes solemnly and permanently attest to the divine origin of the Image.

Based on material from A Handbook on Guadalupe by the Franciscan Friars of the Immaculate. Available on the Guild's web site www.queenoftheamericasguild.org And The Wonder of Guadalupe by Francis Johnston. Available on www.amazon.com

“Am I not here who am your mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection?”

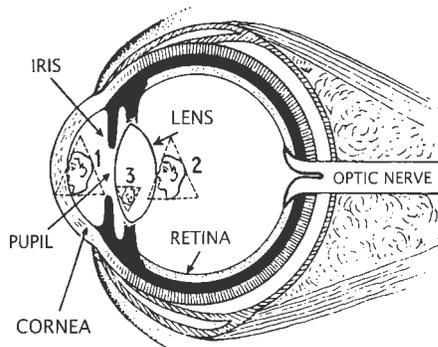


Above: Dr. Charles Wahlig, an optometrist and one of the leading experts on Guadalupe, performed an experiment to illustrate the mirror principle of the human eye. His daughter Mary poses for the above photo while Dr. Wahlig, his wife and his daughter Carol stand opposite her.

Enlargement of the right eye (above) and the left eye (below) reveal the images of the three people who stand opposite from the subject. This same effect, typical of photographs, is found in the eyes of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Paintings do not possess this type of reflection.



Photos reprinted from The Wonder of Guadalupe, by Francis Johnston.



The triple reflection of Juan Diego in the eye of the miraculous Image, according the Purkinje and Samson effect, is shown in this diagram.

Itinerary for *The Path to Our Lady of Guadalupe*

Spiritual Leader, Bishop Joseph J. Madera, M.Sp.S.

2004

Day 1 – Thursday, October 14, 2004

Depart the U.S. for Mexico City. Afternoon arrival and transfer to the hotel. Time to unpack with the rest of the afternoon free. Welcome dinner with Guild introduction and group orientation (D)

Day 2 – Friday, October 15

After breakfast, depart for the Great Basilica and Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe where Bishop Madera will celebrate mass. After mass, enjoy a guided tour of the Basilica and enjoy a close-up view of Our Lady's image from the walkway below.

Walk to the top of Tepeyac Hill where Our Lady appeared to St. Juan Diego, then enjoy a box lunch.



The Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Tour the Guadalupe Museum and the remainder of the Basilica grounds. View the retreat center property. Return to the hotel for dinner, stopping on the way at the new St. Juan Diego Chapel. (B/L/D)



The Church of the Well

Day 3 – Saturday, October 16

After breakfast, travel to Cholula for celebration of mass at the Church of Our Lady of the Remedies. Enjoy a brief tour of the Great Pyramid area and historical sites. Continue on to Puebla for lunch at a local restaurant followed by sightseeing in Puebla including the Cathedral, Rosary Chapel, colonial buildings, and San Francisco Church.

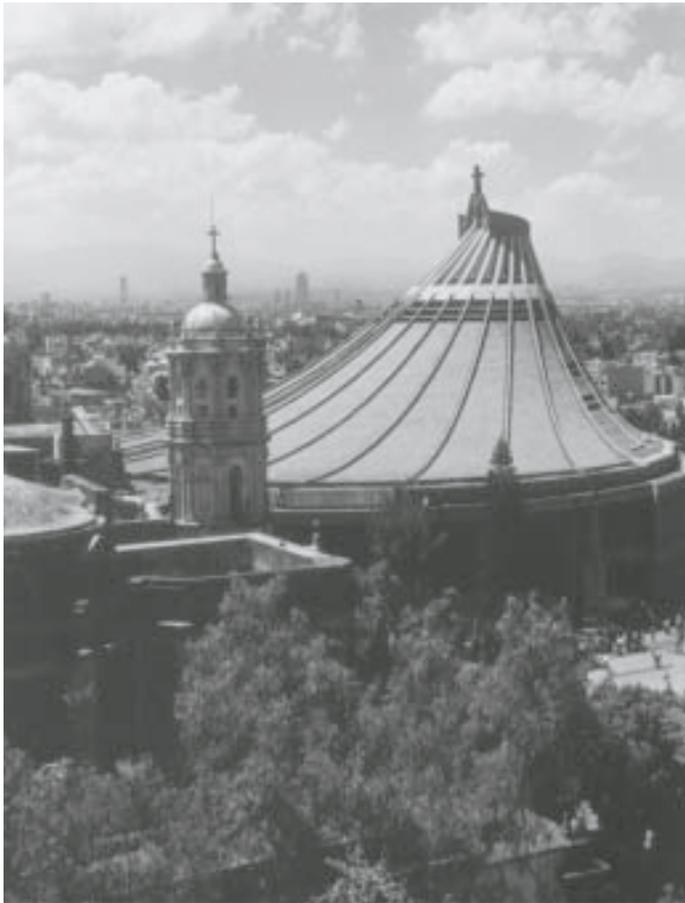
Return to Mexico City for dinner followed by evening entertainment at the hotel. (B/L/D)

Day 4 – Sunday, October 17

After breakfast, proceed to Tlaxpetlac for celebration of the mass at the Shrine of the Fifth Apparition where Our Lady appeared to Juan Bernardino, St. Juan Diego’s uncle, and cured him of his illness. You will be able to get some of the miraculous holy water directly from the shrine’s well.

Return to Mexico City to continue with Sunday lunch at the hotel.

After lunch, tour the Plaza of the Three Cultures and visit the Church of Santiago de Tlalteloco where St. Juan Diego was baptized and where he was headed when Our Lady appeared to him.



A view of the Basilica from the top of Tepeyac hill

Return to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe for a final visit. Enjoy free time for personal reflection and prayer. Explore the beautiful grounds of the Basilica on your own.

Dinner at the hotel followed by an optional excursion to a performance of the world famous Folkloric Ballet of Mexico at the Palace of Fine Arts. (B/L/D)

Day 5 – Monday, October 18

After breakfast and closing remarks by group and spiritual leaders, transfer to the Benito Juarez International Airport for the flight home. (B)



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Special Sights to See

Mexico City is a fascinating place, and many wonderful sights are included in our tour. Here is a listing of some of them.

Because time is limited, it's not possible to begin to include all of the interesting sights in the city in the tour, so here is also some tips about other highlights of the city you may want to see on your own.

Included in Our Tour:

Palacio de Bellas Artes – Opulent and dramatic, the Bellas Artes is the masterpiece of theaters in this architecturally rich city. The exterior is early 20th century Art Nouveau, covered in Italian Carrara marble. The interior is completely 1930s Art Deco. The theater's curtain is a glass mosaic by Tiffany, said to be comprised of a million pieces of glass.

Plaza de las Tres Culturas – The Plaza of the Three Cultures includes the remains of the Aztec city of Tlateloco, site of the last battle in the conquest of Mexico. Off to one side is the Church of Santiago where St. Juan Diego was baptized and later in life walked 14 miles each Saturday to attend mass and receive Holy Communion.



Plaza of The Three Cultures

Museo de Basilica de Guadalupe – This museum, housed in the old Basilica, contains thousands of priceless church artworks, many of them reflecting the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The entrance hall is lined with hundreds of tiles decorated by pilgrims, each detailing Our Lady's saving intervention in their lives.



Museo de Basilica de Guadalupe

Historic Town of Puebla – with the Cathedral of Puebla, Mexico's second largest cathedral. Construction was begun in 1575 and continued for 200 years.

Cholula and the Pyramid of Tipanipa – The largest pyramid in the world and the largest single structure in Mexico, the interior of the pyramid is extensively excavated so visitors have an excellent opportunity to view different phases of construction. Cholula was the most important center of the Mexican highlands after the fall of Teotihuacan.

Worth Seeing On Your Own

Mexico City offers a feast of museums and historical sites. Here are just a few of the places of interest available to you right in the city:

Templo Mayor and Museo del Templo Mayor (Great Temple) – In 1978, workmen digging on the east side of the Metropolitan Cathedral, next to the Palacio Nacional, unearthed an exquisite Aztec statue of the moon goddess Coyolhauzqui. Major excavations by Mexican archaeologists followed, and they uncovered interior remains of the Pyramid of Huitzilopochtli, also called the

Great Temple, the most important religious structure in the Aztec capital. Built by the Aztecs in the 14th and 15th centuries, it stood in the heart of Tenochtitlan.

Museo Frida Kahlo – Familiar to many because of the 2002 movie "Frida," Frida Kahlo was known during her lifetime as the wife of muralist Diego Rivera. Today her popularity as an artist surpasses his. Her emotion and physical pain (her spine was pierced during a streetcar accident in her youth) were the primary subjects of her

(continued on page 17)

canvases. Her paintings are now acknowledged as some of the purest artistic representations of female strength and struggle ever created.



Castillo de Chapultepec

Museo Nacional de Antropología – One of the top museums in the world, offering the single best introduction to the culture of Mexico. The ground floor rooms are devoted to history – from prehistoric days to the most recently explored archaeo-logical sites. The ethnological rooms are devoted to the way people throughout Mexico live today, with straw-covered huts, recordings of songs and dances, crafts, clothing, and lifelike models of village activities.

Palacio Nacional and the Diego Rivera Murals – The National Palace stands on the site of Montezuma’s palace which became the residence of Hernan Cortez after his conquest of Mexico. There are countless rooms and courtyards with carved brass balconies where the president of Mexico works. Better known for the fabulous second-floor Diego Rivera murals depicting the history of Mexico.

Casa de los Azulejos – The House of Tiles. One of Mexico City’s most precious colonial gems, it dates back to the 1500s when it was built for the count of the Valley of Orizaba. A tiled house was a sign of success, and the House of Tiles is covered in gorgeous blue and white tiles.

Gran Hotel Ciudad de Mexico – Originally a department store, the Great Hotel boasts one of the most splendid interiors of any downtown building. See the lavish lobby with gilded open elevators on both sides, topped with a breathtaking 1908 stained-glass canopy by Jacques Graber.

Zocalo – Every Spanish colonial city in North America was laid out according to a textbook plan, with a plaza as the center surrounded by a church, government buildings, and military headquarters. The Plaza de la Constitucion, known as the Zocalo, is one of the biggest public squares in the world. The square is dominated by two buildings, the Cathedral Metropolitana and the Palacio Nacional.

Castillo de Chapultepec/Museo Nacional de Historia –

Occupied by a fortress since the days of the Aztec, the present palace was built in the 1780’s. During the French Occupation of the 1860s, Empress Carlotta sat in bed to watch her husband, Maximilian, proceed down Reforma on his way to work. Later this was the official home of Mexico’s president until 1939. Now the castle houses a variety of historical artifacts covering the period between 1521 and 1917.



Casa de los Azulejos

Monumento a los Heroes de la Independencia – The

Monument to the Heroes of Independence is the most noted of Mexico City’s exceptional public sculptures and monuments. The “Angel” is both a landmark and homage to those who lost their lives fighting for independence.

Catedral Metropolitana – The biggest church in Latin America, Mexico City’s cathedral is also at the heart of the world’s largest Catholic diocese. It took almost three centuries to complete. This is reflected in the multiple styles of its architecture and internal decoration, ranging from Classical through Baroque and Churrigueresque to Neo-Classical.



The beautiful gold-leaf altar at the Metropolitan Cathedral

A Fascinating City

Architect Victor Jimenez recently reflected that Mexico City is one of the biggest, most complex and most beautiful cities in the world.

A modern, cosmopolitan city situated on an old lake basin surrounded by volcanic mountains, its different cultures have left an interesting architectural legacy. First, there are the pre-Hispanic remains that tell of the greatness that settled the land before the Spaniards. Mexican art can be seen on the ruins of the Templo Mayor (The Great Temple) right in the city.

The architects who arrived from Europe during the colonial period shared their knowledge of baroque, neoclassic and other styles of art that were combined with indigenous styles to create an architecture that is unique in the world. Examples are the Metropolitan

Cathedral, palaces, mansions and an endless number of churches.

Modernism is characterized by magnificent skyscrapers of the city.

There are numerous museums and other opportunities to view exhibitions of art and culture ranging from the pre-Hispanic (the National Museum of Anthropology) to the Vice Regal (the Franz Mayer Museum) to the modern (the Museum of Modern Art) as well as Mexican traditions in the Frida Kahlo Museum.

Surrounding the city is God's own architecture — volcanic mountains in the south, mountain valleys in the west, or snow capped volcanoes in the east, many of which form a part of the National Parks and Ecological Reserves.

Travel Tips

What kind of clothing should I take? Casual dress is appropriate for nearly all occasions in Mexico. However, shorts should never be worn when entering a church. In bigger cities, evening attire tends to be dressy.

What else should I bring? - a pocket-size English/Spanish dictionary; camera and film; small appliance such as a hair dryer (Mexico's electrical current is 110 volts AC – the same as the U.S. and Canada).

Keep your travel documents and much of your cash and/or travelers cheques in a safe place.

What are the requirements to enter Mexico? – U.S. and Canadian citizens who do not have a valid passport may present an original birth certificate or a notarized affidavit of citizenship, U.S. naturalization papers, a permanent resident card, or a valid voter registration card. All documents that are not "photo ID" must be accompanied by a legal photo ID such as a valid drivers license.

What about minors traveling in Mexico? Children under the age of 18 traveling with a birth certificate are not required to have a photo ID, but it is highly recommended.

If traveling alone, the minor must have a notarized consent form signed by both parents. If traveling with one parent, the minor must have a notarized letter of consent signed by the parent not traveling.

Is it safe to travel in Mexico? Safety in Mexico City is comparable with other big cities. Store any valuables in your hotel's safe when possible and keep a copy of your important document numbers in a safe place.

Where can I exchange my currency? US dollars are easily exchanged for pesos in banks, major hotels, airports and exchange houses.

Should I bring adapters for my small appliances? Standard current is 100 volt AC as in the US. However, adapters are useful because three-prong outlets are not widely available.

Should I be concerned about the water? Purified water is used in beverages and ice and for cooking in all big city hotels and restaurants. It is best to stick with bottled water and beverages without ice in outlying areas.

Health Tips

- Follow good hygiene habits like washing your hands before you eat.
- Avoid eating from open-air food stands or buying food from street vendors.
- Avoid uncooked or un-pasteurized dairy products.
- Avoid drinking tap water, or from water fountains. Keep a bottle of purified water in your room.
- Eat lightly and ease into local eating and drinking habits gradually.
- Currently no vaccinations are needed to enter Mexico.
- Mexico has a nationalized healthcare system and almost every town and city in Mexico has either a national hospital or medical clinic. Before you leave home, check with your health insurance carrier. Chances are good that your insurance plan can cover you in Mexico.

Sacred Relic to be Shown in American Cities

A piece of St. Juan Diego's *tilma* – the cloth that holds the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe – will continue to travel to a number of cities in the U.S. this year. The relic, thought to be the only one in the United States, was given to Archbishop John Cantwell of Los Angeles by the Archbishop of Mexico City, Luis Maria Martinez, in 1941. It has been kept in the archive of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Plans are underway for it to be permanently enshrined in the Cathedral in Los Angeles.

The tour is being organized by the Apostolate for Holy Relics (AHR), a non-profit tax exempt, public benefit corporation based in Los Angeles. It is dedicated to educating the public about the saints, sponsoring devotion to the veneration of the saints, and preserving important pieces of Catholic heritage.

Here is the schedule for the showing of the tilma segment for the rest of this year. Check the dates and locations, as some have changed.

Diocese	Dates	Location
Chicago, IL	July 25 – 26	Our Lady of Tepeyac Church
Gary, IN	July 27 – 28	St. Stanislaus Church, Michigan City
Washington, DC	Aug 7 – Aug 9	National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception
Baltimore, MD	Aug 10 – Aug 11	Basilica: National Shrine of the Assumption
New Orleans, LA	Aug 30 – 31	St. Patrick Church
San Antonio, TX	Sep 12 – 14	Basilica Shrine of the Little Flower
Dallas, TX	Sep 14 – 16	Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe
Palm Beach, FL	Oct 10 – 12	Cathedral of St. Ignatius Loyola
Detroit, MI	October 24	Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament
Grand Rapids, MI	TBA	To Be Announced
Phoenix/Tucson, AZ	Oct 31 – Nov 2	Multiple Locations
Salt Lake, UT	Nov 5 – 8	St. Juan Diego High School
Portland, OR	Nov 15- 16	Holy Rosary Parish
Philadelphia, PA	Nov 22 – 23	St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother Church
New York, NY	Dec 5 – 7	Cathedral of St. Patrick

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Enclosed is my (our) reservation(s) and deposit to secure my (our) place in the amount of \$250 (per person) plus a non-refundable travel insurance premium of \$70 per person. I understand the price is based on a group departure of 30 paying persons minimum, and I have read and understood the tour conditions.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is my pleasure to look back on the last year and the steady growth of the Queen of the Americas Guild, and to look forward to this organization's promise for the future.

We experienced a great loss this year when Father Jacob Joerger, one of the founders of the Guild and constant supporter, passed away in January.

We can also report an exciting addition. Raymond Burke, Archbishop of St. Louis, has agreed to join the Guild's board of directors. He has shown a life-long devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe, and we know he will provide outstanding leadership and guidance.

The 2003 conference in Mexico City was an inspiration to all who attended, due, in no small measure, to the leadership of the Most Rev. Joseph J. Madera, Episcopal Moderator of the Guild's Board who was born and raised in Mexico. He brought insights into this experience that made it something each of us will always remember.

The Guild continues to grow. We are augmenting our web page, and will soon have new Queen of the Americas Guild offerings available online. You can also find information about the Guild, its history and its officers. Go to www.queenoftheamericasguild.org and see for yourself.



Not a small factor in the Guild's continuing growth is the fact that Rebecca Nichols is now working five days a week on Guild business. Rebecca was awarded the Guild's Gold Medal last year in recognition of her outstanding work.

I'm pleased to report that I had the honor of attending a groundbreaking ceremony at the new Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse, Wisconsin in May. (See "Shrine Prepares to

Welcome Pilgrims") This is a truly beautiful and inspiring shrine to honor Our Lady of Guadalupe and provides a place of rest for the weary while educating adult Catholics in their faith and its practice. This was the vision of Bishop Burke, and after many years, it is now a reality.

We continue to work toward the establishment of a retreat center near the Basilica in Mexico City. I have met with the Cardinal of Mexico to discuss the project, and I feel we are getting closer.

We urge you to join us for our 2004 Pilgrimage to Mexico City and the places where Our Lady appeared to Juan Diego. I can guarantee you will be awed and inspired by this experience as have all of those who have joined us in past years.



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