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QUEEN



OF THE AMERICAS GUILD®



345 KAUTZ ROAD • P.O. BOX 851 • ST. CHARLES, IL 60174



Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe

La Crosse, Wisconsin



# QUEEN OF THE AMERICAS GUILD®



Queen of the Americas Guild • 345 Kautz Road • P.O. Box 851 • St. Charles, Illinois 60174

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### Cover Story

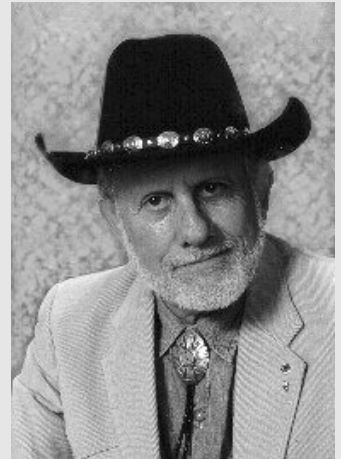
Pilgrims to the La Crosse Shrine know they are greeted in a personal way by the Blessed Mother as they enter the plaza where the statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe bids them welcome.

The artist, Enrique de la Vega, has great admiration for early Christian art forms, Celtic illuminations and the spirit of Renaissance artists. At the same time, he is constantly learning new ways of expressing the timeless, the universal, and the sacred.

De la Vega says, "It is hope and faith that are the driving forces in my work, in the universe of the aesthetic, and I attempt to express the inexpressible and to inspire the soul to loftier heights in a world that hungers for beauty and the Divine."

He says, "It is difficult to be a Christian artist or an artist who creates Christian art, because we live in an age that denies Christ, and as said by Fra Angelico, 'to paint the things of Christ, one must live with Christ.' Christianity does not make art easy, because it demands of the artist to work for something beyond himself, a higher reason and a higher love that burns hotly in the Divine."

For many years, he has created monumental contemporary Sacred Art for churches throughout the United States.



**Enrique de la Vega**



### *Other pieces by Enrique de la Vega*



## Decree Jubilee Guadalupano Year

### *To the presbytery and the faithful from the Mexican Archdiocese*

Today, December 12, 2005, we are celebrating the 474th anniversary of our glorious Guadalupan event that, as we all know, we can consider to be the very moment when God gave birth to our Mexican church and our racially mixed mother country. This He accomplished by making possible the union and fusion of our Indian and Spanish parents, creating a brotherhood in the maternal love of our most holy Mother. Even now we see on the horizon the approaching of the year 2031, the half millennium of that marvelous event that ushered in and consolidated the beginning of the evangelization of America that we celebrated 13 years ago in 1992.

This anniversary and that other one that we now only foresee, make us doubly conscious of the fact that Our Lord, Himself, through his Vicar here on Earth, our beloved and much remembered John Paul II, gave us the security of having his protagonist San Juan Diego Cuauhtlatatzin listed among the saints, and of having this celebration extended to all of our continent, renewing the naming of our most holy Mary as patron saint of all America.

If we want to obey our Lord's admonition to be aware of the "signs of time" (Mt 16:4) we can perceive that, in this time of ours, the surprising advances of science have practically eliminated the barriers of distances, making all of humanity one large family in conflict, nestled in one same and narrow house, with consequences of advantages as well as conflict: we now have amazing possibilities of union, collaboration and mutual enrichment, but we also have to face terrible misunderstanding, hatred and hostility that threatens our very existence as a species.

For those of us who have the gift of faith, these unmistakable "signs of our times" make an eloquent call to give wings to the evangelical mandate of loving God and neighbor, but we Mexicans in particular, having been favored with the distinct privilege of the Guadalupan

Occurrence, must exhort one another to assume the glorious and onerous obligation of accepting our role as executors of a divine legacy that can and should send

throughout the world this same grace in unity that brought us into being as a people of diversity and allowed us to see the possibility, by our sacrifice and our example, to not only survive the abuses being committed by man against man and planet, but also to gather all mankind, and not just Christians, into one sheepfold heeding only one Shepherd. (Jn 10:16)

And so it is that your humble servant, conscious of the personal responsibility of being the thirty fourth successor of him who received the duty of being the executor of this legacy, as of this date and until December 12, 2006, I would declare and do indeed declare the Guadalupan Jubilee year.

The Lord has granted us an ardent love for his holy Mother, which is borne out by the fact that both in our

country and all across our continent this feast is being celebrated with such zeal, but it is necessary that all this fervor be translated into our conversion and the bettering of our lives, so that, by our example, we may preach to the whole world the marvelous news that the mother of the Lord, through whom we live, is honored as the mother of all those who are united under Him as well as all the various peoples of the Earth. (Nican Mopohua 30-31)

I therefore exhort us all to unite in this labor of love with the assurance that there is nothing that would please our Holy Mother more, nor which would be more pleasing to Him who gave her to us as our mother than endeavoring to fulfill in our times and under our circumstances, His perennial "new mandate" of loving one another as He loved us." (Jn 13:34)

**The Most Eminent Cardinal Norberto Rivera Carrera  
First Archbishop of Mexico**



**Cardinal Norberto Rivera Carrera**



# The Path to Our Lady of Guadalupe

## Queen of the Americas Guild

### 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Pilgrimage

#### October 20 – 25, 2005

*By Rebecca Nichols*

The Queen of the Americas Guild held its annual pilgrimage to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe last October 20 through 25. As National Coordinator of the Guild, I was pleased to attend for the fourth consecutive year.

The group of 30 pilgrims first gathered on Thursday evening for a get-acquainted dinner at the hotel. After upcoming tour events were reviewed, travelers looked forward to the next day's visit to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Friday morning began with a welcome introduction from Guild President Frank Smoczynski, followed by an inspirational and informative talk by Bishop Joseph J. Madera, Guild Moderator and retired Auxiliary of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services, U.S.A. Here we were joined by another group of pilgrims from Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in El Centro, California, bringing Bishop Madera's audience to nearly 50 people.

Each pilgrim received holy cards, pamphlets, and a



#### Procession to the Basilica

learning rosary as a gift from the Guild.

Bishop Madera kindly shared his family history and close involvement with Our Lady of Guadalupe, and explained in detail the complex meaning of each portion of her self-portrait. His comprehensive knowledge of Our Lady's appearances to St. Juan Diego was very evident, and pilgrims left with a renewed appreciation for Our Lady's miracle.

Like many Mexican pilgrims to the shrine, our group processed up the avenue leading to the Basilica while carrying a large floral offering to Our Lady. When we reached the plaza, we found that a pathway to the main entrance had

been roped off to accommodate the many processions on this day.

Indeed, the plaza was filled with thousands of pilgrims – all in colorful celebration of Our Lady's miracle. They came from all over Mexico, representing many organizations and parishes, some playing music, most singing, and all carrying flowers to offer to Our Lady.

Despite the large crowd, Bishop Madera welcomed us into the Basilica and led us up the center aisle where we were seated at the main altar. We enjoyed a lovely Mass celebrated in both English and Spanish, and shared our greetings with the group of Mexican pilgrims who had joined us.



**Rebecca Nichols**



**At a stop on the way to Puebla, with Mexico's highest active volcano, Popocatepetl, in the background.**

After celebrating Mass in the presence of Our Lady's image, pilgrims were led on a comprehensive tour of the Basilica area, beginning with a short walk up the first steps of Tepeyac Hill to view the property owned by the Guild. Steve Banaszak explained the work the Guild is doing to fulfill the wishes of Guild founder Bishop Jerome Hastrich to build a retreat center near Our Lady's image. It will be a safe place for pilgrims to gather, stay, and be close to Our Lady.



**Mass at the Basilica**



**Steve Banaszak discusses the Guild's Retreat Center plans.**

The Basilica area tour continued with a visit to the Guadalupe Museum, which houses hundreds of beautiful paintings and sculptures. Most depict Our Lady in her many different apparitions. Visits to the Old Basilica, Church of the Well, and Church of the Indians completed the guided tour.

Pilgrims were then left with free time to re-visit favorite places or to make the journey up Tepeyac Hill to visit the Chapel of the Roses, built on the spot where Our Lady first appeared to St. Juan Diego.

After a full day spent with Our Lady, pilgrims returned to the hotel for dinner and discussions regarding the day's events. All agreed that the day had been truly special, and they were most thankful for the gift of Bishop Madera's time and talents.

The next day's activities began with a drive toward the



**Bishop Madera leads pilgrims on a tour of the Puebla Cathedral.**



**Pilgrims wait in the Basilica's crowded plaza for Mass to begin.**

city of Puebla, located approximately 75 miles southeast of Mexico City. On the way, we stopped at the quaint town of Tlaxcala for Mass at the church of San Miguel del Milagro. Saint Michael the Archangel appeared here to peasant Diego Lazaro and led him to a spring with miraculous curative waters. Pilgrims were able to collect water from this well to take home.

From there we moved on to Ocotlan for a visit to the beautiful basilica there. We learned the story of Our Lady

of Ocotlan, whose image was miraculously burned into a tree trunk and is now placed at the altar in the gold-filled Basilica. We were treated to a tour of a tiny chapel behind the altar, which is filled with gorgeous paintings and more gold leaf.

We continued on our way to Puebla, arriving in time for a late lunch, hotel check-in, and a few minutes to freshen up. Then we were on our way to see some of the highlights of this historic colonial city. Our first stop was a quick visit to a local market, with a huge selection of the local specialty, Talavera pottery. From there we moved on to the church of San Francisco and learned of the story of Blessed Sebastian de la Aparicion and viewed his incorrupt body.

On Sunday morning, we had the privilege of attending Mass at the enormous Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, concelebrated by Bishop Madera and Archbishop Rosendo Huesca Pacheco. After Mass, we were allowed a tour of the sacristy, and a tiny hidden octagonal shaped chapel, with walls virtually covered in gold leaf and beautiful paintings. Again, the honor of having Bishop Madera with our group allowed us this very special privilege.

The tour of Puebla continued with a visit to Santo Domingo Church with its stunning Rosary Chapel.

Completed in 1690, this chapel is entirely covered in ornate gold leaf, tiles, and fine woodcarvings. It is one of the finest examples of Mexican Baroque style.

After lunch at a charming restaurant, we began our journey back to Mexico City via a stop in Cholula to visit the Great Pyramid of Tipanipa, the largest in Mexico. Atop this pyramid, which is mostly covered by lush vegetation, sits Our Lady of the Remedies Church. Pilgrims enjoyed a walk through the partially excavated center of the pyramid, and were amazed at the immense size of the site.

Upon our return to Mexico City, pilgrims enjoyed dinner at the hotel followed by a trip to Mexico's famous Folkloric ballet. Actually a selection of traditional Mexican dances, the ballet is performed at the



**Pilgrims gather on the steps of the Shrine of the Fifth Apparition.**





**Guild President Frank Smoczynski welcomes pilgrims.**

beautiful Palace of Fine Arts, famous for its spectacular Diego Rivera murals and Tiffany stained glass curtain.

Any pilgrimage to Guadalupe would be incomplete without a trip to Tlaxpetlac, site of the fifth apparition of Our Lady. On Monday morning, we made the short trip there, and had Mass at the simple shrine built to commemorate Our Lady's appearance to Juan Bernadino, St. Juan Diego's uncle. Bishop Madera again delivered

his homily in both English and Spanish, as we shared the Mass with another group of pilgrims. Afterwards, pilgrims were able to gather some of the healing water from the shrine's well.

After a quick lunch back at the hotel, the group returned to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe for a final visit with Our Lady. Pilgrims enjoyed free time to re-visit their favorite places, and spend a final moment with Our Lady. The weather was beautiful and warm as it had been throughout our trip. The plaza was still quite full of pilgrims and music, although less than on Friday's visit. This was the perfect

atmosphere in which to say goodbye to Our Lady. We were left with a sense of calm and fulfillment.

At this point, our journey was complete. We had walked the footsteps of St. Juan Diego and left with a new understanding of Our Lady of Guadalupe. New friendships were made and precious memories created. Again, all brought to us through Our Lady's miracle.



**A group of pilgrims pose in front of the Cholula pyramid, which supports Our Lady of the Remedies church on its peak.**



# Update on the Update

*By Fr. Christopher Rengers, OFM, Cap.*



**Fr. Rengers**

Last year the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary issue of the Queen of the Americas Guild 2005 National Newsletter brought news about efforts being made to have Saint Juan Diego made Patron of Lay Apostles. This news was a scoop for the Guild publication, and brought its readers up-to-date on developments. Making Juan Diego universal Patron for Lay Apostolic Action would be an

added honor and responsibility for the humble messenger Our Lady chose so definitely in 1531.

If you, hopefully, have saved this excellent and valuable anniversary issue, you will find on page 21 a picture of His Holiness, Pope John Paul II receiving a packet of documents relating to a petition to have St. Juan Diego chosen as Patron for Lay Apostles.



**Jesus and Marie-Claire Hernandez present the St. Juan Diego petition to His Holiness, Pope John Paul II**

An answer from the office of the Papal Secretariat of State on January 11, 2005 acknowledged receipt of the letter by the Holy Father. It added, "His Holiness will remember you in his prayers. Invoking on you joy and peace in our Lord Jesus Christ, he cordially imparts his Apostolic Blessing." The letter was forwarded to Marie Clare Hernandez who had delivered the letter of petition to His Holiness.

She has since sent all the materials to Bishop Ricardo Watty, M.Sp.S. of Nuevo Laredo. He is president in Mexico for the Episcopal Committee for the Laity. Mrs. Hernandez is president of Families for Families in Mexico, and she contacted Bishop Watty at the instance of Bishop Rodrigo

Aguilar, president of the Episcopal Commission for Life and the Family. These names assure us that the hope the Guild has long had for Juan Diego is receiving strong interest by key people in Mexico.

A follow-up letter was also sent to Pope Benedict XVI, recalling that the petition for making St. Juan Diego Patron for Lay Apostles had been delivered to his predecessor. A quote from this letter concerns the Guild: "The Guild is now headquartered in the Diocese of Rockford, Illinois. Archbishop Raymond Burke of St. Louis and retired Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Madera of the Military Ordinariate are now on the Guild Board of Directors."

The letter also recalls that Bishop Jerome Hastrich as Moderator for the Guild, had presented at a Mass in the Basilica thousands of petitions for the beatification of Juan Diego.

The letter to Pope Benedict XVI also sums up the reasons for choosing Juan Diego as Patron for Lay Apostles. "He was chosen by our Blessed Mother herself, as her 'absolutely necessary messenger.' She also sent him to the bishop-elect, Juan de Zumarraga, indicating the essential need for the charismatic and chosen lay person to work under authority. Juan Diego is also a lovable character, 'forgetting' an appointment with the Blessed Virgin, to care for and hurry to get a priest to a dying uncle, Juan Bernardino.

"Living before present political boundaries and belonging to no nation, he belongs to all, and represents in his poverty and simplicity the poor and struggling, and the simple children of God everywhere. He is a saint who elicits smiles even as we reverently pray to him."

The letter to His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI, was also acknowledged by a letter from the Papal Secretariat of State, March 14, 2006. It stated: "I would inform you that it [the letter] has been duly transmitted to the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, which is the competent office for attending to such matters." This assures us that the petition for making St. Juan Diego Patron for the Laity [or Patron for Lay Apostles] is now in the hands of the right Vatican Congregation.

The ideal follow-up would be for this Congregation to receive more evidence of a genuine movement of the Holy Spirit in the Church by other letters of support for St. Juan Diego. It seems likely that this will be done in Mexico.

It would be very good if the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments received word from other parts of the world, especially from National Bishops Conferences. The voices of organizations like the Knights of Columbus or the Queen of the Americas Guild or a religious order or a diocese, all can swell the chorus.

## Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse, Wisconsin August 5 through 7, 2005

Nestled among the beautiful rolling hills of the Mississippi Valley, the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse, Wisconsin, and its founder, Archbishop Raymond L. Burke, share a similar purpose to that of the Guild; to promote devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe. The Queen of the Americas Guild was pleased to co-sponsor its first conference at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse, Wisconsin, August 5 through 7, 2005.

The conference began on Friday, August 5, with a video tour of the Shrine and a welcome address by Queen of the Americas Guild President Frank Smoczynski. An adoration hour with confessions was followed by an address by Guild Vice President Steve Banaszak, who presented Fr. Christopher Rengers' update on Mary of the Americas – A New Role for St. Juan Diego and Our Lady of Guadalupe Today.



Archbishop Burke was the celebrant for a late afternoon Holy Mass, during which he delivered a wonderful homily regarding the Visitation of the Virgin Mary and her similar Visitation to Saint Juan Diego in 1531.

With Archbishop Burke as the honored guest, conference participants enjoyed an outstanding dinner at the Shrine's restaurant, Culina Mariana Café. Archbishop Burke spoke of the history of the Shrine, and his eagerness to work with the Queen of the Americas Guild toward achieving our common goals.

Saturday, August 6, began with a lively address by Guild Director Monsignor George Hastrich, whose association with the Guild goes back to the beginning, along with his late brother, Guild founder Bishop Jerome Hastrich. A Rosary for Pro-Life was held at the Shrine's chapel,

followed by Holy Mass celebrated by Monsignor Hastrich.

After another delicious meal at Culina Mariana, conference participants gathered in the chapel for an address by Fr. Richard Hogan, Associate National Director, Priests for Life. Fr. Hogan spoke of the impact of Pope John Paul II's papacy, and the lasting legacy he left behind. A Holy Hour and Benediction completed the day's spiritual journey.



**Archbishop Raymond Burke addresses the dinner crowd.**

The conference concluded on Sunday morning, August 7, with Holy Mass at the Shrine chapel, again celebrated by Monsignor Hastrich.

Participants left with a new understanding of the work of the Queen of the Americas Guild and the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, as well as a deeper understanding of Our Lady's miracle.



**Conference attendees mingle during a break in activities.**

## A Very Special Place... ...The Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Founded by Raymond L. Burke, Archbishop of St. Louis and a member of the Guild Board of Directors, the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse, Wisconsin, was established so that the message of God's merciful love toward His children of America may be entrusted to us in our time.

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

Also part of the Shrine's mission are:

- to honor Our Blessed Mother as 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 and Reconciliation.
- 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.

## At the Shrine...

...there are many opportunities for personal devotion and growth as well as education and fellowship.

**The Shrine Church** – will be the heart of the Shrine where pilgrims will one day be able to attend Holy Mass, participate in other devotions and spend time in personal prayer.

There will be many devotional areas, dedicated to Our Lord and His Blessed Mother, and to the saints, especially Saint Joseph and Saint Juan Diego. The church will seat approximately 400 people on the upper level.

**The Pilgrim Center** – In the Pilgrim Center, visitors encounter the hospitality that is part of the Shrine tradition.

The lobby has displays to assist the pilgrim in learning more about the Shrine and an orientation video about the Shrine and the construction planned in its development.

Culina Mariana, the Shrine restaurant, provides nourishing respite and a place to meet.

Flores Mariae, the Shrine's religious gift shop, is becoming the premier religious gift shop for the surrounding area.

For pilgrims cherishing sacred art, there is the orientation room and temporary chapel. A huge icon screen known as a reredos has 15 individually written icons depicting many saints and blessed.

**Our Mother of Good Counsel Votive Chapel** – From the distance, the intense glow of candles beckons visitors in a warm welcome to the shrine grounds.

The copper spire was custom designed for this chapel. The interior of the chapel is porcelain tile manufactured in Italy.

The candle rack is said to be the largest in the United States. It contains 576 votive candles and measures 14 feet high and 12 feet wide on each of its four sides.

**Meditation Trail** – Pilgrims may follow the paved Meditation Trail that gently climbs the bluff. Approximately 1/2 mile, or 2.5 decades of the rosary, it offers a breathtaking view of nearby bluffs.



**View of the Pilgrim Center from the Votive Chapel.**



# The Mystery of the Visitation

By Archbishop Raymond L. Burke, D.D., J.C.D.

In the mystery of the Visitation, we see a most wonderful manifestation of the vocation and mission of the Mother of God. Once God the Son had been conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of His Virgin Mother, Mary began her mission, immediately carrying the Divine Son in her womb to the home of her cousin Elizabeth. Both Elizabeth and the infant son in her womb, John the Baptist, recognized the presence of the Savior in their midst. John the Baptist also began his mission of precursor of the Savior by leaping for joy in the womb of his mother, Elizabeth. Elizabeth, for her part, exclaimed:

And how does this happen to me,  
that the mother of my Lord should  
come to me?...

Blessed are you who believed  
that what was spoken to you by the  
Lord would be fulfilled (*Lk 1:43,45*).

Mary responded, praising God for the infinite greatness of His merciful love, in which her soul and spirit participated in a pure and total way. In the simple and humble encounter of two devout women, cousins, both with child, the immeasurable goodness of God shone forth for us, shone forth in the world, in all its indescribable beauty.

The power and the glory of God, incarnate in the womb of Mary, which Saint John the Evangelist beheld in his striking vision, recorded in the Book of Revelation, is manifest in a most remarkable way at the Visitation (*Rv. 12:1-17*).

## Clothed in the Sun

The Blessed Virgin Mary, from the moment of her Immaculate Conception, was the “woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.” The Child conceived in her womb, “destined to rule all nations with an iron rod,” is the coming of the Kingdom of God into our midst. It is He Who conquers Satan and all evil spirits, freeing us from their deadly grip. Before the mystery of the Incarnation, Mary, Elizabeth and the unborn infant John the Baptist, and all of us exclaim in the words of the “loud voice in heaven” in Saint John’s vision:

Now have salvation and power come,  
and the kingdom of our God  
and the authority of His Anointed (*Rv. 12:10*).

Christ conceived in the womb of Mary is Christ Who conquered sin and everlasting death by offering His Body, pouring out His life, on Calvary.



Archbishop Raymond L. Burke

## Too Easy To Forget

How easily, we forget the enduring reality of Christ’s victory of life! How easily we forget the wonder of the Visitation! Before the many difficulties, temptations and challenges of our times, how easily we become discouraged and defeated, compromising our faith in the Divine Savior, our trust that God’s promise of salvation will be realized in our personal lives and in our world, and, thereby, opening ourselves to the influence of Satan and his evil spirits!

In our moments of doubt, discouragement and suffering, the Mother of God, through the mystery of the Visitation, brings Christ to us, that is, brings us to Christ alive for us in the Church, so that we may recognize in Him alone our salvation. It is the Blessed Virgin Mary who invites us to join our hearts to her Immaculate Heart, placing

our hearts, with her Immaculate Heart, into the secure, healing and life-giving haven of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The Mother of God leads us to Christ Who helps us to overcome our doubts, to accept discouragements and to bear sufferings for the sake of divine truth and love.

We celebrate the mystery of the Visitation as it was experienced on our continent in 1531. The woman clothed with the sun, bearing the Infant Savior, the Anointed, in her womb, appeared to Saint Juan Diego, from December 9 to 12, 1531, in order that a chapel be built in which she might manifest the all-generous and never-failing merciful love of God for us, incarnate in her womb and alive for us in the Church, above all, in the Sacrament of the Real Presence, the Holy Eucharist.

## The Bearer of God to the World

From her very first and most remarkable words to Saint Juan Diego, she identified herself as the Mother of God and as the privileged bearer of His Divine Mercy. She is, indeed, the Bearer of God to the world. What is more, through the highly privileged apparitions of the Mother of God at Tepeyac, she has desired to remain with us always, in order that the mystery of the Visitation might be always new for us. She has miraculously left her living image on the tilma or mantle of Saint Juan Diego. In the magnificent basilica built to her honor, in which the tilma of Saint Juan Diego is enthroned, the Mother of God continues to visit pilgrims and to announce to them the great mystery of

(continued on page 13)

God's all-loving and never-failing mercy. Even as in 1531, she inspired her sons and daughters to abandon the horror of human sacrifice and to respect the inviolable dignity of every man, both the Native American and the European, so now she inspires us to be tireless disciples of the Gospel of Life, working to end the horror of procured abortion and so-called "mercy-killing," and to promote the respect for the dignity of every human life from the moment of inception to the moment of natural death.

### The Example of Saint Juan Diego

How much the Mother of God desires to show her Divine Son to our world beset by so many and grievous evils, in which we easily give way to confusion and discouragement! How important it is that we imitate the example of Saint Juan Diego, messenger of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of America and Star of the New Evangelization! Rightly, our late and most beloved Pope John Paul II placed the mission of the Church in America, at the beginning of the Third Christian Millennium, under the protection of the Virgin of Guadalupe and commended her to us as the Star to lead us to Christ and, in Christ, to the conversion of our personal lives and the transformation of our world. Pope John Paul II commended the Virgin of Guadalupe to us as the Mother of America and the Star of the New Evangelization.

### The Work of the Guild

For over twenty-five years now, the Queen of the Americas Guild has devoted itself to making our Lady of Guadalupe better known to her children of America, especially by bringing her children to her shrine where she remains with us on the tilma of Saint Juan Diego. Many souls, thanks to the work of the Queen of the Americas Guild, have found clarity and courage, comfort and strength, in living their Catholic faith by coming to know and love Our Lady of Guadalupe. Let us pray for those founders of the Guild, whom God has called to Himself, especially the beloved Bishop Jerome Hastrich, that they may enjoy the reward of their selfless labors. Let us pray that God will bless the members of the Queen of the Americas Guild with new enthusiasm and new energy in carrying out their noble and most critical mission in our time.

Last August, we celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Guild at a new shrine dedicated to our Lord and His Mother, under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe, in North America, at a holy place dedicated to carrying out the new evangelization under the care and with the direction of the Mother of God as she appeared on our continent in 1531. At her Shrine, in a powerful way, Mary shows herself to be the Mother of America and the Star of the New Evangelization. At her Shrine, the Mother

of God calls us, with Saint Juan Diego, to be her messengers of Divine Mercy, promising to hold us always in the crossing of her arms, in the folds of her mantle. How much the Mother of God desires to speak to and to embrace all of her children of America! Her shrine at La Crosse, united to her principal Shrine in Mexico City, is her way to announce God's mercy and to draw us to God's mercy, incarnate in her Divine Son, Who is alive for us in the Church, above all, in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Let us pray that the spiritual work of the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse may continue its steady progress, so that we and all our brothers and sisters who come here on pilgrimage may receive the graces of new enthusiasm and new energy to live daily in Christ and, with Christ, to overcome sin in our personal lives and in our world, above all the sins against human life and against the dignity of man created in God's own image and likeness, and redeemed by the Most Precious Blood of God-the-Son Incarnate.

### Sharing the Victory

Our mission in Christ today is daunting. With Christ, we must conquer fearsome evils in our world, evils in which the presence of Satan is palpable. We must not give way to fear. Christ has won the victory, and He has given us His Mother, so that we, with her, may share the victory. Before the temptations, the challenges and the seeming

defeats in our lives, we hear again and again the words of the Mother of God to Saint Juan Diego and to us who wish to be her messengers with him:

Am I not here, I, who am your Mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Am I not the source of your joy? Are you not in the hollow of my mantle, in the crossing of my arms? Do you need anything more? Let nothing else worry you, disturb you (Nican Mopohua, n. 119).

We need nothing more, for God, through the Blessed Virgin Mary, has given us everything we need in His Divine Son, our Lord and our Savior.

### An Unquenchable Fountain

Uniting our poor and troubled hearts to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, let us, with Mary, sacramentally place our hearts into the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the unquenchable fountain of divine mercy and love. With Mary, let us unite our hearts to His Divine Heart in the Sacrifice of Calvary, the Eucharistic Sacrifice. Led by Mary to the Foot of the Cross, we find life and salvation, and we exclaim in the inspired words of the Book of Revelation:

Now have salvation and power come, and the Kingdom of God and the authority of His Anointed (Rv. 12:10).

(Most Rev.) Raymond L. Burke

*And how does this  
happen to me,  
that the mother of my  
Lord should come to  
me? ... Blessed are you  
who believed  
that what was spoken to  
you by the Lord would  
be fulfilled*  
Lk 1:43,45

## A Very Special Opportunity

The Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse, Wisconsin is becoming an important pilgrimage destination for those devoted to Our Lady. The Queen of the Americas Guild is pleased to announce that it will be co-sponsoring its second conference at the Shrine August 4 through 6, 2006. The theme for this year's conference is "Our Lady of Guadalupe, Star of the New Evangelization."

Archbishop Raymond L. Burke, founder of the Shrine and a member of the Queen of the Americas Guild Board of Directors, will again be joining the group for an inspirational talk, dinner, and celebration of Mass.

Also participating will be Bishop Joseph J. Madera, M.sp.S., retired Bishop for the Archdiocese of the Military Services, U.S.A. Bishop Madera is the Episcopal Moderator of the Guild and enthusiastic spiritual leader for the Guild's yearly pilgrimages to Mexico. Having spent his childhood and early adulthood in Mexico, Bishop Madera is a great devotee of Our Lady, and will share his personal experiences and in-depth knowledge of Our Lady of Guadalupe.



**The Shrine Pilgrim Center**

honor Archbishop Raymond Burke and Bishop Joseph Madera. Singer / songwriter Marty Rotella will share his inspirational music throughout the weekend, highlighted by a special concert on Saturday afternoon.

Other speakers and Guild board members will be on hand to share their love of Our Lady. Dr. Arthur Hippler,

Director of the La Crosse Diocese Office of Justice and Peace, will share his insights on "The Rosary as Fundamental for Renewing Society."

Please consider joining us for this wonderful weekend of prayer and spirituality. Learn more about the Shrine, the miracle of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and the Queen of the Americas Guild.

Space will be limited, and hotel rooms may be in short supply. A bus trip package will be available from Madison, Wisconsin, in addition to the normal conference fee. Make your reservation early!

For more information or to make your reservation, call Sr. Christa Marie, Executive Director of the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe at 608-788-8601,

or Rebecca Nichols at the Queen of the Americas Guild at 630-584-1822.



On Friday evening, join us for a gourmet dinner at the Shrine's restaurant, Culina Mariana Café, with guests of



# 2006 Queen of the Americas Guild Conference

## *“Our Lady of Guadalupe, Star of the New Evangelization”*

**Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe • La Crosse, Wisconsin**

**August 4 – 6, 2006**

### **Friday, August 4**

Registration and video tour of the Shrine ..... 11:00 – 1:00 p.m.  
 Opening Mass – Celebrant Archbishop Raymond L. Burke ..... 1:30 p.m.  
 Welcome Address – Frank Smoczynski, Queen of  
 The Americas Guild President ..... 2:30 p.m.  
 Address by Archbishop Raymond L. Burke ..... 3:30 p.m.  
 Optional Church construction tours ..... 4:30 – 6:00 p.m.  
 Rosary for Pro-Life ..... 5:00 p.m.  
 Gourmet dinner at Culina Mariana Café –  
 Honored guests Archbishop Raymond L. Burke,  
 and Bishop Joseph J. Madera ..... 6:30 p.m.

### **Saturday, August 5**

Holy Hour ..... 8:00 a.m.  
 Continental Breakfast ..... 8:00 - 8:30 a.m.  
 Holy Mass – Celebrant Bishop Joseph J. Madera ..... 9:00 a.m.  
 A Fragrance of Roses – The Story of Our Lady of  
 Guadalupe slide show ..... 10:00 a.m.  
 Address by Bishop Joseph J. Madera ..... 11:00 a.m.  
 Lunch ..... 12:00 p.m.  
 Address by Dr. Arthur Hippler, Director – La Crosse  
 Diocese office of Justice and Peace ..... 1:30 p.m.  
 Address by Msgr. Hastrich, Founding member of  
 The Queen of the Americas Guild ..... 3:00 p.m.  
 Rosary ..... 3:45 p.m.  
 Address by Sr. Christa Marie –  
 Saint Juan Diego Guild ..... 4:00 p.m.  
 Concert by singer / songwriter Marty Rotella ..... 4:30 p.m.

### **Sunday, August 6**

Closing Address – Queen of the Americas Guild  
 President Frank Smoczynski ..... 9:00 a.m.  
 Closing Mass – Celebrant Bishop Joseph J. Madera ..... 9:30 a.m.

### **Fees**

**Full conference fee** – includes Gourmet dinner on Friday, Saturday breakfast and lunch, afternoon breaks, \$5 gift certificate to Flores Mariae gift shop, all speakers and entertainment - \$55/per person.

### **Roundtrip bus transportation**

from Madison, Wisconsin and Conference - includes all of the above, plus round-trip transportation from Madison, bus snacks, lunch upon arrival at the Shrine, and Sunday breakfast - \$147.50/per person.

**Hotel** – Holiday Inn, 2 nights based on double occupancy - \$95.63 / per person (for bus registrants only). Singles add additional \$95.63.

### **Saturday only conference attendance**

– includes continental breakfast, lunch, afternoon break, and \$5 gift certificate to Flores Mariae gift shop - \$26/per person.

Reservations are taken on a first come, first served basis until maximum capacity is reached.

Please send name, address and phone number of all attendees, along with your check for all fees to:

Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe  
 5250 Justin Rd.  
 La Crosse, WI 54601

## La Crosse Area Hotels

Listed here are some of the area hotels that are convenient to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Prices quoted are based on availability at time of printing. Rates may vary. Early reservations are encouraged.

### Stoney Creek Inn

3060 S. Kinney Coulee Road  
Onalaska, WI 54650  
(608) 781-3060  
\$79 - \$169

### Radisson Hotel La Crosse

200 Harborview Plaza  
La Crosse, WI 54601  
(608) 784-6680  
\$139 - \$169

### Holiday Inn & Suites

200 Pearl Street  
La Crosse, WI 54601  
(608) 784-4444  
\$81 - \$158

### Grandstay La Crosse

525 Front St. North  
La Crosse, WI 54601  
(608) 796-1615  
\$89 - \$159

### Baymont Inn La Crosse Onalaska

5377 N. Kinney Coulee Road  
Onalaska, WI 54650  
(608) 783-7191  
\$113

## Following in the Footsteps of a Saint

*By Sister Christa Marie, FSGM*

It has been over a year since our dear Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, left us for his eternal reward. He will be remembered for so many wonderful spiritual gifts to his flock; yet, I always look with a little fondness on his love for Youth. He loved them; he was energized by them; and he saw in them a thirst for the Truth and a great potential for holiness.

The Saint Juan Diego Guild seeks to foster this holiness in our children. In a world where children are challenged with things not holy, we need to take every opportunity to introduce or, in some cases re-introduce, the holy – models worthy of imitation – most especially as demonstrated in those whose holiness is universally proclaimed by the Church.

Saint Juan Diego is a wonderful role model for children. Given the grace of conversion to the Faith, he did not take it lightly. Rather, he was willing to travel on foot significant distances to attend Holy Mass and receive on-going catechetical instruction. Tepeyac Hill was part of his pilgrimage journey, and he was rewarded for his faithful effort.

Saint Juan Diego also demonstrated great obedience in approaching the Bishop with news of an apparition and message from Our Lady – a task made possible by his simple and humble nature. Juan Diego trusted in the words of Our Lady when she told him that she would care for his uncle while he continued on the mission she requested.

The Saint Juan Diego Guild for Children is one means of keeping these noble attributes (perseverance in the Faith, obedience to those in authority, trust in God's providence) foremost in the minds of our children. Members of the Guild are encouraged in acts of obedience/charity toward parents and to pray "Saint Juan Diego, pray for me" at bedtime.

There is no "test", no "proof" to submit – nothing needed except effort to follow in the footsteps of a saint, encouraged, of course, by parental/adult guidance and prayers.

The spiritual benefits of membership in the St. Juan Diego Guild are worthy of the effort to enroll every child, whether or not they are able or old enough to do the two actions requested. Members of the Guild will be remembered in all Holy Masses celebrated at the Shrine.

On December 9<sup>th</sup>, the Feast Day of Saint Juan Diego, a special Holy Mass will be offered for all members of the Guild, whether they are present or not. Each child enrolled will receive a medal on a chain that has been especially designed for the Guild. A newsletter issued two times a year will seek to reinforce the desire to model their lives in imitation of Saint Juan Diego.

Since its historical beginnings on December 9, 2005, Guild membership has grown to over 500 children, including children from Ireland and England and many states throughout our nation. Children can be enrolled as individuals by parents, grandparents, relatives or friends. Groups of children, [school children, home school children, first communicants, or CCD] can be enrolled as a group with medals and ceremony text provided for your use in your own location. Additional information can be obtained by writing or calling the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe or by visiting the Saint Juan Diego page on the website:

**[www.guadalupeshrine.org](http://www.guadalupeshrine.org)**

Whether you enroll a child as an "active member" (making an effort to do the two activities suggested) or enroll a child as a "passive member" (desiring the spiritual benefits only), membership in the Guild is something nice we can all do for children. Our youngest member is an unborn child whose parents wish to benefit from being remembered in Masses now.

Join us as we do something so easy and yet so beneficial to the spiritual lives of our children.



**SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE**

5250 Justin Road • P. O. Box 1237 • La Crosse, WI 54601

Tel: 608/782-5440 • [www.guadalupeshrine.org](http://www.guadalupeshrine.org)

## At the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe Mexico City

By Guild President Frank Smoczynski

# Update on the Retreat Center

Last year, during our October pilgrimage to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City, we met with Monsignor Diego Monroy, Rector and Episcopal Vicar of the Basilica.

He met with Bishop Madera, Calvin Koepfel, our legal counsel, and myself. Also in attendance was the legal representative for the Basilica, Jose Duenas Mejia.

After the meeting, we had a better idea as to how we would fit into the Shrine's landscape, and we felt we had taken a positive step forward.

As it relates to the retreat center at the Shrine, the details were many, as you may well imagine. When you bring together the head of the Shrine, the Bishop representing the Guild, and attorneys, anything can happen.



**Basilica legal representatives and the Smoczynski family tour the Basilica area. The Casa I property is in the background.**

Bishop Madera did the translation when necessary. We agreed to visit with Mr. Mejia that evening, and we did so at our hotel. A lengthy discussion ensued and at the end of the discussion, we agreed to view properties very close to the Basilica the next day.

It was a very busy day. With the lawyer and his translator from the Shrine, we visited many properties. We spent some time at the Shrine in prayer and meditation after looking at maps and aerial photographs of the surrounding area. We visited Casa I and many other properties that the church has purchased to increase the size of the Shrine grounds, taking many photos of properties and surrounding land that might

be available to the Guild for our Retreat Center. After a very long day, we went back to our hotel and returned home a few days later.

The representatives of the Basilica do want to help us to become a part of the Shrine landscape. I have been working on legal and other issues regarding this project since the meeting, doing due diligence on all matters.

We will meet with them again in the next few months to see if we can come closer to realizing the dream of the long-awaited Retreat Center.

It looks good for the Guild to actually have one of Bishop Hastrich's dreams come true. There is still some work ahead for us, but it is Our Lady's work, and it will get done.

Keep us in your prayers and we thank you for your continued support of the Queen of the Americas Guild.



**Guild attorney Calvin Koepfel, Bishop Madera, and Frank Smoczynski before the Basilica meetings**



## The Guild Welcomes... ... Sister Christa Marie, F.S.G.M.

The Queen of the Americas Guild is pleased to welcome a new member to its Board of Directors, Sister Christa Marie, F.S.G.M.

Sister Christa Marie is a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George, with their Provincial House in Alton, Illinois.

Before entering religious life, Sister Christa Marie spent a number of years as a business professional in a major corporation, an experience that allowed her to be transferred often and experience life in several parts of the United States.

With a masters degree in English and another in Business Administration, Sister has the experience and training needed for her work as Executive Director at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe. "I never knew that my many experiences before entering religious life would come in so handy," Sister comments. "The Shrine uses all of my skills and then some."

"It is a privilege to be missioned to the Shrine at this time in its growth. Working for the Blessed Mother to help her Shrine become a reality is a grace beyond belief for me."



## The Latest on Juan Diego Film

*By Fr. Christopher Rengers, OFM, Cap.*

On Page 9 of the Guild's National Newsletter's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary issue, there was a mention of a long-planned-for major Guadalupe movie by Jerry and Marjorie Fairbanks. Here is an update on that. Jean Nieman, who made the 2005 Guild Pilgrimage, is now Project Representative for Kingfair Productions. She writes in reference to the movie:

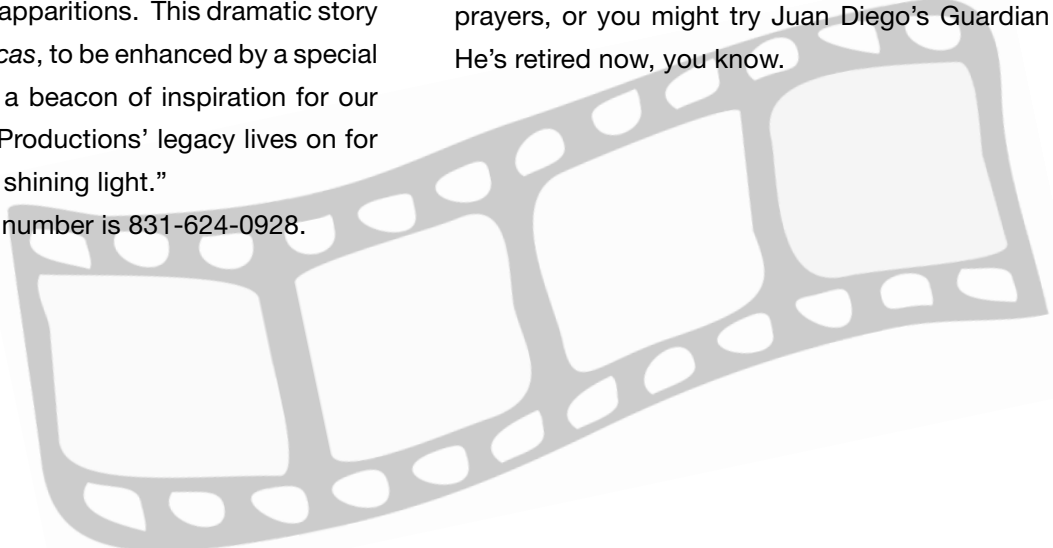
"The present time is the most propitious for this production based on the Mother of God's powerful message. It would also commemorate the long-awaited canonization of Juan Diego by Pope John Paul II in 2002.

"A prepared story treatment for this motion picture is a compilation of commissioned scripts that are in the Fairbanks' film vault, with footage taken in the 1960's at the site of the miraculous apparitions. This dramatic story of the *Queen of the Americas*, to be enhanced by a special musical score, would be a beacon of inspiration for our troubled world. Kingfair Productions' legacy lives on for hope of fulfillment of that shining light."

Jean Nieman's phone number is 831-624-0928.

Jerry Gaughan, whose name frequently appears in *Our Sunday Visitor* and other publications as representative for the Pennsylvania Capuchins Development Center, has taken an interest in the movie project and is making efforts to interest a possible producer for the Guadalupe movie. His appeal letter is sending along a fact sheet on St. Juan Diego prepared by a Capuchin friar. His phone is 412-682-1300.

What a great blessing it would be to have a major film about St. Juan Diego and his precious enduring tilma, the original holy image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. We recall – at least some of us older ones do – how *The Song of Bernadette* made known the story of St. Bernadette and Our Lady of Lourdes. Add this hope to your daily prayers. Perhaps St. Bernadette would be glad to receive your prayers, or you might try Juan Diego's Guardian Angel. He's retired now, you know.



# In 1531, Mary Intervened to Prevent a Clash of Civilizations...

## *...Will She Have to Do So Again?*

By Jim Coop

*"Am I not here, I who am your Mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection?"* The Blessed Virgin Mary spoke these words to an Indian merchant on December 12th, 1531, during the last of her several special appearances to him.

It is quite probable that one of the consequences of these apparitions was the prevention of an armed revolt of the native Mexican population against their Spanish conquerors. Another was the greatest mass conversion to Christianity in the history of the Church established by her Divine Son.

Today, we are being told that there is a 'clash of civilizations' between the Western and Islamic worlds. Few people, however, are asking if the Mother of God can help prevent this clash from becoming cataclysmic. Likewise few people know that the Koran, yes the Koran, speaks of her in this manner, "The angels said O Mary, God has chosen and purifies you ... He has chosen you above the women of the world". (3:37/41)

### Half A Millennium

It has been nearly 500 years since Mary appeared to Juan Diego and his uncle Juan Bernardino in a series of five apparitions and left an image of herself on Juan Diego's tilma that can be called history's greatest ongoing miracle.

Many things have changed since December 12th, 1531. The 'age of faith' which contributed to the Spanish conquest of the new world has essentially disappeared from the western world. Ironically, if it exists at all, it is much more likely to be found in the Islamic world, albeit sometimes in a violent, corrupted and even criminal form. Still, there are some lessons from the apparitions that can be very relevant to the problems of today, including the 'clash of civilizations'.

When Mary appeared to Juan Diego on Tepeyac hill in 1531, it had been a little over 10 years since Spanish explorer Hernando Cortes with his fellow conquistadors and their Indian allies conquered the Aztec empire. Like the great Catholic queen of Spain, Isabella, Cortes and many of the conquistadors did have a desire to have the native populations they subdued embrace the Catholic Faith. For Isabella, this was very important and a major reason she helped finance Christopher Columbus' first voyage to the new world in 1492.

For many of the conquistadors, however, once they arrived in the new world, their concern for the spiritual welfare of the native populations seemed confined to the next world. They acted as if they wanted the natives to get there as soon as possible. The great distance between Spain and the new world greatly hampered the Spanish crown's efforts to curb these abuses.

### Spreading The Faith

One thing the Crown did to help alleviate their plight was to send Franciscan and Dominican missionaries to

champion the Indian's cause and evangelize them in the Catholic Faith. Because of the abusive behavior of many of the conquistadors, however, converts to the faith were small in number. Even these paltry fruits could vanish if an armed revolt by the Indians many feared actually happened.

There were nearly 1,000 Indians for every Spaniard. Because of their treatment of the natives, the Spaniards were not likely to have many Indian allies that the Aztecs' practice of subjecting prisoners of war and others to human sacrifice had provided them during Cortes' conquest.

Thus, there was a very good chance that the Spaniards could be defeated if the armed revolt actually materialized. There was also a very good chance that the triumphant Indian populations would attempt to wipe out every vestige of Spanish rule, including the Catholic Faith.

This was the situation that existed in New Spain in 1531 when the Mother of God intervened. In addition to producing some of the most startling results in salvation history, her intervention provided future generations with much to reflect upon concerning not only its results but how she accomplished them.

### A Unique Choice

Consider the man she chose to be the primary human instrument in this important mission. Juan Diego was a humble man, who, along with his recently deceased wife and uncle Juan Bernardino, were among the relatively few Indians who had converted to Catholicism and devoutly practiced the Faith. In fact, he was on his way to receive further instruction in the Faith when Mary interrupted his journey on Tepeyac hill and requested that he tell the bishop that she wanted a chapel built in her honor at the location.

Juan had misgivings as to whether he was the appropriate messenger, particularly after the bishop told him he would take the matter into consideration, creating the impression that he doubted that Mary had really appeared to Juan Diego. Therefore, Juan requested Mary send another person, but Mary assured him he was the right man for the job. As events soon proved, Juan's ancestry, socioeconomic circumstances, ability to communicate and most importantly, personal piety, confirmed the wisdom of her choice.

Prior to his death in 1548, Juan told the remarkable story of how the Mother of God appeared to him and miraculously imprinted an image of herself on his tilma thousands of times. Next to the image itself, his retelling of these miraculous events led to the greatest mass conversion in the history of Christianity. Over 8 million Indians converted to the Faith before the death of Juan Diego.

Of course the image itself is the most remarkable thing about the Guadalupe apparitions story. It has been asserted that the Indians were greatly impacted by the image because

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Mary appeared dressed like an Indian princess.

The garments she wore, however, were not the style of dress of 16th century Mexican Indian women. They were the style of garments worn by Jewish maidens when Mary walked on this earth. As those following the current events in the Middle East can testify, they resemble the type of clothing still worn by many women in that area today.

Because Mary appeared in the type of clothing she wore when she gave birth to and raised her Divine Son, many believe that the face seen on the miraculous image is the same one Jesus and Joseph saw 2,000 years ago.

### **Special Messages**

Even though her style of clothing may not have had special significance to the native Indian population, the symbols on the clothing and her positioning on the image had enormous meaning for them. By standing on the moon and obscuring the sun's rays, she indicated that she was greater than any of the elements that they had been worshipping as gods. But by folding her hands in prayer, she indicated that there was a God or Being greater than herself. This same basic message was communicated in the symbolism contained in her clothing.

After viewing the image, Indians realized they could now worship the one true God rather than the false gods they had been serving in various ways, including the barbaric practice of human sacrifice.

Mary may have also used the inability of the Spanish to correctly pronounce the languages of the Indians to unify both of these races in devotion to her.

When she sent Juan Diego to the bishop with the sign requested by the bishop to prove she was really appearing to Juan, she assured him that his critically ill uncle Juan Bernardino would be cured of his illness. She performed this healing in person and told Juan Bernardino the name she wished to be referred to in relationship to these apparitions.

To the Spanish, this name sounded like Guadalupe, a site in Spain of a famous Marian shrine associated with the Spanish re-conquest of their nation from the Moors. Many of the Spanish associated with the exploration and conquest of the New World had made pilgrimages to this famous shrine. These individuals included Queen Isabella, Christopher Columbus, Hernando Cortes and Bishop Juan de Zumarraga, the bishop to whom Our Lady sent Juan Diego with her special request.

Although he was reluctant to accept the office of bishop in the most important city in New Spain, Juan de Zumarraga was a saintly Franciscan friar who possessed many qualities that were badly needed in the New World and also made him ideally suited for Our Lady's plan. His original skepticism concerning whether Mary was really appearing to Juan Diego was an act of prudence the Church expects from someone in his position. Also prudent was the request he made concerning some sign to validate the reality of the apparitions.

His great faith and piety was manifested in the penitential sorrow that he expressed when he saw the miraculous image imprinted on Juan Diego's tilma and the subsequent quick approval he gave for the requested chapel to be built. This chapel, the first of several that have housed the sacred image, was built in two weeks with both Indian and Spanish labor working on the project.

For modern men and women, however, there is another aspect of Bishop Zumarraga's role in this drama that needs to be examined. The willingness of the Mother of God, the Queen of Heaven, to request, not order, the chapel be built demonstrated her respect for the magisterial or teaching office of the church.

### **Mary's Message**

Mary seems to be telling men and women of all ages that it is to the magisterium of the church they must turn in order to discover the truth and learn how to use their freedom properly. Her actions made these teachings of the catechism come alive. "The pastoral duty of the magisterium is aimed at seeing that the people of God abide in truth" and "Personal conscience should not be set in opposition to the moral law or magisterium of the church."

In asking others to do what she did at Guadalupe and in her life on earth, she was showing them what her Divine Son meant when he said, "You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free." (John 8:32) In *Redemptoris Mater*, Pope John Paul II wrote, "Mary is totally dependent upon God and completely directed towards him, and at the side of her Son, she is the perfect image of freedom and of the liberation of humanity and of the universe".

Pope John Paul II recognized that the western world has made more advances in the promotion of human rights than anywhere else. "This heightened sense of the dignity of the human person and of his or her uniqueness and of the respect due to the journey of conscience is one of the positive achievements of the modern culture." (V.S. #31)

### **Crisis in Western Thought**

Nevertheless, in the West, this respect for personal conscience and individual uniqueness is often being translated into a vision of moral autonomy, an autonomy lacking any reference to the truths of the moral law or the common good.

Nothing better illustrates this crisis in western thought and values than the positions being taken by many western nations on women's and children's rights, particularly at international conferences. In conjunction with sexual behavior and reproductive issues, these nations are often asserting that, if women and at least adolescent children wish to engage in premarital, extramarital and homosexual activity, there is nothing wrong with their behavior, if they have freely chosen to engage in it.

Obviously, this notion of freedom conflicts with the teaching of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. It is also a prime example of how freedom negates and destroys itself and

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becomes a factor leading to the destruction of others when it no longer recognizes its essential link with truth". (E.V. #19)

Islam means submission to the will of God and any attempt to foist upon the Islamic world the idea that men and women should have the freedom to violate the moral law of God with impunity is a recipe for disaster.

Let us not forget that the Catechism recognizes the limitations of freedom. "The exercise of freedom does not imply a right to say or do everything." The Virgin Mary understood this perfectly and always used her freedom to do God's will which is why she is the most "perfect image of freedom." This is why she is not only the most revered woman in Christianity but also of Islam. There are actually more references to her in the Koran than the Bible.

### **A Bridge Between Two Worlds**

Therefore, might not Mary serve as the bridge between the Western and Islamic worlds? Actually, many Moslem women not only resemble Our Lady in their style of dress but also in the practice of a virtue that Western women must once again embrace if Western civilization is going to endure, let alone expand: chastity.

Many years ago, Archbishop Fulton Sheen noted the difficulties Christian missionaries were having in converting Moslems to the Faith. He proposed as a solution to the problem fostering devotion to the Virgin Mary.

In his book, "The World's First Love", he wrote, "It is our firm belief that the fears some entertain concerning the Moslems are not to be realized, but that Islam will eventually be converted to Christianity. This will not happen through the direct teaching of Christianity, but through the summoning of the Moslems to a veneration of the Mother of God....Because Moslems have a devotion to Mary, our missionaries should be satisfied merely to expand and develop that devotion with full realization that Our Lady will carry the Moslems the rest of the way to her Divine Son."

When and if such an effort is ever made is in the hands of God. Sometimes the mysterious ways of Divine Providence are not ours to fathom. It certainly is not likely that on the night of December 12th, 1531, either Juan Diego or Bishop Juan de Zumarraga had any idea that the miraculous events of the day would soon lead to the conversion of over 8 million Indians to the Catholic Faith.

Only God knows whether a similar type of intervention is going to be required to prevent the 'clash of civilizations' between the Western and Islamic world from threatening the continued existence of mankind.

But should not we "poor banished children of Eve" not only ask Our Lady of Guadalupe to pray for us but under one of her other titles, the Seat of Wisdom, grant us the guidance to use our freedom to seek the truth? This is the only certain way to bring peace to mankind.

## **Now available – "A Fragrance of Roses" A Powerpoint Presentation**

Many years ago, Guild member Ed Schaeffer created an excellent 35mm slide show presentation of the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe, which he titled "A Fragrance of Roses". Recently, the Queen of the Americas Guild has had many requests for an educational tool in a similar vein, that could be used by schools and various church groups to introduce Our Lady to new audiences.

While Mr. Schaeffer's presentation contained a wealth of excellent information, the 35mm slide show technology used was virtually obsolete. The Guild set out to bring the presentation into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Using Mr. Schaeffer's slide show as a starting point, the Guild has created the new "Fragrance of Roses" in computer Powerpoint format. This comprehensive, narrated presentation covers the entire story of Our Lady's apparitions, historical background leading up to her appearances, and information on all of the Basilica's facilities.

The presentation can be run on any PC-based computer, and does not require the installation of the actual Powerpoint program. An LCD projector hooked to the computer makes it possible to share the presentation with large groups, but, of course, it can also be viewed on any computer screen. A DVD version is planned. Check our website often for details.

"A Fragrance of Roses" is available for \$15, plus \$4.00 shipping. To place your order, contact the Guild office at 630-584-1822.

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**Footnote:** Sadly, while putting the finishing touches on the presentation, the Guild learned that Ed Schaeffer had recently passed away. However, representatives of his estate noted that he would have been pleased to learn that his material was being used for educational purposes, as the two most important things to him were his faith and education. We are grateful to Mr. Schaeffer for his many contributions.

## “A Life Changing Experience”

By Steve Banaszak

Pilgrimage – as defined in Webster’s Dictionary is: “A journey of a pilgrim; especially one to a shrine or sacred place,...”

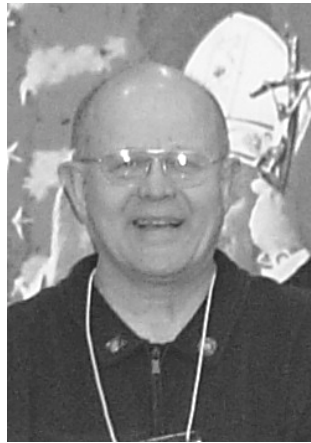
How sacred a place and important is a pilgrimage to the Basilica in Mexico City, and the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse, Wisconsin? The answer is in Mary’s message of December 9, 1531 to St. Juan Diego: *“Know for certain, least of my sons, that I am the perfect and perpetual Virgin Mary, Mother of the True*

*God through whom everything lives, the Lord of all things near and far, the Master of heaven and earth. It is my earnest wish that a temple be built here to my honor. Here I will demonstrate, I will exhibit, I will give all my love, my compassion, my help and my protection to the people. I am your merciful mother, the merciful mother of all of you who live united in this land, and of ALL MANKIND, of all those who love me, of those who cry to me, of those who seek me, of those who have confidence in me. Here I will hear their weeping, their sorrow, and will remedy and alleviate all their multiple sufferings, necessities and misfortunes.”*

The countless graces, favors, and miracles given to those pilgrims who have followed Mary’s directions at Mexico City since 1531 are already beginning at the La Crosse Shrine, where the Shrine church is still under construction.

The goal of the Queen of the Americas Guild, and the staff of the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, is to bring the ingredients together so that the Jubilee Year Pilgrimage to Mexico, and what we hope will be the annual pilgrimage and conference at LaCrosse, could be for the participants a “Life Changing Experience!”

The Spiritual Leader for this year’s pilgrimage to Mexico is Bishop Joseph J. Madera. As a newly



Steve Banaszak

ordained priest, Bishop Madera celebrated his first Mass on the main altar of the Basilica. His religious order, the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit, was founded on the slopes of Tepeyac. Some of the members of his family suffered persecution and martyrdom during the religious persecutions in Mexico. Bishop Madera’s charisma and knowledge of the sacred places, history, and people of Mexico is second to none.

The pilgrimage will also be visiting other sacred places, including a visit and Mass at Tlupetlac, the site of the 5<sup>th</sup> apparition of Mary, where St. Juan Diego’s uncle Juan Bernardino was healed, and Mass at the Church of St. Michael with its miraculous well that has flowed for almost 400 years. It is here that St. Michael appeared to Diego Lazaro in 1631 and touched the earth with a golden staff pointed toward heaven. Then a great and startlingly brilliant beam of light came forth from the sky like a sun-beam to mark and illuminate the place of the spring. St. Michael said, “This light which you have seen descend from heaven is the virtue which God is giving to this spring for the health and healing of all infirmities and necessities. Make it known to all.”

Archbishop Raymond L. Burke, Bishop Madera, and Msgr. Hastrich (brother of the late Bishop Hastrich, a founder of the Guild) will all be part of this year’s conference in La Crosse.

Please come to either or both of these sacred places, where Mary has promised, *“...I will hear their weeping, their sorrow and will remedy and alleviate all their multiple sufferings, necessities and misfortunes.”* Join us for your own “Life Changing Experience”!

## It's Good to Hear from You!

The officers of the Queen of the Americas Guild appreciate the kind and loving comments they receive from Guild members. Here are a few that have been received recently:

• • • •

*I received your beautiful (25<sup>th</sup> anniversary) folder and enjoyed especially the Pope John Paul II pictures. Thank you and God bless your work.*

• • • •

I'm writing to congratulate you on your 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Also I'd like to thank you for the beautiful and very interesting Newsletter. It is something I will always treasure!

God bless you for the wonderful work you are doing and great success in all undertakings.

• • • •

*Thank you for sending the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary book. It is so very beautiful, and it contains many fine articles and pictures – even pictures of people whom I know.*

*May God continue to bless the work of the Guild. Also, I wish to thank all the active members who work so hard to promote the work of our dear Lady.*

• • • •

From Bro. Martin, Marytown National Shrine of St. Maximilian Kolbe:

Congratulations on your 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Queen of the Americas Guild. The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary booklet was a great tribute to Our Lady. Any Marian lover of Our Lady would be very proud and grateful for all the hard work you and your guild have done over all these years. It really gives special joy to me personally because of how much we all owe to Our Mother for her tender loving care. All of us here at Marytown certainly have experienced her powerful influence.

I have always loved the tender words of our Lady to St. Juan Diego: *"Am I not here who am your Mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Am I not your fountain of life? Are you not in the fold of my mantle, in the cross of my arms?..."*

I am grateful for the three times I was able to be at the shrine on the feast Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>. What a great experience it was each time.

In closing, Frank, I promise you and the Guild my personal prayers, and thank you once again for all you have done for our Queen and Mother.

## The Rosary Prayer by Prayer

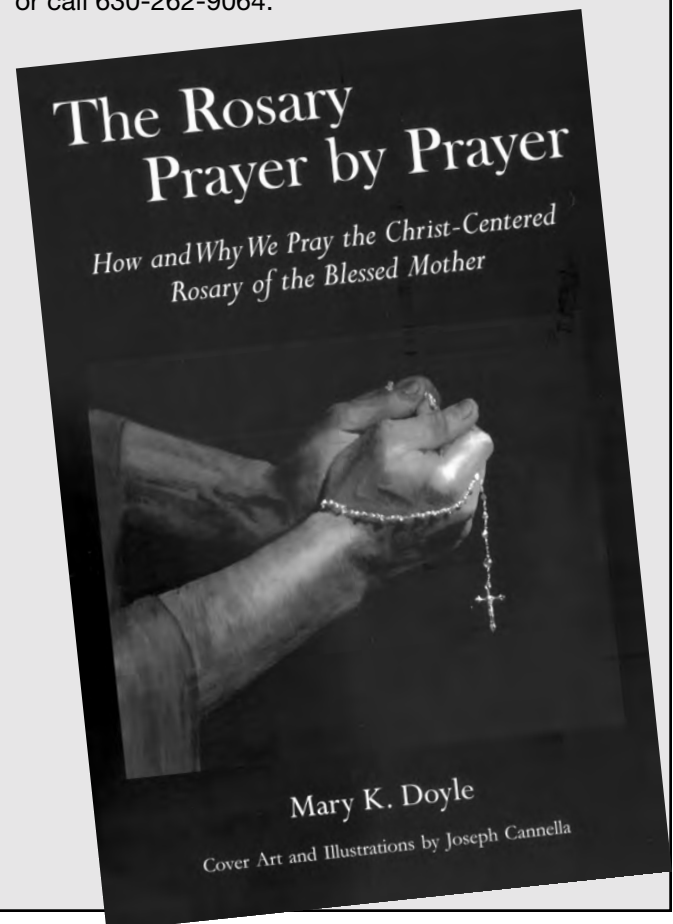
Most people know that the rosary is prayed in honor of the Virgin Mary, but few people realize that, more importantly, this prayer form is a celebration of Jesus Christ. Meditation on what is known as "mysteries" focuses on the birth, ministry, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus.

Although a Catholic tradition for more than 500 years, the rosary appears complicated and confusing to those unfamiliar with it. This is unfortunate because the rosary prompts a heightened contemplation upon our faith in a personal way.

Now there is a book that clearly answers the many questions surrounding the rosary. In *The Rosary Prayer by Prayer*, Mary K. Doyle offers background information on the rosary and reflections on the mysteries that are powerful and insightful.

A member of the Queen of the Americas Guild, Ms. Doyle holds a Master's Degree in Pastoral Theology and has been a professional writer for more than 30 years.

For further information, contact the publisher, Mary Brodien, at 3E Press, [3epress@sbcglobal.net](mailto:3epress@sbcglobal.net) or call 630-262-9064.





## Mary, Mother of the Church

*By Reverend Monsignor George Hastrich*

Cheers reverberated in the immense Basilica at St. Peter's in Rome when it was announced during the Second Vatican Council that the Blessed Virgin Mary would be proclaimed "MOTHER OF THE CHURCH".

Those of us who are familiar with the appearance of The Blessed Virgin Mary to Juan Diego in Mexico in 1531, will recall her words to Juan Diego. *"Am I not your Mother?"*

Some 400 years later the Fathers at the Council responded with a resounding "Yes! You are the Mother of the Church."

As if to reaffirm us, the Gospel tells of Mary on the occasion of Jesus' first miracle at the wedding feast at Cana. Mary told the waiters, (and us): "DO WHATEVER HE TELLS YOU" – prior to our Lord's miracle of changing the water into wine. What beautiful motherly advice to all her children are these words – the last recorded words of Mary in the Scriptures.

Who can forget – among the seven last words of Jesus on the cross, when He entrusted Mary to the care of St. John the Apostle, (who symbolizes all of us) "BEHOLD YOUR MOTHER".

In my last article in this publication, I wrote of the "Legacy of Pope John Paul II". Part of that legacy is the great devotion Pope John Paul had to our Blessed Mother. In addition to his own praying of the Rosary, his own Papal "Coat of Arms" with the words "Totus Tuus" – "All yours" – we know how he ended every Papal document, encyclical, Apostolic Letter by entrusting its message and implementation to the

intercession of the Holy Mother of God.

We may recall that at the beginning of the Third Millennium – (the year 2001), Pope John Paul called the Church to a "NEW EVANGELIZATION" – a new and contemporary preaching of the Gospel. He had already given us what he himself considered the greatest

achievement of his pontificate – the publication of 'THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH'. His writings and the Catechism provided us with all the teaching and learning sources we need to evangelize.

But before teaching others, we have to evangelize ourselves. Do we ourselves, as children of Mary, "Our Lady of Guadalupe", know the teaching of this Church, of which she is the Mother? Do we love the Church as Mary does? Do we study the Catechism and read the writings of Pope John Paul?

We have two great sources of Catholic evangelization in our country now: EWTN on television and Relevant Radio on the airwaves, 1240 AM in the Madison and Wisconsin area. Both have national outreach and are inspirational and educational. I recommend them highly.

If we wish to be devoted children of Mary, we will try to know and live our Catholic faith as taught to us by the Catholic Church, of which Mary is the Mother.



**Rev. Msgr. Hastrich**

## New Use for the Old Basilica

*By Fr. Christopher Rengers, OFM, Cap.*

Since the Queen of the Americas Guild was started in 1979, there have been many developments around the Guadalupe Basilica area. We note in particular that the Old Basilica of 1709 has been re-opened and is now used as a Shrine of daily adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

In the place where the tilma of Juan Diego [which is the real, unpainted image of Our Lady of Guadalupe] was venerated for more than two and a half centuries, the large monstrance with the Blessed Sacrament is placed daily for adoration. Signs advise keeping silence.

At any time of the day from the opening Mass in the morning till evening, there are people worshipping quietly. You can think of no better use for the Old Basilica or one more pleasing to Our Blessed Mother.



## “Wonderful!”

Many pilgrims for the 2005 Queen of the Americas Guild's visitation to Mexico “In the Foot Steps of Juan Diego” felt compelled to share their comments about their experiences:

• • • •

*Our pilgrimage to Mexico City was super. Thank you for all the preparations you made to make our trip most memorable. Raul was a great guide, and Bishop Madera was special. All the pilgrims were so friendly, and I'm looking forward to the next pilgrimage to visit and pray with Our Lady. God love all of you.*

• • • •

I really think we went with the nicest group of people. Everybody was so nice. Thanks again and may God bless you.

• • • •

*Thank you very much for the group pictures and list of our addresses. I enjoyed our pilgrimage.*

• • • •

I didn't expect such a well-organized pilgrimage. I found the trip very rewarding and will consider others. The trip caused me to join the Guild.

• • • •

*Overall the trip was spiritually educational, thus it is recommended to all. The tour guide (Raul) did a wonderful job. He had full knowledge of the places visited. He was helpful and has lots of patience, especially to the old.*

• • • •

I would like to put on record my appreciation to Rebecca Nichols' detailed and quick responses to my inquiries. If not for her “encouraging words” we might have decided to join the pilgrimage of another organization in London. The local tour guide Raul is very good in terms of looking after the pilgrims' needs. He is helpful and friendly.

Lastly, I pray and wish that your Retreat Centre be a reality ASAP. It would be a big plus for all.

• • • •

*The Queen of the Americas Guild 2005 Pilgrimage was an excellent trip. I'm blessed to be part of a beautiful, faithful pilgrimage that was meant for me. How blessed to be surrounded by people with great spiritual strength during the entire trip. Thank you for the pictures.*

## 2006 Catholic Festival of Faith

The Archdiocese of Chicago's Festival of Faith is a gathering of thousands of local Catholics to reflect, renew and rejoice in their faith through educational sessions and prayer.

From February 16 through 18, the Queen of the Americas Guild participated in the 2006 Festival of Faith, held at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont, Illinois. Keynote speakers included Bishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller, M.Sp.S.; Rev. Ted Ross, S.J.; Bishop Ricardo Ramirez, CSB; and Msgr. Jim Lisante. The highlight of the event was Saturday evening's closing Mass, celebrated by Cardinal Francis George, O.M.I.

Guild National Coordinator Rebecca Nichols, who staffed the Guild's booth at the Festival, says, “This was an excellent opportunity for the Guild. We were able to distribute our materials to thousands of people in attendance, and it was also an excellent networking opportunity. Many new members joined us, but more important, we were able to share the Miracle of Our Lady of Guadalupe with a very interested audience.”



For future activities of the Guild, check our web site often at [www.queenoftheamericasguild.org](http://www.queenoftheamericasguild.org).

## To The Mother's House

*Bishop Joseph J. Madera, M.Sp.S., Spiritual Moderator*

We hear the Blessed Mother's voice addressed to her son, Juan Diego.

St. Juan Diego was on his way to Tlaltelolco, the place where the Mexican natives received religious instruction and were initiated into the practice of the Catholic religion. The date was December 9, 1531 and at that time, the Church celebrated the Immaculate Conception of the Most Blessed Mother on that day. Juan Diego had to walk nine miles to reach Tlaltelolco.

Originally, when receiving religious instruction for baptism, he and Lucia, his wife, had to walk 15 miles from Cuahutitlán, where they resided. Later, after Lucia's death, Juan was staying at his Uncle Juan Bernardino's house in Tulpetlac.

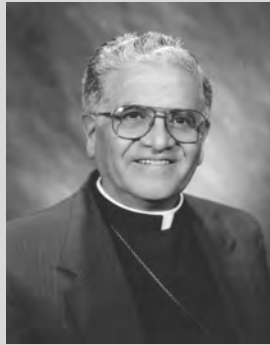
Juan was on his way to Tlaltelolco when, to his utter amazement, the whole mountain turned luminous. The rocks, and even the trees, were shining, and there was a sound of enchanting music like mellifluous birdsong filling the mountain. It seemed unreal.

Suddenly, a Lady of incomparable beauty appeared and called him by name. She said, "Juan Diego, Juan Dieguito, the smallest of my children, where are you going?" He answered that he was on his way to the church of Tlaltelolco to celebrate the holy mysteries and receive more religious instruction.

She continued, "Go to the house of the bishop of Mexico City and tell him that I sent you to tell him that I desire him to build a teocally (house of prayer) here by the mountain where I can listen to the weeping of his children and talk to them about God and His love for them."

Juan could not believe his eyes, but the Lady was insistent and told him that it was crucial that he be the messenger.

The bishop wanted to know the name of the Lady and demanded a sign proving the authenticity of such a vision. On December 12, the beautiful Lady sent the sign: she ordered Juan to climb to the top of Mt.



**Bishop Madera**

Tepeyac, which was a totally barren hill, especially in winter. Juan obeyed, went to the top of the mountain and there he found beautiful Castillian roses - despite the fact that such flowers were not yet cultivated in the newly discovered lands.

Juan Diego reached the bishop's residence carrying the roses in his mantle (ayate) and at the moment he unfolded it before the bishop, the unique, sublime and

incomparable image of the Blessed Mother was depicted there on the ayate!

Here was the sign Jesus' mother was sending to the bishop and to us all. It has been there welcoming generation upon generation of his children. Visitors travel from across the world by the millions to visit her house.

At the present time, the Basílica of Our Lady of Guadalupe is the Catholic site most visited in the world, more even than St. Peter's Basílica in Rome. They come to her and pour out their souls in her maternal presence. They talk to her without words, just looking at her and she looks back at them. She listens to their grievances and concerns, heals their wounds, comforts them and sends them home with the sweet balm of her love and consolation.

The ayate, or mantle, on which the holy image of Our Lady of Guadalupe was captured, is very perishable, made out of the mezcal fibers (cactus) which normally last no more than 10 years. It has been there for 475 years, despite the susceptibility of the material to decay and the criminal and sacrilegious activity of enemies of the Church who set a bomb near her altar in the year 1927, and despite the destructive elapse of time and inclement weather. For more than 135 years the image was not protected with as much as simple glass.

Let us then go to our Mother's house where she awaits us. We will meet in Mexico City on October 12, 2006.



## The Chapel of the Roses – El Cerrito

The Guadalupe tradition tells us that Tepeyac hill is where Juan Diego encountered our Lady, and she gave him the roses as a sign for Bishop Zumarraga.

Nevertheless, a chapel was not built on the hill until 1666 when a baker and his wife, Cristobal de Aguirre and Teresa Pelegrina, paid for the construction of a small church. Because of the volume of pilgrims who traveled to this miraculous place, it was soon found to be too small, so a larger church was constructed in 1740.

At that time, the chapel was dedicated to St. Michael the Archangel, guardian of Mary, so that all Guadalanos would be protected from its height.

As noted by the plaque on the right side of the chapel, the church went unfinished until 1950. In that same year, painter Fernando Leal painted the frescos inside the chapel. A Mexican artist who co-founded the muralist movement, Leal shows in his work the significant moments of the appearances of Our Lady.

In the vestibule area outside the chapel, four angels by sculptor Ernesto R. Tamariz stand guard over the entire Basilica area. In the area east of the chapel is a convent of Carmelite nuns.

In addition to seeing the chapel and its inner paintings, a trip up Tepeyac hill is worth the effort in order to see the beautiful views of Mexico from outside the chapel. On very clear days, you may be fortunate enough to see the volcanoes that are located some 50 miles from the city.



## Church of the Indians – Los Indios

The Church of the Indians was constructed around the old hermitage building that was Juan Diego's home during his final years. It was built around the year 1640 at the request of Luis Lasso, Vicar of Guadalupe. He is famous for being the one who, for the first time, made public the Nican Mopohua, the Nahuatl narration of the appearances of the Virgin of Guadalupe written by Antonio Valeriano. The church was established as a parish for the "Indians" in 1679.

From 1695 to 1709, the church housed the tilma of Juan Diego. During the War of Independence, from 1853 to 1896, the church had no ceiling, leaving its interior exposed to inclement weather. Thanks to the fundraising efforts of a group of priests, a complete restoration of the church was completed in 1998, the 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Juan Diego.

In the sacristy, located to the right side of the altar, it is possible to see part of the foundations of the first two chapels constructed at Tepeyac.

The third church dedicated to the Virgin was built around 1622 in the place that today occupies the old convent of the Capuchin sisters.



Los Indios

## The Church of the Well

At the base of Tepeyac hill is a spring that has traditionally been considered the unequivocal sign of the location where Juan Diego spoke with the Virgin. Word of the spring's location spread quickly. Unfortunately, the spring became a center for the spread of disease since it was used for both washing of wounds and drinking.

In order to end this problem, the spring was covered. Through the passage of years, the cover deteriorated. Later, a church was constructed around the well. It was completed in 1791. Constructed in the baroque style, the church is unique because of its circular base, which allows the visitor to perceive the space slowly.

The decoration of the church denotes a feeling of movement, which naturally guides the eye upward toward the cupola. The symbols painted in the cupola are the Marian symbols that appear in the Loreto Litany, the final part of the prayer of the Rosary – the mirror of virtues, tower of David, stars in the morning, etc.

Another element of decoration is the carving of Juan Diego in the wooden pulpit.

## The Glories of Guadalupe

Few of the pilgrims who go to Mexico City to pray before the Image of the Virgin of Guadalupe know of the magnificent art collection that is housed in the Museum of the Basilica of Guadalupe. The collections were produced over the course of three and a half centuries.

The invaluable Tepeyac collection was formed as of 1531 when the worship of the venerated image started.

The first “Guadalupan” copies date back to the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, gathering strength the middle of the century. When the old basilica of Arrieta was sanctified in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the abbots inaugurated an acquisition policy so the century is now called the “Guadalupan” century.

The production of art continued in the 19<sup>th</sup> century at a lesser rate, with stylistic changes.

In 1895, Angel Vivanco Esteves began forming a collection of works with a “Guadalupan” theme, especially documents and stamps.

In 1941, the 20<sup>th</sup> Abbott of Guadalupe paid special attention to the art treasure that had grown in size, and on October 12, 1941, the museum, under the name “The Art Treasures of the Basilica of Guadalupe” was inaugurated.

Monsignor Cortes y Mora wanted it to be a religious museum so the pieces could be used for teaching, and he was very concerned with the enrichment and care of the collection. He created the School of Industrial Art of the Basilica de Guadalupe. Students made and adorned frames for the canvases and restored paintings and sculptures.

Monsignor Guillermo Shulenberg, the 21<sup>st</sup> Abbott of Guadalupe, decided to increase, preserve, and diffuse the collection. During the seventies Jorge Guadarrama was named director of the museum. He inventoried the collection that included not only pieces related to the worship of the Virgin, but also very valuable collections from the time of the Viceroyship including a portrait gallery, European art from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, ivory sculptures, engravings, photographs, popular and the applied arts such as a splendid furniture collection, tapestries, liturgical vestments and a magnificent silver jewelry collection.

After the school disappeared, he founded the Conservation Workshop where the most advanced techniques in the world were used.

In 1980, as preparation began for the 450-year celebration of the apparition, there was another project, “The Exhibition of the Virgin of Guadalupe in Art.”

About that time, the boom in Guadalupan art started, as many families wanted images of the Virgin in their homes.

Today the collection is made up of 1,564 pieces that are distributed as follows: 116 Guadalupan paintings; 225 of other themes; 800 registered votive offerings; 45 examples of embroidery; and 67 engravings, excluding the choral chair, furniture, silver altars, etc. The treasure in its entirety has never been fully known, as only some pieces are exhibited and others are on loan to temporary exhibitions in Mexico City and elsewhere.

## 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 appliances 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 checks in a safe place.

### 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?

U.S. dollars are easily exchanged for pesos in banks, major hotels, airports and exchange houses. However, it is not necessary to exchange large amounts of currency as the vast majority of stores and street vendors in Mexico City gladly accept U.S. currency.

### 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.

## Historic, Inspiring Puebla

In past years, pilgrims attending the Queen of the Americas Guild conferences in Mexico City have been enthralled by their visits to the city of Puebla, but felt frustrated because there was so much to see and so little time. This year, the conference will include an overnight stay in Puebla so the attendees may experience this historic city more fully.

Founded during colonial times, the city of Puebla is the capitol of a state of the same name. In spite of a growing industrial base, Puebla has managed to preserve some of its old character, and it possesses some of the most important colonial works of art in Mexico.

**The elegant and majestic Cathedral** is the second largest in the country and many regard it as the finest in Mexico. Consecrated in 1649, it combines early baroque with the most refined architectural style of the Spanish Renaissance.



**Queen of the Americas Guild pilgrims gather in front of the Puebla Cathedral.**

Somber on the outside, the inside features the fine main altar, the work of the famous neoclassical artist Manuel Tolsa, and looks like a miniature Roman temple. Angel statues around the atrium symbolize the town whose full name is Puebla de los Angeles.

The pride of Puebla's religious architecture is tucked inside the 16<sup>th</sup> century **Santo Domingo** church: the breathtaking **Capilla del Rosario** by the main altar is a dazzling mass of baroque gilt decoration.

Famous Talavera pottery is everywhere in Puebla. The technique was introduced to Mexico in the 16<sup>th</sup> century by Dominican monks from Talavera de la Reyna in Spain. Some workshops in and around Puebla give tours, explaining the process from beginning to end.



**Shopping for pottery in Puebla.**

## 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.



# 2006 QUEEN OF THE AMERICAS GUILD GUADALUPE JUBILEE YEAR PILGRIMAGE OCTOBER 12 - 17, 2006

## Thursday, October 12

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

## Friday, October 13

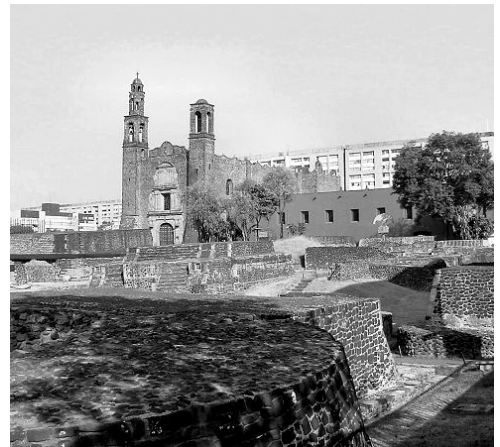
Gather in the meeting room after breakfast for Bishop Madera's explanation of the history of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Depart for the Great Basilica and Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe where Bishop Madera will celebrate Mass.

After Mass, enjoy a guided tour of the Basilica and a close-up view of Our Lady's image from the walkway below.

Lunch will be served on the Basilica grounds. Visit the top of Tepeyac Hill where Our Lady appeared to St. Juan Diego. Tour the Guadalupe Museum and the remainder of the Basilica grounds. View the Guild's retreat center property. Dinner at the hotel and overnight. (B/L/D).

## Saturday, October 14

After breakfast, check out of the hotel and travel to Puebla. Check into the Holiday Inn Centro Historico and have lunch. Sightseeing of Puebla will include the Santo Domingo Rosary Chapel, colonial buildings, the San Francisco Church. Mass at Puebla Cathedral and an in-depth tour of the Cathedral. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight. (B/L/D).



Plaza of the Three Cultures



## Requirements to Enter Mexico

The Government of Mexico requires that all U.S. citizens present proof of citizenship and photo identification for entry into Mexico. U.S. citizenship documents such as a certified copy (not a simple photocopy) of a U.S. birth certificate, a Naturalization Certificate, a Consular Report of Birth Abroad, or a Certificate of Citizenship are acceptable.

However, the U.S. Embassy recommends traveling with a valid U.S. passport to avoid delays or misunderstandings. Driver's permits, voter registration cards, affidavits and similar documents are not sufficient to prove citizenship for readmission to the United States.

U.S. citizens traveling as tourists beyond the 20-kilometer border zone or entering Mexico by air must pay a fee to obtain a tourist card, also known as an FM-T, available from Mexican consulates, Mexican border crossing points, Mexican tourism offices and most airlines serving Mexico. The fee for the tourist card is generally included in the price of a plane ticket for air travelers.

Mexican law requires that any child under the age of 18, of any nationality, traveling into or out of Mexico, must carry notarized written permission from any parent not traveling with the child. The child must carry the original letter - not a faxed copy or scanned copy - as well as proof of the parent/child relationship (usually a birth certificate) and an original custody decree, if applicable.

For further information, go to the web at <http://travel.state.gov/>

**Basilica gardens****Metropolitan Cathedral**

## **Sunday, October 15**

Check out of the hotel after breakfast and travel to Tlaxcala for Mass at the Church of San Miguel del Milagro. Lunch at a local restaurant, Las Cazuelas. Visit the Basilica de Ocotlan. Return to Mexico City and check in at the NY Krystal. Dinner and an optional excursion to the world famous Folkloric Ballet of Mexico at the Palace of Fine Arts. (B/L/D)

## **Monday, October 16**

After breakfast, travel to Tlaxpetlac for Mass at the Shrine of the Fifth Apparition where Our Lady appeared for the final time. You will be able to get some of the miraculous holy water directly from the shrine's well. Return to Mexico City for lunch at the hotel. Tour the beautiful Metropolitan Cathedral, site of bishop Juan de Zumarraga's tomb and on to the Plaza of the Three Cultures. Visit the Church of Santiago de Tlateloco where St. Juan Diego was baptized.

Return to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe for a final visit with Our Lady. Enjoy free time for personal reflection and prayer and explore the beautiful grounds of the Basilica on your own. Dinner at the hotel with closing remarks from Queen of the Americas Guild representatives. (B/L/D).

## **Tuesday, October 17**

Enjoy breakfast, then check out of the hotel and transfer to the Benito Juarez International Airport for the flight home. (B).

### **Pricing**

Land only price: \$1,040.00

Additional for air from: Chicago - \$350

Houston - \$285

New York - \$460

Los Angeles - \$350

Phoenix - \$335

Please contact Best Catholic Pilgrimages for pricing from additional departure cities. All prices are per person / double occupancy. Air Tax and Travel Insurance Premium are not included. Please see additional terms and conditions.

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Land and air air: \$65 per person

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[www.queenoftheamericasguild.org](http://www.queenoftheamericasguild.org)

# Registration Form

## The Path to Our Lady of Guadalupe The Queen of the Americas Guild October 12 through 17, 2006

Enclosed is my (our) reservation and deposit to secure my (our) place in the amount of \$250 per person, plus a non-refundable travel insurance premium of \$50 (land only) or \$65 (land and air) per person.

I understand the price is based on a group departure of 25 paying persons minimum, and I have read and understood the tour conditions.

This deposit is made payable to Best Catholic Pilgrimage.

**Land Only Price - \$1,040.00**

**Additional Air Fares**

**Departure from:**

☐ Chicago - \$350

☐ New York \$460

☐ Phoenix - \$335

☐ Houston - \$285

☐ Los Angeles - \$350

☐ Other - \_\_\_\_\_

All prices are per person, double occupancy. Airline prices are based upon availability. Air tax and travel insurance premium not included in pilgrimage price.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

Roommate \_\_\_\_\_



☐ I prefer single accommodations for additional \$350

*Detach this form and mail with payment to:*  
Queen of the Americas Guild  
c/o Best Catholic Pilgrimages  
1489 W. Palmetto Park Road #401  
Boca Raton, Florida 33486

# A Message From the President...

As you read through this year's newsletter, you'll notice several references to last year's Queen of the Americas Guild 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary issue. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who sent congratulations, thanks, and support in response to the newsletter. It has come to be a cherished keepsake for many, and we still have a few copies available. Contact the Guild office if you would like to obtain an additional copy.

It is also available to download in its entirety from our website at [www.queenoftheamericasguild.org](http://www.queenoftheamericasguild.org). We realize that we have set the bar high, and hope that you will find the 2006 issue just as rewarding.

The past year has been a busy one, as you will see when reading this issue. While preparing for this newsletter, I came to the conclusion that one of the most important things that we do, is that "we do". In other words, we are constantly "doing" something to share the miracle of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Through pilgrimages to Mexico or the Shrine in La Crosse, participation in the Festival of Faith, in-person presentations, or just contacting our members through mail and e-mail, we are constantly working to bring people closer to Our Lady.

Time and again, we have found that bringing people together to share Our Lady's message and love is the best way to reach an in-depth understanding and fully experience the miracle. Without fail, after each of our events, we receive many words of thanks noting that it was a "life-changing experience".

We are excited to continue to bring people closer to Our Lady in the upcoming year. We're particularly happy to continue our association with the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse, Wisconsin, through our second annual pilgrimage there this August 4 through 6. We are pleased to have both Archbishop Raymond Burke of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, Missouri and Bishop Joseph Madera, retired Auxiliary Bishop of the



**Frank Smoczynski**

Archdiocese for the Military Services, U.S.A. as guest speakers at this year's conference, along with Dr. Arthur Hippler and entertainment by Grammy nominated singer / songwriter Marty Rotella.

Nestled deep in the beautiful wooded hills of the Mississippi Valley, the Shrine is a "must-see" for any devotee of Our Lady. Its location in the upper Midwest makes it a convenient destination from almost any area of the United States.

Of course, the Guild and the Shrine share a similar goal; to bring people to the Blessed Virgin Mary, under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Thus, our association with the Shrine is a natural one – we are happy to work together to achieve that common goal.

We will also continue our tradition of an annual pilgrimage to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City, October 12 through 17<sup>th</sup>. This year is a Guadalupe Jubilee Year, and we look forward to visiting the Mother's House during this 475<sup>th</sup> celebration. To celebrate Mass in the presence of the actual image that Our Lady left on Saint Juan Diego's tilma is an experience you will never forget.

Being on pilgrimage with Bishop Madera as your spiritual leader is truly a blessing as he shares his knowledge and love for Our Lady in such a personal way with each pilgrim.

Of course, we also continue working on our Mexico retreat center. More information on this subject can be found on page 17.

We hope that you will join us in "doing something" to share the miracle of Our Lady of Guadalupe in the upcoming year. By sharing prayer cards or pamphlets, or by joining us in La Crosse or Mexico, you will be bringing yourself and others closer to Our Lady.

Please help the Queen of the Americas Guild continue to Share the miracle. Your prayers and donations are much needed and greatly appreciated.



## Officers and Board Members of the Queen of the Americas Guild

**President** ..... Frank Smoczynski

**Vice President** ..... Steve Banaszak

**Treasurer** ..... Beverly Smoczynski

**Episcopal**

**Moderator** .... Most Rev. Joseph J. Madera, M.Sp.S.,  
Auxiliary Bishop for the  
Military Services, USA, retired

**Directors** ..... Archbishop Raymond Burke  
Monsignor George Hastrich  
Father Christopher Rengers, O.F.M., Cap.  
Ruth Sloan  
Sister Christa Marie, F.S.G.M.

## Would you like to receive Queen of the Americas updates via e-mail?

If so, send a note to  
staff@queenoftheamericasguild.org  
and we'll put you on our e-mail list.

The Guild does not share, rent or sell  
membership information.

All addresses will be kept strictly  
confidential.

Be the first to hear about Guild events –  
send us a note today!

## Construction Update –

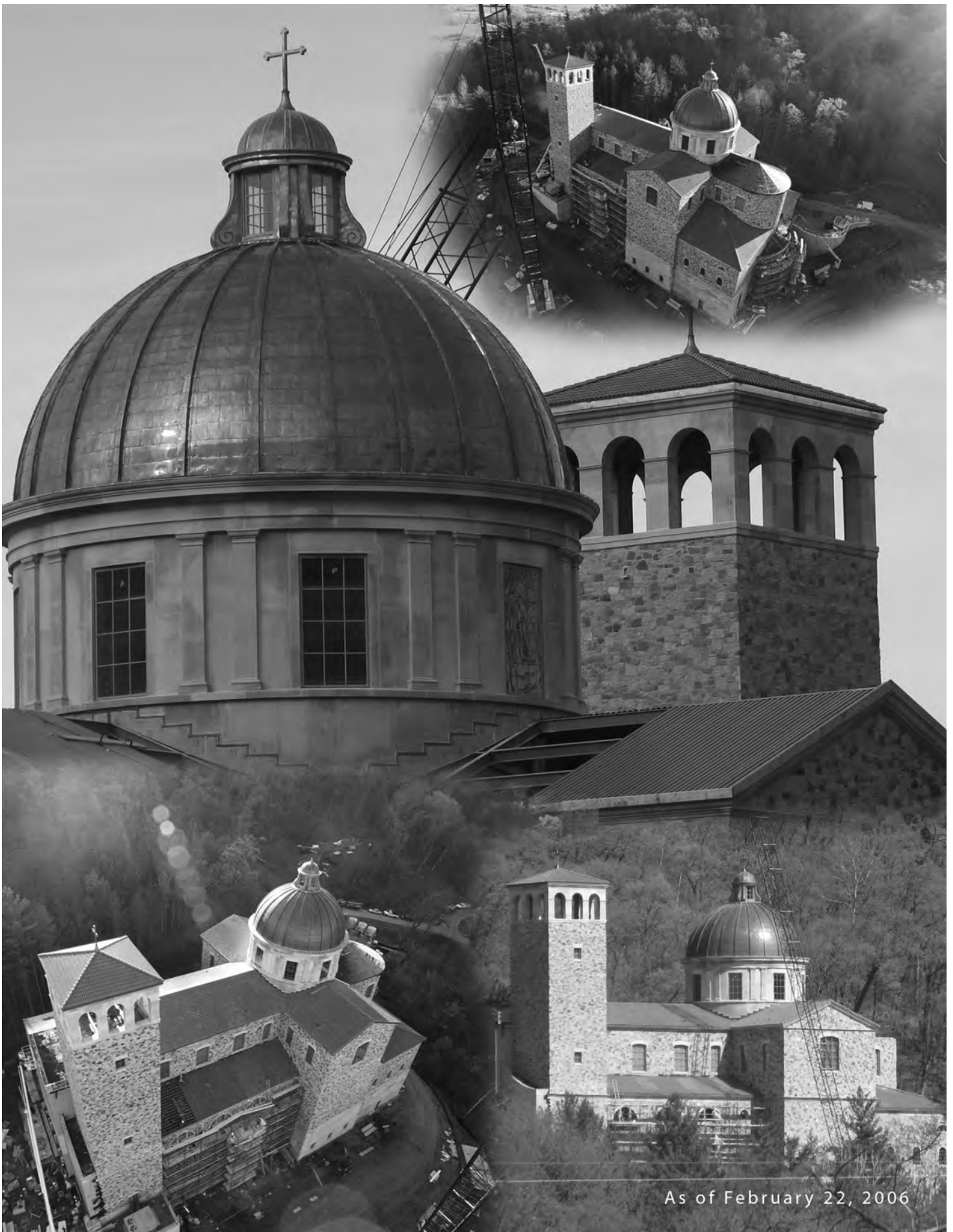
### The Church at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Construction continues on the Church at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse, Wisconsin. Built in the Romanesque style, the church dominates the landscape of the imposing Wisconsin bluffs, with its bell tower and copper dome reaching well above the treetops.

Construction of the church began on May 13, 2004. The cornerstone was blessed and put in place by Archbishop Raymond L. Burke on May 19, 2005. The huge project remains on schedule for completion in late 2007.

When complete, the Shrine church will seat approximately 400 people on the upper level with additional meeting space on the lower level. In the transepts and along the side aisles will be many devotional areas dedicated to our Lord and His Blessed Mother, and to the saints, especially Saint Joseph and Saint Juan Diego. Stained glass windows will depict the life of the Blessed Mother. Titles of honor from the Litany of Loretto will be etched in gold leaf throughout the main floor.

A beautiful bronze image of the apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe on the tilma of Saint Juan Diego in the presence of Bishop Juan de Zumarraga will be placed in the plaza of the Shrine Church. Through her inspiring image, Our Lady of Guadalupe will continue her mission of bringing Christ to us and bringing us to Christ.



As of February 22, 2006



# Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe

La Crosse, Wisconsin

*Shrine church construction project  
as of August 22, 2005*