





QUEEN



OF THE AMERICAS GUILD®



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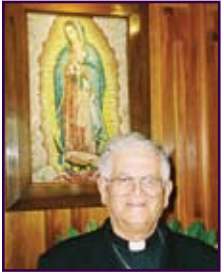
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Our Lady of Guadalupe

A Gift From Heaven

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



It is a sweet reality and we immensely rejoice with that privilege: Jesus' Mother cares for her Son's work, the redeemed mankind, and keeps herself in close contact with us all, her children. That was Jesus' last will, expressed at the very top moment of his human life, while he was nailed to the cross. He was about to depart from among us and dismissed the idea of leaving us orphans. Jesus was aware that near his cross were Mary, his mother, and John, the faithful disciple, who indeed appreciated Jesus and wished to remain with Him. Jesus was seeing us all in John's person, we, who love Him and cherish his message of salvation. Jesus, seeing his mother and the disciple near his cross, addressed John saying: "Behold your mother" and intensely staring at his mother, added: Behold your son". He put us all under her care and protection, forever.

The beginning of the sixteenth century was a time of suffering for the church, an era of division and desertion. Luther broke away from the church and started what is now called Protestantism. Henry VIII, moved by pride and human passions, separated England and his colonies from the Catholic church and founded the Anglicanism. The number of faithful Catholics seemed to be debilitated and discouraged. The response to the Popes and of the whole people of God reached heaven. Christopher Columbus discovered America in 1492 and Hernán Cortez, a Spaniard General, conquered the Aztec Empire in the Mexican Republic. People of the Americas dwelled in the darkness of idolatry and abandonment. Thousands of people were offered to false gods. Their cry reached heaven. A new challenge of evangelization had to be faced by the church.

The missionaries who arrived from abroad were not able to understand the natives of these lands. They ignored their language and the mentality of the people. They consistently prayed asking for help and assistance on their task of evangelization. When least expected, the Blessed Mother appeared to Juan Diego at Mount Tepeyac (Mexico). She presented herself as a pregnant woman, bringing a baby, a prince, in her womb, God's Son. She identified herself telling Juan Diego "I am the ever Virgin, Mother of God. Tell the Bishop of Mexico that I send you to show him how strongly I wish him to build me a temple here on the plain where I will show God to this people, I will exalt Him and make Him manifest, I will give Him to the people in all my personal love, in my compassion, in my help and in my protection".

Juan Diego went three times to the Bishop. It was hard to have access to him. The Blessed Mother insisted and sent to the Bishop the signal he requested as proof of her identity. Juan Diego had many worries in his life. His uncle Juan Bernardino was near death and Juan Diego wanted to take care of him in that moment. The Blessed Mother demanded from Juan Diego to carry out her wishes and stressed: "Don't let your heart be disturbed. Do not fear this sickness of your uncle or any other sickness, not anything that is sharp and hurtful. 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? Juan Bernardino healed in that very moment.

God sent us this sweet Mother, right there, at the house built in her honor. She consoles us and teaches us about God. What a beautiful gift we received from heaven! We, people of all the nations, are her beloved children. Let's go to her house and experience her sweetness.

2009 Mexico Pilgrimage

By Rebecca Nichols



The Queen of the Americas Guild held its annual pilgrimage to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe from February 26 to March 3, 2009, attended by our largest ever group of pilgrims. As National Coordinator of the Guild, I was pleased to join the group for the sixth time.

We were joined by a lively group of over 35 pilgrims from all over the United States, Canada, and as far away as the United Kingdom! We were also happy to see two couples who had joined us just last year return for their second pilgrimage. Once Our Lady touches you, she has a way of calling you back.

After a welcome dinner Thursday evening, which included a visit by Bishop Madera, the pilgrimage was off to a busy start on Friday morning. Bishop Madera, Auxiliary of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, U.S.A., emeritus, shared an inspirational and informative talk about the symbolism of Our Lady's Tilma. Through words and pictures, the group was led to a greater understanding of the miracle of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

The group then left for the highlight of the trip, to meet Our Lady at her shrine. Like many pilgrims, we processed up the avenue leading to the Basilica while carrying a large floral offering to Our Lady. Bishop Madera met us outside in the plaza, posed for a lovely group photograph, then welcomed us all into the Basilica. As we made our way up the center aisle with Our Lady's image before us, we were moved by the experience of finally being near the one



Bishop Madera celebrates Mass at the Puebla Cathedral.

true self-portrait of the Blessed Mother. After Bishop Madera had celebrated a lovely bi-lingual Mass, our pilgrims headed out with a renewed appreciation for Our Lady's miracle.

After Mass, pilgrims were led on a comprehensive tour of the Basilica area, which began with a short walk up the first steps of Tepeyac hill to view the property owned by the Guild. The group was informed of 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 that will be a safe place for pilgrims to gather, stay, and be close to Our Lady.

The Basilica area tour continued with a visit to the Guadalupe Museum, which houses hundreds of beautiful paintings and sculptures, most of which depict Our Lady in her many different apparitions. Although several of the older churches are closed for renovations, pilgrims enjoyed the beautiful sunny day with a complete tour of the Basilica grounds. 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.

Before returning to our hotel, we visited another important place in the story of Our Lady's Miracle, the Plaza of the Three Cultures. In this plaza is found the Church of Santiago de Tlateloco, where St. Juan Diego was baptized, and where he was headed when Our Lady appeared to him. His baptismal font can still be seen here.

After a full day immersed in the miracle of Our Lady of Guadalupe, pilgrims returned to the hotel tired, but thoroughly content with what they had learned, experienced, and most of all, felt by being in Our Lady's presence.

The next day began with a drive toward the colonial city of Puebla, located approximately 75 miles Southeast of Mexico City. On the way, pilgrims were treated to beautiful views of Mexico's countryside and mountains, including the nearby active volcano, Popocatepetl. Once in Puebla, we made our way to Santo Domingo church with its



Mariachis added a joyful element to the Mass at the Shrine of the Fifth Apparition.

magnificent Rosary Chapel. This chapel, completed in 1690, is entirely covered in ornate gold leaf, tiles, and fine woodcarvings, and is one of the finest examples of Baroque style in all of Mexico. From there we moved on to the church of San Francisco where we learned the story of Blessed Sebastian de la Aparicio and viewed his incorrupt body.

The day's Mass was celebrated by Bishop Madera at the beautiful Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, where members of our group were able to participate by doing the Mass readings. 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. This tiny chapel, hidden for centuries, is not open to the general public. Again, the honor of having Bishop Madera with our group allowed us this very special privilege.

After a delicious and festive lunch at a nearby restaurant, we began our journey back to Mexico

Through words and pictures, the group was led to a greater understanding of the miracle of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

City, with two stops along the way. The first stop was in the charming town of Tlaxcala, where we visited the Church of San Miguel del Milagro. The Blessed Virgin appeared here to Juan Diego Bernardino and directed him to an unknown spring, flowing with miraculous curative waters. Here our pilgrims were able to gather water directly from the well.

Bernadino, St. Juan Diego's uncle. The Mass' music was performed by a talented group of Mariachis, whose beautiful harmonies were a wonderful addition to the sacred music. Bishop Madera again celebrated the Mass, with some of our pilgrims doing the readings. Afterwards, pilgrims were able to purchase religious keepsakes from the shrine's gift shop. Later, many pilgrims remarked how they were moved to tears during

Many pilgrims remarked how they were moved to tears during this beautiful Mass.

Next on the agenda was the nearby town of Ocotlan, with its beautiful Basilica. Our Lady again appeared here, leaving behind her image burned into the trunk of an oak tree. This image is carefully preserved on the altar in this lovely church. Again, tired but fulfilled, our group returned to Mexico City for dinner and relaxation.

On Sunday morning, the group headed to Tulpetlac, site of the fifth apparition of Our Lady. Here we had Mass at the simple shrine built to commemorate Our Lady's appearance to Juan

this beautiful Mass; this site is truly special and Our Lady's presence can always be deeply felt here.

After lunch, we took advantage of our hotel's central location to take a walking tour of some of the Centro Historico district. We visited the National Palace, home to many stunning Diego Rivera murals, and learned the historic significance of the images portrayed in them. We continued on to the Templo Mayor archeological site, to view the remains of what was once one of the main Aztec temples in their capital city of Tenochtitlan. The



excavation of this site was only fully begun in 1976, yet has revealed a massive temple area, along with thousands of artifacts. Many of these finds are displayed in the modern Templo Mayor museum, which we also enjoyed as part of our tour.

The afternoon's touring concluded with a stop at the Metropolitan Cathedral, which houses the tomb of Bishop Juan de Zumarraga, the Bishop to whom St. Juan Diego revealed Our Lady's image. After another enjoyable dinner in the company of our new friends, some pilgrims chose to enjoy an evening out at the famous Ballet Folklórico, a study of traditional Mexican folk dances.

Monday morning's activities began with a visit to the charming neighborhood of Coyoacán. Here Bishop Madera celebrated Mass in the chapel at the Convent of the Holy Cross, whose sisters are affiliated with his order, the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit. As always, the sisters were most welcoming and gracious, and especially happy to see Bishop Madera. His Excellency enthusiastically shared the story of Venerable Conchita, whose works inspired the foundation of both the Sisters of the Cross of the Sacred Heart and the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit. A short distance away, we visited San Jose El Altílllo church to view the tomb of

Conchita, along with the church's beautiful stained glass window depicting the Holy Spirit. Bishop Madera had attended seminary here for a time, and his close connection with both the Sisters and the entire Coyoacán area translated into a most joyous visit for the pilgrims.

This afternoon, after a brief stop for shopping, our group headed back to the Basilica to say goodbye to Our Lady and to thank her for the many graces she had bestowed during our pilgrimage. Free time was spent in prayerful contemplation, shopping, or for the adventurous, in a climb up Tepeyac Hill. At this point, our journey was complete; we had traveled the footsteps of St. Juan Diego, and were left with a new understanding of Our Lady's miracle.

That evening, the group gathered for the last time for our farewell dinner. There was lively conversation between new friends, and all agreed that the pilgrimage had been a most rewarding experience. Our Lady had brought us together, and we had shared in her miracle. ■



Pictures from left to right: Fiesta celebrations continued in the streets well into Lent. Pilgrims walk through the Templo Mayor archeological site. Bishop Madera leads the group on a tour of the Convent of the Holy Cross in beautiful Coyoacán. Pilgrims wait as miraculous healing water is brought up from the well at San Miguel del Milagro.

New Book on Our Lady of the New Millennium – Now Available

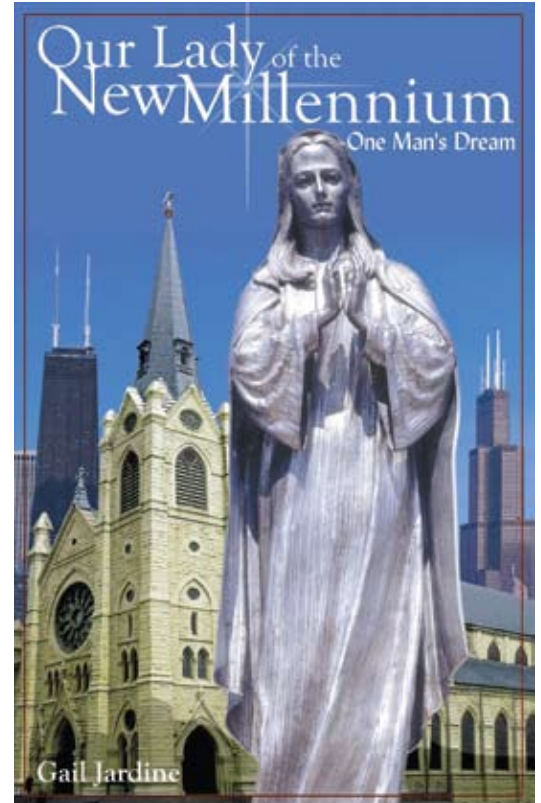
Throughout Chicagoland and beyond, many lives have been touched by the awesome 33-foot shining steel statue of Our Lady of the New Millennium.

The statue was the dream of the late Carl Demma, who vowed, at an early age, to build such a gift for the people of Chicago. The story of his lifelong determination to accomplish this goal is a story of countless challenges and unfailing faith.

Now a book has been written to chronicle this amazing story. *Our Lady of the New Millennium – One Man's Dream*, written by Gail Jardine, tells the story of the building of the statue and shares some of the inspiring stories of the ways Our Lady of the New Millennium has affected the lives of many.

The book, available in both soft and hardcover versions, was released on May 9, 2009, coinciding with Our Lady of the New Millennium's 10th Anniversary appearance at Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago. Francine Demma, curator of the statue, was on hand to sign copies of the book at that event.

The book is available for purchase on Amazon.com, www.OurLadyoftheNewMillenniumBook.com or through the Queen of the Americas Guild. ■



Did you know...?

ForbesTraveler.com has listed the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City as the world's second most visited religious destination, and the number one Christian destination. With as many as 20 million visitors annually, the Basilica outranks the Vatican and St. Peter's Basilica in visitor volume. During the December 12 Feast Day period alone, the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe welcomes 5 million pilgrims.



Excerpts from the Homily Archbishop Raymond L. Burke

Mass of Dedication of the Church and Altar of Sacrifice
Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe
La Crosse, Wisconsin
July 31, 2008

Praised be Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.

When the Mother of God appeared to Saint Juan Diego, for the first time on December 9, 1531, she spoke, most lovingly and directly, about the purpose of her apparition. She expressed her firm desire that a chapel be built, in which she might manifest the mercy and love of God to her children of America (cf. *Nican Mopohua*, nos. 26-32). She made it clear that, for the fulfillment of her desire, Juan Diego, a Native American whom she addressed as her dearest son, was to be her messenger to Bishop Juan de Zumárraga (*Nican Mopohua*, nos. 33-37).

The Blessed Virgin Mary appeared with child, with God the Son Incarnate in her womb, on what was, at that time and in that place, the feast of her Immaculate Conception. She appeared as the “woman clothed with the sun,” described in the *Book of Revelation*, who would bring forth from her womb “a male child, one who is to rule all the nations” (cf. *Rv* 12:5). Every detail of her vesture and of the setting pointed to the great mystery of the Redemptive Incarnation, of the Coming of the Second Person of the Holy Trinity in our human nature to save us from everlasting death and to win our hearts for God the Father, forever (cf. Pope Benedict XVI, Encyclical Letter *Deus caritas est*, “On Christian Love,” 25 December 2005, no. 17).

The Mother of God desired that a chapel be built, to which she would invite her children to come on pilgrimage, in order that she might show them anew the living presence of God the Son with them in His holy Church, accompanying them along the way of their life pilgrimage. At her fourth and final apparition to Saint Juan Diego, on December 12, 1531, our Lord granted that her image remain with us, in a miraculous way, on the *tilma* of Juan Diego. Her image, not made by a human hand, was to be enthroned in her chapel, so that she might continue to appear to her children and to speak to them her message of divine mercy and love. Through her



miraculous image, Our Lady of Guadalupe leads her children to know and live the truth that God the Son took a human heart under her Immaculate Heart, in order that He might offer Himself in a pure, selfless and total sacrifice to obtain, for them, the forgiveness of sins and a share in His inheritance of eternal life.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of God and Mother of America, leads her children to the Church, built upon the “rock” of Saint Peter’s profession of faith in her Son, the only-begotten Son of God: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Gospel). She draws us to the great mystery of God’s love of us in His only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in which mystery she, from the moment of her Immaculate Conception, has been the first and best co-worker. She teaches us the truth that, in Jesus Christ, by His living presence in the Church, gives, to Saint Peter and his successors, “the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven,” for the sake of the salvation of all mankind, without boundary or exception (Gospel).

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of God and Mother of America, leads her children to the Church...

By her apparitions to Saint Juan Diego, the Mother of God showed herself to be the first and best among us who are the members of her Son’s Mystical Body, the Church. She spoke and acted as the perfect woman of the Church, insisting that her desire of a chapel, of a place of pilgrimage, could only be accomplished with the blessing and at the direction of the Bishop, a true successor of the Apostles. Her apparitions and her message underlined for her children the truth that our Bishops and their priests are, in the words of Saint Juan Diego, “the images of our Lord,” through their teaching sanctifying and governing mission, carried out in His person as our Head and Shepherd (cf. *Nican Mopohua*, no. 24).

Inviting her sons and daughters to come on pilgrimage to her chapel, Our Lady of Guadalupe uncovers for them the extraordinary truth about their ordinary daily living, namely, that they are called to live in Christ, that Christ thirsts for their love, in order that they might belong totally to Him and in Him find joy and peace during the days of their earthly pilgrimage and the fullness of joy and peace at the end of their pilgrimage in “the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem” (*Heb 12:22*). Welcoming her children to her chapel, the temple of her Son, even as her womb was His temple, she teaches them that their daily living has its secure foundation in Jesus Christ, that they, too, are indeed temples of God, temples in which her Divine Son has chosen to dwell through the outpouring of His Holy Spirit (Reading II). Returning to their homes, her pilgrims will be filled with new enthusiasm and new energy to live in Christ more perfectly, in their homes, their parishes, their neighborhoods and local communities, and in the wide community of our world.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, drawing us to herself, takes us, with maternal tenderness and directness, to her Divine Son, above all, in the Sacraments of the Holy Eucharist and Penance, with the instruction which she gave to the wine stewards at the Wedding Feast at Cana: “Do whatever He tells you” (*Jn* 2:5). The words of her dialogue with her Son and Lord, and of her instruction to the wine stewards at the Wedding Feast at Cana are fittingly inscribed in the dome of this church which we will now dedicate to His and to her honor. They are, in short, the program of our life pilgrimage, which we discover anew on pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Our Lady, drawing us to her Son in the Holy Eucharist, also leads us to meet Him in the Sacrament of Penance, in order that our hearts may be purified of anything, even the smallest thing, which may keep us from resting totally in the glorious pierced Heart of her Divine Son. Integral to her invitation to come on pilgrimage to her chapel is her leading us to meet Christ in the Sacrament of Penance for the confession and forgiveness of our sins. Here, at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, at any hour, pilgrims, repentant of their sins, will be able to meet Christ in the Sacrament of Confession.

I conclude by returning to the beginning of our celebration. We began the Rite of Dedication by purifying ourselves, the church building and altar of sacrifice with Holy Water, and by listening to the Word of God, proclaimed for our instruction. The sequence of the Rite reminds us that there is something which must go before the union of our hearts with the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus. It is the opening of our minds through the confession of our sins and instruction in the Word of God, handed down to us faithfully in the Church. Like God’s holy people, at the time of the restoration of Jerusalem after the Babylonian Captivity, the hearing of God’s Word, proclaimed for us in the sacred assembly, fills our minds and hearts with sorrow for our sins and with the humble wonder at God’s immense love of us, which leads to true worship, to the encounter with God Who dwells with us, as we confidently and joyfully exclaim: “Amen, amen!” (Reading I).

Our Lady, drawing us to her Son in the Holy Eucharist, also leads us to meet Him in the Sacrament of Penance...

As we now dedicate the Church of the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe and its altar of sacrifice, let us recognize the great mystery of the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ in our midst, offering Himself to God and Father for our eternal salvation. At the invitation of Our Lady and one with her Immaculate Heart, let us recognize our Lord Jesus Christ in our midst and let us lift up our hearts to His glorious pierced Heart. May our hearts, one with His Most Sacred Heart, become ever more a fountain of the “living water” of divine love for all our brothers and sisters (cf. *Jn* 7:38; and Pope Benedict XVI, Encyclical Letter *Deus caritas est*, no 42). ■

Mary: Mediatrix of Eucharistic

By Fr. John Grigus, OFM Conv. *Reprinted with permission of Immaculata magazine.*



Graces

How is the Virgin “Substantially” Present at Each and Every Mass?



t. John Bosco, founder of the Salesian Order dedicated to caring for poor and orphan boys, was given a prophetic vision in 1862 concerning the state of the Church in the twentieth century.

The vision took the form of a naval battle. A huge ship was trying to make headway through rough waters, with vessels present on both sides of the ship. Some of them were firing at the huge ship in an effort to sink it. Standing at the helm of the ship was the Holy Father. In an attempt to lead the ship to safety, he was trying to anchor it to two huge pillars, one representing Mary and the other the Eucharist. This he would eventually do before the end of the century.

Immediately, Bosco understood that the ship stood for the Church with the Holy Father guiding it at the helm. Some of the smaller boats represented various groups seeking to overthrow the Church, from within and without. The two pillars stood for the two great devotions that would grow in fervor in the latter part of the twentieth century, one to Mary and the other to the Eucharist. To lead the Church to safety, the Holy Father needed to firmly anchor the Church to these two devotions.

The “New Marian Age”

How true this prophecy has proven to be! In the past thirty years we have seen an unprecedented rise in Marian devotions.

Devotion to Mary has always been affirmed by the popes, in particular by our last “Marian Pope” the late Pope John Paul II*, who on his papal coat of arms bore the motto, *Totus Tuus* (“All Yours [Mary]”). Marian devotion has also been spurred on in recent years by Marian renewal movements such as St. Maximilian Kolbe’s *Militia Immaculata*, the Legion of Mary, the Marian Movement of Priests, the Blue Army and new religious orders consecrated to Our Lady, as well as reported appearances of the Blessed Virgin and other supernatural manifestations, most of which still await the final judgment of the Church. And when proper devotion to Mary has been accepted and promoted, people have also experienced a greater love and appreciation for Christ’s presence in the Eucharist and the need to give themselves over to more fervent prayer, especially prayer before the Eucharist. This, in turn, has led many parishes and oratories to establish perpetual Eucharistic adoration within their domain, a

phenomenon that is rapidly increasing.

*Paragraph updated to denote passing of Pope John Paul II.

That this fervor is happening should not surprise us. It merely confirms what we in the Church have always believed about Mary; that her sole purpose is to lead us to Jesus. And since Jesus is really and truly present in the Eucharist, it makes sense that the Eucharist is also the focal point to which she would want to lead us. Since the Eucharist is the central mystery from which the Church receives its very spirit and identity, it is also no surprise that an increase in Eucharistic fervor should lead to greater love for, and commitment to, the Church itself.

Mary: Channel of Redemptive Graces

In all this, Our Lady is simply fulfilling the role as Mediatrix of All Graces. This is one of the many titles she bears by being not only the Mother of Christ, but the Mother of the Church, as well. As Chapter Eight of the Second Vatican Council document *Lumen Gentium* states, “The Blessed Virgin is invoked by the Church under the titles of Advocate, Auxiliatrix, Adjutrix, and *Mediatrix*” [my emphasis]. However, the council Fathers point out that these titles “neither take away from nor add anything to the dignity and efficaciousness of Christ, the one Mediator.”

To help us better distinguish between the term “Mediatrix” as it applies to Mary and “Mediator” which applies to Christ, theologians make a further distinction between the terms Objective and Subjective Redemption.

Objective Redemption refers to the “essential saving work of Christ accomplished on Calvary and its sequel the Resurrection.” Subjective Redemption refers to “the application of the fruits of Christ’s work completed once for all, to individual souls.” What the Church teaches in common with the entire Christian tradition is that salvation, or Objective Redemption, comes from Christ alone. What it asserts uniquely, however, in distinction to what is taught within the Protestant tradition, is that in the order of Subjective Redemption Christ has willed to apply all these saving graces to us through Mary.

Why is this so? Because it is through Mary that Jesus originally came, and furthermore, because it was

in cooperation with her as Coredemptrix that Jesus obtained our salvation. Perhaps he could have chosen to do it another way, but he did not. And since Mary is Mediatrix of the graces that flow from Christ “to us,” she must also be the Mediatrix of the prayers, sacrifices and offerings that come “from us” to Christ (more properly reflected in the title Advocate). This process is summarized in the phrase often invoked by the saints: “To (or from) Christ through Mary.” Yet in no way does this maternal mediation impede Christ’s union with us or ours with him. It is still Christ who unites himself with us as we with him, in and through Mary.

Mary: Mediatrix of Eucharistic Graces

If Mary is the Mediatrix of all Graces then she must be the Mediatrix of all Eucharistic graces as well. This means that she who is so intimately associated with her Son in the work of our salvation – from the Incarnation to its final consummation at the end of time – must also be present with him at every Eucharist where he gives himself to us as the “Bread of Life” and the “Cup of Eternal Salvation.”

But how is she present in the Eucharist? The dogmatic decree on Mary’s Assumption teaches that upon the completion of Mary’s life she was assumed into heaven, “body and soul.” If this is so, then she must also be present “body and soul” at every Eucharist. Hers must then be a substantial presence, as is that of Christ who has also risen to heaven body and soul. Both presences are in full substance and being, to be distinguished from the spiritual presence of the saints who have not yet been united with their bodies, or of the angels who are pure spiritual beings. She is substantially present at, but not in, the Eucharist, that is, in the consecrated host. That form of presence, of course, is reserved to Christ alone.

The words of Our Lady reportedly spoken to Fr. Stefano Gobbi of the Marian Movement of Priests seem to confirm this view. On August 8, 1986, in a message entitled, “Mother of the Eucharist,” the Blessed Virgin had this to say,

I am the Mother of the Eucharist. And, as a mother, I am always at the side of my Son. I was there on this earth; I am there now in paradise, in virtue of the privilege of my bodily assumption into heaven; and I am still to be found wherever Jesus is present, in every tabernacle on earth. Just as his glorious body, being beyond the limits of time and space, allows him to be here before

you, in the tabernacle of this little mountain church...So also your heavenly Mother, with her glorious body, which permits her to be both here and in every other place, is truly near every tabernacle in which Jesus is kept. (No. 330, p. 510)

But if the above quotation is true, that Mary is bodily present at every Eucharist, is she not also present precisely as Mediatrix who mediates Christ’s Eucharistic presence to us? This would seem to be implied by the title. After all, Mediatrix of All graces would mean Eucharistic graces as well!

How this happens remains a mystery and an object of theological speculation. Let us use imagery from everyday life to help us to understand more precisely.

How is Mary Present at the Eucharist?

For example, envision Mary to be like a “pipe” that connects the reservoir of the crystal clear water of God’s love in the Eucharist with the “plants” (ourselves) that depend on it for their very life. But this is still an imperfect image: a pipe is totally passive; it simply allows the water to flow through it without adding anything of its own.

Mary, on the other hand, is not passive. True, she is a pure conduit of God’s love, but in a very active manner. Through her love and intercession she aids the flow of God’s graces to us and enhances our openness to receive them. It might then be more appropriate to compare her to a “heart” that pumps the blood – Christ’s life giving, Eucharistic presence – to every area of our lives to that in him we might have life eternal. Similarly, Mary prepares us to receive that presence by removing from us – in and through the grace of Christ that she communicates to us – the residue of sin that would prevent us from receiving it. For that is the two-fold function of blood: it eliminates the body’s impurities while it nourishes with life-giving nutrients. Objectively, this is all Christ’s work, but subjectively, Eucharistic grace comes to us and to the Church through Mary’s free and active participation.

In particular, just as Mary’s earthly life preceded Jesus’, since it was through her that Jesus needed to be born, so must her presence at the Eucharist precede that of Jesus. True to her motherly role, she comes first to prepare us to receive him, to have our hearts take on the likeness of her heart, so that like

her, we, too, might become fitting receptacles of his presence. Then when the priest consecrates the host and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ, she becomes the channel by which Jesus is given to us.

Must We Acknowledge Mary's Mediation at Mass?

Does this mean that we must be consciously aware of Mary's presence in order to receive the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist? Of course not! But once again we need to make a distinction between Objective and Subjective Presence of Christ in the Eucharist, as we have previously made between Objective and Subjective Redemption.

The objective Presence of Christ in the Eucharist is that given through the words of the consecration. It refers to the fact of the "Real Presence." The subjective state of the person receiving it can neither add nor subtract from that presence. Subjective Presence, on the other hand, refers to the internal conditions of faith required to make the Objective Presence of Christ in the Eucharist be actually manifested in the life of the person receiving it.

For the Eucharist to become truly life-giving, both modes of presence must be had: the Eucharist must be consecrated in a valid Mass by a validly ordained priest (Objective Presence) and one must, at minimum, receive it free from grave sin and with a proper faith intention (Subjective Presence).

Now, having a personal relationship with Mary or even acknowledging her mediating role is not required to realize both modes of presence. Certainly, personal faith in her (as in Christ) is not required to have Objective Presence, and one can realize Subjective Presence through a proper relationship with Christ alone. Becoming personally aware of her, acknowledging her and securing her help, however, can greatly enhance the Subjective Presence of the Eucharist, that is, the effects of the Objective Presence in one's life.

Why is this so? Because only those who freely open

their hearts to Mary can receive the extra help she wishes to offer and has been given the power to offer. The direction of that help is always to bring us to a deeper awareness of Jesus' presence in our lives that would otherwise be possible on our own. To summarize this concept, let us again invoke the vision of Don Bosco. We can say that firmly anchoring ourselves to Mary will permit her to firmly anchor us to Jesus, and to be anchored to Jesus is to be anchored to the well-spring of life itself.

Will There be a "Eucharistic" Reign of Jesus?

I would like to leave the reader with some questions to ponder in prayer.

"I am the Mother of the Eucharist And, as a mother, I am always at the side of my Son."

What would the Church firmly, finally and universally anchored to the two pillars of Mary and the Eucharist look like? We are promised the coming of a New Age for the Church and for humanity that will be ushered in by the Triumph of Mary's Immaculate Heart. True to Don Bosco's vision, will that Triumph not be achieved when, through Mary's mediation, the Church is firmly anchored to the life-giving power of the Eucharist? Will it not be achieved when all

the earth's people will know who it is that comes to us through the Eucharist and will subjectively experience the fullness of its objective presence and power?

If Christ has promised to come again and reign with us for a "thousand years" before the Final Judgment, will that reign not to be a Eucharistic Reign?

However the reign will come and whatever nature it will assume, Our Lady, the Mediatrix of All Graces and of Eucharistic grace in particular, will have played a major role in ushering it in. The experience of the past twenty years has confirmed it. The Church, too, has already affirmed it in giving her the additional title of "Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament."

Let us then invoke her under that title that she may not only help us recognize the presence of Christ in the Eucharist, but through the Triumph of her own Immaculate Heart usher in the Reign of the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus, her Son. ■

Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe



Archbishop Burke carefully anoints the new altar with the sacred chrism.

Church Dedication Week

July 28 – August 3, 2008

N

o one who attended the Church Dedication Week at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe last summer will soon forget the feeling of faith and joy that permeated the proceedings. From the opening Mass on Monday

to the culmination of many years of planning and work that went into the Church Dedication on Thursday, a renewal of our Catholic devotion was experienced by all.

The week officially began on Monday, July 28 with the Opening Mass, celebrated by the Most Reverend Raymond L. Burke. Following Mass, the beautiful Tilma sculpture on the Church plaza was blessed by Archbishop Burke. That evening, guests enjoyed a scenic private cruise on the La Crosse Queen paddlewheeler, with evening prayers and the Litany of Loreto led by Archbishop Burke. Afterwards, guests continued the festivities at the Waterfront Restaurant and Tavern for a wonderfully prepared dinner and delightful evening.

Tuesday, July 29 was a day reserved for visiting children and members of the Saint Juan Diego Guild. After Holy Mass, the children were treated to rides and games, followed by a picnic lunch. The Liturgical Vessels to be used in the Shrine Church were then blessed, followed by a Eucharistic procession and children's holy hour, conducted by EWTN host Father Antoine Thomas. Later, the excited children were able to greet Father Antoine in the Pilgrim Center lobby, take pictures, and have him sign their DVD's and other materials. The day for children concluded with a dinner for Saint Juan Diego Guild members, attended by both

Archbishop Burke and Fr. Antoine. You can be sure it was a day the children will never forget!

Wednesday, July 30 was a day to celebrate the Saints and Blesseds. Attendees learned about Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha from Monsignor Paul Lenz, and witnessed the dedication of the devotional area to her along the meditation trail. Pilgrims also learned about the life of Blessed Father Miguel Pro, who was martyred in 1927 during the time of religious persecution in Mexico.

Relics of both Blessed Kateri and Fr. Miguel Pro were placed in the altar of the Shrine church during the Dedication Mass.

Later that afternoon, pilgrims were treated to an enthusiastic and educational talk by Bishop Joseph J. Madera on the Tilma Image – An Early Catechism. Bishop Madera shared his extensive knowledge of Our Lady of Guadalupe's message embedded in the Tilma, and all those who attended went away with a greater understanding of

Our Lady's miracle. This evening, a gala dinner was held at the Radisson hotel, where the feeling of anticipation for the next day's events was palpable.

Shrine Church Dedication Day on Thursday, July 31, was a day anticipated for many years. From the first planning stages in 1998 to the final artistic touches on the Church walls, this was the embodiment of Archbishop Burke's dream to bring a Marian Shrine to La Crosse. Although rain threatened to dampen the festivities, the skies cleared in time for the processional line-up at the Pilgrim Center. Live coverage on EWTN provided a first-hand view to the faithful across the country. While Archbishop Burke was the main celebrant, Cardinal Justin Rigali (of Philadelphia) and Cardinal Francis George (of Chicago) were also



Archbishop Burke blessed the Tilma sculpture in the Shrine Church plaza.

I want very much to have a little chapel built here for me, in which I will show Him, I will exalt Him and make Him manifest.

Words of Our Lady of Guadalupe to (Saint) Juan Diego, 1531

in attendance. The sight of over 20 archbishops/bishops, over 100 priests, 60 Knights and Ladies of the Holy Sepulchre, and over 25 Knights of Columbus Honor Guard made for a fitting and impressive tribute to the new Shrine.

The rites for the dedication of a church include Blessing and Sprinkling of Holy Water, Prayer of Dedication and the Anointings, and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Especially impressive was Archbishop Burke's anointing of the new altar with sacred chrism. The unhurried and thorough manner in which he carried out this task was a touching reminder of the depth of his love and commitment to this project. Although nearly four hours in length, the Dedication Mass was so full of beautiful music, liturgy, and ceremony, the time passed unnoticed. Words cannot express the sheer joy felt by experiencing this once-in-a-lifetime moment.

While the "main event" was now over, the Dedication Week festivities continued through the weekend. On Friday, Father Benedict Groeschel concelebrated Mass with Archbishop Burke, attended a private breakfast with seminarians, a book signing in the Pilgrim Center lobby, and was the guest of honor at a dinner and evening conference.

Saturday included a mass of Consecration of Marian Catechists and Exposition, Divine Mercy Chaplet and Benediction in the Shrine Church. On Sunday, Archbishop Burke celebrated his final Dedication Week Mass, in Spanish, in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe's Mexican heritage. An afternoon organ recital, with special guest musicians Sister M. Cecilia Manelli, Father Giovanni Manelli, and Friar Angelomaria Lozzer highlighted the beautiful pipe organ, built by the Noack Organ Company of Georgetown, Massachusetts. This recital, filled with the joyous sounds of sacred music, was a fitting way to end the week so full of other joyous occasions.

And so, the long-anticipated week was over. The years of careful planning by the Shrine's dedicated staff, clergy, architects, artists, and volunteers were evidenced by the well-organized execution of each event. Although seemingly problem free to all attendees, we cannot begin to comprehend the efforts that went into such a monumental task. Whether attending for a single day, or the entire week's events, everyone who was touched by the Shrine Church Dedication Week was forever changed by the wonderful displays of devotion to the Blessed Mother. ■



Clockwise from left: Archbishop Burke blesses the Dedication Mass attendees. Numerous Bishops process up the hill for the Church Dedication Mass. Guild President Frank Smoczynski visits with Father Benedict Groeschel. A view of the "full house" at the Shrine Church Dedication Mass.

Relics: Our Religious Heritage

By Reverend Richard Simon, Archdiocese of Chicago, IL and frequent Apologist on Relevant Radio.
Reprinted with permission from the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe.



here is a story in the second Book of Kings in which the bones of Elisha raise a dead man to life (2 Kings 13:21).

Since the days of the Old Testament, the relics, or earthly remains of the saints, have been honored both by God and His people. If you read the 34th Psalm you will find that the bones of the righteous are precious to God. If God honors the bones of the righteous, shouldn't we?

It may seem odd to some that the physical remains of saints, called relics, are often displayed and venerated in Catholic Churches as they are here in this beautiful shrine. Some people object to the custom on the grounds that we should not honor the saints. It is sad that some people don't understand the communion of saints, one of the central teachings of the Christian faith.

The veneration of the saints does not detract from the majesty of God. On the contrary, the honor paid to God's Saints glorifies Him!

The custom of the veneration of the bones and other relics of the Saints goes back to the earliest days of Christianity. We often read that the first Christians gathered up the bones of the martyrs and gave them proper burial because of their belief in the sacredness of the human body and the hope of resurrection. It was common to celebrate Mass on the very tombs of the martyrs. From that practice, the church developed the custom of putting a relic in the altar stone in the middle of each altar. This custom persists to this day and is a reminder that the altar is more than a table and that Mass is more than a holy meal. It is a sacrifice, the sacrifice of Christ on the cross. The sacrifices of the saints and the martyrs are united with the sacrifice of Calvary, and with them, we unite our sacrifice to Christ on the Cross.

Why is sacrifice so important? The Bible tells us that love is always and only what we give away, not simply a feeling. In loving God and our neighbor we give away our very selves. By dying to ourselves and the world we find eternal life and true love. The relics of the saints are beautiful because they remind us that Jesus said, "There is no greater love than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends." The relics of the saints and particularly the martyrs, those who died for Christ and His Gospel, are reminders of the resurrection and the victory of love. ■



Relics of Saint Padre Pio are carried in the procession to the Shrine Church.

Relics are a reminder to us of the holiness of a saint and his cooperation in God's work. At the same time, relics inspire us to ask for the prayers of that Saint and to beg the grace of God to live the same kind of faith-filled life.

First Class Relics:

Remains of the bodies of saints, for example bones, hair, or blood, as well as the instruments of Our Lord's Passion.

Second Class Relics:

Articles associated with the lives of the saints, such as clothing, books, and anything else the saints used in life.

Third Class Relics:

Items, usually small pieces of cloth, which have come into contact with First or Second Class Relics and which are then treated themselves as relics. Among the first third class relics were small pieces of cloth lowered through holes in the altars of churches built over martyr's tombs or placed on the slabs covering them.

The relics of both Blessed Kateri and Blessed Father Pro, which were placed in the altar of the Shrine Church during the Mass of Dedication, are First Class Relics – fragments of their bones.

The Memorial to the Unborn at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe



On December 12, 2008, the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse, Wisconsin, marked yet another milestone – the formal dedication of the Shrine’s newest devotional area – the Memorial to the Unborn.

The Memorial provides a place of quiet reflection upon the dignity of life of the many unborn babies across the nation.

Many might think that the term “unborn” refers only to those whose lives have been brutally taken through acts of abortion. And this is certainly true. But this Memorial honors all of the unborn, including those whose lives have been shortened through miscarriage.

In his homily at Holy Mass on this day (see inset), Archbishop Raymond L. Burke, Founder of the Shrine and main celebrant of the Feast Day Mass, commented on the importance of becoming “faithful heralds and agents of the Gospel of Life...”

The Memorial provides:

- A mausoleum for the interment of the unborn; parents may contact the Shrine for more information;
- A place for the names of unborn babies (of any timeframe) to be engraved in the limestone arches;
- Four catechetical plaques which explain the Church’s teaching on contraception, abortion, embryonic stem cell research, and the dignity of life.
- A Mary’s garden which leads the way to the Memorial – flowers named after the Blessed Mother provide its beauty;
- A bronze sculpture of Our Lady of Guadalupe holding several unborn babies; currently under commission;
- A remembrance pool (currently in place) and a marble statue of a Guardian Angel and two children, which has not yet been funded

Excerpts from Homily

December 12, 2008

Fittingly, we have dedicated today the Memorial to the Unborn, with its mausoleum for the Christian burial of our unborn brothers and sisters who have died. The Memorial to the Unborn eloquently expresses the message of Our Lady of Guadalupe: God’s all merciful love toward all of His children from the moment of their conception. Even as God Himself chose to be conceived in the womb of the Virgin Mary, as the first moment of His greatest act of love of us, so He has taught us the inviolable dignity of all human life. Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of America and Star of the New Evangelization, is, in a particular way, the Mother of the Unborn. The Dedication of the Memorial to the Unborn and the Memorial itself are a call to each of us to become ever more faithful heralds and agents of the Gospel of Life, especially by respecting the life-giving nature of the conjugal union, by safeguarding the life of the unborn in the womb, and by opposing, with all our strength, the cloning of human life and the destruction of human embryos as most grave violations of God’s plan for human procreation and human life. ■



The Memorial to the Unborn at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, La Crosse, Wisconsin

The Saint Juan Diego Guild for Children



he Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse, Wisconsin offers a wonderful program to help children learn about and become more like Saint Juan Diego. The Saint Juan Diego Guild for Children promotes the following:

Mission: To encourage and assist children in imitating the positive virtues of Saint Juan Diego.

Age Requirements: There are no absolute age requirements; the youngest member was enrolled while still in the womb; the oldest is an early teen.

Spiritual Benefits: Members of the Guild will be remembered in Holy Masses celebrated at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Each December 9, the Feast of St. Juan Diego, the Holy Mass will be offered for the spiritual well-being of the Guild members.



Archbishop Burke inducts the newest members into the Saint Juan Diego Guild during the Feast Day Mass, December 12, 2008.

Annual enrollment is \$5 per child each year. With an annual enrollment the child will receive a renewal notice when his/her enrollment year is about to expire. A Lifetime Enrollment is also offered for \$35 per child enrolled. With a lifetime membership, the child will be considered an active member and receive all of the Guild mailings until he/she is 18 years old. Children may register through the Shrine's website at <http://www.guadalupeshrine.org/Diego/Home.asp>.

During the solemn celebration of the Holy Mass last December 12 at the Shrine, Archbishop Raymond Burke inducted new members into the Saint Juan Diego Guild. Included in his homily was the following:

"Boys and girls, young men and women, who are already members of the Saint Juan Diego Guild or who will soon become members, you are called to be, with Saint Juan Diego, the helpers of Our Lady of Guadalupe in showing others how much God loves them. By your daily discipline of prayer and works of charity, you will assist Our Lady of Guadalupe in bringing the love of God in Jesus Christ to everyone and especially to the peoples of the continent of America."■

The Children are encouraged:

1. In imitation of Juan's obedience to Mary, the Mother of God and Mother of America, the child is encouraged to perform one act of charity/obedience toward parents each week;
2. Before going to bed, each member is asked to pray the short prayer "St. Juan Diego, pray for me." Over time, the prayer will become part of the daily prayer life of the child and St. Juan Diego will be called upon as an intercessor;
3. If the child requests a "Prayer Buddy", we request that one letter / prayer communication be exchanged quarterly.

The Children Receive:

1. Upon enrollment, the child will receive a specially designed medal for Guild members only: St. Juan Diego is pictured on one side and the Guild membership is pictured on the reverse side.
 2. Upon enrollment, each child will receive a beautiful certificate of enrollment suitable for framing.
 - 3 If requested, a "Prayer Buddy" will be selected with consideration given to age and gender;
 4. Each child receives the Spiritual Benefits listed above.
-

The Apostolic Signatura

By Rebecca Nichols



Archbishop Raymond Leo Burke was appointed Prefect of the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura by His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI on June 27, 2008. For those of us who are not particularly well-versed in the structure and function of the Roman Curia, this appointment may have raised some obvious questions; what is the Apostolic Signatura and why was Archbishop Burke selected as Prefect? While the answers to these questions could be discussed in great detail and length, we will take just a brief look at them here.

As the administrative apparatus of the Holy See, the Roman Curia is the central governing body of the entire Roman Catholic Church, together with the Pope. The departments of the Roman Curia perform their duties in the Pope's name and with his authority for the good of the churches. The three Tribunals make up just one of the organs, or charges, that compose the Curia. Besides the Apostolic Signatura, the Tribunals include the Apostolic Penitentiary and the Tribunal of the Roman Rota. In essence, the three Tribunals compose the Holy See's judicial body.

The Apostolic Signatura is the highest Tribunal of the Holy See; in effect, it is the Vatican's version of the Supreme Court. It is the highest judicial authority in the Catholic Church besides the Pope himself, who is the supreme ecclesiastical judge. It is also an administrative office for matters pertaining to the judicial activity of the whole Church.

The Supreme Tribunal differs from the Roman Rota in that it handles some of the more specialized kinds of cases, including the following:

- Petitions for a declaration of nullity against a Rotal decision;
 - Conflicts of jurisdiction between two or more tribunals or dicasteries,
 - Recourse against the legitimacy of administrative acts of ordinaries and dicasteries (including some penal cases decided without using a court).
-

Unlike a Rotal decision, there is no right of appeal from the decision of the Signatura.

As an administrative office, the Apostolic Signatura exercises jurisdiction over all the tribunals of the Catholic Church and can also extend the jurisdiction of tribunals, grant dispensations for procedural laws, establish interdiocesan tribunals, and correct advocates.

As only the tenth U.S. native to serve in the Roman Curia, Archbishop Burke is uniquely qualified to fill the position of Prefect of the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura. From 1980 to 1984, Archbishop Burke studied canon law at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, where he received his licentiate and doctorate. He has also previously served as the American Defender of the Bond of the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura, assigned to this position by Pope John Paul II in 1989. Both his studies and experience make him a leading expert in Canon Law, and most qualified for this position. Inasmuch as past Prefects of the Supreme Tribunal have all been Cardinals, it is expected that Archbishop Burke will be created Cardinal-Deacon at the next consistory.

Archbishop Burke also holds several other Vatican offices. On May 6, 2008, Pope Benedict XVI named him to the Pontifical Council for Legislative Texts, which interprets canon law, and also assigned him to the Congregation for the Clergy, which regulates the formation and training of diocesan priests and deacons. On October 7, 2008, Pope Benedict XVI also appointed Archbishop Burke as President of the Commission for Advocates, which is responsible for admitting the world's qualified canon lawyers to a registry of those who may practice in the Vatican's courts. Clearly, the Holy Father has great faith in Archbishop Burke's abilities as both a canon lawyer and leader of the Catholic Faith. ■



4th Annual Queen of the Americas Guild Conference at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe

The Annual Conference for the Queen of Americas Guild is open to all those who wish to share an experience that combines the spiritual talks of a retreat with the beauty of joining in group prayer with other attendees in a most prayerful environment. Join us to enhance your faith and learn more about the miracle of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Shrine, and the Queen of the Americas Guild.

Archbishop Raymond L. Burke will be our keynote speaker. Formerly Archbishop of St. Louis, Missouri, His Excellency was recently appointed by His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI to serve as Prefect of the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura in Rome. Archbishop Burke is the Founder of the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe and a member of the Guild Board of Directors.



Bishop Joseph J. Madera will share his extensive knowledge of Our Lady of Guadalupe in a spirited talk. Before his retirement in 2004, Bishop Madera served as Auxiliary of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, U.S.A. for 13 years. Prior to that, he also served as Bishop of Fresno, California from 1980 - 1991. Bishop Madera is a member of the Guild Board of Directors and serves as spiritual leader on our yearly pilgrimage to the Basilica of Our Lady Of Guadalupe in Mexico City.

Sister Rosalind Moss will be speaking on "Mary, Mother of Israel's Hope." Born and raised in a Jewish home, Rosalind Moss, in her adult years, embraced Jesus as the Messiah of the Jewish people. After 18 years of Evangelical Protestantism, she entered the Catholic Church at Easter, 1995.

For the past ten years, Rosalind has been a staff apologist with Catholic Answers. She is editor of *Home at Last, 11 Who found their Way to the Catholic Church*, and frequent guest and host on various EWTN programs.



La Crosse, Wisconsin

July 31st – August 1st, 2009

Sister Rosalind Moss continued,

On the Feast of the Queenship of Mary, August 22, 2008, Rosalind's dream of many years to found a new religious community took root. In the Archdiocese of St. Louis, Sister Rosalind founded "Daughters of Mary, Mother of Israel's Hope," a teaching, evangelistic order of sisters who serve as messengers of hope to a needy world.



Dr. Robert Moynihan will be speaking on the topic of "16th Century: Our Lady Protects Russia and the Americas." Dr. Moynihan is the founder and editor of *Inside the Vatican* magazine, a monthly journal on Church and world affairs from Rome. He is regarded as one of the world's leading Vatican analysts and has interviewed Pope Benedict XVI over 25 times. He is a world renowned commentator on Catholic issues who has appeared on Fox News, CNN, ABC, EWTN, and others to discuss the legacy of Pope John Paul II, Vatican affairs and what to expect from our current pope, Benedict XVI.

Enjoy a concert by Grammy-nominated Catholic singer, songwriter, and producer **Marty Rotella**. Marty has appeared on EWTN, written, performed and produced many musical CD's, and produced docudramas and documentaries on a variety of religious subjects. Marty will also serve as our Master of Ceremonies.



Friday evening will include a gourmet dinner with honored guests Archbishop Raymond L. Burke and Bishop Joseph J. Madera, which will be limited to the first 100 registrants. Saturday evening's barbeque dinner will offer the opportunity to visit informally with Archbishop Burke, Bishop Madera, and our other special guests.

Queen of the Americas Guild Board of Directors

Frank Smoczynski, **President**
Stephen M. Banaszak, **Vice President**
Sister Christa Marie, F.S.G.M., **Secretary**
Beverly Smoczynski, **Treasurer**

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Ruth Sloan

Episcopal Moderator

Most Rev. Joseph J. Madera, M.Sp.S.
Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, U.S.A. (Emeritus)

Event information continued on page 26.

Conference Packages:

We are pleased to offer the following packages:

Conference & Dinner package: Includes conference attendance Friday & Saturday, all refreshment breaks, Friday night gourmet dinner, Saturday morning continental breakfast, buffet lunch, and barbeque dinner. The Saturday barbeque will be your chance to visit informally with Archbishop Burke, Bishop Madera, and our other special guests. Bring your cameras! Conference & Dinner package is limited to the first 100 registrants.

Conference & Hotel package: Includes all of the above, plus two nights lodging (Friday and Saturday nights) at the Radisson or Courtyard by Marriott. Based on double occupancy. Limited number of rooms available - rooms held only until July 1.

Saturday only conference: Includes conference attendance on Saturday, continental breakfast, buffet lunch, refreshment break, and barbeque dinner with Archbishop Burke and other special guests.

Options: We will also be offering an optional box lunch on Friday and buffet breakfast on Sunday; reservations are required. Please indicate your preference on the registration form. Due to food ordering requirements, no refunds will be given after July 22.

Cancellation:

For Conference & Hotel packages, no refunds will be given on the hotel portion after July 1. All other cancellations will be refunded only if notification is received by July 22.

Directions:

The Shrine's physical address is 5250 Justin Road, La Crosse, WI 54601. From I-90, exit onto US-53 S via Exit 3 towards La Crosse. US-53 becomes 3rd Street south, which becomes South Avenue, then Mormon Coulee Road. Watch for signs for Hwys 14/61. 14/61 turns left (East). Justin Road is the third road on the right. Take Justin Road south until you see the Shrine sign on the right.

Send registration form with payment to:

Rebecca Nichols, National Coordinator
Queen of the Americas Guild
P.O. Box 851, St. Charles, IL 60174
Phone: (630) 584-1822 Fax: (630) 587-2200
E-mail: staff@queenoftheamericasguild.org

Register online at:

www.queenoftheamericasguild.org

Yes, I would like to attend the conference July 31 - August 1.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Tel. #: _____

E-mail: _____

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ _____
Make checks payable to: Queen of the Americas Guild.

Charge my desired package to my credit card.

Circle: Visa MasterCard Discover Amex

Name on card: _____

Card number: _____/_____/_____/_____

Expiration date: _____ 3 or 4 digit sec. code: _____

Please check options below:

Item	#Attending	Price/pp	Total
Conference & Dinner	_____	x \$75.00	_____
Saturday Only Conference	_____	x \$45.00	_____
Hotel & Conference Package*	_____	x \$200.00	_____
Single Hotel Room Supplement	_____	\$120.00	_____
Friday Box Lunch	_____	x \$10.00	_____
Sunday Buffet Breakfast	_____	x \$12.00	_____
			Total Due _____

*Based on double occupancy. Nights of July 31 & Aug. 1 are included. Rooms at Radisson or Courtyard by Marriott.

Stay an extra day for the once in a lifetime chance to meet the son of a Catholic Saint!

On Sunday, August 2, 2009, Archbishop Raymond Burke is hosting a one-day conference on the life of Saint Gianna Molla at the Shrine. One of the highlights of this inspirational day is a visit from Pierluigi Molla, son of Saint Gianna.

Born in Italy in 1922, Saint Gianna Molla was a wife, mother and physician. In 1961, while she was pregnant with her fourth child, she underwent surgery for the removal of a uterine tumor. She was advised to have an abortion, but decided to bring her pregnancy to term. On April 21, 1962, Gianna Emanuela was born. Only a week later, on April 28, Gianna Molla died at the age of 39.

The cause for beatification of Gianna Beretta Molla was opened on April 11, 1986, followed by her beatification on April 24, 1994. Pope John Paul II canonized Gianna in St. Peter's Square on May 16, 2004.

The cost for the conference is \$40 per person, or \$15 for children under 12. To register for this exceptional opportunity, please contact the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe at 608-782-5440 or for more details, visit their website at www.guadalupe Shrine.org.

In Loving Memory of Gail Jardine



Born into this life
January 21, 1932
Madison, Wisconsin

Entered into eternal life
January 17, 2009
Geneva, IL

Gail was a dear friend of the Guild and Editor of the Queen of the Americas Guild newsletter in conjunction with Newsletters, Ltd. for over 20 years. She also wrote the book "Our Lady of the New Millennium – One Man's Dream" which is now available through the Queen of the Americas Guild.

A Life-Changing Experience

By Rev. Msgr. George M. Hastrich

M

emories of July 31, 2008 are still fresh in our minds – a historic day for those devoted to Our Lady of Guadalupe. Who can forget the two days of celebration, the festive banquet at the Radisson Hotel with speeches by Archbishop Dolan of Milwaukee (now of New York) and Archbishop Raymond Burke, the father of the entire celebration whose dream has come to realization after five years of planning and construction. But this was only the preparation for the following days of solemn blessings, Mass and dedication with its lengthy procession to the church on the top of the hill, the four-hour ceremony of blessings outside and inside the church, the beautiful liturgy, the chants of the choir and the outstanding homily by Archbishop Burke.

One sad observation made after the two day celebration was the contrast in the simple and casual attire worn by some attendants at the dedication ceremony in the Basilica compared to the exquisitely dressed men with suits and tuxedos and women with formal gowns and dresses worn at the banquet. This was the reason for our presence in La Crosse that day – to honor God. That should have been more important than dressing up for the banquet.

But leaving aside this digression, this historic event was something to cherish for the remainder of the pilgrimage and prayer days, retreats, and study days. The events will long be spoken of. But then the question is, “Will this event be a life-changing experience? Will the event of July 31, 2008 at La Crosse, WI prove to make us better people?”

History will reveal that the dedication of the Basilica took place during the aftermath of the Second Vatican Council with its repetitious call to universal holiness. Every person is called to be a saint. At the turn of the Millennium, Pope John Paul II issued a call to the New Evangelization.

***A pilgrimage of this
magnitude should change
us for the better.
Where to begin?***

These are some suggestions for us to undergo a life-changing experience. This involves more than a few prayer leaflets, souvenirs, photos, or VCR tapes. A pilgrimage of this magnitude should change us for the better. Where to begin?

Objective: To observe the third commandment: "THOU SHALT KEEP HOLY THE LORD'S DAY."

Recognizing that the Mass on Sunday does not embrace the whole day, we turn our attention on the other hours.

"You" call to the father, mother, brother, sister or someone who more or less helps to keep the household going.

"You" awake at dawn, make the sign of the cross on yourself and say a short morning prayer, "Good morning Dear Lord" or perhaps the Morning Offering or maybe the Morning Angelus.

"You" wash, get dressed with your special Sunday dress or clothing – NOT just the usual daily clothes.

"You" remember the words of Nehemiah 8:9,10

"Today is holy to the Lord your God. Do not be sad and do not weep; for today is holy to our Lord. Do not be saddened this day, for rejoicing in the Lord must be your strength!"

This is the reason for the day that follows.

"You" go to the kitchen and get out the better than usual silverware and dishes, maybe put a small vase of flowers on the table. As the members of the family arrive, you greet them, "Happy Sunday" or a spiritual phrase, "Praise the Lord." Say grace together or ask someone to lead with a reflection



Monsignor George Hastrich

or comment (if someone went to Saturday evening Mass) on the homily or Mass of the day yet to come.

Clean away the clutter left by the previous day's activities if not already done, tidy up the living room, open the drapes to let the sunshine in so that everyone will realize that this is Sunday – the day of the Lord.

You plan the day's activities. Options could include some spiritual reading, reading the bishop's column or possibly

saying the rosary. Remind all that Sunday is not some other day. So shopping is out of the question! Besides spiritual reading, you could watch religious programs on TV, or listen to Relevant Radio, take a walk, or visit the sick or shut-ins or cemetery. You could watch some TV sports for a limited time or perhaps plan a pilgrimage to the new Basilica in La Crosse or just rest.

You could also plan to have an outdoor shrine in the yard or suggest having a religious statue or symbol in a central area of the home. Perhaps you could discuss the homily or morning Mass or the bulletin or meet other families or groups for discussion.

Think of ways that you have given back to the Lord's Day to the Lord and how you will return to work or school, refreshed and renewed – not to a "blue" Monday or a wasted weekend. Reflect on how your household has helped make his day "Holy to the Lord."

All these things have been suggested as to how we can retain the observance of Sunday. We have done this as a sign that our pilgrimage to La Crosse on July 31, 2008 has been the beginning of a life-changing experience – next week will be better. ■

The Angelus

By Fr. Christopher Rengers, OFM, Cap.

In his Apostolic Exhortation, *Marialis Cultus* Feb. 2, 1974 Pope Paul VI recommended the Angelus along with just one other extra-liturgical prayer, the rosary.

“What we have to say about the Angelus is meant to be only a simple exhortation to continue its traditional recitation wherever and whenever possible. The Angelus does not need to be revised, because its simple structure, its biblical character, its historical origin which links it to the prayer for peace and safety, and its quasi-liturgical rhythm which sanctifies different moments during the day, and because it reminds us of the Paschal Mystery, in which recalling the Incarnation of the Son of God we pray that we may be led ‘through his passion and cross to the glory of his resurrection,’ These factors ensure that the Angelus despite the passing of centuries retains an unaltered value and an intact freshness. It is true that certain customs traditionally linked with the recitation of the Angelus have disappeared or can continue only with difficulty in modern life. But these are marginal elements. The value of contemplation on the mystery of the Incarnation of the Word, of the greeting to the Virgin, and of recourse to her merciful intercession remains unchanged. And despite the changed conditions of the times, for the majority of people there remains unaltered the characteristic periods of the day – morning, noon and evening – which mark the periods of their activity and constitute an invitation to pause in prayer.” (no. 41)

In this short, thought-packed paragraph Pope Paul highlighted compelling reasons for praying the Angelus. The Angelus is a simple



The Angelus, by Jean-Francois Millet (1814 – 1875)

prayer. It is to the point and does not take long. Even in modern conditions it fits in with the rhythm of daily life, and can be attached to breakfast, lunch and supper or placed in those time periods. Our way of life, dominated by business and secular interests needs its tonic-like injection of the spiritual side of human life, of our condition as Wayfarers. Using it three times a day brings a contemplative break so much needed in a busy, forever rushing society. Even once a day for a start is a kind of spiritual coffee-break.

A Prayer for Peace and Safety

Pope Paul also mentions that it is historically a prayer for peace and safety. This purpose certainly fits in with the conditions of modern life, troubled by conflict and threatened by terrorism. In God's hidden ways, Angelus-praying people add a powerful and quiet, an unobtrusive and invisible safety-net to the more noticeable and bothersome procedures.

The custom of praying the Angelus helps us daily to recall the Incarnation, the conception of Jesus. It links us to that quiet moment, unnoticed in the busy Roman Empire, when an angel from heaven came to a young woman in Nazareth and made the most important announcement in history. At her response heaven and earth came together in a new human conception. This moment had been promised by God, foretold by prophets and prayed for and awaited by the chosen people for centuries.

In our times when debate about abortion is widespread, when many sadly cover over the truth with choice words, the Angelus is a great reminder of the conception of Him who said, "I am the Truth," and who also promised, "The truth will set you free." Praying the Angelus will be a powerful force to help those who use it to recall the truth about the conception of Jesus. It will likewise open their minds and hearts to the sublime truth that it takes three for each human conception: father and mother and God who creates the soul. In God's hidden ways, the praying of the Angelus by many believers will win for others the grace of seeing and accepting the truth that human life and personhood begin at every conception.

There are many good reasons for reviving the custom of praying the Angelus. Individuals can start on their own. Catholic schools can introduce the Angelus as a noontime prayer and explain it and pass out cards or call attention to where it appears in the catechism. Above all priests can put it into their own prayer routine, use it when out for dinner, and especially exhort the Faithful to pray the Angelus, and supply them with the variety of reasons why it is so worthwhile for our times. ■

From the President

Frank Smoczynski



he Queen of the Americas Guild is in its 29th year doing Our Lady's work. We are still working on our major project, which is building a retreat house at the Shrine in Mexico City. That was the vision of our founder, Bishop Jerome Hastrich. It has been a difficult task indeed. We had a very important meeting with the owners of the property adjacent to ours when we were at our annual pilgrimage this past March. We were trying to negotiate with them so that we could build a bigger center than we could build on our present property alone. It has gone from being a possibility with them, to yes and no. Please keep us in your prayers for future blessings on this project so that we may get the much-needed piece of property.

We enjoyed the pilgrimage very much this year. It was one of our best-attended pilgrimages yet to Mexico City. The visit to the Shrine with Bishop Madera always gives everyone a spiritual lift. We feel joy in introducing new pilgrims to the home of Our Lady. If you have not gone with us on one of these trips, please consider signing up for our trip next year. It will be our 30th anniversary and we are trying to make it a special occasion. In the times we live in, we all could use a spiritual lift.

This July, we will again return to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse, Wisconsin. It is our pleasure to be invited back by Archbishop Burke, who will be home from his permanent position in Rome for a visit. We are so glad that he will be able to take part in our conference and the one-year anniversary of the dedication of the Shrine church.

I don't believe I have to tell you that we live in very trying times. Last September when everything went wrong with the housing market, stock market, 401k accounts, etc. a lot of people lost a good deal of their retirement money and also a lot of faith in our economy and government. They were afraid that they would not be able to retire as planned and would not be able to continue their lifestyle. This is where we must turn to Our Lady in prayer, hope and faith to guide us to stay on the right track. We can all work through this very stressful time, whatever time it takes. We can get through all of this with Our Lady's help. Have faith, keep up your good works and it will all change for the better.

These are also hard times for the Church and not-for-profit organizations that do a lot of charitable work with the poor and those in need. They are the first to suffer from an economy that is unstable. Keep all of them in your prayers.

In closing, I want to thank you all for your continued support and prayers. We will continue to spread the miracle of Guadalupe and bring Our Lady to more people across the world. Please continue to help us do this important work. ■



Queen of the Americas Guild
President Frank Smoczynski

Little Nellie of Holy God

By Fr. Christopher Rengers, OFM, Cap.

Originally published in Homiletic and Pastoral Review, November, 2008



She is called the Little Violet of the Blessed Sacrament. Her understanding and rapt reverence in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament were noticed easily by all who saw her. She understood that in Communion you received “Holy God.” She longed for it from barely beyond her infant years.

After questioning, at age four she was judged to have attained the use of reason.

Medical diagnosis of tuberculosis plus a condition of “caries” in one jaw gave her little time to live. She also had suffered through life from a curved spine due to having been dropped at age two. She bore the pain willingly, understanding that it helped her to join Jesus suffering on the cross for the salvation of souls. Her understanding and her ardent desire convinced Bishop O’Callaghan, O.P. of York. He had already confirmed her on October 7, 1907 because he wanted the indelible shining mark of the sacrament of confirmation to adorn this precious soul in heaven. With his permission she received Holy Communion for the first time on Friday, December 6, 1907. She was just a few months over four years of age.

The Reverend Mother of the convent in Cork described how Nellie appeared and acted on that day. “At the moment of her First Communion, which she received in a transport of love, Nellie’s face shone as if the presence of the great Light within her reflected Itself in her face.” The same held for later Holy Communions: “Nellie had not only then a countenance more recollected, an attitude more pious. That she had always, but the extraordinary radiance which I cannot describe, but which I have seen, astonished not only believers, but also the incredulous.”

Her prayer of thanksgiving continued for a long time on her First Communion day and at each of the subsequent thirty-one times she received. Once when the Mother Superior visited her in late afternoon, she found Nellie still praying. When asked she said, “O Mudder, I’m so happy. I’ve been talking to Holy God.” The very unpleasant odor which came from “caries” in her jaw disappeared at her First Communion and never returned.

Her family

Born August 24, 1903 to an Irish couple, William Organ and Mary Ahearn, she was the last of their four children. Before her were Thomas, David and Mary. Her baptismal name was Ellen, but she was called familiarly Nellie. Her father, because of unemployment, chose to join the British Army rather than emigrate. He was stationed at the time of Nellie's birth in Waterford, Ireland.

Both parents were strongly Catholic in faith and practice. Nellie was only two when her mother died. Her father placed her and her sister Mary in the care of Good Shepherd Sisters May 11, 1907. The sisters ran St. Finbar's Industrial School at Sunday's Well in the city of Cork, Ireland. Nellie had just eight months more to live. She was happy there and soon won the hearts of the nuns and the other children.

She has been described: "Her fair hair framed a face set not with blue eyes as one might expect but with great, luminous, solemn dark eyesIn her baby lisp she could pray by heart the Our Father, Hail Mary, Creed and Glory Be. She also could make up her own prayer. When a sister asked if she were sorry for being late, she expressed sorrow in her own words after kneeling down: "Holy God, I am berry, berry sorry for keeping de girls late for supper. Please forgib me and make me a good child and bless me and my Mudders." She called all the nuns mothers.

Little Nellie, pray for us

Little Nellie died February 2, 1908 on the feast of the Presentation of Jesus. She was buried in St. Joseph's Cemetery. A year later the casket was

exhumed. Her body was intact, the same as the day she died. It was transferred to the Convent Cemetery at Sunday's Well.



Many favors have been reported through her intercession, some during her lifetime and more after her death. During life this little tot, when given a few pieces of candy, would first pass them on to those nearby before taking one herself. We can now expect her generous help from heaven. In fact she has the reputation of generosity in favors for expectant mothers and, like St. Anthony of Padua, in finding lost articles.

Pope St. Pius X asked for and was given a relic by Bishop O'Callaghan. In Little Nellie the Holy Father had the evidence he hoped for before granting permission to lower the customary age for receiving first Holy Communion.

In August 1910 he issued the decree *Quam Singolari* permitting reception of Holy Communion at the age of reason.

2008 marked the centennial of the death of Little Nellie of Holy God. It is a good time to turn to this child so devoted to the Holy Eucharist. The Congregation for Clergy has called for renewed devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, especially through Eucharistic Adoration, in a document dated December 8, 2007, two days after the exact centennial date of Little Nellie's First Communion. Its call for adoration may remind us that Little Nellie, when she first saw the Sacred Host exposed in a monstrance, surprised her nurse by exclaiming, "Der he is, der is Holy God now."

"Holy God, I am berry, berry sorry for keeping de girls late for supper. Please forgib me and make me a good child and bless me and my Mudders."

Her example helps to renew our faith and increase our reverence when adoring the Blessed Sacrament, our anticipation and preparation before receiving Holy Communion and our thanksgiving afterwards. As we make our thanksgiving after receiving Holy Communion, a short prayer may help, especially in a time of spiritual dryness.

“Holy God within me, stir my awareness and gratitude for this great sacrament, your parting gift to the apostles. You promised them: “I will not leave you orphans.” Holy God, help us to know that each time we receive Holy Communion we participate in that great promise to the apostles. May Little Nellie, orphaned at age two by her mother’s death, pray for me and for all who are privileged to honor and receive this great sacrament. Amen.”

Quotes are from The Life of Little Nellie of Holy God, published 2007 by TAN, P.O. Box 424, Rockford, IL 61105.

Prayers after Receiving Holy Communion

Look down upon me, O good and gentle Jesus, while before Thy face I humbly kneel, and with burning soul pray and beseech Thee to fix deep into my heart lively sentiments of faith, hope and charity; true contrition for my sins, and a firm purpose of amendment. I contemplate with great love and tender pity Thy five wounds, pondering over them within me and calling to mind the words David, Thy Prophet said of Thee, my Jesus; “They have pierced my hands and feet, they have numbered all my bones.” Psalm 22

For Families – Pope John Paul II

“Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Fair Love, protect our families so that they may always be united, and bless the upbringing of our children. Our hope, look upon us with compassion, teach us to go continually to Jesus, and if we fall, help us to rise again, to return to Him, by means of the confession of our faults and sins in the sacrament of Penance, which gives peace to the soul. We beg you to grant us a great love for all the holy Sacraments, which are, as it were, the signs that your Son left on Earth. Thus, Most Holy Mother, with the peace of God in our conscience, with our hearts free from evil and hatred, we will be able to bring to all true joy and true peace, which come to us from your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, with God the Father and the Holy Spirit, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.”

It is well to “talk” with Jesus, one on One after receiving Him in Holy Communion. If the time of silence allowed by the Celebrant is short, this colloquy and other prayers are in place after Mass. Prayers like the above may be used, or Scripture passages like Lk 2, 29-32 Simeon’s Canticle or Mary’s Magnificat Lk 1, 46-55. ■

***“Holy God within me,
stir my awareness and
gratitude for this great
sacrament, your parting
gift to the apostles...”***

Her Greatest Self-description

By Fr. Christopher Rengers, OFM, Cap.



Respect and love for Our Lady have bestowed on her many titles, many descriptions. The Litany of Loreto is a list of some of them. Names of places she has appeared or where a particular devotion flourishes represent her love and a return of love from a group or nation living there.

Our Blessed Mother, representing Divine Providence has herself chosen particular spots. At some of them she gave her name or in some way told us about herself.

I am the Immaculate Conception

The best known examples of such self-description are at Lourdes, France in 1858 and at Fatima in 1917. The first appearance to Bernadette, age 14, was on Thursday, February 11, the date of the present feast. It was on March 25, feast of the Annunciation, that Our Lady said, "I am the Immaculate Conception." The pastor, Dominique Peyramale, found the "I am" inappropriate. He pointed out that the words on the Miraculous Medal were given by Mary as "conceived without sin" at Paris to St. Catherine Laboure in 1830. Bernadette was correct, and reflection shows the beautiful depth of this self-description.

I am the Lady of the Rosary

The visions of Our Lady to the three shepherd children, Lucy dos Santos, Francisco and Jacinta Marto, ages 10, 9 and 7 in 1917 have continuing importance. Evidence of this is in the three visits of Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Papal Secretary of State to Sr. Lucy in her final years. He was sent personally by Pope John Paul II and later wrote a book* about his interviews with the seer who Mary had predicted, would live on to make known her message. *The book, The Last Secret of Fatima, is available in English.

***Respect and love for Our Lady
have bestowed on her many
titles, many descriptions.***

During the last of the five visits, October 13, 1917, a crowd of perhaps 70,000 saw the promised miracle, a whirling sun of many colors finally plunging toward the earth. The soaked ground became instantly dry. It was also on October 13 that Mary gave her name, “I am the Lady of the Rosary.” It is a beautiful self-description, inviting us to pray the rosary daily. Meditating on its mysteries is a handy way to review the life of Jesus in the company of His mother.



Father Christopher Rengers, OFM, Cap.

Our Lady greeted Juan Diego at dawn December 9 with a complete definition of herself. “I am holy Mary, ever-virgin, Mother of the true God above, maker of heaven and earth, of all things far and near.” Can any theologian add to this statement, so simple, so full of meaning?

Divine motherhood is the reason for all her other titles. They include her graces before it and account for the gifts and privileges that followed.

Knock – A Silent Message

On August 21, 1879, villagers at Knock, Ireland saw a tableau under the gable of their church. It lasted long enough for the people to gather and view it after the first sighting. They gazed in wonder at an altar on whose top lay the figure of a lamb. St. Joseph, St. John the Evangelist, and the Mother of Jesus stood near the altar in silence.

The whole presented a picture of adoration and reverence. It sends us a message, urging silence and reverence at Mass and at periods of Eucharistic Adoration. We may include more restraint and quiet in church which often, right after Mass, explodes into a hubbub of loud conversation and laughter. Subdued talk, if any – in respect for those continuing to pray, as well as the Blessed Sacrament, is much better.

Guadalupe (Brings Us) The Greatest

The fullest self-description of herself in both theological context and in hands-on, practical application belongs to Guadalupe. The theology is on December 9, 1531, the date of Mary’s first visit to St. Juan Diego on the hilltop of Tepeyac. The practical application is on Tuesday, December 12 near the bottom of Tepeyac on its east side.

A battle raged in the early centuries over the title THEOTOKOS, one who bears God. The General Council of Ephesus, 431 A.D. settled the question. It stated that there is just one Person in Christ, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity. Mary gave birth to this Person united to human nature in her womb. Therefore she is, and may be called, Mother of God.

On December 12, Our Lady met Juan Diego near the base of Tepeyac, with words that embarrassed him. He was trying to evade her, intent on getting a priest for his apparently dying Uncle Juan Bernardino. She told him not to fear this sickness nor any other. “I am your merciful mother. Are you not in the crossing of my arms, in the folds of my mantle? Have I not placed you on my lap? I have seen your uncle and he is already well.”

These are questions that reveal the heart of Our Blessed Mother. They express the fullness of her love. They are questions to remember in our times of pain and sorrow. Directed to Juan Diego then in 1531, they come to us now in 2009. ■

North American Shrines to Our

We have received some requests for a comprehensive list of the shrines devoted to Our Lady of Guadalupe in North America. Accordingly, we have put together this list. However, we are sure there must be many more shrines throughout North America; if you have information on additional shrines, please send it to us, and we'll update the list.

Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe

5250 Justin Road

La Crosse, WI 54601

Phone: (608) 782-5440

Located on over 100 beautiful acres of woodlands, the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe includes the recently dedicated Shrine Church, a Pilgrim Center, Votive Chapel, Memorial to the Unborn, Friar's residence, restaurant, meditation trail, and many outdoor devotional areas.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Church and Shrine

3648 S. Sgt. Lucian Adams Dr.

Port Arthur, TX 77642

(409) 962-6777

This shrine features a 17' bronze statue of Our Lady, sculpted by Miguel Angel Macias from Mexico City, and Douglas Clark. It sits atop rocks brought to Port Arthur directly from Tepeyac Hill. A 7" bronze statue of St. Juan Diego by the same artists is also on site.

National Shrine Center of Our Lady of Guadalupe

501 Ridge Ave.

Allentown, PA 18102

(610) 433-4404

Established on October 4, 1974 at the historic Immaculate Conception Church, the site was selected by an Episcopal committee of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. A life-sized replica of Our Lady of Guadalupe's tilma image is installed in the church sanctuary.

Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Maryville Academy

1100 N. River Rd.

Des Plaines, IL 60016

(847) – 294 1806

Located within the Archdiocese of Chicago, this Shrine is the only place outside of Mexico authorized by the Archdiocese of Mexico City where faithful can satisfy promises made to Our Lady. This popular Shrine draws as many as 100,000 visitors each year on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, December 12.

Servants of Mary Center For Peace

Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe

6601 Ireland Rd.

Windsor, OH 44099

(440) 272-5380

Among other devotional areas, the Servants of Mary Center For Peace features a 50 ft. statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe, which is covered in 450,000 1" colored tiles. The center is a non-profit Catholic corporation, established in 1992.

Diocese of Dallas Shrine

Cathedral Shrine of the Virgin of Guadalupe

2215 Ross Avenue

Dallas, TX 75201-2707

(214) 871-1362

cathedralguadalupe.org

This Cathedral is the mother church of the 630,000 Roman Catholics in the nine-county Diocese of Dallas. Today, the Cathedral serves the largest cathedral congregation in the United States with more than 50,000 registered households.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine at Sacred Heart Parish

Johnstown, Cape Breton, Nova Scotia
Canada

This scenic outdoor shrine includes a mosaic of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and Tepeyac Trail, built through the wooded hills behind the Shrine. The main church also includes a Guadalupe Chapel with twelve paintings depicting the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe at Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels

555 West Temple St.

Los Angeles, CA 90012

(213) 680-5200

The shrine has two mosaic-style images. The first is a twelve foot replica of Our Lady's image, and the second is composed of three panels forming a triptych image which faces the Cathedral's main plaza. Many additions are planned including colorful Talavera tilework depicting the five apparitions, climbing roses, and educational materials.

Lady of Guadalupe

The Shrine of St. Francis Xavier and Our Lady of Guadalupe

250 Brown St. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49507
(616) 241-2485

The 9-foot-tall, half-ton wood statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe housed here was blessed by His Holiness, Pope John Paul II in Mexico after the canonization of St. Juan Diego in 2002.

Mission of Nombre de Dios and Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche

27 Ocean Ave.
St. Augustine, FL 32084

In addition to Our Lady of La Leche, a small outdoor shrine to Our Lady of Guadalupe is featured here.

National Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe

711 T St.
Sacramento, CA 95811
(916) 442-3211

Feast Day Masses from this Shrine have been broadcast on EWTN.

Saint Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church and Shrine

101 West High Street
Kittanning, PA 16201
(724) 548-7649

Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine c/o Christ the King Church

Rt. 1, Box 3
Balmorhea, TX 79718

Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish and Shrine

1401 East Garden Lane
Midland, TX 70702
(432) 682-2581

Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine

P.O. Box 120
Saragosa, TX 79780
(432) 445-2309

Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe

3231 N. 14th * PO Box 670
Dodge City, KS 67801
(620) 225-4802

Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe

617 East Main St.
Carlisle, KY 40311

Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine Patroness of the Unborn

18340 N.W. 12 Ave.
Miami, FL 33169

Shrine and Parish of Our Lady of Guadalupe

3600 Parroquia St.
Mesilla Park, NM 88047
(505) 526-8171

Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine

2859 9th St.
Riverside, CA 92507
(951) 684-0279

Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine Marian Heights Academy

802 E. 10th St.
Ferdinand, IN 47532
(812) 367-1411

Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish and Diocesan Shrine

225 Gilliam Dr.
Warsaw, IN 46580
(574) 267-5324

On the Back Cover:

On the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, December 12, 2008, pilgrims to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse, Wisconsin laid roses at the foot of Saint Juan Diego's tilma. On December 12, 1531, Juan Diego noted that Castillian roses do not grow in winter, yet they were revealed when he opened his tilma to Bishop Juan Zumarraga.

Likewise, in La Crosse, Wisconsin, roses do not grow in winter, yet here they appeared on Saint Juan Diego's tilma!

