



Table of Contents

2010 National Newsletter | Volume 25 | Issue 1

<p>3 Receiving Her Children By Bishop Joseph J. Madera, M.Sp.S.</p> <p>4 2011 Mexico Pilgrimage Invitation</p> <p>8 2010 Mexico Pilgrimage Summary By Rebecca Nichols, March, 2010</p> <p>12 Our Lady of Guadalupe, "Mirror of Justice" The Most Reverend Raymond L. Burke Archbishop Emeritus of Saint Louis Prefect of the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura</p> <p>14 From the Vatican: A letter from the Pope on Our Lady of the New Millenium</p> <p>15 Our Lady of Guadalupe In The News</p> <p>16 Letter from the President Frank Smoczynski</p> <p>17 Queen of the Americas Guild Board of Directors</p> <p>17 Prayer for Priests Holy Card</p> <p>18 Gifted Artist for the Church, Anthony Visco</p> <p>19 Visions of Guadalupe, Reflections by Anthony Visco</p> <p>22 Mary: Mother & Image of the Church By Fr. John P. Grigus, OFM, Conv. Reprinted with permission of Immaculata magazine</p>	<p>26 2010 5th Annual Queen of the Americas Guild Conference at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe Invitation</p> <p>30 2009 4th Annual Queen of the Americas Guild Conference at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe Summary</p> <p>33 Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe to present Monsignor Eduardo Chávez Sánchez</p> <p>33 Sister Christa Marie Receives New Assignment</p> <p>33 Guild participates in the Chicago Archdiocese Festival of Faith</p> <p>34 What a time to live in the world! By Rev. Msgr. George M. Hastrich</p> <p>36 Father Christopher Rengers, OFM, Cap. obituary</p> <p>38 My Greatest Reading: My Last Visit to Fr. Christopher Rengers By Brother Vito Martinez, OFM Cap. Capuchin Franciscans of St. Joseph Province</p> <p>39 Reciviendo A Sus Hijos By Bishop Joseph J. Madera, M.Sp.S.</p>
--	--

On the Front Cover:

Shown is the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, detail from Anthony Visco's beautiful painting, "Visions of Guadalupe". The painting is on the Narthex ceiling of the Shrine Church at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse, Wisconsin. More information about the painting and artist can be found on pages 18-21.

On the Back Cover:

The Shrine Church at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse, Wisconsin features six side chapels, each devoted to a different saint or blessed. Each chapel features a lovely painting depicting important moments in the life of the honored saint or blessed. The beautiful portraits of Saint Therese, Saint Gianna Molla, Saint Peregrine and Blessed Miguel Pro were painted by artist Neilson Carlin. Saint Maria Goretti and Saint Faustina were painted by Noah Buchanan. Be sure to study these beautiful works of art the next time you stop by the Shrine!

RECEIVING HER CHILDREN

Most Rev. Joseph J. Madera, M.Sp.S.

God chose the descendants of Abraham, the Jewish People, to spring up from them the Messiah and to offer Him, through them, a definite support in the fulfillment of His mission.

Christopher Columbus discovered America in 1492. He was looking for a way to reach the Indies traveling toward the west of Europe and to find more people to share with them God's love, according to his statement made to King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella, of Spain.

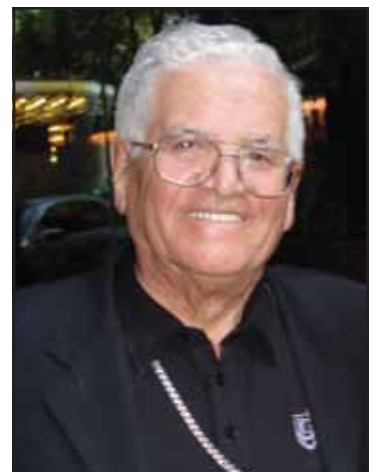
The Spaniards conquered Mexico in 1519. Zealous Franciscan Friars came among the original occupants of Mexico. The evangelization of Mexican natives was a true and almost insuperable challenge. They did not know the language of the natives. That seemed to be an insurmountable obstacle. There were no grammar books, or even basic dictionaries of the language. In addition, the Aztecs expressed their ideas not with written words, but through drawings. Prayer was the only recourse they had. They prayed and prayed, asking the Lord for help. Divine intervention was indispensable.

Idolatry reigned in the new lands. Thousand of human sacrifices were offered every year to their idols. On the occasion of the dedication of the new teocali (temple) built in honor of Huixilopostli, one of their divinities, more than 80,000 human victims were sacrificed in his honor. "I heard the crying and pleading of this people," told the Blessed Mother to Juan Diego, when she appeared to him. He was on his way to the city of Tlaltelolco, the capital of the Aztec Empire. He resided in Cuahutitlán, a small community located about 15 miles away from the capital. The Blessed Mother, in person, met Juan Diego and called him with sweet, amiable and encouraging words. She made him her messenger. Juan Diego could not believe his eyes and his ears. He was seeing the Mother of God, who was speaking to him in his own native language. She told him: "Juan Dieguito, the smallest of my children. I have heard the crying and pleading of your people. I want you to go to the Bishop of Mexico City and tell him that it is my wish that he build for me, here in the valley, a house (temple) where I'll be able to

receive my children and talk to them about God's things. I want to listen and console them". It was December 9, 1531. The church used to celebrate the Immaculate Conception of Mary on that day. Juan Diego was on his way to church for the celebration.

Juan Diego did as the Blessed Mother asked him to do. He went three times to talk to the bishop. It was hard to have access to him. People near the bishop were obstructing his access to the prelate. The Bishop himself was very cautious and reluctant to believe Juan Diego's story. He requested a signal be given to him proving the authenticity of his story. Finally, the Blessed Mother sent roses to the bishop as a sign of authenticity of her request. At the moment Juan Diego delivered the roses to bishop Zumarraga, her beautiful image was depicted in Juan Diego's mantle. Her picture is the only self-portrait of the Blessed Mother we have in this world. The Bishop, overwhelmed by the presence of the Blessed Mother, started the construction of the house requested by the Sweet Mother the very next day after the apparition.

That house (temple) has been renewed, enlarged and beautified several times. She has received thousands and millions of her children coming from all over the world. We are wounded and need her consolation. We have so many things to tell her. It is our consolation and joy to be near her. She wants to receive us in her house. Let's go to the Mother's house!



Most Rev. Joseph J. Madera, M.Sp.S.

JOIN US...

TO EXPERIENCE THE WONDERS OF MEXICO CITY & THE GLORIES OF GUADALUPE

February 24 – March 1, 2011

Under the Spiritual Direction of Bishop Joseph J. Madera, M.Sp.S.

For five days, you can immerse yourself in the inspiration of the land where Our Lady of Guadalupe left her miraculous self-portrait.

Learn more about the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe that has inspired millions for nearly 500 years, and celebrate Mass before the main altar in the Basilica.

Visit the spectacular Metropolitan Cathedral and other historic churches of Mexico – just the beginning of five packed days celebrating the Queen of the Americas and the growing adoration of her.

All of this is included in the Guild's 2011 Tour:

Thursday, February 24

Upon your arrival in Mexico City, you will be greeted by the Guild's local tour host and transferred to the four-star Marriott Mexico City Reforma hotel. Your time is your own until dinner with a welcoming briefing and Guild introduction. (D)

Friday, February 25

After breakfast, you will hear Bishop Madera explain the history and image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Then travel directly to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe for Mass on the main altar, concelebrated by Bishop Madera.

Enjoy a guided tour of the Basilica, with a close-up view of Our Lady's image from the walkway below. Visit the Guadalupe museum and the remainder of the Basilica grounds, from which you can view the Guild's retreat center property. After a box lunch, you may walk to the top of Tepeyac Hill where Our Lady first appeared to St. Juan Diego. En route back to the hotel, we will stop at the magnificent Metropolitan Cathedral which houses the tomb of Bishop Zumarraga. We will also visit the Plaza of the Three Cultures and the Church of Santiago de Tlatelolco, baptismal site of St. Juan Diego. Return to the hotel for dinner. (B, L, D)

Saturday, February 26

This morning, travel to the delightful colonial city of Puebla. After private Mass, you will visit the Church of Santo Domingo and its magnificent Rosary Chapel. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant, followed by a visit



One of the many gilded altars at the church of San Francisco Javier.



Plaza of the Three Cultures

to San Francisco church. Continue on to Tlaxcala and San Miguel del Milagro, where you will have a chance to gather some healing waters from its famous well. Before returning to Mexico City, we will also visit the beautiful Basilica in Ocotlan. Return to the hotel for dinner. (B, L, D)

Sunday, February 27

Enjoy breakfast, then be ready to travel to Tulpetlac for Sunday Mass at the Shrine of the Fifth Apparition, site of Our Lady's appearance to St. Juan Diego's uncle, Juan Bernardino. After Mass, we will travel to Tepetzotlan where you will enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. Here you will enjoy a tour of San Francisco Javier church, constructed in the 1600's, which features a richly decorated Churrigueresque façade and tower, exuberant gold altars, and many Miguel Cabrera murals.



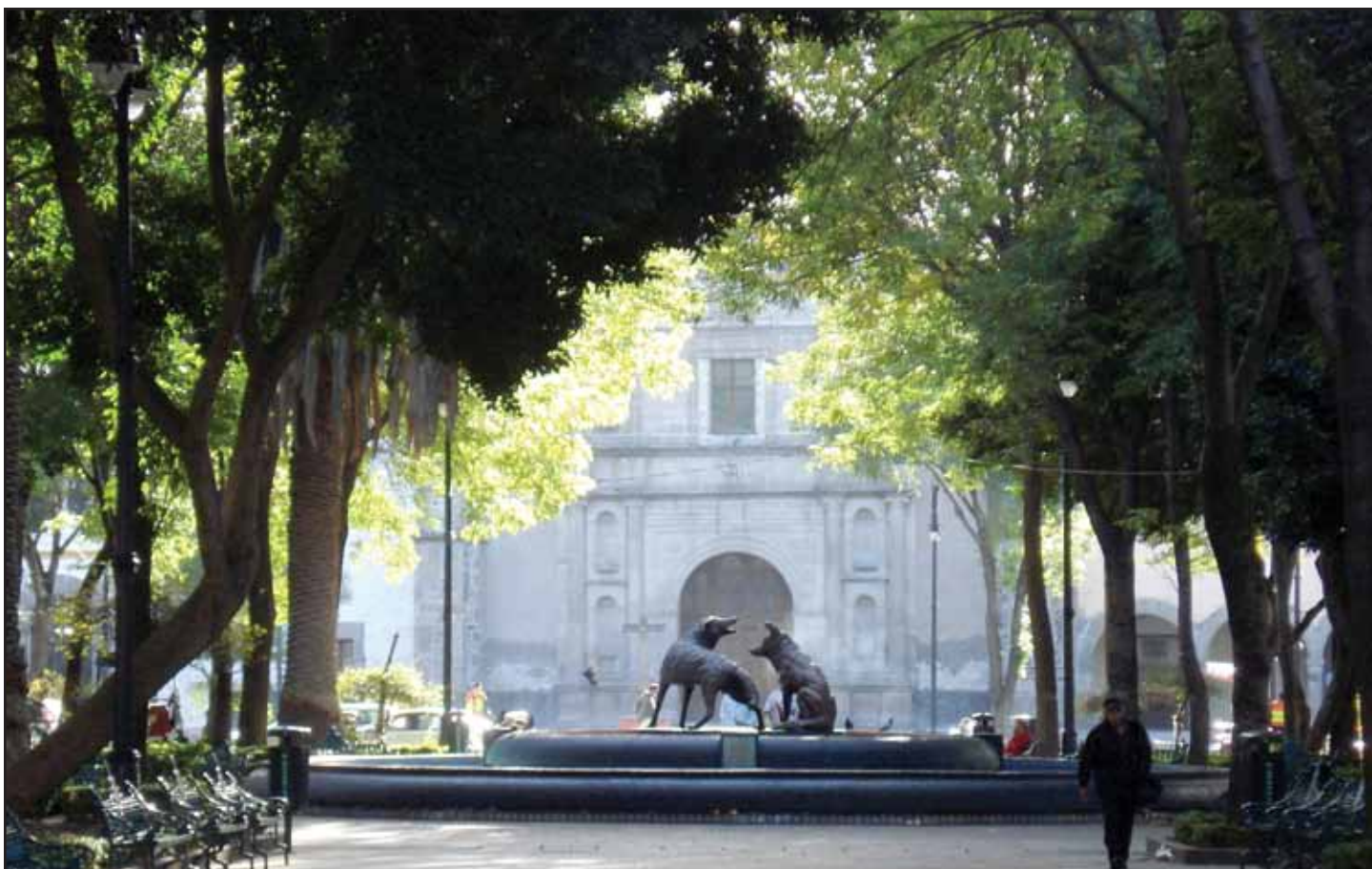
Visit the beautiful Basilica in Ocotlan, Mexico

Return to the hotel for dinner. In the evening you can choose to enjoy an optional performance of Mexico's famous Ballet Folklorico at the spectacular Palace of Fine Arts whose Art Nouveau façade is equaled only by its impressive Art Deco interior, with murals by some of the greatest Mexican artists of the 20th century. (B, L, D)

Monday, February 28

After breakfast, travel to the charming area of Coyoacan where we will have Mass at the Convent of the Holy Cross. Here Bishop Madera will share the story of venerable Conchita, founder of the order, and we will visit her tomb at San Jose El Altillo church. This is

also the former seminary school that Bishop Madera attended, and he will share his memories with you while giving you his own personal tour.



Stroll through the beautiful streets of charming Coyoacan.

After lunch at a colorful local restaurant, we will make a brief stop at a local market for shopping, then return to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe. You will have free time for reflection and prayer, and a trip up Tepeyac Hill, if you so choose. Dinner at the hotel this evening will be a time to reflect and discuss all that was learned on your journey. (B, L, D)

Tuesday, March 1

After breakfast, check out of your hotel and transfer to Benito Juarez International Airport for your return flight home, taking with you a wealth of memories of Mexico and of Our Lady of Guadalupe. (B) ■

Your Home in Mexico City

Travelers in the 2011 Queen of the Americas Guild Pilgrimage will stay at the Marriott Mexico City Reforma hotel, a first class hotel located in the charming Zona Rosa area of Mexico City. Newly opened in late 2008, the hotel is located within walking distance of many fine restaurants and shops, as well as a 24-hour adoration chapel and church.

Some of the amenities of the Marriott Mexico City Reforma include:

- Fitness Center with pool and hot tub
- On-site Restaurant
- 24-hour Room Service
- Business Center
- Concierge desk
- Air conditioning with individual climate control
- Iron and ironing board
- Coffee maker / tea service
- In-room internet access (additional fee)
- Mini-bar (additional fee)
- Movies/videos, pay-per-view

\$1350.00 per person*

*Based on double occupancy

\$300 Single supplement

Included in this price:

- 5 nights at a First-Class hotel in Mexico City (Marriott Mexico City Reforma)
- All meals while in Mexico City (5 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 5 dinners), including 1 drink at lunch, 2 at dinner
- Airport transfers
- Sightseeing per itinerary in a modern air-conditioned motor coach
- Services of an English speaking tour guide throughout
- Entrance fees per itinerary
- Unlimited bottled water provided for duration of tour
- Tips for waiters for every meal included
- Gratuities for maid services and hotel porters included

Not included:

Airfare – you will travel from your local airport. We will be happy to provide assistance in booking air. Since travelers come from a variety of airports, we are not able to arrange discount air. However, we will search for the best available commercial flight and book only with your approval on price and schedule. You are also free to book air on your own.

Trip insurance – price varies based on age, coverage and state of residence. Please call for a quote.

Single supplement: \$300. If you are traveling as a single, but would like a roommate, we will do our best to match you up with another single of the same sex. However, we cannot guarantee that a match will be available, in which case you will be required to pay the single supplement fee.

Please note: A valid U.S. Passport is now required for travel to Mexico!

Reservation Form

Please fill out this form completely, sign, and mail or fax with payment to Queen of the Americas Guild, P.O. Box 851, St. Charles, IL 60174.

When registering passengers with different mailing addresses, please use a separate form for each address.

Passenger Information: Use additional forms for more than 2 passengers.

Passenger Name(s) - as it appears on passport:

Passenger #1

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Passenger #2

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Accommodations: Single _____ Double _____

Contact Information:

Home Phone: () _____

E-mail: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

☐ I have read and agreed to the Queen of the Americas Guild 2011 Terms & Conditions (full text available by request or at www.queenoftheamericasguild.org/2011Pilgrimage)

Passenger #1 Signature

Passenger #2 Signature

For more information, or for a printed brochure and reservation form, contact:

The Queen of the Americas Guild
P.O. Box 851
St. Charles, IL 60174
Phone: (630) 584-1822
Fax: (630) 587-2200
www.queenoftheamericasguild.org
staff@queenoftheamericasguild.org

OR you can register online at
www.queenoftheamericasguild.org

Payment Information: If paying by check, please make check payable to Queen of the Americas Guild

Credit Card Payment Information:

Cardholder Name: _____
(As it appears on card)

Billing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Deposit: \$ _____ per person X _____ = \$ _____
(Minimum \$200/per person required)

Type of Card: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard
☐ Discover ☐ American Express

Card #: _____

Exp. Date _____ Security Code: _____
(For Visa and MC – 3 digit code on back of card, following account number. For Amex – 4 digit code on front above account number.)

Cardholder Signature: _____

If Purchasing Trip Insurance:

☐ I have read and agreed to the Insurance company's coverage descriptions and Terms & Conditions (available by request)

Passenger #1 Signature

Passenger #2 Signature

2010 QUEEN OF THE AMERICAS GUILD MEXICO

Rebecca Nichols, March, 2010

The Queen of the Americas Guild held its annual pilgrimage to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe from February 25 – March 2, 2010, attended by a lively group of 18 pilgrims. As National Coordinator of the Guild, I was pleased to join the group for the seventh time.



Pilgrims carry the Guild's offering towards the Basilica.

After checking in at the beautiful Marriott Reforma Hotel, the group first gathered at a welcome dinner on Thursday evening. Here pilgrims learned what to expect during the trip, and were given a run-down of the tour itinerary. On Friday morning, the group gathered in a hotel conference room to hear Bishop Joseph J. Madera's inspirational and informative talk about the symbolism of Our Lady's Tilma. Through words and pictures, we were led to a greater understanding of the miracle of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and after this perfect preparation, headed to the Basilica for Mass at her shrine.

When we arrived near the Basilica, we were met with the Guild's large floral offering to Our Lady. Four of our group's strong volunteers carried the floral float up the avenue and across the Basilica's square, where we were met by Bishop Madera. After posing for a lovely group photograph, he welcomed us into the Basilica for Mass on the main altar. 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 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 a priceless collection of beautiful paintings and sculptures, most of which depict Our Lady in her many different apparitions. After a restful break and box lunch, the tour continued with visits to the other churches on the grounds, including El Pocito (church of the well), Los Indios (church of the Indians) and the old Basilica, which is currently undergoing extensive renovation.

PILGRIMAGE

Before returning to our hotel, we made a stop at Mexico's largest church, the Metropolitan Cathedral, located in the central zocalo (square) of the city. Here we visited its sixteen side chapels, as well as the main Altar of the Kings. We also saw the entrance to the crypt of Bishop Juan de Zumarraga, first Bishop of Mexico and the Bishop to whom Juan Diego revealed Our Lady's image on his tilma. At dinner this evening, all agreed that this was the perfect way to spend the first day of the pilgrimage; learning more about the miracle of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and walking in the footsteps of Saint Juan Diego.

Saturday 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 spectacular views of Mexico's countryside and mountains, including the nearby active volcano, Popocatepetl. Once in Puebla, we went straight to the beautiful Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, where again, Bishop Madera celebrated our Mass, concelebrated by Fr. Victor Chaker, one of our pilgrims. 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. We were also treated to a display of relics hidden at the side of the main altar, which had not previously been opened for our group. Once again, the honor of having Bishop Madera as our spiritual leader allowed us this very special privilege.

After Mass, pilgrims walked to the nearby Santo Domingo church with its 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. After a festive lunch at a nearby restaurant, we moved on to the church of San Francisco where we



Pilgrims pause to learn the history of Puebla's beautiful Rosary Chapel.

learned the story of Blessed Sebastian de la Aparicio and viewed his incorrupt body.

On the way back to Mexico City, we stopped at two churches in the Cholula area. San Francisco Acatepec is a wonderful example of the fusion of Spanish and Indian artistry. While it contains an altar highly decorated in gold leaf, it also features many more crudely sculpted angelic figures. Santa Maria Tonantzintla, in contrast, is entirely native Mexican in nature; it is an explosion of color and sculpture covering every square inch of its interior. Our tour of Cholula concluded with a brief stop near the famous pyramid for some lovely photographs. This pyramid, the largest (by volume) in the world, is mostly covered by earth, with the beautiful Church of Our Lady of the Remedies sitting on top.

(Continued on page 10)



An Aztec dancer demonstrates his native customs.

After a long day in the sunshine and beautiful weather, pilgrims were happy to return to the hotel for another wonderful dinner and rest for the next day's adventure.

Sunday morning took us to Tlupetlac and the Shrine of the Fifth Apparition. It is here that Our Lady appeared to Juan Diego's uncle, Juan Bernardino, and cured him of his illness. This apparition is depicted in a large and beautiful painting that hangs above the altar of this simple church. Again Bishop Madera celebrated Mass for us here, with Fr. Victor concelebrating.

We then traveled to the ancient city of Teotihuacan, site of the pre-columbian pyramids, the pyramid of the Sun and the Moon. We were first given a short lesson on the many uses of the maguey cactus fiber, of which St. Juan Diego's tilma was made. After a delicious lunch at a local restaurant, we were treated to a lively display of native Aztec dancers who gave us a new appreciation for the customs of the native Mexicans.

Our group then moved on to the jewels of Teotihuacan, the pyramids. We learned of the construction, uses, and symbolism of the people that lived there. Those who chose to climb to the top of the Pyramid of the Sun were treated to spectacular 360 degree views of the surrounding mountains and countryside.

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. After a brief stop at the home of painter Frida Kahlo, we visited the beautiful church of Saint John the Baptist to view its lovely artwork. From there we moved on to the Convent of the Holy Cross, where Bishop Madera again celebrated Mass. As always, the sisters were most welcoming and gracious, and especially happy to see Bishop Madera. His Excellency enthusiastically



Bishop Madera delivers the homily during Mass at the Convent of the Holy Cross.



The Chapel of the Roses, at the top of Tepeyac Hill.



The Pyramid of the Sun

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 Altillo 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 Coyoacan 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. ■

Those who chose to climb to the top of the Pyramid of the Sun were treated to spectacular 360 degree views of the surrounding mountains and countryside.

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE, “MIRROR OF JUSTICE”



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

Among the many titles of the Blessed Virgin Mary, with which we invoke her intercession in the Litany of Loreto, is the title of Mirror of Justice. The title expresses the truth that the Blessed Mother, by her Immaculate Conception, participates in the justice of God which finds the fullness of its expression in His immeasurable and unceasing mercy and love. In other words, in the sinless Virgin Mary, we see, as in a mirror, the reflection of the holiness of God. The title calls to mind the verse from the Book of Wisdom: “For she [wisdom] is a reflection of eternal light, a spotless mirror of the working of God, and an image of his goodness” (Wis 7:26).

The Blessed Virgin Mary mirrors divine justice because she is “full of grace” and, therefore, does the will of God in all things; at the Archangel Gabriel’s announcement of her vocation of Mother of God, she responds: “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word” (Lk 1:28 and 38). She is the perfection of the man, described in the Letter of James, who looks into the mirror of “the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer that forgets but a doer that acts” (Jas 1:25). Looking into the Mirror of Justice, each of us beholds the reality of our being, our vocation in Christ to “be perfect, as [our] heavenly Father is perfect” (Mt 5:48).

In the Blessed Virgin Mary, we see the model of the steadfast pursuit of the holiness of life, the perfection of the Father’s mercy and love, which we behold and know in the Son of Mary, God the Son Incarnate for our eternal salvation. Mary, faithful to her vocation of virgin and mother, constantly bids us to follow in the way of her Divine Son, as she instructed the wine stewards at the Wedding Feast of Cana: “Do whatever He tells you” (Jn 2:5).

Our Lady of Guadalupe is indeed the Mirror of Justice for us today, as she was for her sons and daughters in 1531, through her

“Looking into the Mirror of Justice, each of us beholds the reality of our being, our vocation in Christ to “be perfect, as [our] heavenly Father is perfect” (Mt 5:48)

apparitions and message to Saint Juan Diego. She bids us to come to her and, through her, to come to her Divine Son, the source of all justice, the font of God’s immeasurable and unceasing mercy and love in every age and every place. Through Our Lady of Guadalupe, countless Native Americans received the grace of faith and baptism in Christ, and countless European explorers and settlers received the grace of daily conversion to Christ. Gazing upon her miraculous image painted by the Hand of God on the tilma of Saint Juan Diego, they saw the face of God’s mercy and love for them, a mercy and love which they received from the glorious pierced Heart of Jesus seated at the right hand of the Father and were called by God to bring to their brothers and sisters. Gazing upon the image of the Virgin of Guadalupe, they contemplated, as in a mirror, the reality of their own calling to imitate her in holiness of life, in the obedient doing of God’s will in all things.

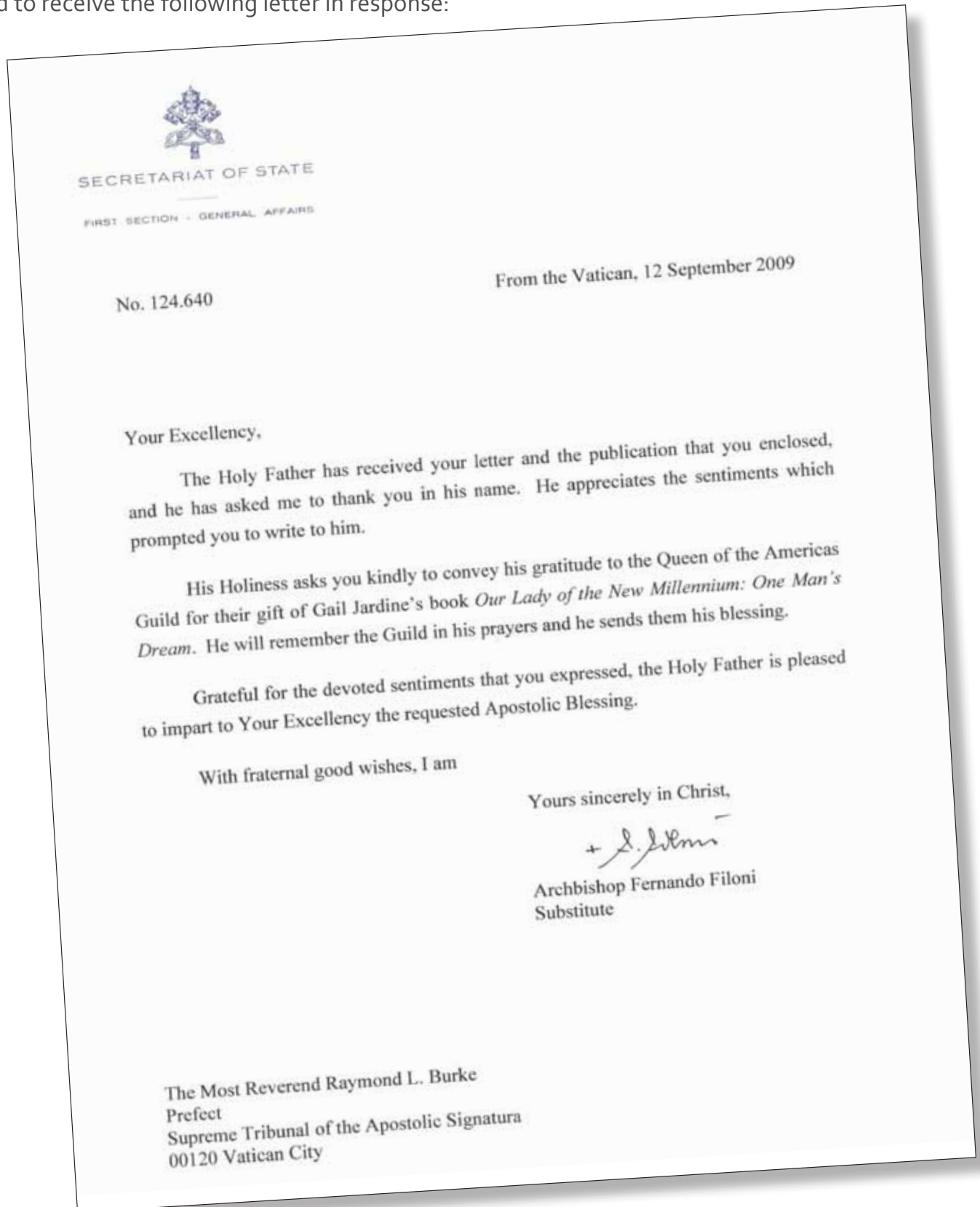
At our annual conference on July 30th-31st of this year, we will reflect upon the relationship of devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe and obedience to the Church’s discipline. Recalling once again the apparitions and message of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and gazing upon her miraculous image, we will deepen our appreciation of the humble and irreplaceable place of the Church’s laws in our lives as we seek, with the help of Our Lady’s example and intercession, to “be perfect as [our] heavenly Father is perfect” (Mt 5:48). In the days following our annual conference, the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe will sponsor its first Canon Law Conference for canon and civil lawyers, invoking the intercession of the Virgin of Guadalupe, Mirror of Justice.

In these most challenging times, when our nation is being called by God to restore the rule of law and, thereby, justice for our innocent, weak and defenseless brothers and sisters, whether they be at the very dawn of life or in life’s midcourse or at its sunset, let us invoke ever more fervently the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe. May we, as citizens of our nation, see in the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe the reality of the inviolable dignity of the life of our every brother and sister, and our call to safeguard and promote all human life, at every stage of development, without boundary or exception.

The Most Reverend Raymond L. Burke
Archbishop Emeritus of Saint Louis
Prefect of the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura

FROM THE VATICAN...

Recently, the Guild sent a copy of *Our Lady of the New Millennium – One Man's Dream* to His Holiness, Pope Benedict, XVI. Several months later, we were extremely pleased to receive the following letter in response:



OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE, IN THE NEWS

A new book, *Our Lady of Guadalupe: Mother of the Civilization of Love*, is now available.

The book by Mr. Carl Anderson, Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus, and Msgr. Eduardo Chavez, postulator for the Cause of Canonization of Saint Juan Diego traces the history of Our Lady of Guadalupe from the sixteenth century to the present and discusses how her message was and continues to be an important catalyst for religious and cultural transformation.

The book recently spent time on the New York Times bestsellers list, and is available at www.amazon.com.

The December 12, 2009 Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe set a new all-time record for pilgrims visiting the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City.

Over 6.1 million pilgrims visited during the celebrations, breaking the previous record set in 2008.

Msgr. Diego Monroy Ponce, rector of the Basilica, led the celebrations, and urged: "Let us be dedicated to others, let us give ourselves to them, let us build for Our Lady a Mexico of values, where life is loved and respected, where the family, as vital cell of society, has the privileged place that corresponds to it given the many realities that try to overshadow and weaken it."

In New York City, at St. Patrick's Cathedral, the Feast Day was celebrated by receiving the Guadalupe Torch that left Tepeyac in October.

The celebration, which has taken place at the cathedral since 2002, gathers the Hispanic community in the United States. Each year, a torch travels north to the United States until it arrives in the heart of Manhattan, having been carried by 25,000 porters along the way.

The Knights of Columbus hosted their first International Marian Congress last August 6 – 8 in Phoenix, Arizona.

In conjunction with this Congress, Saturday, August 8 was reserved for a festival devoted to Our Lady of Guadalupe. Nearly 22,000 people packed Jobing.com arena in Glendale, AZ to celebrate Our Lady's miracle, and to get a glimpse of a very special relic – a small piece of St. Juan Diego's tilma.

One of the Congress' presenters was Dr. Jose Aste Tonsmann, who has done extensive research on the images found in Our Lady's eyes. A very interesting and detailed video analysis of his studies can be found on the Congress' website here: www.mariancongress.org

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Frank Smoczynski

The work of the Queen of the Americas Guild continues in its 30th year through some of the hardest economic times in the Guild's existence. Being a not-for-profit organization makes it even harder. Keep us in your prayers and do your best with donations so that we may continue to do Our Lady's work. We thank you for all your past assistance.

Let us talk a little about this issue of the newsletter. This issue includes a very special mural by a very famous painter for the church, Mr. Anthony Visco. It is the centerpiece of this issue. This mural is on the Narthex Ceiling at the Shrine in La Crosse, Wisconsin. Along with this mural, Mr. Visco has contributed many other works of art to the Shrine, both inside the Shrine church and in the outdoor areas.

We think this issue of the newsletter is one of our best. Over the years we have strived to improve the quality and content of this magazine by changing the composition and layout. Also, the photos used are up to date and in color. We try to do our best for Our Lady by using the best printers, artists and writers available. My thanks must be given to our National Coordinator Rebecca Nichols, who works very hard to put it all together.

We have been invited back again this year, for the fifth time, to The Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse, Wisconsin to hold our annual conference. We will be supporting Archbishop Burke and many others as mentioned in this publication. We feel that we have become part of the Shrine and love to help bring as many people as possible to the program. It promises to be a very wonderful and enlightening program about a subject that will help you appreciate your faith.

Our pilgrimage to Mexico City this past February was a success again, with many new faces and some pilgrims returning for the second time. It is always a spiritual lift to visit the Basilica and travel the road of Saint Juan Diego with Bishop Madera. Please consider joining us next year in February. I guarantee that you won't be disappointed.

We continue to work on the project of building the retreat house at the Shrine in Mexico City. When we bring the pilgrims down to the Shrine, we always visit our property to show them where we intend to build this facility. All are impressed with the location. We get closer to closure on this project and then some issues come up to slow it down. But never out. I have worked too long and hard on this vision of our founder, Bishop Jerome Hastrich, to let obstacles stand in our way.

On a sad note, this year we have lost our dear Father Christopher Rengers at the age of 92. One of the founders of the Guild, he was always promoting the work of the Guild and devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe through various means. He would bring pilgrims down to Mexico with love, prayers, music, books he wrote, and even live plays. There are many stories I could tell about him. He worked tirelessly in the church and was devoted to his St. Joseph Guild and of course, the Queen of the Americas Guild. We will miss him greatly and know that he is praying for us.

Again, I want to thank you all for your support and prayers.
Without you, we could not continue Our Lady's work.



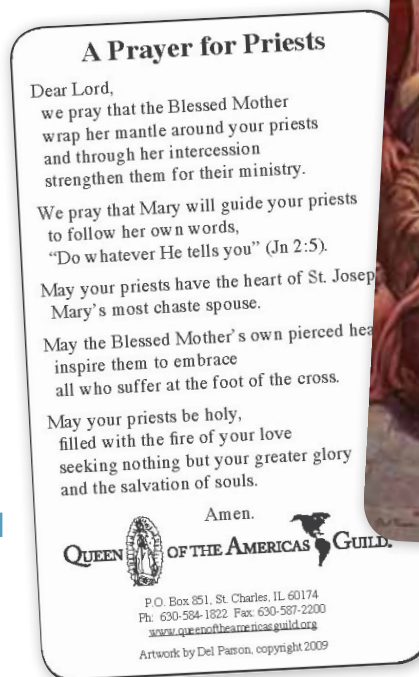
Queen of the Americas Guild
President Frank Smoczynski

A PRAYER FOR PRIESTS HOLY CARD NOW AVAILABLE!

The Guild is proud to present a beautiful new holy card to commemorate the Year of the Priest. The card features a lovely depiction of Jesus with his Apostles, the first priests, on the front, and A Prayer for Priests on the back.

For the first time, we are offering custom personalization on this holy card. Parishes or other organizations can imprint their name, address and/or logo on the back of the card beneath the prayer. The cards are also available pre-printed with the Guild's logo and contact information.

The cards are available on our website at www.queenoftheamericasguild.org/Cards.html or call 630-584-1822 for more information.



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

Episcopal Moderator

Most Rev. Joseph J. Madera, M.Sp.S.

Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, U.S.A. (Emeritus)

Directors

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

Msgr. George Hastrich

Ruth Sloan

GIFTED ARTIST FOR THE CHURCH

ANTHONY VISCO



Anthony Visco, Gifted Artist for the Church

Anthony Visco is the founder and director of the Atelier for the Sacred Arts in Philadelphia, where he does commission works and offers professional services as a devotional consultant. Upon graduation from the Philadelphia College of Art, he was the recipient of the Fullbright-Hayes Grant to travel and study in Italy, where he attended studios at the Accademia delle Belle Arti in Florence. In 1975, he was awarded the Elizabeth T. Greenshields Grant for figurative sculpture. He is a member of Classical America and has received the coveted Arthur Ross award twice for sculpture in an architectural setting. Mr. Visco also offers his expertise as a guest critic to the New York Academy of Art and as a professor at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts where he chaired the Sculpture department from 1986 – 1992.

In addition to the Narthex ceiling mural of “The Visions of Guadalupe”, Mr. Visco’s contributions to the Shrine include the Stations of the Cross, the Rosary Walk porcelain murals, the four Pendentives murals depicting The Doctors of the Church and four Baldacchino Angels.

Mr. Visco's devotion to the sacred arts is clearly expressed in the following excerpt:

"To make sacred art is to wed one's faith with one's esthetics in hopes to bring even closer, "the created" to our Creator, to shorten the real or imagined gap between "the called" with the Caller. When the artist answers, when this invitation is met successfully, a covenant is formed; the work is sanctified. This covenant is then extended from God to artist and from artist to fellow believers and finally back to God again. It is this covenant that we wish to explore here. As faith and aesthetic works combine, the work in turn is employed to reflect those beliefs. As culture becomes infused with and by our trust and hope in God, sacred art becomes an indeterminate good, a means by which we may come together and witness the meeting of heaven and earth. Thus, sacred art cannot ever be the same give and take between artist and society as secular art."

-From *"The Anatomy of Sacred Art"*
by Anthony Visco

The Visions of Guadalupe Reflections By Anthony Visco

When we considered the mural for the narthex ceiling, the Fifth Apparition was always intended to be the central theme. As the idea grew to include all four preceding visions of Our Lady to Saint Juan Diego, the mural grew as well to where it covered the entire ceiling. As all five apparitions are miracles, I wanted the mural to offer a sense of the chaitotic moment, a mystical moment when all time and space as we know it are suspended. It was also in my looking at other representations of Guadalupe I found that many artists indeed presented all five apparitions on one panel, although not in the same space and time. Here at the shrine, pictorial composition has a twofold purpose: first, to express the Eternal, the mystical moment when the Divine intervenes in our lives; secondly, to express the temporal by bringing the miracle into our every day moment of building the Church on earth.

I knew right away as a ceiling mural it called for a classical type of illusionist painting, called "soto in su'", or, a looking up into a scene from below. It was a device employed by the Church during the Counter Reformation for artists to express the divine, the mystical, and the unexplainable. Here, the image opens up to the heavens and we become witness as we see through to the floor of Juan Bernardino's house. Our Lady appears over him and us with the radiant sun behind her, her rose tunic and her blue starred mantle. We can see the outlines of a dome for our church in progress as well. A portion of the cloud on which the Virgin stands separates St. Juan Diego, who witnesses his uncle's healing from another side.

We are surrounded, of course, by the four preceding apparitions as witnessed by Saint Juan Diego. Intermingled with the temporal theme, the apparitions are surrounded by witnesses, onlookers, and builders laying the foundation for the Church of Tlpetlac and the building of our Shrine we stand in now. We are looking up into the "new church" that Our Lady asks us to build on the spot. As a central theme, the balcony of faithful surround the central image, all witness the miracle of Our Lady as Saint Juan reveals the tilma not only to the Bishop but the world.

DAY 6

DAY 7

DAY 8

DAY 9

DAY 9

DAY 5

DAY 3 & 4

DAY 2

DAY 1

The Narthex Ceiling Mural: A Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe

The intention here was to make the art of the shrine a reflection on the Guadalupe miracle suitable for a 9-day Novena.

Day 1: Saint Juan Diego approaches the hill of Tepeyac. Prepare Us.

Day 2: Saint Juan Diego sees Our Lady, the first apparition.

Day 3: Saint Juan Diego reports the vision to the Bishop.

Day 4: The Bishop asks Juan Diego to ask for a sign.

Day 5: Saint Juan Diego returns to Tepeyac.

Day 6: Saint Juan Diego is informed to pick the roses.

Day 7: Saint Juan Diego returns to the Bishop with the Tilma of Roses.

Day 8: Saint Juan Diego witnesses the healing of his Uncle Juan Bernadino.

Day 9: The building of the shrines at Tepeyac and La Crosse.



MARY: MOTHER

By Fr. John P. Grigus, OFM, Conv.

Reprinted with permission of Immaculata magazine

“Mary, Mother and Image of the Church”: this title expresses the heart of the mystery of Our Lady’s relationship with the Church.

Part I: Background behind the Title

The title was solemnly proclaimed as a teaching binding the whole Church, “that is to say, of all the people of God, of the faithful as well as of the pastors,” by Pope Paul VI on November 21, 1964, at the conclusion of the third session of the Second Vatican Council. This was also the date on which the document on the Church, *Lumen Gentium*, became a Dogmatic Constitution, with *Lumen Gentium*’s final Chapter 8, “The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God in the Mystery of Christ and the Church,” exclusively dedicated to Mary, her relationship to Christ and to the Church. Even though Mary was always believed to be the Mother of the Church from the first Christian century, Pope Paul VI officially solemnized that title on this date and made it a matter of our Catholic Faith, because he saw in it “the crown and summit” of the entire Dogmatic Constitution on the Church.

Said Pope Paul, “With the promulgation of the Constitution on the Church, we have fashioned a crown as it were by declaring Mary Mother of all the faithful and all the pastors, that is to say, of the Church.”

The implication of this pronouncement is profound. From now on, the Church can no longer be viewed apart from Mary. Mary is not only the Mother of God but also Mother of the Church and, therefore, of each and every member of the Church. Let no one then say that Vatican II has lowered the position of Mary with respect to the Church. On the contrary, it has affirmed and solemnized it.

It is so important, in the midst of so much theological confusion and controversy present in the Church today,

for ordinary Catholics to come to know their Faith. What I would like to do in this article is to offer you a summary and a simple way to understand what the Church believes about Mary as expressed in the terms, Mary: Mother and Image of the Church.

Part II: Mary, Mother of the Church

There are two ways in which a woman can become a mother of a child: through natural generation and through adoption.

Natural generation reflects the fact of the physicality of the birth, namely, that the child comes from her womb, and so is of her flesh. Yet motherhood does not stop there. Rather, it must continue and also be reflected in the rights and obligation that the mother possesses after birth to raise the child, to help him or her become a mature adult, a responsible citizen of society and a faithful member of the Church.

The first type of motherhood, through physical birth, we can call “natural motherhood.” The other we may call “spiritual motherhood,” for raising of a child is more a matter of spirit than flesh. This is a role that a woman can fulfill even if she happens not to be the birth-mother of the child, as is the case with adopted parent-child relationships.

Theologically, the former may be referred to as “motherhood in the order of nature” and the latter, specifically when seen in the light of our Faith, as “motherhood in the order of grace.” This distinction is important for it will help us to better understand how Mary can be called Mother of the Church.

& IMAGE OF THE CHURCH



Order of Nature and Grace

First and foremost, Mary is the Mother of the Church because she is the Mother of Christ in the natural sense of the term. The Church is dependent upon Christ for its origin. She comes into being through the sacrament of new birth, Baptism, which receives its force through the atoning power of Christ's blood and the gift of the Holy Spirit.



the woman. Mary is truly blessed not simply because she has given birth to him and fulfilled the natural obligations of her motherhood, but because she has heard the word of God and kept it.

This relationship we ourselves are able to have with Jesus if, like Mary, we also choose to hear and keep the word of God.

But Mary is the Mother of Christ; so indirectly she is the Mother of the Church as well, for without her giving birth to Christ there would be no Church. We can then say that in the order of nature, as Jesus is conceived, so is the Church pre-conceived in the womb of Mary. In Mary the order of creation is reversed: Whereas in the first order, man (Adam) gives birth to woman (Eve); in the second order, woman (Mary, the New Eve) gives birth to man (Jesus, the New Adam) from whose pierced side, like from the rib of the first Adam, comes the rest of the Church, the New Creation (cf. Jn 19:34).

But more important than the order of nature is the order of grace. Before Mary becomes a natural mother, she becomes a supernatural mother through her fiat to become the Mother of Christ.

Now we can more precisely define what is meant by the order of grace: that which comes into being through the free and loving assent of the human will to God's designs for one's life. In the case of Mary, this design is for her to be the Mother of Christ and partner with him, yet totally dependent upon him, in the act of our spiritual rebirth (Coredemptrix). It is this prior assent in the order of grace, of God lovingly inviting and human being lovingly responding, that she becomes the Mother of Christ and the Mother of the Church.

So the order of grace precedes that of nature; it is in fact what makes the latter possible.

"Who is My Mother?"

This understanding will now help us to better grasp what Jesus meant in reply to the woman who cried out from the crowd, "Blessed is the womb that bore you and the breasts that nursed you." "Rather," Jesus says, "blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it" (Lk 11:27, 28). This response is not to be seen as a put down of Mary. Rather, Jesus is trying to outline the true dignity of his mother that escapes the notice of

Hearing the word of God and keeping it, and not natural family descent, becomes the prime means by which one enters into a kinship relationship with Jesus and Mary and all others the world over who are equally related to them in the new order of creation. The force of this truth proclaimed by Jesus himself also comes through very clearly in Matthew 28:48, when to the statement of the Jews that his mother and brothers have arrived, Jesus says in reply, "[And] who is my mother? Who are my brothers?... whoever does the will of my heavenly Father is my brother; and sister; and mother."

Consecration: Taking Mary into Our Home

The divine imperative for such a relationship between Mary and ourselves in the order of grace is given in the words of Jesus from the cross. When speaking of John he says to Mary, "Woman, behold your son," and when to John he says, "Behold your mother" (Jn 19:26, 27).

Here Jesus himself expresses his will that his mother should become the Mother of all the faithful (reflected in the person of John, the "beloved disciple") and that the faithful should become her spiritual sons and daughters. It is an invitation for all of us to enter into a supernatural relationship with Mary as Mother.

As Pope John Paul II says in his encyclical, *Mother of the Redeemer* (*Redemptoris Mater*): "This is true not only of John . . . but it is also true of every disciple of Christ, of every Christian. The Redeemer entrusts his mother to the disciple, and at the same time he gives her to him as his mother . . . a gift which Christ himself makes personally to every individual."

And "entrusting himself to Mary in a filial manner," continues the Pope, "the Christian, like the Apostle John, 'welcomes' the Mother of Christ 'into his own home' and brings her into everything that makes up his inner life, that is to say into his human and Christian 'I'" (RM, no. 45).

How do we enter into this new spiritual relationship with Mary, to “take Mary into the home of our own hearts”? We do so through our Marian consecration, the free and total surrender of ourselves to Mary.

As we give to her our total selves, she will give to us her total self: the virtues, the qualities of her personality, the habits of being that made her to be who she is. And who is she? Mary is the Immaculate Conception, without the least trace of sin, a woman incredibly beautiful in spirit, a beauty singularly directed to, and disposed for, Christ. This beauty of spirit allows her to become the Mother of Christ.

When we give ourselves totally to her and invite her into the home of our hearts and seek to live out our consecration in every detail of our lives, then she will extend to us the power to be totally disposed for Christ as she was. Then we too will become a dwelling place for Christ in the Spirit, and like her will also “give birth” to him for the world. Then we will have become his mother (and brother and sister) in a most literal though spiritual sense.

Part III: Mary, Image of the Church

How is the Blessed Virgin an “Image of the Church”? She is an Image of the Church as Virgin, Mother and Heavenly Bride. These are qualities the Church and each one of her members are called to embody.

Virginity: Faithfulness to Christ

Mary is first and foremost Virgin, and not any kind of a virgin, but a “perpetual virgin,” meaning that her heart was disposed for no man but God, ordered solely for Christ, and this during the whole of her life. So likewise the Church is called to be a perpetual virgin through her perpetual fidelity to Christ and to God’s word.

Virgin is the image the prophets of the Old Testament often use when they speak of Israel as the beloved bride or daughter of God who has begun well, but has later defiled herself and so lost her virginity through idolatry and infidelity to the Covenant (cf. Is 7:14, 23:12; Jer 2:32, 14:17). The meaning with regard to the Church is clear: should the Church or any of its members or institutions cease to “heed and keep” God’s word as it is reflected in Scripture and safeguarded through its living

Tradition, following instead false teaching, then she too will have defiled herself and so lost her virginity.

And since Mary’s virginity is ordered to Divine Motherhood, she would also lose the power, in the likeness of Mary, to be the “God-Bearer” (Theotokos) in and for the world. Fortunately, though many of the members and institutions within the Church have “lost their virginity” – their fidelity to Christ – we have the prayer and promise of Jesus to sustain us, that Peter, and therefore the Church whose unity and authenticity he reflects, will never lose the purity of faith. “Simon, Simon, behold Satan has demanded to sift all of you like wheat, but I have prayed that your own faith may not fail,” says Jesus (Lk 22:31). “You are Peter (the rock), and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” (Mt 16:18).

Womb of Salvation

The Church is called to be a Virgin like Mary, so that like Mary she can also be a Mother. For as mother she too gives birth to Christ in her sons and daughters.

This birth is effected through the waters of Baptism. The baptismal font of the Church then takes on the likeness of Mary’s own womb, bringing the sons and daughters of Eve to new birth in Christ. And once having given birth to Christ in her sons and daughters, the Church is to continue to do what Mary did, to nurture Christ in her members until they are brought to full maturity. This she does through her Sacraments, especially the sacraments of Penance and Eucharist, and through her ministry of preaching and teaching.

And looking at Mary, the Church also looks forward to one day sharing the glory that Mary now fully enjoys in heaven. This glory is that of being the spotless Bride espoused to Christ as Mary was espoused to the Holy Spirit.



In summary, we can say that the Church looks to Mary to see a prototype of what she herself is called to be. And by consecrating herself to Mary, she receives from Christ through Mary the power to be what Mary herself was: totally disposed for God, so that through her the Kingdom of God might become a reality in our world as the Word-made-flesh became real in the womb of Mary.

5TH ANNUAL QUEEN OF THE AMERICAS GUILD CONFERENCE

AT THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
JULY 30 & 31, 2010

“Our Lady of Guadalupe: Bringing us to her
Son through an understanding of Church law”



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

Join the Queen of the Americas Guild for a 2-day conference examining Our Lady of Guadalupe's relationship to the laws of the Catholic Faith. As Canon Law is intended to be our guide, so too, is the timeless message of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The Annual Conference for the Queen of the Americas Guild is open to all those who wish to enhance their 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. As Prefect of the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura at the Vatican, Archbishop Burke is uniquely qualified to speak on Our Lady of Guadalupe as the Mirror of Justice for her children of America, especially in fostering and safeguarding the respect for all human life and the integrity of the family. 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.



Bishop Joseph J. Madera,
M.Sp.S

Mr. Benedict Nguyen, M.T.S., J.D., J.C.L. will guide us through ways in which we can be part of the New Evangelization through fidelity to the Church's canonical laws on marriage. Mr. Nguyen is the Chancellor for the Diocese of La Crosse, Wisconsin where he also serves as the Diocesan Director of Communications and Defender of the Bond. He is an Adjunct Professor for the Institute for Pastoral Theology of Ave Maria University and a Visiting Lecturer for the Liturgical Institute at Mundelein Seminary. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in (Liturgical) Musicology from the University of Kansas; a Master of Theological Studies from the University of Dallas; a Licentiate in Canon Law from the Catholic University of America; and a law degree from the Hamline University school of Law in St. Paul, MN.

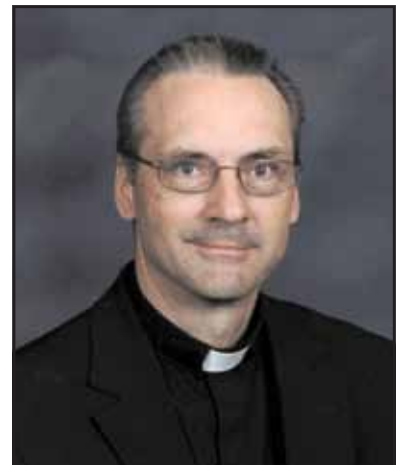
Rev. Christopher Kubat, B.S., M.Div., M.A., M.D. will reflect upon the apparition of Our Lady with respect to bringing her unborn Son to the world and the implications that it has for our adherence to the Church teaching regarding the safe-guarding of life at all of its stages. Rev. Kubat is the Executive Director of Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Lincoln, NE, Instructor at St. Gregory the Great Seminary, and a member of the Ethics Committee for several hospitals. He holds a B.S. and M.D. from Creighton University, and a Masters of Divinity and M.A. from Mount St. Mary's Seminary. He is a board-certified urologist, and has written publications and presented on many subjects both medical and ethical.

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.



Benedict Nguyen,
M.T.S., J.D., J.C.L.



Rev. Christopher Kubat,
B.S., M.Div., M.A., M.D.



Marty Rotella

Conference Packages:

Conference & Dinner package: Includes conference attendance Friday & Saturday, Friday night gourmet dinner, Saturday refreshment break, 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 June 15.

Saturday Only Conference:

Due to the limited seating at the Friday night dinner, we are offering this package, which will allow you to attend all conference activities on both days, excluding the Friday dinner. Includes conference attendance on Saturday (and Friday, excluding dinner), refreshment break, buffet lunch, 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 15.

Cancellation:

For Conference & Hotel packages, no refunds will be given on the hotel portion after June 15. All other cancellations will be refunded only if notification is received by July 15.

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.

5TH ANNUAL QUEEN OF THE AMERICAS GUILD CONFERENCE

AT THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
JULY 30 & 31, 2010

5TH ANNUAL QUEEN OF THE AMERICAS GUILD CONFERENCE

AT THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
JULY 30 & 31, 2010

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

You can register online at
www.queenoftheamericasguild.org



Yes, I would like to attend the conference July 30 & 31.

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

Please check options below:

Item	# Attending	Price/pp	Total
Conference & Dinner Package	_____	\$ 85.00	_____
Saturday Only Conference Package	_____	\$ 49.00	_____
Hotel & Conference Package*	_____	\$210.00	_____
Single Hotel Room Supplement	_____	\$125.00	_____
Friday Box Lunch	_____	\$ 10.00	_____
<i>Please choose: Veggie Wrap</i>	_____	<i>Tuna Wrap</i>	_____
Sunday Buffet Breakfast	_____	\$ 15.00	_____

TOTAL DUE: _____

Please Circle:

Visa MasterCard Discover Amex

Name on card

Card number

Expiration date

3 or 4 digit sec. code

*Based on double occupancy. Nights of July 30 & 31 are included. Rooms at Radisson or Courtyard by Marriott.

LACROSSE CONFERENCE



Bishop Madera explains the meaning of the tilma

The Queen of the Americas Guild was pleased to co-sponsor its fourth conference at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse, Wisconsin last July 31 – August 1. Nestled among the beautiful foothills of the Mississippi Valley, the Shrine and its founder, Archbishop Raymond L. Burke, share a similar purpose to that of the Guild; to promote devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe.

The conference began on Friday, July 31 with the opening Mass, celebrated by Archbishop Raymond L. Burke, Prefect of the Supreme Tribunal for the Apostolic Signatura in Rome. The Mass was a beautiful celebration of the first anniversary of the dedication of the Shrine Church. Following Mass, attendees enjoyed some free time in the afternoon to explore the many devotional areas of the Shrine complex.

During the afternoon, Mrs. Francine Demma was on hand to sign copies of Our Lady of the New Millennium – One Man's Dream. Francine is the owner of the 34-ft. tall Our Lady of the New Millennium statue, and has carried out the legacy of her late husband Carl in bringing Our Lady to parishes throughout Chicagoland and beyond since 1999.

Later that afternoon, after gathering for a pro-life Rosary, pilgrims were treated to the highlight of the conference, the keynote address by Archbishop Burke. On Friday evening, a delicious gourmet dinner

JULY 31 - AUGUST 1, 2009

with honored guests, Archbishop Burke and Bishop Joseph J. Madera, was enjoyed at the Shrine's Culina Mariana Café. This limited-seating event proved to be very popular – selling out weeks before the conference.

Saturday began with a breakfast buffet, followed by another Rosary gathering. One of the day's highlights was a stirring talk by Sister Rosalind Moss, founder of Daughters of Mary, Mother of Israel's Hope, and frequent EWTN host and guest. The theme of Sister Rosalind's talk was "Mary, Mother of Israel's Hope." Attendees were left inspired by Sister Rosalind's story of being raised in a Jewish home and her conversion to Catholicism.

After a brief refreshment break, Holy Mass was again celebrated by Archbishop Raymond Burke, with Bishop Joseph Madera concelebrating. After lunch, attendees were treated to a talk by Dr. Robert Moynihan, founder and editor of Inside the Vatican Magazine. Dr. Moynihan gave an educational and enjoyable talk on "16th Century: Our Lady Protects Russia and the Americas." Pilgrims learned a great deal on this subject as Dr. Moynihan shared his experiences as a leading Vatican analyst and expert.

Later that afternoon, attendees were treated to a spirited talk by Bishop Joseph J. Madera, Bishop emeritus of the Archdiocese for the Military Services of the U.S.A. Bishop Madera shared his thoughts and interpretation of Our Lady of Guadalupe's self-portrait in his humorous and lively style, which was enjoyed by all.

After a brief closing address by Guild President Frank Smoczynski, attendees enjoyed a lively concert by Marty



Francine Demma signs copies of *Our Lady of the New Millennium – One Man's Dream*





The beautiful Shrine church is full for the celebration of the anniversary Mass

Rotella, who also served as Master of Ceremonies for the conference. Marty is a Grammy-nominated singer and songwriter whose many works include the Our Lady of Guadalupe tribute song, "I'm Your Mother". Marty is a particular favorite of the children of the Shrine's Saint Juan Diego Guild.

The conference concluded Saturday evening with a delicious barbeque dinner, at which attendees were able to visit informally with both Archbishop Burke and Bishop Madera. All who attended the 2009 conference left with a new understanding of the work of the Queen of the Americas Guild and Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, as well as a deeper understanding of Our Lady's miracle. We look forward to the 2010 conference!

SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
TO PRESENT

MONSIGNOR EDUARDO CHÁVEZ SÁNCHEZ

The Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse, Wisconsin will be sponsoring a one-day conference at the Shrine on Saturday, June 26, 2010 featuring Monsignor Eduardo Chávez Sánchez, Postulator for the Cause of St. Juan Diego.

This once-in-a-lifetime opportunity will be hosted by Archbishop Raymond Burke and includes the following:

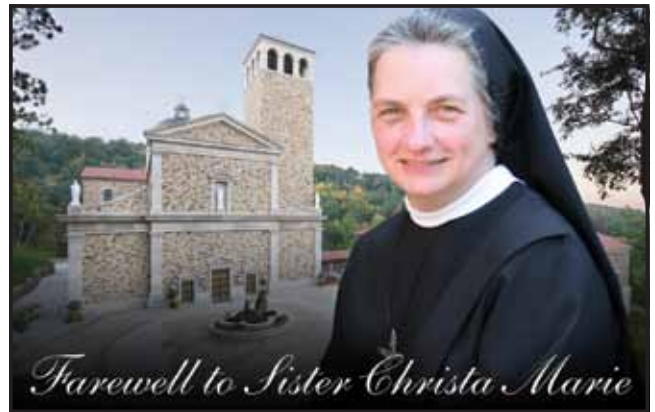
- Talks by Msgr. Eduardo Chávez Sánchez and Archbishop Raymond L. Burke
- Reserved seating for talks
- Luncheon with Archbishop Burke and Msgr. Chávez
- Gift Certificate to Shrine Gift Shop
- Book signing by Msgr. Chávez...and more!

The cost for is \$40 per adult, and \$15 per child.
Seating is limited. For more information or to register, visit www.guadalupe Shrine.org or call 608-782-5440.



Monsignor Eduardo
Chávez Sánchez

SISTER CHRISTA MARIE RECEIVES NEW ASSIGNMENT



Sister Christa Marie, F.S.G.M., Executive Director of the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, will be moving to a new position as President of St. James Academy in Lenexa, Kansas as of June 1.

The Queen of the Americas Guild has worked closely with Sister Christa Marie during her nearly seven years at the Shrine, and Sister continues to serve on the Guild's Board of Directors. Sister has worked tirelessly for the Shrine, supervising countless events and construction projects, not the least of which is the beautiful Shrine Church. Her knowledge, enthusiasm, and attention to detail are reflected in every area of the Shrine campus.

We will miss Sister Christa Marie greatly, and wish her many blessings in her new assignment.

GUILD PARTICIPATES IN THE CHICAGO ARCHDIOCESE FESTIVAL OF FAITH

The Queen of the Americas Guild recently participated in the Archdiocese of Chicago's Festival of Faith, which was held at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont, Illinois on October 16 and 17. A crowd of over 7,500 attendees kept us busy handing out prayer cards, pilgrimage information and pamphlets.

Our booth at the Festival was a wonderful opportunity to introduce hundreds of people to not only Our Lady of Guadalupe, but the works of the Queen of the Americas Guild. We were blessed to be able to bring along Francine Demma, curator of the Our Lady of the New Millennium statue, who kindly signed copies of Our Lady of the New Millennium – One Man's Dream.

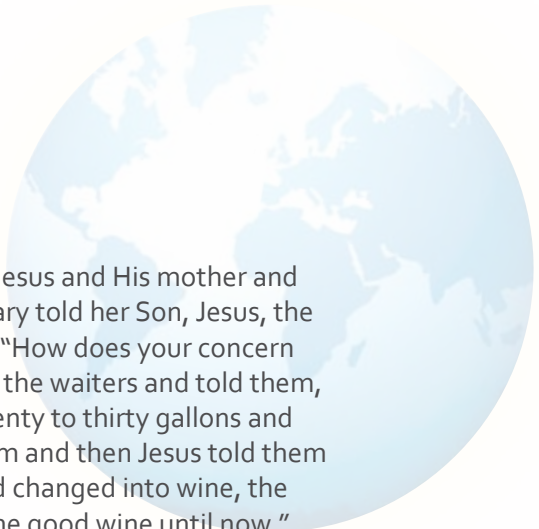
We were able to meet so many wonderful people and share the miracle of Our Lady of Guadalupe with them, and we look forward to participating in the next Festival of Faith.

WHAT A TIME TO LIVE IN THE WORLD!



By Rev. Msgr. George M. Hastrich

In order for the reader to understand what follows in this article for the Queen of the Americas Guild, the Queen being Mary, the Mother of Jesus Christ, the reader must know that the last words of Mary recorded in the Sacred Scripture (the Bible) are these: "DO WHATEVER HE TELLS YOU." These words were spoken to a few waiters at the wedding feast at Cana in Galilee at the beginning of Jesus' public life.



To tell the setting briefly: St. John tells us that it was a wedding in Cana and Jesus and His mother and some disciples were there. At some point the wine was running short and Mary told her Son, Jesus, the potential embarrassment, “they have no more wine” to which Jesus replied, “How does your concern affect me?” as if to imply that He could do something about it. Mary went to the waiters and told them, “Do whatever He tells you.” There were six stone water jars each holding twenty to thirty gallons and Jesus told the waiters, “fill the jars with water.” So they filled them to the brim and then Jesus told them to take the jars to the headwaiter. When he tasted the water which Jesus had changed into wine, the headwaiter said, “most people serve the good wine first but you have kept the good wine until now.” This first sign that Jesus worked at Cana revealed His glory and His disciples began to believe in Him.” (St. John 2:1-11)

Do you think that Mary intended her words only for a handful of waiters at a wedding? Are these words as recorded in the scriptures not intended also for us? Since they are the last words recorded we better listen to them, “DO WHATEVER HE TELLS YOU.” And how does He tell us – through the Church! Now look at how the Church has “spoken” to us during our lifetime.

When you consider all the words of the last twenty or more years, consider this:

- The SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL (the first Vatican Council was in 1870).
- The publication of the “CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH”, 1997.
- The Three years of Preparation by the Church: The Year of God the Father, 1998; The Year of God the Son, 1999, and the Year of the Holy Spirit, 2000.
- The end of the last millennium and the start of the second (in connection with that, Pope John Paul II issued the call to the New Evangelization), 2000 – 2001.
- The death of Pope John Paul II after a pontificate of 25 years.
- The funeral of a Pope – a world event.
- The election of a Pope – Benedict XVI
- The addition of the “Luminous” Mysteries of the Rosary
- The Youth Weeks – Denver, Cologne, Australia, Canada
- Changes in the Sacred Liturgy

Are these events not ways in which Christ’s Church is “telling us?” Just think of how many people lived without events during their entire lifetime. What graces have come to us! How the media has helped and how the Church has told us “WHATEVER HE TELLS YOU.”

What does all of this mean to the people devoted to Our Lady of Guadalupe? Remember that she is the same Mary who told us to “DO WHATEVER HE TELLS YOU.” If we know her message at Tepeyac (and other appearances approved by the Church), should we not heed her spiritual message? Are not her subsequent words simply echoes of “DO WHATEVER HE TELLS YOU?”

It seems to me that our heeding of Mary’s words through the centuries would prompt us to think back to her most authentic words because they are part of the Deposit of the Faith, which we believe in whenever we say the Creed at Mass. If we try to hear her subsequent messages (eg., at Lourdes, Fatima, Mexico), then let us not forget her first words at Cana.

Consider her subsequent messages a reaffirmation of her biblical advice.

FR. CHRISTOPHER RENGERS, OFM, CAP.

The Guild was saddened to learn of the death of founding member Father Christopher Rengers, OFM, Cap on January 25, 2010. Fr. Christopher was with the Guild from its inception, and continued to contribute his time and talents until his final days. Through his writings, teachings and many pilgrimages, Fr. Christopher was responsible for sharing the miracle of Our Lady of Guadalupe with countless thousands of the faithful. His kind and gentle soul will be greatly missed.

The following obituary appeared in several newspapers. It is a loving reflection of the depth of commitment that Fr. Christopher had to religious life.

Fr. Christopher Rengers, OFM, Cap., died on Monday, January 25, 2010 at Vincentian Home in Pittsburgh, PA. He was 92. Fr. Christopher was a noted confessor, spiritual mentor and author. His intense devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Joseph was legendary. Many regarded Fr. Christopher a saintly Capuchin friar and priest.

He was born on March 9, 1917, to Bernard and Elizabeth (Thinnes) Rengers in Pittsburgh, PA. He was baptized at St. Joseph Church in Bloomfield (Pittsburgh). Fr. Christopher is survived by his brother, Gerard Rengers, of Evans City, PA. He also leaves many nephews and nieces to mourn his passing.

He entered St. Fidelis Seminary in Herman, PA in 1930. Fr. Christopher entered the Capuchin Order in 1936 and professed his first vows as a friar on July 14, 1937. He made his solemn profession three years later. Fr. Christopher was ordained to the priesthood on May 28, 1942. Father's advanced education included philosophy studies at St. Fidelis Friary in Victoria, KS, theology at Capuchin College in Washington, DC, and psychology at St. Louis University in St. Louis, MO. Fr. Christopher authored numerous published works, including two Lenten books, a biography of Jacinto Marto (one of the three children who were blessed to encounter the Blessed Virgin Mary at Fatima), *The Stations of the Cross for the Elderly*, and a very popular book, *The Thirty-Three Doctors of the Church*. He authored many articles that appeared in various periodicals. Even until a few days before his death, Fr. Christopher worked on various scholarly and devotional projects.

His first priestly assignment was as chaplain at Visitation Academy in St. Louis, MO, from 1943 to 1945. His next

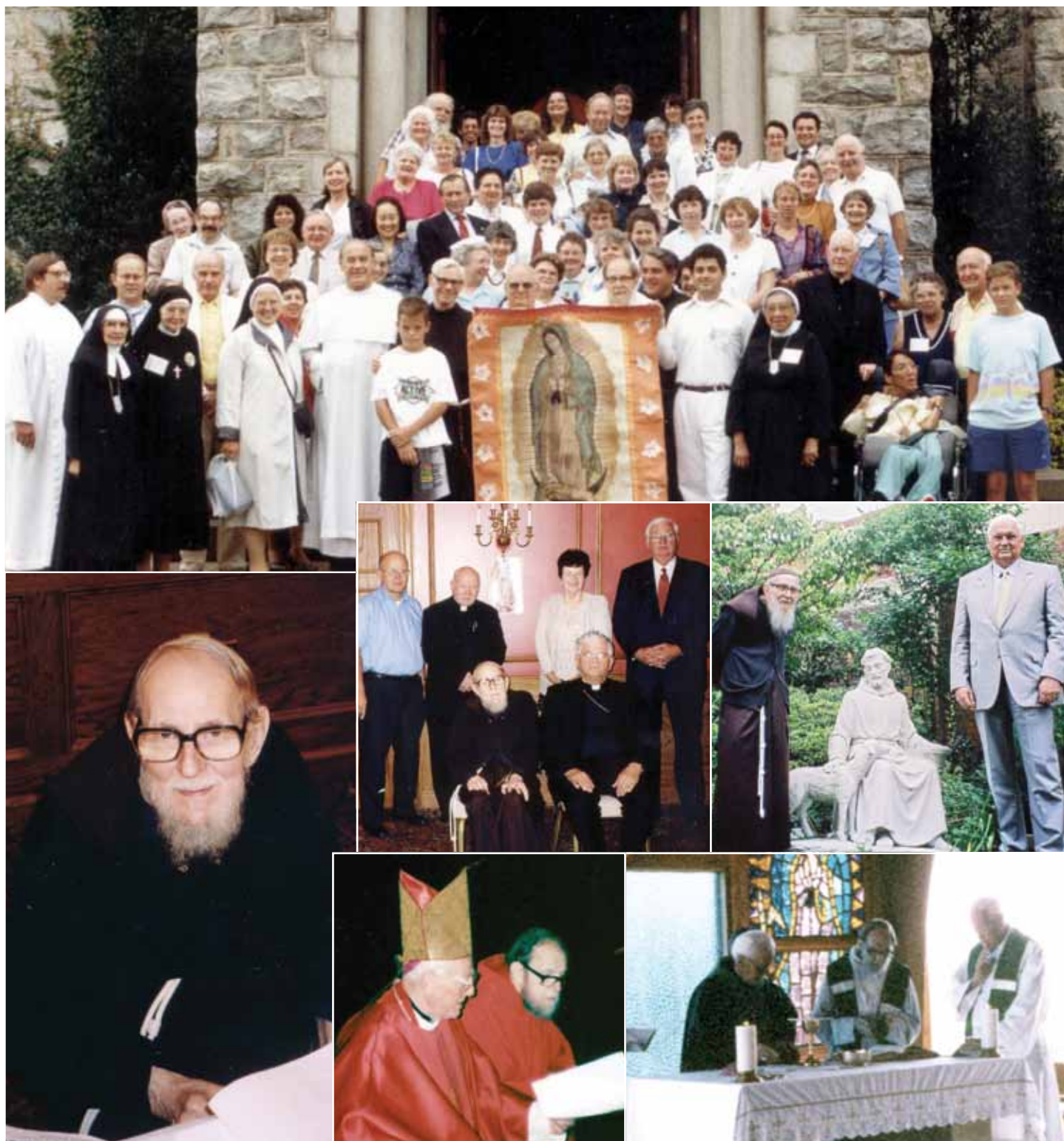
appointment was teaching at St. Joseph Military Academy in Hays, KS, and serving as pastor of St. Severin Church near Hays. Fr. Christopher was transferred to Herndon, KS, as parochial vicar of St. Patrick Church in Tully, KS, and chaplain for Atwood Hospital in Atwood, KS. In 1950 Fr. Christopher was assigned to St. Joseph Parish in Dover, OH, and in 1951 became pastor of St. Patrick Church in Mineral City, OH. His ministry in Ohio ended in 1959. For the next sixteen years, Fr. Christopher labored at St. Charles Borromeo Church in St. Louis. He began his ministry in St. Louis as the Capuchin friars' promoter of vocations. In addition to his regular duties, Fr. Christopher helped the poor, elderly, immigrants and mentally disabled. He founded The Capuchin Troupe, a group of amateur actors who performed Fr. Christopher's dramatic versions of the Passion of Christ and Our Lady of Guadalupe. The Troupe performed in many

parishes in Missouri and Illinois. In St. Louis Father also began in earnest his ministry to promote devotion to St. Joseph, designing and promoting the St. Joseph Medal. In 1975 Father Christopher was transferred to Capuchin College in Washington, DC. In addition to his on-going projects, Fr. Christopher was one of the founders of the Queen of the Americas Guild, dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe. Twice each year he headed a pilgrimage to Mexico City and the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Father Christopher was concerned about many social issues, including the right to life of the unborn. On January 21, 1977, the night before the March for Life in Washington, DC, he celebrated the evening Mass in the crypt church of the Basilica of the National Shrine. After Mass Fr. Christopher and his small group of worshippers maintained a night-long vigil. That unnoticed beginning has become a nationally televised Mass in the upper church of the Basilica, featuring Cardinals, bishops, priests, religious and an over-flowing congregation. The all-night vigil is carried on by thousands of young people from around the country.

At the age of 87 Father Christopher's health necessitated close medical attention; he was assigned to St. Augustine Friary, in Pittsburgh in 2004. Four years later he took up residence at Vincentian Home where he died. The Mass of Christian Burial took place on Friday, January 29, 2010 at Our Lady of the Angels Church, followed by burial at St. Augustine Cemetery.





Center picture: 2003 Queen of the Americas Guild Board meeting -back row, left to right: Steve Banaszak, Mons. George Hastrich, Ruth Sloan, Frank Smoczynski. Front row: Fr. Christopher Rengers, Bishop Joseph J. Madera. **Pictures clockwise from the top:** Fr. Christopher (behind banner, right), joins the 1989 Queen of the Americas Guild conference in Emmitsburg, MA, 1989 (photo by Frank Smoczynski); Fr. Christopher and Frank Smoczynski in the beautiful gardens of St. Augustine Friary; Fr. Christopher concelebrates Mass with Bishop Jerome Hastrich during 1986 Gallup, NM Guild conference; Fr. Christopher and Bishop Jerome Hastrich lead a pilgrimage in Mexico; Fr. Christopher hard at work at 2003 Guild board meeting.

~ 1917-2010

Brother Vito Martinez, a fellow Capuchin and friend of Fr. Christopher Rengers, graciously allowed us to reprint the following. We felt it was a beautiful tribute to Fr. Christopher and perfectly demonstrated the holiness with which he lived.

MY GREATEST READING: MY LAST VISIT TO FR. CHRISTOPHER RENGERS

By Brother Vito Martinez, OFM Cap.
Capuchin Franciscans of St. Joseph Province

This weekend I was asked to do the reading at the funeral of Fr. Christopher Rengers, OFM Cap. In preparing for it, a reflection of my experience of him formed in my mind. I decided to write it down, in hopes that it may be a witness of how great a man Fr. Christopher was.

"I like how you read."

The voice was barely audible over the oxygen machine running behind his wheelchair. Apologetically I asked him to repeat himself. With some strain he repeated himself: "I LIKE HOW YOU READ." He never showed the effort involved in speaking louder, but I could see it in his actions. I felt warm from the compliment, but guilty for causing this frail man pain.

It was the feast day of St. Basil, and I remember entering into the nursing home with a little reservation on seeing the retired friars. I watched my grandparents pass away in a nursing home, and there's a cultural aspect of "sending away the elderly" that I grapple with. And so there are times when I just don't feel up to the visitations. It sounds selfish; it sounds un-Franciscan. Yet it is an honest thought.

These are the times when I have to pray for strength and perseverance. Usually a quick prayer and a brief reflection on why I'm visiting retired friars in the nursing home renews my spirit. I realize that it is for the benefit of the "old guys" just as much as it's a benefit for us "young guys." (I've given up trying to argue that I'm not a "young guy" at 35 years!)

And so with a positive and open attitude we went to see Fr. Christopher that day. We'd been told that he wasn't feeling well and that he was resting a lot, yet when we entered his room, he was still eagerly working on some project or answering mail. For as much as Fr. Christopher worked, he always seemed to set it aside when we came to visit. It is as if he knew what was most important; a balance that even I still struggle with.

And so that day we prayed the Office of Readings in his room. The other Novice and I alternated between the Psalms, and then I read the readings. As I read, Fr. Christopher's eyes were closed. You could tell he was allowing the readings to sink in, the way a child may bask in the light of sun on a warm summer day. At different passages, he would nod his head.

"I like how you read," he told me when I finished. "You're very clear and you take your time. Sometimes I enjoy it more to listen to others read than just reading to myself."

He continued talking a little longer, but even in my strain to listen, I could only pick out a few words here and there. I'd like to think he told me I would be a great preacher someday, or that our arrival made his day better. Or perhaps he imparted some great Capuchin wisdom that was meant only for us two Novices that visited that day. Yet we couldn't hear him, and neither of us were comfortable with making him talk any louder than he could at the time.

All these things I sit with now, as I am surrounded by Capuchins here in Our Lady of Angels (formerly St. Augustine's) Church in Pittsburgh. As I prepare to read to Fr. Christopher for the last time, I look and see the old faces of Capuchins mixed with the new faces of guys preparing to join. I see love, not sadness. Even in the short time I had to know Fr. Christopher Rengers, I find it hard to feel sad at his passing. For it is people like Fr. Christopher, those who devote their entire being in the love and understanding of God and God's followers, that truly have earned their eternal reward. Guys like me, still learning the difference between selling a car and Hermeneutics look to friars like Fr. Christopher as a model for how we can be better Capuchins.

Remembering those words: "I like how you read," I prepare to take the ambo as Fr. John Pavlik finishes the Opening Prayer. While I stand before hundreds of people in this church to honor the passing of such a man, my goal is simple: to remember Fr. Christopher's face that day in the nursing home, that serene look of someone basking in the light of the Lord's word.

I like how you read.

RECIVIENDO A SUS HIJOS

Most Rev. Joseph J. Madera, M.Sp.S.

Dios escogió a los descendientes de Abraham, el pueblo judío, para hacer surgir de él al Mesías, el cual se ofreció a sí mismo, a Dios Padre, en cumplimiento de su misión, para la redención de su mismo pueblo.

Cristóbal Colon descubrió América en 1492. Él estaba buscando una forma de llegar a las Indias viajando desde el occidente de Europa y encontrar así, más gente con quien compartir el amor de Dios, como lo nota el informe que le dio al Rey Fernando y la Reina Isabel de España.

Los españoles conquistaron México en 1519. Con la conquista vino también la evangelización, fueron los padres franciscanos, quienes con grande celo pastoral, quienes iniciaron la evangelizaron de las tierras mexicanas. La evangelización de los nativos de México fue un verdadero desafío y un reto casi insuperable, no se conocía el lenguaje de los nativos, sin libros de gramática y menos aún diccionarios básicos de la lengua. Los aztecas no tenían un lenguaje escrito, sino que usaban una forma de comunicación a través de dibujos. La oración era el único recurso de los misioneros, rezaban y rezaban, pidiéndole al señor su ayuda. La intervención divina fue indispensable.

Los nativos practicaban la idolatría, miles de sacrificios humanos eran ofrecidos cada año a sus dioses (ídolos). Con ocasión de la dedicación del nuevo templo (Teocali), construido en honor a Huixilopostli, una de sus divinidades, fueron sacrificadas más de 80.000 víctimas humanas en su honor. "Escuchaba, el llorido y el ruego de esa gente", así se lo dijo a Juan Diego la Madre Bendita, cuando se le apareció, mientras iba, en camino a la ciudad de Tlatelolco, la capital del Imperio Azteca.

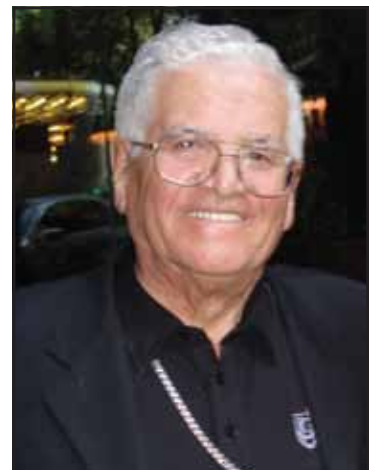
Juan Diego vivía en Cuahutitlan, una pequeña aldea situada a unas 15 millas de distancia de la ciudad capital. La bienaventurada en persona conoció a Juan Diego y lo llamó con amabilidad, con dulzura y con palabras de aliento, para hacerlo su mensajero. Juan Diego no podía creer lo que veían sus ojos y oían sus oídos, estaba viendo a la Madre de Dios, quien le estaba hablando en su propia lengua. Ella le dijo "Juan Dieguito, el más pequeño de mis hijos, he escuchado el llanto y las plegarias de tu pueblo. Quiero que vayas al Obispo de la Ciudad de México y le digas que deseo que me construya aquí en el valle, una casa (templo) donde pueda recibir a mis hijos y les pueda hablar acerca de las cosas de Dios. Quiero escucharlos y consolarlos".

Esto sucedió el 9 de diciembre de 1531, día en que la iglesia celebraba a la fiesta de la Inmaculada Concepción de María y Juan Diego iba en camino hacia la iglesia para esa celebración.

Juan Diego hizo lo que la Madre Bendita le había pedido. Por tres veces fue a hablar con el obispo, a pesar de lo difícil que era tener acceso al él, porque la corte del obispado hacía difícil el acceso al obispo, para comunicarle el mensaje. El mismo obispo se mostró muy precavido y escéptico a aceptar y creer la historia de Juan Diego. Por lo cual, le pidió que le diera una señal para comprobar la autenticidad de su historia. Finalmente, la Madre Bendita envió al obispo, rosas como señal de autenticidad, tal como se lo había pedido. En el momento que Juan Diego entregó las rosas al obispo Zumárraga, su imagen hermosa quedó pintada en la tilma de Juan Diego. Este retrato es el único auto-retrato de la Madre Bendita que tenemos en el mundo. Al día siguiente de su aparición, el obispo sorprendido por la presencia de la Madre Bendita, comenzó la construcción de la casa que le pedía la Dulce Madre.

La casa (el templo) ha sido renovada y ampliada varias veces. Ella ha recibido miles y millones de sus hijos venidos de todas partes del mundo.

Estamos heridos y necesitamos su consolación. Tenemos tantas cosas que decirle. Es nuestra consolación y alegría estar cerca de ella. Ella quiere recibirnos en su casa, por eso, ¡Vamos a la casa de nuestra Madre!



Most Rev. Joseph J. Madera, M.Sp.S.



Saint Faustina



Bl. Miguel Pro



Saint Thérèse



Saint Gianna Molla



Saint Maria Goretti



Saint Peregrine