



QUEEN *of the* AMERICAS GUILD

THE CANONIZATION OF *Pope John Paul II & Pope John XXIII*

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QUEEN OF THE AMERICAS GUILD



2014 NATIONAL NEWSLETTER VOLUME 28 | ISSUE 1

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I2 CANONIZATION OF POPES JOHN PAUL II AND JOHN XXIII



32 9TH ANNUAL 2014 CONFERENCE

AT THE SHRINE OF

OUR LADY *of* GUADALUPE



LA CROSSE, WISCONSIN
JULY 25 & 26, 2014





From the PRESIDENT...

By Francis E. Smoczynski

The Canonization of Pope Saint John Paul II this past April 27th was a particularly significant event for the Queen of the Americas Guild. As Pope, John Paul II traveled to Mexico an astounding five times, including four visits to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe. My wife, Beverly, and I were honored to be there for both his first visit in 1979, and his last, for the Canonization of St. Juan Diego in 2002. It was during this first visit in 1979 that I was able to capture the photograph shown on the cover of this magazine, and used on our latest holy card commemorating his canonization. The Holy Father was later kind enough to autograph the photo, at the request of my dear friend, Father Jacob Joerger. Since then, the original has held a place of honor in my home, and the Guild has used the image on countless occasions.

The Canonization of Pope Saint John Paul II is also a reminder of His Holiness' great devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe. In reviewing his accomplishments, writing, and travels as Pope, it is clear that Our Lady played a significant role in shaping his papacy. To say that he did more than anyone else in history to spread awareness Our Lady's message of evangelization is clearly not an understatement. His words, "Mexico, forever faithful" left a lasting impression on not just North America, but the world. So it was with great admiration and joy that we watched his Canonization ceremony on April 27th. To commemorate this event, we have created a new holy card, which you can read about on page 18.

Our annual pilgrimage to Mexico in February and March of this year was again a great success. Bishop Joseph Madera joyfully

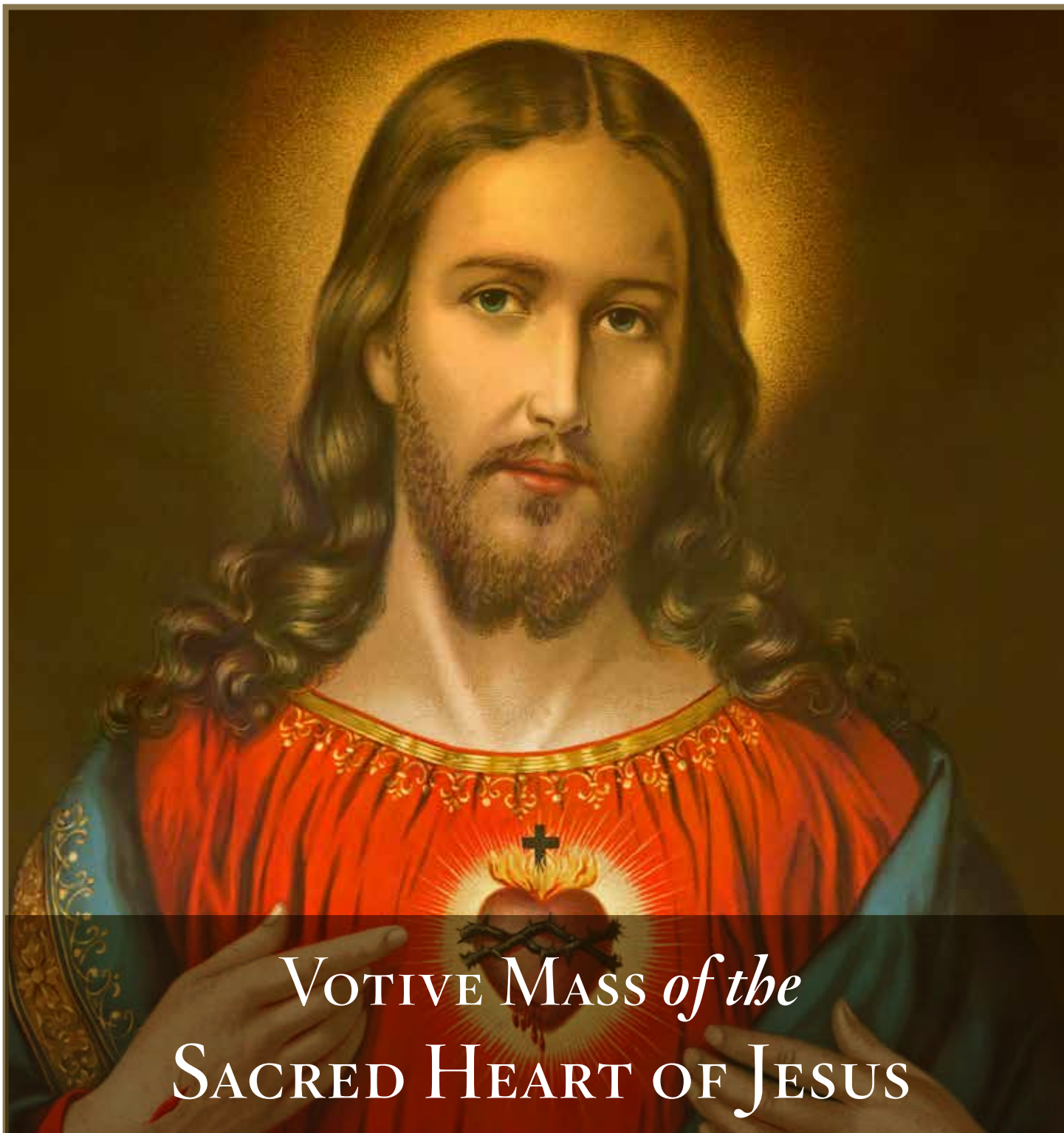
Guild President Frank Smoczynski

led our group of 23 pilgrims on a 5-day journey in the footsteps of Saint Juan Diego. We are forever grateful for his enthusiastic leadership and knowledge of Our Lady of Guadalupe's miracle.

We are looking forward to our annual conference at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse, Wisconsin this coming July 25th and 26th, 2014. The theme of this year's conference is "Do Whatever He Tells You" (Jn 2:5) – Safeguarding Traditional Marriage in a Secular Culture. As always, His Eminence Cardinal Raymond Burke will be our keynote speaker. He will be joined by Bishop Joseph Madera, Father Paul Check, and Maggie Gallagher. This promises to be an educational and fulfilling weekend of fellowship and prayer. Full conference details can be found on pages 32 - 34 of this newsletter.

We were pleased to welcome my son, Christopher Smoczynski, to the Guild Board of Directors this past July. Christopher has been involved with the Guild since he was a very young boy, and he shares a compatible vision of the Guild's future. We are grateful for his involvement, as Beverly and I look towards our future retirement. Our health challenges continue, but we remain involved and committed to our work with the Guild.

Rebecca Nichols continues in her role as the Guild's National Coordinator. She is in the Guild office from 8:30 – 5:00 Central Time, M-F and is ready to assist you with any inquiries, product or conference requests. Your support is needed and greatly appreciated, and I ask that you do what you can to support us. Most importantly, please keep our work, our Board of Directors, and all of our members in your prayers. ■



VOTIVE MASS *of the* SACRED HEART OF JESUS

QUEEN OF THE AMERICAS GUILD CONFERENCE

— WORSHIPPING GOD THROUGH —

ART AND ARCHITECTURE

Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, La Crosse

JULY 19, 2013

by Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke

HOMILY

Praised be Jesus Christ, now and for ever. Amen.

RIGHTLY WE BEGIN OUR ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE QUEEN OF THE AMERICAS GUILD with the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Our Lady of Guadalupe has brought

Dt 7, 6-11 Mt 11, 25-30

THE UNFATHOMABLE LOVE OF GOD FOR US
REACHED THE FULLNESS OF EXPRESSION IN THE
SENDING OF HIS ONLY-BEGOTTEN SON IN OUR
HUMAN NATURE TO OFFER HIS LIFE FOR US.

Our Lord Jesus Christ Who now comes into our midst to make present the outpouring of His life on Calvary for our eternal salvation reveals fully and perfectly to us how much God loves us and desires our love in return.

The unfathomable love of God for us reached the fullness of expression in the sending of His only-begotten Son in our human nature to offer His life for us. The Most Sacred Heart which God the Son received in the womb of the Virgin Mary, under her Immaculate Heart, was, from the moment of His virginal conception, destined to be pierced. From the Heart of Jesus was to flow, without ceasing, the grace of eternal salvation, the grace of the Sacraments and all of the actual graces which we need to live in Christ on this earth and to reach our heavenly destiny with Christ at the end of our earthly pilgrimage.



*Child Jesus statue, Shrine of
the Most Blessed Sacrament
– Hanceville, Alabama*

I am reminded of the statue which stands in the plaza of the Church of the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament at Hanceville, Alabama, founded by Mother Angelica of the Poor Clare Sisters of Perpetual Adoration. It is a statue of the Child Jesus with his tunic torn open at the chest. From the opening in the tunic, the Child Jesus offers His Sacred Heart to pilgrims. The statue is striking, for it brings home to us the mystery of the Redemptive Incarnation. The Heart formed by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of His life and throughout His hidden life at Nazareth and His public ministry, filled with immeasurable and ceaseless love for us. His Heart was ready to be pierced, in order to pour out His mercy and love into our hearts.

The Heart of Jesus, pierced at His death by the Roman soldier's spear, emptied itself for our salvation. The Heart of Jesus, pierced at His Death, began to beat again when He was glorified at the Resurrection and Ascension. From that moment, the Sacred Heart of Jesus has never ceased to beat with pure and selfless love for us. Our glorious Savior, seated at the right hand of the Father, never ceases to pour out upon us, from His Sacred Heart, the sevenfold gift of the Holy Spirit. His glorious Heart remains always open in selfless love, open to receive our hearts, in accord with the invitation which Our Lord made in the Gospel:

¹ Dt 7, 7-8 ² 1 Jn 4, 10 ³ Mt 11, 28-29.



His Eminence, Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke

us to this sacred place to meet her Divine Son, above all, in the Most Holy Eucharist. Fittingly we celebrate the Votive Mass of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, for the great mystery we encounter here is God's immeasurable love for us, symbolized most fully and perfectly in the pierced Heart of Jesus from which flows immeasurably and unceasingly the sevenfold gift of the Holy Spirit into our hearts.

As we have heard in the reading from the Book of Deuteronomy, Moses taught the people about the faithful and enduring love of God for them, reminding them that God chose them, not because they were "the largest of all nations," for they were "really the smallest of all nations," but because "the LORD loved" them, and He is ever faithful in His love.¹ In his First Letter, Saint John reminds us of the great mystery of God's love for us, which is not based on any merit of ours but is unconditional and total:

**In this is love:
not that we loved God, but that he loved us and
sent his Son to be the expiation for our sins. ²**

Come to me, all you who labor and are
burdened, and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you and learn from me,
for I am meek and humble of heart:
and you will find rest for yourselves. ³

Our rest, our joy and peace, is found in one only place: in the Heart of Jesus. Placing our poor hearts within His Sacred Heart, all rich in God's merciful love, we are cleansed of our sins and we are strengthened to love God and one another as Christ loves. Notwithstanding our own weakness and sinfulness, and the trials and temptations which we so often face, our hearts, one with the Immaculate Heart of Mary, find unfailing healing and strength in the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

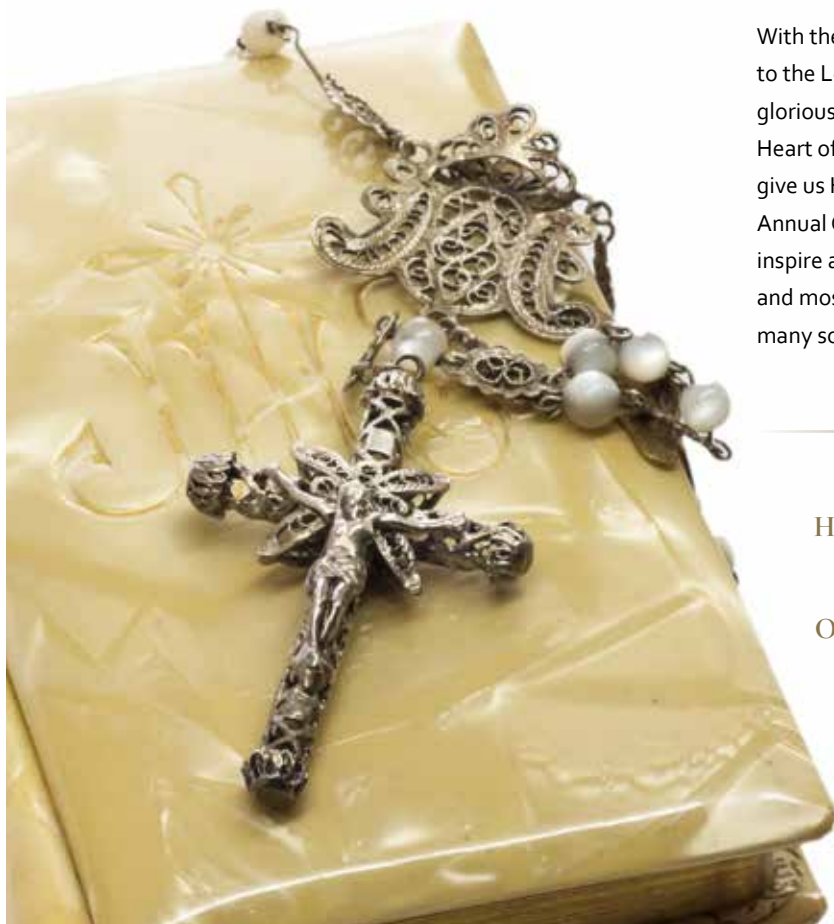
As, during these days of our annual conference, we reflect upon the beauty of the sacred art and architecture which we employ in our worship of God, let us remember that the beauty which befits the worship of God is a reflection of the infinite beauty of God's love poured forth into our hearts from the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Even as we strive, with the help of God's grace, to give our hearts ever more perfectly to Our Lord, so must we employ only the finest of our gifts in everything which pertains to sacred worship. In a particular way, the beauty of our sacred art and architecture must be an expression of the infinitely greater beauty of the love of Christ dwelling within

AS, DURING THESE DAYS OF OUR
ANNUAL CONFERENCE, WE REFLECT
UPON THE BEAUTY OF THE SACRED
ART AND ARCHITECTURE WHICH WE
EMPLOY IN OUR WORSHIP OF GOD...

our hearts. May the beauty of our chapels and churches, in which Christ comes to meet us and dwell with us, be an image of the incomparable beauty of His dwelling with us in our hearts.

Through the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, we keep our minds and hearts fixed upon the truth, the goodness, the beauty of God's dwelling with us always in His only-begotten Son, through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Through the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus – through the consecration of our hearts to the Sacred Heart and the enthronement of the image of the Sacred Heart in our homes, through the Morning Offering, through the observance of the First Fridays and of the Holy Hour of reparation on the Thursday before each First Friday –, we keep before our minds and hearts the truth of Christ's Sacrifice on Calvary for our eternal salvation. At the same time we treasure in mind and heart the truth of the Eucharistic Sacrifice by which Christ makes present for us the lasting fruits of His Passion and Death throughout the days of our earthly pilgrimage until we reach the goal of our pilgrimage and are with Him in glory in the Kingdom of Heaven.

With the humble trust of "little ones," let us now lift up our hearts to the Lord, placing them, through the Eucharistic Sacrifice, into His glorious pierced Heart. God is ever faithful in His love of us. In the Heart of Jesus, through the Holy Eucharist we now celebrate, He will give us His love and, with His love, every good gift. May He bless the Annual Conference of the Queen of the Americas Guild, and may He inspire and strengthen us to offer to Him our best, what is most fitting and most beautiful, to His greater glory and for the salvation of many souls. ■



Heart of Jesus, of Whose fullness we have all received,
have mercy on us.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of America and Star
of the New Evangelization,
pray for us.

Saint Juan Diego,
pray for us.



THE LEGACY OF POPE JOHN PAUL II

By Rev. Mons. George M. Hastrich

REPRINTED FROM 2005 QUEEN OF THE AMERICAS NEWSLETTER, AS IT IS ESPECIALLY FITTING, GIVEN THE CANONIZATION OF POPE JOHN PAUL II.

Since the most recent publication of this newsletter, the Church and the World have experienced the passing of Pope John Paul II and the election of his successor in the Petrine ministry, Pope Benedict XVI. No Catholic publications can ignore the significance of such historical events.

My first intention was to devote this article to the Five Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary, one of the many contributions of Pope John Paul II to the prayer life of the Church, but the patrimony of the pope contains much, much more.

The 26 years of his Pontificate gave us many spiritual gifts. Of special meaning to the readers of this newsletter is the obvious devotion to our Blessed Virgin Mary – already in the Papal coat-of-arms and the famous words: “Totus Tuus,” as he dedicated his papacy to her.

Nor can we forget that he made four pastoral visits to Mexico (and the U.S.A.) to the shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Without going into detail on the many encyclicals, apostolic letters and exhortations, weekly Angelus and audience talks, books written, World Youth Days, and The Year of the Eucharist, we need only to recall the events that punctuated his Pontificate: the implementation of the documents of the Second Vatican Council, the leading into the Third Millennium, the Jubilee Year with its three year preparation in honor of the Holy Trinity, his influence in bringing about the downfall of Communism in Poland, the record number of Beatifications and Canonizations – one could go on and on.

But in his own estimation, Pope John Paul II said the greatest achievement of his papacy was the publication of The Catechism of the Catholic Church. This is and will be the definitive teaching guide for years to come for those who want an unambiguous explanation of the teaching of the Catholic Church.

There is no better way to thank our Holy Father for his twenty-six years as pope than by the following:

HE WAS A GUIDEPOST TO THE TRANSCENDENT,
HE WAS A NURTURER OF SOULS,
A WITNESS TO THE CONTEMPLATIVE,
A JOYFUL WITNESS TO THE GOSPEL,
TO SEE THE SACRED,
TO HEAR THE SACRED.
TO LIVE THE SACRED,
TO ABANDON OURSELVES TO DIVINE
PROVIDENCE –
TO “BE NOT AFRAID.”

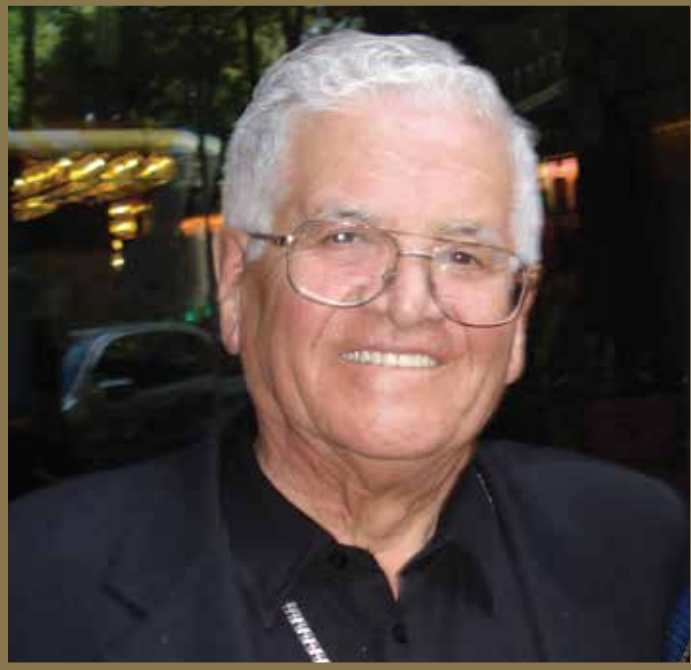
There are many ways to show our gratitude for Pope John Paul II, but perhaps the one way he will continue to “shepherd us” is for us to read and study what he regarded as his greatest legacy: The Catechism of the Catholic Church.

In closing, allow me to share these words of a young Sister after seeing and hearing the Holy Father in Spain in 2002. These words were read by a speaker at the gathering of the Institute on Religious Life at Mundelein, Illinois on Saturday, April 2, the very day of Pope John Paul’s death:

“Thank you, Holy Father, for your dedicated life without reservations and as a faithful witness to the Gospel, for strengthening our faith, for quickening our hope, and for opening our hearts to the ardent love of the One Who knows how to lose His life so that others may gain it. Thank you for your life which has marked many of us.” ■

SHE CAME TO STAY WITH US

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



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

SAINT LUKE NARRATES HOW MARY, OUR BLESSED MOTHER, IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CONCEPTION OF THE SON OF GOD IN HER WOMB, DECIDED TO VISIT HER COUSIN, ELIZABETH, WHO LIVED IN IKARIM, IN JUDEA, A THREE-DAY JOURNEY FROM NAZARETH. The Angel Gabriel informed Mary that Elizabeth was also expecting a baby in her old age.

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

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

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

of the Messiah, and His enthronement in the midst of the family through the ministry of Mary and the action of the Holy Spirit.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Queen of the Americas Guild is once more inviting us to go to the Blessed Mother’s house. She wants to be visited by her children. Who are we to be visited by the mother of our Lord? Let’s go to the Mother’s house! ■

BLESSED MIGUEL PRO

By Rebecca Nichols

DURING OUR RECENT PILGRIMAGE, WE HAD THE PLEASURE OF VISITING FOR THE FIRST TIME THE MUSEUM OF BLESSED FATHER MIGUEL PRO IN MEXICO CITY. As one of the martyrs with an altar at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse, Wisconsin, I thought it fitting that I share some information on Father Pro.

Born on January 13, 1891 in Guadalupe, Zacatecas Mexico, Miguel Agustin Pro Juarez was the eldest son of Miguel Pro and Josefa Juarez.

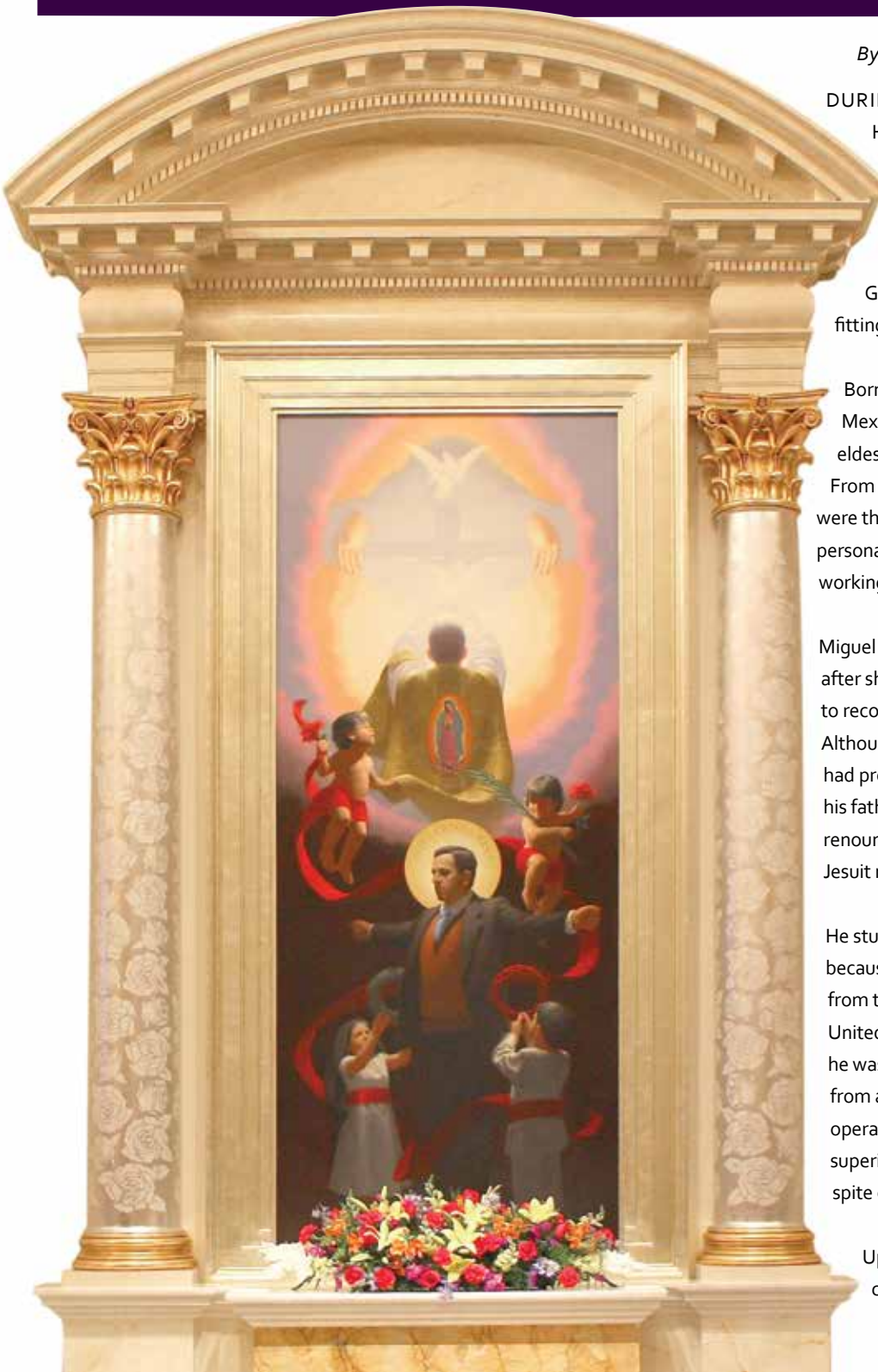
From his childhood, high spirits and happiness were the most outstanding characteristics of his personality. Miguel had a special affinity for the working classes which he retained all his life.

Miguel was particularly close to his older sister and after she entered a cloistered convent, he came to recognize his own vocation to the priesthood. Although he was popular with the *senoritas* and had prospects of a lucrative career managing his father's thriving business concerns, Miguel renounced everything for Christ and entered the Jesuit novitiate in El Llano, Michoacan in 1911.

He studied in Mexico until 1914, when he was exiled because of the wave of anti-Catholicism that resulted from the Mexican revolution. He traveled to the United States, Spain, Nicaragua and Belgium, where he was ordained in 1925. At this time, Miguel suffered from a severe stomach problem and after three operations, when his health did not improve, his superiors allowed him to return to Mexico in 1926, in spite of the grave religious persecution still going on.

Upon his return to Mexico, the churches were closed and priests were in hiding. Father Pro

"Long live Christ the King!"



The altar of Blessed Miguel Pro at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, La Crosse, Wisconsin

spent the rest of his life in a secret ministry to the Mexican Catholics. In addition to fulfilling their spiritual needs, he also carried out the works of mercy by assisting the poor of Mexico City with their temporal needs. He adopted many interesting disguises in carrying out his secret ministry. He would come in the middle of the night dressed as a beggar to baptize infants, bless marriages and celebrate Mass. He would appear in jail dressed as a police officer to bring Holy Viaticum to condemned Catholics. When going to fashionable neighborhoods to procure for the poor, he would show up at the doorstep dressed as a fashionable businessman with a fresh flower on his lapel. His many exploits could rival those of the most daring spies. In all that he did, however, Fr. Pro remained obedient to his superiors and was filled with the joy of serving Christ, his King.

Details of Father Pro's ministry in the underground church come from his many letters, signed with his childhood nickname, Cocol. In October, 1926, a warrant for his arrest was issued. He was arrested, and released from prison the next day, but kept under surveillance.

A failed attempt to assassinate president-elect Alvaro Obregon in November, 1927, provided the state with a pretext for arresting Father Pro again, this time with his brothers Humberto and Roberto. Even though a young engineer honestly confessed his part in the assassination and testified that the Pro brothers were not involved, Miguel and his brothers were taken to the Detective Inspector's Office in Mexico City.

On November 23, 1927, Fr. Pro was executed without trial. President Calles gave orders to have Pro executed under the pretext of the assassination, but in reality for defying the virtual outlawing of Catholicism. Calles had the execution meticulously photographed, and the newspapers throughout the country carried the photos on the front page the following day. Presumably, Calles thought that the sight of the pictures would frighten the Cristero rebels who were fighting against his troops. However, they had the opposite effect.

Prior to the execution, Fr. Pro and his brothers were visited by Generals Roberto Cruz and Palomera Lopez around 11:00 p.m. on November 22, 1927. The next day, as Fr. Pro walked from his cell to the courtyard and the firing squad, he blessed the soldiers, knelt and briefly prayed quietly. Declining a blindfold, he faced his executioners with a crucifix in one hand and a rosary in the other and held his arms out in imitation of the crucified Christ. He shouted out, "May God have mercy on you! May God bless you!"

The next day, as Fr. Pro walked from his cell to the courtyard and the firing squad, he blessed the soldiers, knelt and briefly prayed quietly. Declining a blindfold, he faced his executioners with a crucifix in one hand and a rosary in the other and held his arms out in imitation of the crucified Christ.



Lord, Thou knowest that I am innocent! With all my heart I forgive my enemies!" Before the firing squad were ordered to shoot, Pro shouted the defiant cry of the Cristeros – "Viva Cristo Rey!" – "Long live Christ the King!" When the initial shots of the firing squad failed to kill him, a soldier shot him at point-blank range.

Calles is reported to have looked down upon a throng of 40,000 which lined Pro's funeral procession and another 20,000 who waited at the cemetery where he was buried without a priest present, his father saying the final words. The Cristeros became more animated and fought with renewed enthusiasm, many of them carrying the newspaper photo of Pro before the firing squad.

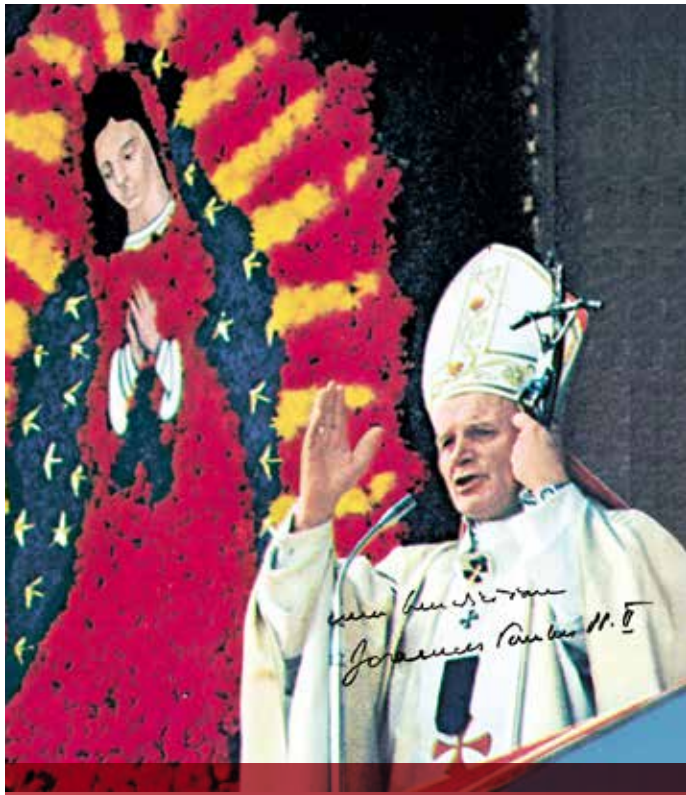
Father Miguel Pro was beatified in Mexico on September 25, 1988 by Pope John Paul II. During the beatification ceremony His Holiness said, "Neither suffering nor serious illness, neither the exhausting ministerial activity, frequently carried out in difficult and dangerous circumstances, could stifle the radiating and contagious joy which he brought to his life for Christ and which nothing could take away. Indeed, the deepest root of self-sacrificing surrender for the lowly was his passionate love for Jesus Christ and his ardent desire to be conformed to him, even unto death."



Fr. Miguel Pro shouts, "Viva Cristo Rey!" just before his execution



Canonization of Popes JOHN PAUL II & JOHN XXIII



ON SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 2014, GREAT CHEERS RANG OUT IN ST. PETER'S SQUARE AS THE WORLD WELCOMED ITS TWO NEWEST SAINTS – POPE SAINT JOHN PAUL II AND POPE SAINT JOHN XXIII. The crowds in Rome, estimated at half a million people in the area around St. Peter's, along with another 300,000 people watching the ceremony on screens erected throughout the city, are easily explained. Both Popes were wildly popular during their reigns, both were relatively recent in papal history, and thus have a substantial number of living people with first-hand memories of them. The chants of "Santo subito!" (Sainthood now!), first

April 27, 2014

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

heard at Pope John Paul's funeral in 2005 were a good indication of just how popular (and in demand) this canonization would be.

The event was attended by delegations from over a hundred countries, more than twenty Heads of State, and many figures from the world of politics and culture. Most notably, Pope Benedict was in attendance, and joyfully concelebrated the Mass. The celebration was also attended by Floribeth Mora Diaz and Sister Adele Labianca, the caregiver of Caterina Capitani – the two women who experienced the miracles attributed to John Paul II.

The canonization announcement was made by the Holy Father following the September 30, 2013 "ordinary public consistory," a gathering of cardinals and promoters of the sainthood causes of the two late popes. The consistory took place in the context of a prayer service in Latin and included the reading of brief biographies of the two sainthood candidates. Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes, highlighted the "service to Peace" and the impact both popes had "inside and outside the Christian community" at times of great cultural, political and religious transformation.

The testimonies of their lives, "completely dedicated to proclaiming the Gospel, shine in the church and reverberate in the history of the world as examples of hope and light," the cardinal said. Clearly, their widespread reputations for holiness and years of studying their lives and actions have proven their exceptional virtue.

"FOR THE HONOUR OF THE BLESSED TRINITY, THE EXALTATION OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH AND THE INCREASE OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE, BY THE AUTHORITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND OF THE HOLY APOSTLES PETER AND PAUL, AND OUR OWN, AFTER DUE DELIBERATION AND FREQUENT PRAYER FOR DIVINE ASSISTANCE, AND HAVING SOUGHT THE COUNSEL OF MANY OF OUR BROTHER BISHOPS, WE DECLARE AND DEFINE BLESSED JOHN XXIII AND JOHN PAUL II BE SAINTS

THE TESTIMONIES OF THEIR LIVES, “COMPLETELY DEDICATED TO PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL, SHINE IN THE CHURCH AND REVERBERATE IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD AS EXAMPLES OF HOPE AND LIGHT,”



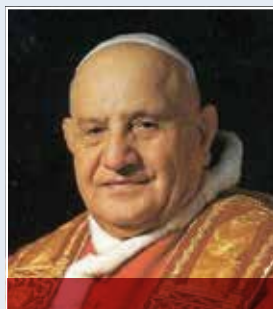
During his travels from Brazil to Rome last year, Pope Francis said, "Blessed John was a bit of the 'country priest, a priest who loves each of the faithful and knows how to care for them; he did this as a bishop and as a nuncio. He was holy, patient, had a good sense of humor and, especially by calling the Second Vatican Council, was a man of courage."

Regarding Blessed John Paul, Pope Francis said, "I think of him as 'the great missionary of the church', because he was a man who proclaimed the Gospel everywhere."

Pope Francis signed a decree recognizing the miracle needed for Blessed John Paul's canonization July 5; the same day, the Vatican announced that the pope had agreed with members of the Congregation for Saints' Causes that the canonization of Blessed John should go forward even without a second miracle attributed to his intercession. Except in the case of martyrdom, Vatican rules require one miracle for a candidate's beatification and a second for his or her canonization as confirmations that the candidate really is in heaven with God. However, at his discretion, the pope may set aside the rule.

THE CEREMONY

In keeping with His Holiness Pope Francis' usual style of austerity and frugality, the actual canonization ceremony was a much more sober affair than the three-day extravaganza that accompanied John Paul's 2011 beatification. That event included a prayer vigil on Rome's Circus



Maximus field for tens of thousands of people which ended up costing several times the original estimate of 1.2 million euros (U.S. \$1.65 million).

Cardinal Agostino Vallini, the vicar of Rome indicated that the goal this time is to provide a spiritual retreat for pilgrims, "but not much else."

"What's important that happens if that there's a sobriety, to get to the essential," said Vallini's communications director, Monsignor Walter Insero.

Indeed, the prayerful pilgrims displayed a particular reverence for most of the ceremony. After Cardinal Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints asked Pope Francis to inscribe the names of the two Blessed Popes in the Book of Saints, the Holy Father pronounced the formula for canonization:

"For the honour of the Blessed Trinity, the exaltation of the Catholic faith and the increase of the Christian life, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, and of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul, and our own, after due deliberation and frequent prayer for divine assistance, and having sought the counsel of many of our brother



FOLLOWING THE GOSPEL READING, THE HOLY FATHER PRONOUNCED A HOMILY IN WHICH HE DEFINED ST. JOHN XXIII AS "THE POPE OF OPENNESS TO THE HOLY SPIRIT", AND ST. JOHN PAUL II AS "THE POPE OF THE FAMILY",

Bishops, we declare and define Blessed John XXIII and John Paul II be Saints and we enroll them among the Saints, decreeing that they are to be venerated as such by the whole Church. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen”.

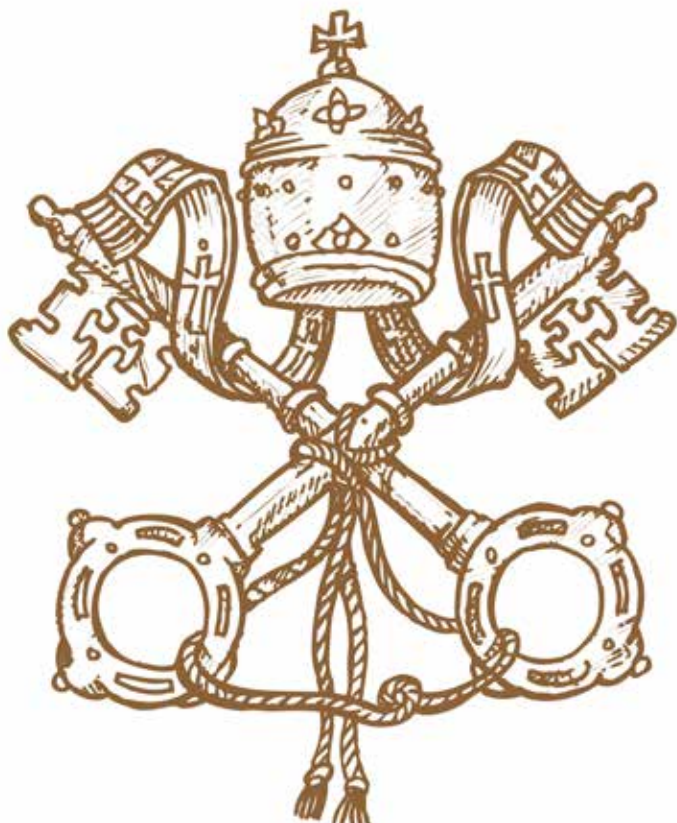
This was followed by the presentation to the Pope of first-class relics of the two saints; a vial of the blood of John Paul II, and a piece of skin removed from the body of John XXIII when it was exhumed for his beatification on September 3, 2000.

Following the Gospel reading, the Holy Father pronounced a homily in which he defined St. John XXIII as “the Pope of openness to the Holy Spirit”, and St. John Paul II as “the Pope of the Family”, recalling that “at the heart of this Sunday, which concludes the Octave of Easter and which John Paul II wished to dedicate to Divine Mercy, are the glorious wounds of the risen Jesus.”

“He had already shown those wounds when he first appeared to the Apostles on the very evening of that day following the Sabbath, the day of the resurrection”, he continued. “But Thomas was not there

**THE CANONIZATION ANNOUNCEMENT WAS
MADE BY THE HOLY FATHER FOLLOWING THE
SEPTEMBER 30, 2013 “ORDINARY PUBLIC
CONSISTORY,” A GATHERING OF CARDINALS
AND PROMOTERS OF THE SAINTHOOD
CAUSES OF THE TWO LATE POPES.**





that evening, and when the others told him that they had seen the Lord, he replied that unless he himself saw and touched those wounds, he would not believe. A week later, Jesus appeared once more to the disciples gathered in the Upper Room, and Thomas was present; Jesus turned to him and told him to touch his wounds. Whereupon that man, so straightforward and accustomed to testing everything personally, knelt before Jesus with the words: 'My Lord and my God!'

"The wounds of Jesus are a scandal, a stumbling block for faith, yet they are also the test of faith. That is why on the body of the risen Christ the wounds never pass away: they remain, for those wounds are the enduring sign of God's love for us. They are essential for believing in God. Not for believing that God exists, but for believing that God is love, mercy and faithfulness. Saint Peter, quoting Isaiah, writes to Christians: 'by his wounds you have been healed'.

"John XXIII and John Paul II were not afraid to look upon the wounds of Jesus, to touch his torn hands and his pierced side", exclaimed Pope Francis. "They were not ashamed of the flesh of Christ, they were not scandalized by him, by his cross; they did not despise the flesh of their brother, because they saw Jesus in every person who suffers and struggles. These were two men of courage, filled with the parrhesia of the Holy Spirit, and they bore witness before the Church and the world to God's goodness and mercy.



"They were priests, bishops and popes of the twentieth century. They lived through the tragic events of that century, but they were not overwhelmed by them. For them, God was more powerful; faith was more powerful – faith in Jesus Christ the Redeemer of man and the Lord of history; the mercy of God, shown by those five wounds, was more powerful; and more powerful too was the closeness of Mary our Mother.

"In these two men, who looked upon the wounds of Christ and bore witness to his mercy, there dwelt a living hope and an indescribable and glorious joy. The hope and the joy which the risen Christ bestows on his disciples, the hope and the joy which nothing and no one can take from them. The hope and joy of Easter, forged in the crucible of self-denial, self-emptying, utter identification with sinners, even to the point of disgust at the bitterness of that chalice. Such were the hope and the joy which these two holy popes had received as a gift from the risen Lord and which they in turn bestowed in abundance upon the People of God, meriting our eternal gratitude.

"This hope and this joy were palpable in the earliest community of believers, in Jerusalem, as we read in the acts of the Apostles. It was a community which lived the heart of the Gospel, love and mercy, in simplicity and fraternity.

"This is also the image of the Church which the Second Vatican Council set before us. John XXIII and John Paul II cooperated with the Holy Spirit in renewing and updating the Church in keeping with her pristine features, those features which the saints have given her throughout the centuries. Let us not forget that it is the saints who give direction and growth to the Church. In convening the Council, John XXIII showed an exquisite openness to the Holy Spirit. He let himself be led and he was for the Church a pastor, a servant-leader. This was his great service to the Church; he was the pope of openness to the Spirit.

"In his own service to the People of God, John Paul II was the pope of the family. He himself once said that he wanted to be remembered as the pope of the family. I am particularly happy to point this out as we are in the process of journeying with families toward the Synod on the family. It is surely a journey which, from his place in heaven, he guides and sustains".

The Holy Father concluded. "May these two new saints and shepherds of God's people intercede for the Church, so that during this two-year journey toward the Synod she may be open to the Holy Spirit in pastoral service to the family. May both of them teach us not to be scandalized by the wounds of Christ and to enter ever more deeply into the mystery of divine mercy, which always hopes and always forgives, because it always loves". ■

POPE SAINT JOHN XXIII

Born: November 25, 1881

Died: June 3, 1963

Ordained a Priest: August 10, 1904

Consecrated Archbishop: March 19, 1925

Elevated to Cardinal: January 12, 1953

Elected 260th Pope: October 28, 1958

Papal Motto: *Oboedientia et Pax* – Obedience and Peace

Canonized: 10 Saints

First Pope to: be named Time Magazine's "Man of The Year" 1963

Awarded: Balzan Peace Prize (1963) and the U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom (posthumously)

Gave us: 8 Encyclicals including *Mater et Magistra* (Mother and Teacher) and *Pacem in Terris* (Peace on Earth)

Convoked the: Second Vatican Council

He was Beatified: September 3, 2000

He was Canonized: April 27, 2014

Liturgical Feast Day: October 11th

POPE SAINT JOHN PAUL II

Born: May 18, 1920

Died: April 2, 2005

Ordained a Priest: November 1, 1946

Consecrated Bishop: September 28, 1958

Elevated to Cardinal: June 26, 1967

Elected 263rd Pope: October 16, 1978

First Words as Pope: "Be Not Afraid"

Papal Motto: *Totus Tuus* (Totally Yours)

First Polish Pope – Spoke 12 Languages

Visited 133 Countries

Traveled over 750,000 miles

Beatified / Canonized: 1343 New Blesseds & 483 New Saints

Gave us: 14 Encyclicals & Theology of the Body

Introduced the: Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary

Instituted the: Celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday

He was Beatified: May 1, 2011

He was Canonized: April 27, 2014

Liturgical Feast Day: October 22nd

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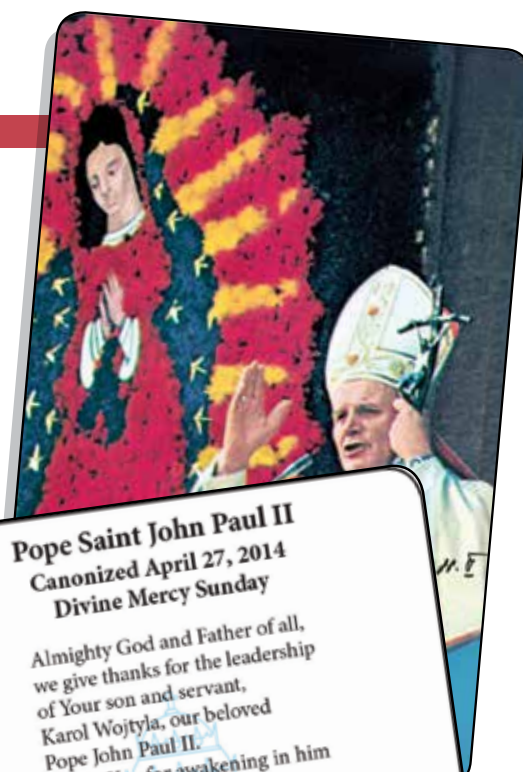
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The Queen of the Americas Guild is pleased to offer a **NEW** Canonization of Pope Saint John Paul II commemorative holy card.

This is a larger sized prayer card, measuring **4.5" x 2 15/16"**. It is constructed of high quality laminated plastic, and is available in English only.



Pope Saint John Paul II
Canonized April 27, 2014
Divine Mercy Sunday

Almighty God and Father of all,
we give thanks for the leadership
of Your son and servant,
Karol Wojtyla, our beloved
Pope John Paul II.
Thank You for awakening in him
the desire to make his life
magnificent and beautiful
in service to You and Your Church.
May we, following his example,
be faithful to Your Word
and teaching, be courageous in the
face of difficulties, and forgiving to
those who offend us. You called
Pope John Paul II to be a
great leader, shepherd, and teacher,
and now You have rewarded him
with sainthood, the highest honor
bestowed by Holy Mother Church.
Thank You for the gift of
his canonization and for the gift
he is to our Church.
Amen.

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Mary,

ASSUMED BODY & SOUL INTO HEAVEN

By Fr. Dwight Campbell

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THIS IS THE FOURTH OF A FOUR-PART SERIES ON THE FOUR INFALLIBLE DOGMAS ABOUT OUR LADY'S ROLE IN SALVATION HISTORY.

The Assumption – Our Lady taken up body and soul into heavenly glory – is the fourth dogma that has been proclaimed by the Church. In 1950, in his apostolic constitution *Munificentissimus Deus*, Pope Pius XII formally defines this truth in these words: We pronounce, declare and define it to be a divinely revealed dogma: that the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul to heavenly glory."

It must be noted Mary did not ascend into heaven by her own power as Jesus did; she was assumed, or taken up, through the power of God.

Implicit in Scripture, Witness of Tradition

In defining Mary's bodily assumption into heaven, Pius XII in his *Magisterium* teaches in a solemn and explicit manner what had been revealed by God implicitly through Sacred Scripture and handed down through Sacred Tradition under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. He offers numerous Scripture verses as a basis for what has been taught in Tradition.

The Holy Father says that the *protoevangelium* (first gospel) of Genesis 3:15 reveals that the struggle between the serpent (Satan) and the "woman," Mary, whom the Early Church Fathers call the New Eve, and her "seed," Jesus Christ, the New Adam, "would finally result in that most complete victory over sin and death which are always mentioned together in the writings of the Apostle to the Gentiles." It is fitting that the total victory over sin and death won by Jesus Christ as seen in his resurrection and ascension should be shared by Mary, the "woman" who gave him birth, by her bodily assumption into heavenly glory.



Assumption of the Virgin by Peter Paul Rubens, 1626



Revelation 12:1 speaks of "a great sign which appeared in heaven, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and over her head a crown of twelve stars." This verse has dual meaning. While most of the Early Fathers hold that the "woman" symbolizes the Church in its final glory, Pius XII says the medieval Doctors of the Church (Sts. Albert the Great, Thomas Aquinas and Bonaventure) "Have recognized the Assumption of the Virgin Mother of God as something signified . . . in that woman clothed with the sun whom John the Apostle contemplated on the Island of Patmos." Revelation 12:1 implicitly reveals Mary's bodily assumption by speaking of the woman's "feet" and "head," as well as her being "clothed;" for one cannot "clothe" a pure spirit, but only a body.

Pius XII also looks to the words in St. Luke's Gospel, "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee! . . . Blessed art thou amongst women" (1:28, 42); saying that the medieval Doctors saw Mary's assumption as "the fulfillment of that most perfect grace granted to the Blessed Virgin and the Special blessing that countered the curse of Eve."

From the Church's very beginning, Tradition also speaks, albeit silently, of Mary's bodily assumption from the fact that there is no mention or record of her bones. As the

REVELATION 12:1 SPEAKS OF “A GREAT SIGN WHICH APPEARED IN HEAVEN, A WOMAN CLOTHED WITH THE SUN, WITH THE MOON UNDER HER FEET, AND OVER HER HEAD A CROWN OF TWELVE STARS.”

tombs of Sts. Peter and Paul and the catacombs give witness, the Church from the beginning venerated the bones of its saints.

Divine Liturgy: Earliest Source of the Tradition

Liturgical feasts celebrating the Assumption are the earliest recorded source of the Tradition. In the East a feast called the Dormition, or “falling asleep” in death of Mary, was celebrated from the sixth century, with the belief was that Mary died in Jerusalem and her body was assumed. In the West, Rome adopted the feast in the seventh century and the name was thereafter changed to the Assumption.

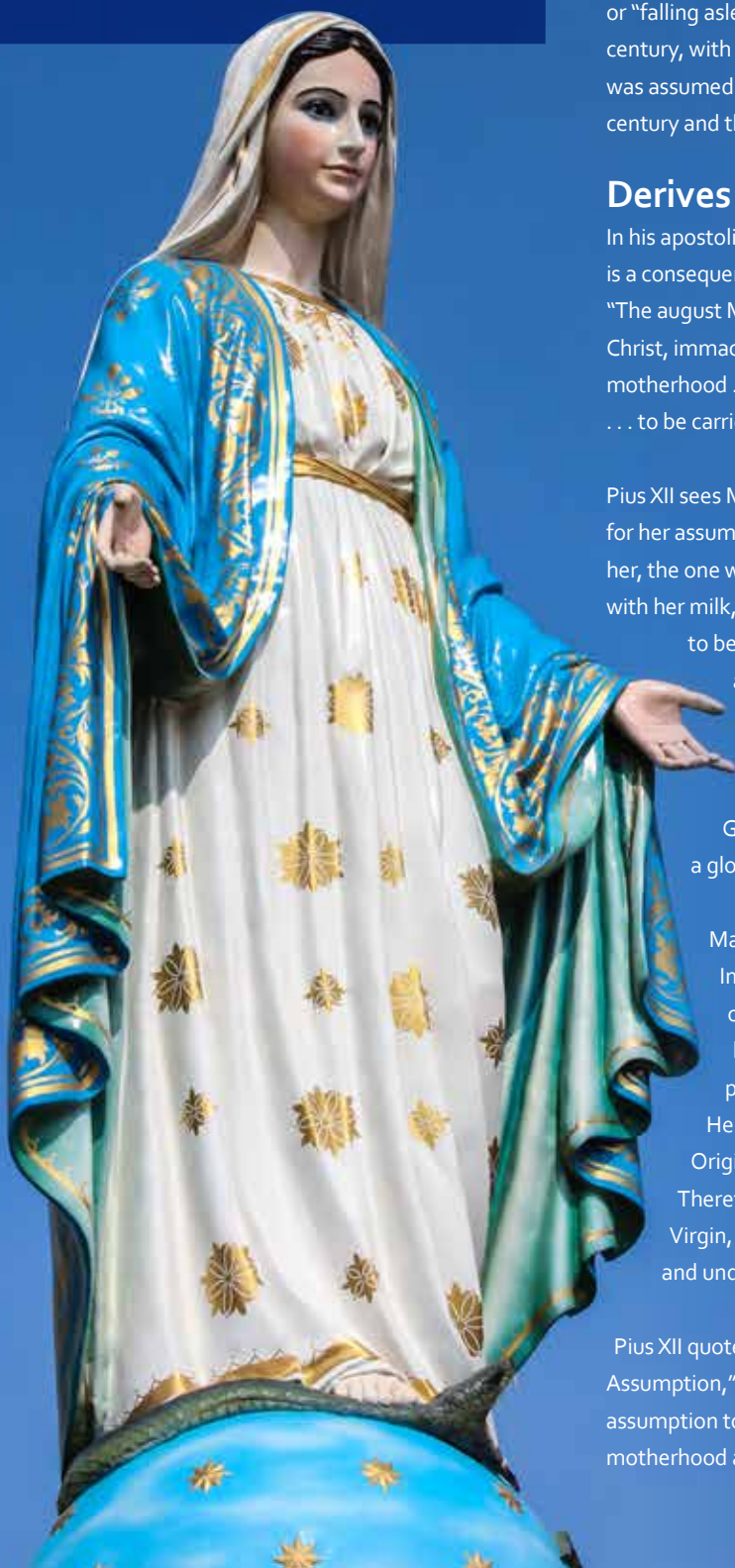
Derives from Other Doctrines

In his apostolic constitution Pius XII teaches that Mary’s assumption is a consequence and fitting culmination of her other privileges: “The august Mother of God, mysteriously united . . . with Jesus Christ, immaculate in her conception, a virgin inviolate in her divine motherhood . . . gained at last the supreme crown of her privileges . . . to be carried up body and soul to the exalted glory of heaven.”

Pius XII sees Mary’s divine motherhood as the fundamental reason for her assumption, saying that “it seems impossible to think of her, the one who conceived Christ, brought him forth, nursed him with her milk, held him in her arms, and clasped him to her breast, to be apart from him in body, even though not in soul, after her earthly life.” Mary’s bodily assumption is better understood if we consider that Jesus’ redemptive act encompasses our full humanity, body and soul. It is most fitting that the Mother of God should be the first to follow him into heaven with a glorified body; to be “fully redeemed,” body and soul.

Mary’s assumption is also a consequence of her Immaculate Conception. As a result of Original Sin, our souls will separate from our bodies at death, to be reunited at Christ’s Second Coming. Because God predestined Mary to be the mother of His Divine Son, He preserved her, by a singular grace, from all stain of Original Sin from the first moment of her conception. Therefore, it is fitting that Mary, the pure and spotless Virgin, should not suffer the consequence of Original Sin and undergo a separation of body and soul at death.

Pius XII quotes the great Eastern Father and “Doctor of the Assumption,” St. John Damascene (d. 749), who links Mary’s assumption to her perpetual virginity, as well as to her divine motherhood and her union with Jesus in co-redemptive suffering:



"It was necessary that she who had preserved her virginity inviolate in childbirth should also have kept her body free from all corruption after death. It was necessary that she who carried the Creator as a child on her breast should dwell in the tabernacles of God. . . . It was necessary that she, who had gazed on her crucified Son and had been pierced in the heart by the sword of sorrow which she had escaped in giving Him birth, should contemplate Him seated with the Father."

Sense of the Faithful

The *sensus fidelium*, or "sense of the faithful," played an important part in the dogma being defined. Between 1849 and 1950 Rome received petitions from thousands of bishops and from eight million lay people requesting that the dogma of the Assumption be defined. And in 1946 Pope Pius XII surveyed the world's bishops for their opinion. They responded overwhelmingly in favor of the dogma.

The Pope considered this universal agreement as a "certain and firm proof" that the Assumption was a truth revealed by God.

Did Mary Die Before Her Assumption?

Scripture is silent and Tradition is uncertain as to whether or not Mary died. One can argue that because she was free from Original Sin, she should not have undergone the penalty for sin, which is death. But one can also argue that Mary's death would have more closely configured her to Jesus (who died) before sharing fully in his resurrection. Pius XII left the matter undecided by merely saying that Mary was assumed into heaven, "having completed the course of her earthly life."

Most of the Church Fathers hold for Mary's death, and all the medieval saints and scholars say Mary died. The early stories (non-scriptural) written as a result of popular piety which give accounts of Mary's Assumption (called the *Transitus Mariae*, the "Passage of Mary"), speak of her death. Two places claim her burial site: in the Kidron Valley outside of Jerusalem, and near the ancient City of Ephesus, the Turkish city where tradition says Mary went to live with St. John the Evangelist.

Queen of Heaven and Advocate

Both Scripture and Sacred Tradition reveal that Mary, assumed into heaven, now reigns in heaven as Queen. In 1954, Pius XII proclaimed Mary Queen of Heaven in his encyclical, *Ad Caeli Reginam*. The Feast of the Queenship of Mary is celebrated on August 22, one week after the Assumption.

In heaven, Mary is not idle – she is active. Vatican Council II teaches that Mary's motherhood in the order of grace "continues uninterruptedly . . . until the eternal fulfillment of all the elect. Taken up to heaven she did not lay aside this saving office but by her manifold intercession continues to bring us the gifts of eternal salvation" (*Lumen Gentium*, no. 62). Significantly, the footnote that follows cites homilies by St. John Damascene and St. Germanus of Constantinople (d. 733) on the Dormition (Assumption) of Mary.

The same text of *Lumen Gentium* then goes on to say that, "By her maternal charity, she cares for the brethren of her Son . . . Therefore, the Blessed Virgin is invoked in the Church under the titles of Advocate, Helper, Benefactress, and Mediatrix." The footnote that follows cites the radio address by Pope Pius XII to the faithful at Fatima, Portugal on May 13, 1946, in which the Holy Father elaborates on the motherly activity of Mary, Queen of Heaven:

"He the Son of God, reflects on His heavenly Mother the glory, the majesty, and the dominion of His kingship; for, having been associated with the King of Martyrs in the ineffable work of human Redemption as Mother and cooperatrix, she remains forever associated with Him, with an almost unlimited power, in the dispensation of graces which flow from the Redemption. Jesus is King throughout all eternity by nature and by right of conquest; through Him, and subordinate to Him, Mary is Queen by grace, by divine relationship, by right of conquest, and by singular election. And her kingdom is as vast as that of her Son and God, since nothing is excluded from her dominion." ■

LET US HAVE FREQUENT RECOURSE TO
MARY, OUR MOTHER AND OUR QUEEN
ASSUMED BODY AND SOUL INTO HEAVEN.



Queen of the Americas Guild



Photo 1: The Guild's floral tribute to Our Lady of Guadalupe, outside the new Basilica.



Photo 2: The Offering sculpture at the base of Tepeyac Hill



By Rebecca Nichols | March, 2014

THE QUEEN OF THE AMERICAS GUILD held its annual pilgrimage to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe from February 27 – March 4, 2014, attended by a lovely group of 23 pilgrims. As National Coordinator of the Guild, I was pleased to join the group for the tenth time.



2014 PILGRIMAGE

After checking in at the beautiful Le Meridien 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. Bishop Joseph J. Madera joined us for dinner, and mingled with the group. After dinner, the group gathered in a hotel conference room to hear Bishop Madera's inspirational and informative talk about the symbolism of Our Lady's Tilma, and his family's personal experiences of religious persecution and connection to Our Lady. Through words and pictures, we were led to a greater understanding of the miracle of Our Lady of Guadalupe. After this perfect preparation, we were ready to experience Mass at her shrine. *(view photo 1)*

The next morning, 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, just as Mexican pilgrims do. After posing for a lovely group photograph, it was time to process 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 and concelebrated by our pilgrim priest, Fr. Daniel Knipper, our pilgrims headed out with a renewed appreciation for Our Lady's miracle.

After Mass, the group was led on a comprehensive tour of the Basilica area, including the old Basilica, El Pocito (Church of the Well), The Offering sculpture, and the actual sites where Our Lady appeared. After a break for a delicious box lunch, pilgrims were left with free time to explore on their own, and perhaps take a walk up Tepeyac Hill. *(view photo 2)*



A new stop on our itinerary this year was a visit to the museum of Father Miguel Pro and the Church of the Holy family. Here we learned the story of Fr. Pro's life and his heroic martyrdom in 1927 during the time of religious persecution in Mexico. The museum featured a wonderful collection of artifacts which clearly illustrated the difficulty of serving Christ during this dangerous time.

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. *(view photo 3)*

Saturday began with a drive toward the colonial city of Puebla, located approximately 75 miles southeast of Mexico City. Along with a beautiful clear view of the nearby active volcano, Popocatepetl, pilgrims were also treated to spectacular views of Mexico's countryside and mountains along the way. Once in Puebla, we went straight to the beautiful Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, where again, Bishop Madera celebrated our Mass. After Mass, we

were allowed a tour of the sacristy and other meeting rooms featuring portraits of all of the former Bishops of Puebla. Bishop Madera joyfully told us of the period during his teenage years when he stayed here and assisted the Archbishop with his daily functions.

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. Next, 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. Bishop Madera then joined us at a local restaurant where we enjoyed a festive lunch and had the opportunity to sample Puebla's famous mole sauce. *(view photo 4)*

On our journey back to Mexico City, we made two stops along the way. The first stop was in the town of Cholula, where we visited Santa Maria Tonantzintla church. This church is a charming contrast to the gold-covered churches in Puebla. It is a riot of color and character, with every inch of its interior covered in rustic and simple carvings. It is a wonderful example of native American art, and demonstrates the intense devotion to Our Lady felt by the Mexican people. As we arrived here, we were treated to the sight of a beautiful wedding celebration that was just concluding in the church. Seeing the bride and groom and their families decked out in their finest added an extra festive touch to our already joyful day.

The next 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



Photo 5: Pilgrims are invited to the altar at the Shrine of the Fifth Apparition



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.

Diego Bernardino and directed him to an unknown spring, flowing with miraculous curative waters. Unfortunately, the well here had been dry for some time, and our pilgrims were unable to gather the water. Our guide explained that if pilgrims do not use the miraculous water in the right manner, Our Lady sometimes does not continue to provide it.

After a long day in the sunshine and beautiful weather, pilgrims were happy to return to our hotel in Mexico City for another wonderful dinner and rest for the next day's adventure. *(view photo 5)*

Sunday morning started with another site integral to the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe; the church of Santiago de Tlatelolco, where Saint Juan Diego was baptized and worshiped. Located in the Plaza of the Three Cultures, this stark and very dark church perfectly represents the type of construction used by the first Catholic converts after the conquest. After viewing the baptismal font, we continued on 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



Photo 4: Santa Maria Tonantzintla church



▲ Photo 3: Monument to the Battle of Puebla which took place on May 5th, 1962 (Cinco de Mayo)





Photo 6: A beautiful statue of Saint Juan Diego at his birthplace in Cuautitlan



his illness. This apparition is depicted in a large and beautiful painting that hangs above the altar of this simple church. After Bishop Madera celebrated Mass for us here, one of the priests in residence here took our group onto the altar, led us in prayer, and explained how to truly do what Our Lady asks and emulate Saint Juan Diego. We were then able to visit the exact spot under the altar where Our Lady appeared to Juan Bernardino. (*view photo 6*)

Next was another new stop on our tour – a visit to Cuautitlan, where Saint Juan Diego was born. Although little beyond underground structures remain of the house, it was an important piece of the puzzle in Our Lady's miracle. It was also interesting to see the devotion of the locals in the church here; you could see how proud they were to claim Saint Juan Diego as one of their own.

Afterwards, we traveled to Tepotzotlan, a colonial city Northeast of Mexico City. After a delicious lunch at the convent's restaurant here, we visited the church and museum of San Francisco Javier. The museum houses one of the largest collections of religious art from the Mexican colonial era in all mediums, from carvings in ivory and wood, to paintings by Miguel Cabrera. The church itself, begun in 1670 and finished in 1682, is a magnificent example of Churrigueresque design, with the main and side altars completely covered in gold leaf.

Later that evening, 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, held at the beautiful Palace of Fine Arts. (*view photo 7*)

Monday morning's activities began with a visit to the charming neighborhood of Coyoacan. Here we visited the Convent of the Holy Cross, where Bishop Madera and Fr. Knipper again celebrated Mass. As



Photo 7: Bishop Madera joins the group for a photo at the Convent of the Holy Cross in Coyoacan



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 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. We were pleased to have His Excellency join us for a wonderful lunch at a charming local restaurant, housed at a sprawling estate in Coyoacan that was once the home of Hernan Cortez.

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 and appreciation of Our Lady's miracle.

That evening, the group gathered with Bishop Madera 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. Once again, Our Lady had brought us together, and we had shared in her miracle. ■

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World Meeting will Engage all of Society

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – The World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia next year will be open to families and people of different faiths, including no faith at all, to engage the wider society in dialogue and to serve and strengthen all families, organizers said.

The gathering Sept. 22-27, 2015, “is meant to be a gift not just for Catholics in Philadelphia, but for every person of good will in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the surrounding regions and the wider world,” said Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia.

Meetings that bring together thousands of people from many different parts of the world with different experiences are a source of “tremendous joy” and grace and “have the power to transform, in deeply positive ways, the whole public community,” the archbishop said at a Vatican news conference March 25.

Archbishop Chaput visited the Vatican with Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Corbett and Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter as part of a delegation of government, religious and community leaders meeting with Vatican officials to plan the 2015 international family gathering. They also expected to have an audience with Pope Francis during their March 24-26 visit.

While the delegation leaders vowed to convince the pope to travel to Philadelphia to celebrate the closing Mass of the eighth World Meeting of Families, Archbishop Chaput said confirmation of the pope using the occasion to make his first pastoral visit to North America was not expected “anytime soon.”

Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, president of the Pontifical Council for the Family, which is helping prepare the meeting, said confirmation could come as late as six months before the event.

The aim of the global gathering will be to help all families of the world and accompany them “with an intelligent, courageous and loving” pastoral approach, the Italian archbishop said.

Archbishop Paglia called for intelligence in being able to read the current situation of today’s families; “courage to face the complex and numerous problems; (and) love for trying to solve them, keeping ever present the Gospel of the family and life.”



to HELP STRENGTHEN FAMILIES



PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES AND FAITHS WHO PLACE VALUE ON THE FAMILY “CAN TEACH US SOMETHING,” ARCHBISHOP CHAPUT SAID, AND “WE ARE SINCERE ABOUT BEING AVAILABLE AND OPEN TO ALL KINDS OF INPUT.”



Vatican and church organizers are looking for the widest participation and input possible, the two archbishops said, including from members and representatives of other Christian churches and communities, different religions and women and men who are not religious, but are committed to “bringing peace and good will to our world.”

People from different Christian communities and faiths who place value on the family “can teach us something,” Archbishop Chaput said, and “we are sincere about being available and open to all kinds of input.”

When asked to what extent the gathering will open discussion up to the realities of single-parent homes, the divorced and same-sex couples, Archbishop Chaput said the church “always embraces people who differ with the church and I hope that’s a stance we all take.”

“I think all of us here have someone in our family who is divorced and maybe remarried again,” he said, or “have family members who are in a same-sex relationship.”

These are the reality facing many people today, “so not to deal with those kinds of issues” would be to ignore the situation many people live in, he said.

“But we’re not going to start to focus on the problems and the conflicts,” Archbishop Chaput said. “We certainly want everyone to have a chance to speak when those opportunities are provided, but we’re not going to be promoting positions that are contrary to the church’s expectations about family life either.”

It is a Catholic gathering and it will emphasize Catholic teaching about the family and openness to life, he said.



Archbishop Charles J. Chaput signs a ceremonial contract assigning the World Meeting of Families to the city of Philadelphia in 2015 while leaders of the Pontifical Council for the Family Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia (left) and Bishop Jean Laffitte look on with Auxiliary Bishop John J. McIntyre (far right). (Chris Warde-Jones)



A marriage is more than problems. "It's a grace, it's a gift and we really want to start there and not start off with problems and differences and condemning. We want it to be an occasion of honest reflection, the joyful commitment to family life", he said.

Corbett and Nutter told Catholic News Service they are excited about hosting the World Meeting of Families and would love to have Pope Francis attend. They cited a real need to help today's families.

The family is "so important to society and, particularly in this day and age, I think we see very much a greater need for greater emphasis on the family," Corbett said.

“(FAMILY IS) SO IMPORTANT TO SOCIETY AND, PARTICULARLY IN THIS DAY AND AGE, I THINK WE SEE VERY MUCH A GREATER NEED FOR GREATER EMPHASIS ON THE FAMILY.”

More attention and focus on the family "would help solve some of the problems of cities and countries," he said.

Nutter said making Philadelphia the destination of a papal visit would have "great meaning to the millions of Catholics and other people of faith" in the United States.

The pope "is a world leader, and so whether you are Catholic or not, people are paying attention to what's going on with Pope Francis, and certainly with the Catholic Church," he said. ■



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POPE FRANCIS SENDS *Golden Rose* TO

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE



MEXICO CITY, MEXICO, NOV 22, 2013 / 02:10 AM (CNA/EWTN NEWS). - Cardinal Marc Ouellet, president of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America, presented a golden rose from Pope Francis to Our Lady of Guadalupe, calling the rose a sign of love, gratitude and enthusiasm.

"Our hearts more than our heads know the debt of love we owe you," the cardinal said to the Blessed Mother. "This is why we beg you to receive from us a special gesture of grateful love."

He prayed that the rose remind the Virgin Mary of "the gold, frankincense, and myrrh offered by the magi who once hastened to the manger to adore the King of Kings and Lord of Lords."

Cardinal Ouellet presented the golden rose Nov. 18 at Our Lady of Guadalupe Basilica in Mexico City as part of the "Our Lady of Guadalupe, Star of the New Evangelization" conference, led by the Pontifical Commission for Latin America and co-sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, the Guadalupe basilica and the Institute of Higher Guadalupe Studies.

The cardinal led the congregation in a reflection and heartfelt prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe before the presentation of the golden rose to the Virgin Mary, whose 500-year-old image is imprinted on the tilma of St. Juan Diego.

"May our unity and ardor in evangelization be eloquent signs of our living faith, in this Year of Faith when the whole Church rejoices to celebrate Jesus' victory over sin and death, the victory of love over hatred and ingratitude," he said.

"May our faith be creative and conquering!" the cardinal exhorted, stressing the need for a renewal in faith.

"Let us ask God together, you our Mother and we with you as a single family, to increase, purify and strengthen our faith, to make it more courageous and radiant, so that the world may believe in the name of Jesus, the Son of the living God, our sole and unique Savior," he said.

He praised Mary's famous response to the greeting of her cousin Elizabeth, the Magnificat, saying her prayer "does not cease to glorify God from age to age for his goodness and his mercy."

"Compassionate and fruitful Mother, we owe to your loving presence in each community the fidelity of this continent to its Christian vocation. Your maternal love knows no boundaries, but you have watched over the Americas in a particular way."

Cardinal Ouellet asked the Virgin Mary to help Catholics convert their hearts and spread the Gospel.

"We beg you to visit us again to illumine the path of evangelization in our age, which is so forgetful of God, for you are the living memory of his graces, the pole-star in the heaven of his wonders," he said.

"Every one of your visits to our heart is an invitation to conversion, an incitement to live a more ardent charity toward all, but especially toward those who are suffering the most, those whom your son has privileged and whom he asks us to love without calculation or conditions."

Cardinal Ouellet also voiced thanks that Pope Francis, the first Pope from the Americas, is "so zealously reviving evangelization among the poor."

"Let us pray that he be loved and heard!" he said, asking that those who listened to the Pope's July message at World Youth Day in Brazil remember the pontiff's words and "commit themselves resolutely with Francis in the revolution of love."

He further prayed that Our Lady of Guadalupe help the bishops of the Americas to listen to her message "with the same emotion" as "all the evangelizing saints who walked the same paths before us." "Blessed be God for your presence among us in this great holy house built by your care, Mother of the Church in the Americas," the cardinal's prayer concluded. "My soul magnifies the Lord!" ■



2014 CONFERENCE

La Crosse, Wisconsin

“DO WHATEVER HE TELLS YOU” (JN 2:5)

SAFEGUARDING TRADITIONAL
MARRIAGE IN A SECULAR CULTURE

JULY 25 & 26, 2014



His Eminence Raymond
Leo Cardinal Burke

JOIN THE QUEEN OF THE AMERICAS GUILD for a 2-day conference / retreat examining Our Lady of Guadalupe’s relationship to an issue that is on the forefront of debate in today’s society – Safeguarding Marriage in a Secular Culture.

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.

HIS EMINENCE RAYMOND LEO CARDINAL BURKE will be our keynote speaker. His work as Prefect of the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura and founder of the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe makes Cardinal Burke uniquely qualified to speak on the importance of safeguarding Marriage.

Cardinal 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

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.



Father Paul Check

FR. PAUL CHECK was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Bridgeport, CT in 1997. He holds an STB from the Gregorian University and an STL from the University of the Holy Cross, both in Rome. He teaches fundamental moral theology and sexual and medical ethics to seminarians and permanent deacon candidates in the Bridgeport Diocese. Since 1999, he has taught the two-week course in moral theology in the “Gift of Faith” syllabus for Blessed Mother Teresa’s Missionaries of Charity in Calcutta. Father Check graduated from Rice University, TX in 1981 with a BA in history. He served as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps for nine years prior to entering the seminary. In 2008, he was selected to succeed Fr. John F. Harvey, OSFS as the Executive Director of Courage International, at the request of Fr. Harvey and with the approval of his Bishop and Cardinal Dolan, who chairs Courage’s episcopal board. He spends much of his time traveling and making presentations to clergy about the Church’s teaching about homosexuality and her pastoral response.



Maggie Gallagher

MAGGIE GALLAGHER has been a thought leader on life, religious liberty and especially marriage for 25 years. She is the author of four books on marriage (including “The Case for Marriage” with University of Chicago Prof. Linda J. Waite); her latest book “Debating Same-sex Marriage” (co-authored with Prof. John Corvino) was published in 2012 by Oxford University Press. After founding and running a think-tank on marriage (the Institute for Marriage and Public Policy), Maggie went on to co-found the National Organization for Marriage in 2007, which the Washington Post called the “pre-eminent organization” fighting the legalization of same-sex marriage. Her Weekly Standard piece “Banned in Boston” launched a national debate

AT THE SHRINE *of* OUR LADY *of* GUADALUPE



Marty Rotella

over the religious liberty consequences of same-sex marriage. Maggie stepped down from the board of NOM in the summer of 2012; she currently serves as a senior fellow with the American Principles Project. Her letters on culture can be read at MaggieGallagher.com.

MARTY ROTELLA will perform a concert on Saturday afternoon. Marty is a Grammy nominated Catholic singer, songwriter, and producer. He 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.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Subject to change

FRIDAY, JULY 25

- 9:00 – 11:00** Conference check-in /
Registration – Pilgrim Center
- 11:00 – 12:15** Confessions available
- 11:30 a.m.** Boxed Lunch – optional (pre-purchase
required) – pick up at registration
- 12:15 p.m.** Opening Mass – Main Celebrant – His
Eminence Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke.
Reconciliation following Mass
- 2:00 p.m.** Speaker: Maggie Gallagher
- 3:00 p.m.** Divine Mercy Chaplet
- 3:30 p.m.** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
and Holy Rosary
- 4:00 p.m.** Evening Prayer and Benediction
of the Blessed Sacrament
- 5:30 p.m.** Cocktail ½ hour – Entertainment
by Marty Rotella. Cash bar.
- 6:00 p.m.** Dinner with honored guests His Eminence
Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke, Bishop
Joseph Madera, Maggie Gallagher and
Father Paul Check (limited seating)

SATURDAY, JULY 26

- 9:30 a.m.** Speaker: Father Paul Check
- 10:30 a.m.** Refreshment Break
- 11:00 a.m.** Keynote Address – His Eminence
Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke
- 11:00 – 12:15** Confessions available
- 12:15 p.m.** Holy Mass – Main Celebrant His
Eminence Raymond Leo
Cardinal Burke
- 1:30 p.m.** Lunch Buffet
- 2:30 p.m.** Speaker: Bishop Joseph J. Madera
- 3:30 p.m.** Exposition of the Blessed
Sacrament and Holy Rosary
- 4:00 p.m.** Evening Prayer and Benediction
of the Blessed Sacrament
- 4:30 p.m.** Concert by Marty Rotella
- 5:30 p.m.** Barbeque dinner with Cardinal
Burke, Bishop Madera, and
other guests

SATURDAY, JULY 26

- 8:30 a.m.** Sunday Buffet Brunch -
optional (pre-purchase required)

CONFERENCE PACKAGES:

We are pleased to offer the following registration 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 Cardinal Burke, Bishop Madera, Fr. Paul Check and Maggie Gallagher. 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 La Crosse. Based on double occupancy. Limited number of rooms available – rooms held only until June 20.

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 Cardinal 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 11.

CANCELLATION:

For Conference & Hotel packages, no refunds will be given on the hotel portion after June 20. All other cancellations will be refunded only if notification is received by July 11.

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.

Queen of the Americas Guild

P.O. Box 851, St. Charles, IL 60174

OR REGISTER ONLINE AT
queenoftheamericasguild.org



Yes, I would like to attend the conference July 25 & 26

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Tel. #: _____

E-mail: _____

Please check options below:

Item	# Attending	Price/pp	Total
Conference & Dinner Package	_____	\$ 100.00	_____
Saturday Only Conference Package	_____	\$ 60.00	_____
Hotel & Conference Package*	_____	\$245.00	_____
Single Hotel Room Supplement	_____	\$145.00	_____
Friday Box Lunch	_____	\$ 12.00	_____
Please choose: Veggie Wrap	_____	Tuna Wrap	_____
Sunday Buffet Breakfast	_____	\$ 15.00	_____

TOTAL DUE: _____

☐ 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 Circle:

Visa MasterCard Discover Amex

Name on card

_____/_____/_____/_____
Card number

Expiration date

3 or 4 digit Security code:

*Based on double occupancy. Nights of July 25 & 26 are included. Rooms at Radisson La Crosse.

Queen of the Americas Guild News



The Queen of the Americas Guild welcomes new board member, **CHRISTOPHER SMO CZYNSKI**

During the annual Board of Director's meeting of the Queen of the Americas Guild last July, Christopher Smoczynski was elected as an additional Director. Christopher has a long family history of involvement with both Our Lady of Guadalupe and the Guild, as his parents are Guild co-founders Frank and Beverly Smoczynski.

Christopher is currently President of Perfect Plastic Printing Corporation in St. Charles, Illinois, which produces the Guild's beautiful prayer cards. His expertise in business management and devotion to Our Lady will be an excellent addition to the Guild Board of Directors. *Welcome, Christopher!*



Pope Francis named Time Magazine's **PERSON OF THE YEAR 2013**

Last December, Pope Francis was named Time magazine's Person of the Year for 2013, only the 3rd Pope honored with the title. It is interesting to note that Pope Francis was the one to canonize the other two: Pope John XXIII was Time's Person of the Year in 1962, and Pope John Paul II was given the honor in 1994.

Time's writers noted His Holiness' quick action in establishing the tone of his papacy; his commitment to aiding the poor, his reform of the Vatican Bank, personnel changes in the Curia, and his appointment of a new commission to deal with the sex abuse issue. He has been labeled "The People's Pope".

As His Holiness requested shortly after his election, *please pray for him.*

Pope Saint John Paul II

Canonized April 27, 2014

Divine Mercy Sunday

ALMIGHTY GOD AND FATHER OF ALL,
WE GIVE THANKS FOR THE LEADERSHIP

OF YOUR SON AND SERVANT,
KAROL WOJTYLA, OUR BELOVED
POPE JOHN PAUL II.

THANK YOU FOR AWAKENING IN HIM
THE DESIRE TO MAKE HIS LIFE
MAGNIFICENT AND BEAUTIFUL
IN SERVICE TO YOU AND YOUR CHURCH.

MAY WE, FOLLOWING HIS EXAMPLE,
BE FAITHFUL TO YOUR WORD
AND TEACHING, BE COURAGEOUS IN THE
FACE OF DIFFICULTIES, AND FORGIVING TO
THOSE WHO OFFEND US. YOU CALLED
POPE JOHN PAUL II TO BE A

GREAT LEADER, SHEPHERD, AND TEACHER,
AND NOW YOU HAVE REWARDED HIM
WITH SAINTHOOD, THE HIGHEST HONOR
BESTOWED BY HOLY MOTHER CHURCH.

THANK YOU FOR THE GIFT OF
HIS CANONIZATION AND FOR THE GIFT
HE IS TO OUR CHURCH.

Amen

