

A 9-Day Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe (December 3-11, 2020)

[Adapted from [Catholic Online](#)]



Deacon Richard at Corpus Christi Parish

Thursday, December 3, 2020

Day One

Throughout this Novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe on the occasion of the Priestly Ordination of Deacon Richard Conlin, we ask the intercession of Mary, the Merciful Mother of Jesus, for a New Culture of Life and the conversion of the Americas, especially in the Archdiocese of Vancouver.

In a phrase used by St. John Paul II, we call Mary the Star of the New Evangelization. She guides the Church to Jesus Christ, whom she carried in her womb - Jesus, the Christ, the Savior sent from the father.

In 1531, Our Lady appeared to Juan Diego, an Aztec Indian who had only recently given his life to Jesus Christ, been baptized, and become a Catholic Christian.

He was a 57-year-old widower. She appeared to be a very young woman.

She appeared to him 4 times and once to his uncle Juan Bernadino, who was cured of a serious illness during the encounter.

She called him Juanito, saying *"Here I will show myself as a loving Mother to you and to all those born in these lands, and to all those who love me and trust in me, for I am your loving mother."*

She gave him roses, which she placed in his cloak or 'tilma' and told him to show them to the bishop.

When the Spanish bishop asked for a sign to confirm what Juan had told, Juan opened his cloak and the roses fell to the ground. Miraculously, on his Tilma appeared an Image of Mary, the Mother of the Lord, just as she had appeared to him.

The Image evokes the 12th chapter of the last book of the New Testament, the Book of Revelation, or the Apocalypse, which reads:

"And a great sign appeared in heaven, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars; she was with child..."

The miraculous image on Juan's tilma is of Mary, clothed with the sun, standing on the moon.

Within 7 years the appearance of our Lady to Juan Diego helped to inspire 9,000,000 Aztecs to give their lives to Jesus Christ as Savior and be baptized into the Catholic Church. The fire of the Holy Spirit brought massive conversion.

The event also helped bring about an end to human sacrifice among the Aztecs.

To the Indians, the picture on Juan's Tilma, was the Gospel message of a God of forgiveness and Mercy.

She told Juan, *"I am your merciful Mother, the Mother of all who love me, of those who cry to me, of those who have confidence in me. Here I will hear their weeping and their sorrows... their necessities and misfortunes. Listen and let it penetrate your heart."*

Reflections

Our Lady is brilliantly seen in the mestizo countenance of this image of Mary of Guadalupe who appeared in the beginning of the evangelization of the Americas... I ask her to 'visit' as a 'pilgrim of faith' - each and every diocese, parish and family in America, repeating to her children what she did at Cana, 'Do whatever He tells you.' (Jn: 2:5). May she cross this continent bringing it 'life, sweetness and hope!' (St. John Paul II, January 1999)

Prayer for the Intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe

O Immaculate Virgin, Mother of the true God and Mother of the Church! Hear the prayer that we address to you with filial trust, and present it to your Son Jesus, our sole Redeemer.

Mother of Mercy, Teacher of hidden and silent sacrifice, to you, who come to meet us sinners, we dedicate on this day all our being and all our love. We also dedicate to you our life, our work, our joys, our infirmities, and our sorrows. Hold us always with your loving hand.

Virgin of Guadalupe, Mother of the Americas, we pray to you for all the Bishops, that they may lead the faithful along paths of intense Christian life, of love and humble service of God and souls. Contemplate this immense harvest, and intercede with the Lord that He may instill a hunger for holiness in the whole people of God, and grant abundant vocations of priests and religious, strong in the faith and zealous dispensers of God's mysteries.

Grant to our homes the grace of loving and respecting life in its beginnings, with the same love with which you conceived in your womb the life of the Son of God. Blessed Virgin Mary, protect our families, so that they may always be united, and bless the upbringing of our children.

Our hope, look upon us with compassion, teach us to go continually to Jesus. We beg you to grant us a great love for all the holy Sacraments, which are, as it were, the signs that your Son left us on earth.

May Deacon Richard Conlin, who will be ordained a Priest, imitate Christ the Good Shepherd who laid down His life for the sheep, and may the Archdiocese of Vancouver be united by this moment of hope during these challenging times.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory Be ...

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Star of the New Evangelization, pray for us! Amen.

Friday, December 4, 2020

Day Two

Reflections

I feel drawn to this picture of Our Lady of Guadalupe because her face is full of kindness and simplicity... It calls me. (St. John Paul II)

What the Catholic faith believes about Mary is based on what it believes about Christ, and what it teaches about Mary illumines in turn its faith in Christ. (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 487)

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Saturday, December 5, 2020

Day Three

Reflections

The Virgin chose [Juan Diego] from among the most humble as the one to receive that loving and gracious manifestation of hers which is the Guadalupe apparition. Her maternal face and her blessed image which she left us as a priceless gift is a permanent remembrance of this. (St. John Paul II, May 6, 1990)

It meant the beginning of evangelization with a vitality that surpassed all expectations. Christ's message, through his Mother, took up the central elements of the indigenous culture, purified them and gave them the definitive sense of salvation. ... Consequently, Guadalupe and Juan Diego have a deep ecclesial and missionary meaning and are a model of perfectly enculturated evangelization. (Bishops of Mexico, 2002)

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Sunday, December 6, 2020

Day Four

Reflections

What came about in bodily form in Mary, the fullness of the Godhead shining through Christ in the Blessed Virgin, takes place in a similar way in every soul that has been made pure.

The Lord does not come in bodily form, for we no longer know Christ according to the flesh, but he dwells in us spiritually and the Father takes up his abode with him, the Gospel tells us. In this way, the child Jesus is born in each one of us. (St. Gregory of Nyssa, 4th cent.)

Now is the time of the New Evangelization to lead the People of God in America to cross the threshold of the third millennium with renewed hope. (St. John Paul II, December 1998).

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Monday, December 7, 2020

Day Five

Reflections

In this moment of her history, the Church in America is called to respond with loving generosity to the fundamental task of evangelization.

The starting point of such a program of evangelization is in fact the encounter with the Lord. Given by Jesus Christ in the Paschal Mystery, the Holy Spirit guides us towards those pastoral goals which the Church in America must attain in the third Christian millennium.

Open to the unity which comes from true communion with the Risen Lord, the particular Churches, and all who belong to them, will discover through their own spiritual experience that the encounter with the Living Jesus Christ is the path to conversion, communion and solidarity. (St. John Paul II, January 22, 1999)

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Tuesday, December 8, 2020

Day Six

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Reflections

Digital technology is giving new leads in understanding a phenomenon that continues to puzzle science: the mysterious eyes of the image of Virgin of Guadalupe.

In his research, [José Aste] Tonsmann used a digital process used by satellites and space probes in transmitting visual information.

He insists that the image “that has not been painted by human hand.” As early as the 18th century, scientists showed that it was impossible to paint such an image in a fabric of that texture. The “ayate” fibers used by the Indians, in fact, deteriorated after 20 years. Yet, the image and the fabric it is imprinted on have lasted almost 470 years ago.

Tonsmann pointed out that Richard Kuhn, a Nobel Prize winner in chemistry, has found that the image did not have natural, animal or mineral colorings. Given that there were no synthetic colorings in 1531, the image is inexplicable.

Tonsmann ventured to express why he believes the Virgin’s eyes have a “hidden” message for modern times, when technology is able to discover it. “This could be the case of the picture of the family in the center of the Virgin’s eye,” he says, “at a time when the family is under serious attack in our modern world.” (ZENIT.org, January 14, 2001)

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Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Day Seven

Reflections

“The Church must proclaim the Gospel of Life and speak out with prophetic force against the Culture of Death. This is our cry: life with dignity for all.

The time has come to banish once and for all from the Continent every attack against life. As a matter of urgency, we must stir up a new springtime of holiness on the Continent so that action and contemplation will go hand in hand.

Oh, Sweet Lady of Tepeyac, Mother of Guadalupe! We present to you this countless multitude of faithful who pray to God in America. You who have come into their hearts visit and comfort all homes, parishes and dioceses of all the Continent.” (St. John Paul II, January 23, 1999)

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Thursday, December 10, 2020

Day Eight

Reflections

Ever since I went on pilgrimage for the first time to the splendid Shrine of Guadalupe on January 29, 1979, she has guided my steps in these almost twenty-five years of service as Bishop of Rome and universal pastor of the Church.

I wish to invoke her, the sure way to encounter Christ, and who was the first evangelizer of America, as the 'Star of Evangelization,' entrusting to her the ecclesial work of all her sons and daughters of America. (St. John Paul II, 2003)

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Friday, December 11, 2020

Day Nine

Priestly Ordination

Eve of the Feast Our Lady of Guadalupe

Reflections

From the beginning invoked as 'Our Lady of Guadalupe', Mary, by her motherly and merciful figure, was a great sign of the closeness of the Father and of Jesus Christ, with whom she invites us to enter into communion.

The appearance of Mary to the native Juan Diego on the hill of Tepeyac in 1531 had a decisive effect on evangelization. Its influence greatly overflows the boundaries of Mexico, spreading to the whole Continent.

America, which historically has been, and still is, a melting-pot of peoples, has recognized in the mestiza face of the Virgin of Tepeyac, 'in Blessed Mary of Guadalupe, an impressive example of a perfectly enculturated evangelization'.

Consequently, not only in Central and South America, but in North America as well, the Virgin of Guadalupe is venerated as Queen of all America.

With the passage of time, pastors and faithful alike have grown increasingly conscious of the role of the Virgin Mary in the evangelization of America.

In the prayer composed for the Special Assembly for America of the Synod of Bishops, Holy Mary of Guadalupe is invoked as 'Patroness of all America and Star of the first and new evangelization'.

In view of this, I welcome with joy the proposal of the Synod Fathers that the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother and Evangelizer of America, be celebrated throughout the continent on December 12.

It is my heartfelt hope that she, whose intercession was responsible for strengthening the faith of the first disciples (see Jn. 2:11), will by her maternal intercession guide the Church in America, obtaining the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, as she once did for the early Church (see Acts 1:14), so that the new evangelization may yield a splendid flowering of Christian life. (*Ecclesia in America*, St. John Paul II, January 22, 1999)

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Please join the solemn occasion of the Priestly Ordination via the livestream at 7:00 PM PST either by clicking on the link provided in the confirmation email sent to you upon registration or by providing the code on the following page: <https://rcav.regfox.com/meet/ordination/enter>.