

FEAST OF SAINT JUAN DIEGO
SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
LA CROSSE
DECEMBER 9, 2010

First Reading: *Sir* 3:17-24

Responsorial Psalm: *Ps* 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9, 10-11

Second Reading: *I Cor* 1:26-31

Alleluia Verse: *Mt* 11:25

Gospel: *Mt* 11:25-30

HOMILY

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

Celebrating the feast day of Saint Juan Diego, we are attracted to his humility. Saint Juan Diego knew that he was a child of God, that God had called him into being and that all of the good things in his life were the gift of God to him. He, therefore, desired only one thing, to thank God always and to please God in all things. He devoted himself to learn more and more about God from the Franciscan Friars. He devoted himself to participating faithfully in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and to praying daily, especially through the intercession of the Mother of God, the Blessed Virgin Mary. And he devoted himself to growth in the Christian virtues, especially by caring for his elderly uncle, Juan Bernardino.

It was thus that, on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Juan Diego was making his way to the parish church, early in the morning, in order to receive religious instruction from the Franciscan Friars and to participate in the Holy Mass. Since he devoted himself to doing what God asked of him, he was prepared to meet the Mother of God, at her apparition, and to become her messenger.

The Mother of God came down from heaven to America, in order to show us God's constant and abundant mercy and love. In order to accomplish her mission, she asked the help of Saint Juan Diego, and he generously served her, even though he thought that surely someone else was better prepared to be Our Lady's messenger. Through the good services of Saint Juan Diego, the mission of Our Lady was accomplished. Bishop Juan de Zumárraga received her message, confirmed by the miracle of the roses and by the far greater miracle of the tilma, and built the shrine in which she has spoken and continues to speak to her sons and daughters about her Divine Son, the

fountain of all God's mercy and love toward us, especially in the Sacraments of the Holy Eucharist and Penance.

Yet, today, Saint Juan Diego continues to be Our Lady's messenger. Her image continues to appear to us on his tilma. God showed how pleased he was with Saint Juan Diego not only by choosing him to be Our Lady's messenger but also by leaving, in a miraculous way, her image on his tilma. God invites us to learn humility from Saint Juan Diego. Saint Juan Diego teaches us that we, too, are children of God and that all our happiness lies in coming to know Him with all our mind, to love Him with all our heart, and to serve Him with all our being. Saint Juan Diego shows us how to be one in heart with the Mother of God, placing our hearts, one with her Immaculate Heart, completely into the glorious pierced Heart of Jesus.

Our Lady of Guadalupe and her messenger, Saint Juan Diego, bring us to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. In the Heart of Jesus, we find the mercy and love of God, which purifies us of our sins and strengthens us to love God and our neighbor with all our heart.

Boys and girls to be enrolled into the Saint Juan Diego Guild, imitate the humility of Saint Juan Diego. In everything that you think and say and do, show yourselves to be true children of God. Try always to give thanks to God Who called you into life and Who takes care of you with all His generous gifts, most especially, the gift of your parents and family. Like Saint Juan Diego, let your one desire be to do God's will in all things. The little practices of prayer and charity, which you promise to fulfill as a member of the Saint Juan Diego Guild, should be a daily sign of your desire to give glory to God and to bring others to Him.

By your imitation of Saint Juan Diego, you will be messengers of Our Lady of Guadalupe, showing to others that God is all-merciful and all-loving toward them. Wherever you are, at home, at school or at play, invite others to know and love the Mother of God, Our Lady of Guadalupe, and through her to know, love and serve God.

Jovenes y señoritas, para ser introducidos en la Cofradía de San Juan Diego, deben imitar la humildad y obediencia de este Santo. A través de la oración de cada día y haciendo todo lo que Dios les pida a través de sus obras y actos, Ustedes serán capaces de ser humildes y obedientes ante Él.

Vean las pequeñas prácticas de piedad que son la oración y obras de caridad, las cuales Ustedes prometen llevar a cabo como miembros de esta Cofradía de San Juan Diego, como ocasiones de dar gloria a Dios y de llevar a otros hacia Él.

Nada complace más a San Juan Diego que recontar la historia de las apariciones de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, así Ella puede continuar mostrando a nosotros, sus hijos, cuánto Dios nos ama y cuán grande es su misericordia hacia nosotros. En casa, con sus amigos, en las escuelas y en otros lugares en los cuales Ustedes mismos pueden ayudar a otros a conocer y amar a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, a fin de que a través de Ella, ellos puedan venir a conocer y amar a Nuestro Señor Jesúcristo, su Hijo. Así, como San Juan Diego, Ustedes puedan ser mensajeros fieles de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, y con ella, mensajeros del Amor y Misericordia de Dios Nuestro Señor.

Let us now, with the humility of true children of God, join our hearts to the Immaculate Heart of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Let us, with the Virgin of Guadalupe, now offer our childlike hearts to Our Lord Jesus Christ, placing them completely into His glorious, pierced Heart through the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Giving our hearts completely to the Sacred Heart of Jesus through His Eucharistic Sacrifice, we will grow in our knowledge and love of God, and in our service of Him in all things. May Saint Juan Diego intercede for us that we may be faithful and generous messengers of Our Lady of Guadalupe. May Our Lady of Guadalupe keep us always under the mantle of her loving care, bringing us daily to her Divine Son, so that in Him we may know God's mercy and love at every moment of our lives.

Heart of Jesus, formed by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary, have mercy on us!
Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us!
Saint Juan Diego, pray for us!

Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke
Archbishop Emeritus of Saint Louis
Prefect of the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura