

FEAST OF SAINT JUAN DIEGO  
SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE  
LA CROSSE  
DECEMBER 9, 2015

Sir 3, 17-24  
1 Cor 1, 26-31  
Mt 11, 25-30

## HOMILY

*Praised be Jesus Christ!*

San Juan Diego, cuya fiesta hoy celebramos, es un modelo del discipulado cristiano para nosotros. Él nos muestra como el Discípulo Cristiano, uniendo su corazón al Inmaculado Corazón de la Bendita Virgen María, el primer y mejor discípulo de Nuestro Señor, llega a ser uno en corazón con Cristo y así es verdaderamente su colaborador. San Juan Diego quien se consideró el más indigno de hacer algo extraordinario por Nuestro Señor, por su obediencia filial hacia la Madre de Dios, ha sido un heroico Discípulo Cristiano, un modelo y confiable intercesor para todos nosotros.

The Book of Sirach provides a key to understanding the greatness of Saint Juan Diego. Saint Juan Diego was, first of all, humble before God. In other words, he understood deeply that his very being and his personal gifts had all come from the hand of God. By his humility, he disposed himself to cooperate fully with God's grace. He followed the divine wisdom: "Humble yourself the more, the greater you are, and you will find favor with God."<sup>1</sup>

His humility disciplined the natural tendency to want to know for sure the result of his cooperation with God's grace. He knew that the wisdom of God was far greater than his own ability to know, and thus he was content to do God's will, confident in God's blessing. He followed the divine counsel: "What is committed to you, attend to; for it is not necessary for you to see with your eyes those things which are hidden."<sup>2</sup> Surely what God was asking of him through the Blessed Virgin Mary seemed impossible in itself and even more impossible, given his limited gifts. Yet, when the Mother of God insisted that he was indeed her chosen messenger, he did not question God's will further. Notwithstanding personal doubts and the mockery of the servants of the Bishop, he proceeded to do all that was asked of him.

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<sup>1</sup> Sir 3, 18.

<sup>2</sup> Sir 3, 22.

Most of all, when the seemingly fatal illness of his uncle, Juan Bernardino, seemed to excuse him from following the clear instruction of Our Lady of Guadalupe, even though he was in anguish over the condition of his uncle, he put the will of God first and thus brought a great blessing to his uncle. Saint Juan Diego experienced, in a miraculous way, the faithful and enduring presence of Our Lord through the mediation of the Mother of God, the Immaculate Virgin Mary.

With Saint Juan Diego, let us listen again to the words of the Mother of God to him and to us all, so that, with her, we can be confident disciples of Christ in the world:

Do not fear this sickness of your uncle or any other sickness, nor anything that is sharp or hurtful. Am I not here, I, who am your Mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Am I not the source of your joy? Are you not in the hollow of my mantle, in the crossing of my arms? Do you need anything more? Let nothing else worry you, disturb you.<sup>3</sup>

Saint Juan Diego teaches us, in a most special way, to remain in the maternal arms of the Virgin Mary, especially through our praying of the Holy Rosary, so that, as we pray at the conclusion of every Rosary, we may “imitate” the mysteries we contemplate and “attain” the forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life which they promise.

En Nuestro Señor mismo vemos la perfección de la humildad filial y la confianza. En todo el Evangelio, Él deja en claro que Él ha venido al mundo, ha unido nuestra naturaleza humana a Su Divina naturaleza, por una sola razón: para hacer la voluntad del Padre lo cual es la salvación del mundo. Tal como Él declaró a los Apóstoles que le apuraban a comer: “Mi alimento es hacer la voluntad de Aquel que me ha enviado, y hacer su obra.”<sup>4</sup>

La gracia de la salvación hace posible para nosotros compartir con humildad y confiar en Cristo. Además Él nos invita a hacerlo:

Vengan a mi, todos los que están fatigados y agobiados, que Yo les daré reposo. Por que mi yugo es suave y mi carga ligera.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> “[N]o temas esta enfermedad, ni ninguna otra cosa punzante, aflictiva. ¿No estoy aquí, you, que soy tu madre? ¿No estás bajo mi sombra y reguardo? ¿No soy la fuente de tu alegría? ¿No estás en el hueco de mi manto, en el cruce de mis brazos? ¿Tienes necesidad de alguna otra cosa? Que ninguna otra cosa te aflija, te perturbe; ...” *Nican Mopohua (Aquí se cuenta)*, tr. Mario Rojas Sánchez (México, D.F.: Design & Digital Print S.A. de C.V., 2001), p. 13, nn. 118-120. English translation: “Nican Mopohua: Original Account of Guadalupe,” *Handbook on Guadalupe* (New Bedford, MA: Franciscan Friars of the Immaculate, 1997), p. 200.

<sup>4</sup> Jn 4, 34.

<sup>5</sup> Mt 11, 29-30.

Éstas palabras de Nuestro Señor son especialmente llenas de poder, cuando consideramos Su “yugo” y “carga”: el Camino de la Cruz. Si, aún Su cruel Pasión y Muerte fueron “fácil” y “ligera” ya que Él las aceptó como voluntad del Padre y, así, como un modo de cumplir con Su misión de salvación eterna.

En un modo elocuente y lleno de poder, Nuestro Señor expresa una humildad filial y confianza en su Oración durante la Agonía en el Huerto:

Padre, si quieres, aparte de mi éste caliz; pero no se haga mi voluntad, sino la tuya.<sup>6</sup>

Después de que Él ha pronunciado ésta oración, el Evangelio nos menciona que Dios envió un ángel a asistirlo y confortarlo.<sup>7</sup> Con San Juan Diego, estamos confiados en que la voluntad de Dios significa sufrir y morir por nosotros, éste es el único modo con que obtendremos la alegría y la paz en la vida futura. Tenemos confianza que Dios también nos envía Sus ángeles para asistirnos y fortalecernos, en especial en la tentación y en las aflicciones.

In the end, as Saint Paul so wisely taught the early Christians at Corinth, we are all frail human beings. Whatever human wisdom or strength we may have will not win the victory over evil in the world, will not win the victory of eternal life. But, as we see so clearly in the Christian discipleship of Saint Juan Diego and so perfectly in the Passion, Death, Resurrection and Ascension of Christ,

... God chose the foolish of the world to shame the wise, and God chose the weak of the world to shame the strong, and God chose the lowly and despised of the world, those who count for nothing, to reduce to nothing those who are something, so that no human being might boast before God.<sup>8</sup>

As the Mother of God taught Saint Juan Diego, so she teaches us: in Christ alone do we find true and lasting wisdom, “righteousness, sanctification, and redemption.”<sup>9</sup> Saint Juan Diego found his lasting joy and peace in serving Our Lady of Guadalupe and her message of divine forgiveness and mercy. Let us pray for the grace to find our joy and peace in Christ alone, in oneness of heart with His Most Sacred Heart, in doing, with Him, the will of the Father in all things.

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<sup>6</sup> Lk 22, 43.

<sup>7</sup> Cf. Lk 22, 43.

<sup>8</sup> 1 Cor 1, 27-29.

<sup>9</sup> 1 Cor 1, 30.

Ayer, Su Santidad el Papa Francisco ha inaugurado el Jubileo Extraordinario de la Misericordia. En el próximo Tercer Domingo de Adviento, a solicitud de Monseñor William Callahan, Obispo de La Crosse, abriré solemnemente la Puerta de la Misericordia de éste Santuario de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. Tal como la Madre de Dios nos ha enseñado a través de sus apariciones como Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, Dios nunca nos fallará en mostrar su misericordia hacia nosotros, si sólo nosotros nos acercamos a Él, bajo su maternal guía, con verdadero dolor por nuestros pecados y con el firme propósito de no volver a pecar. Que Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe y su heroico mensajero, San Juan Diego, intercedan por todos los peregrinos que entren por la Puerta de la Misericordia, así ellos puedan conocer en sus vidas un verdadero arrepentimiento por sus pecados y la indefectible misericordia de Dios, el cual sólo puede perdonar sus pecados.

The Feast of Saint Juan Diego is the principal day for inducting new members into the Saint Juan Diego Guild, an association of children and young who strive to imitate Saint Juan Diego in their daily lives: at home, at school, at recreation, in every place in which they find themselves, and in every activity in which they engage. Let us pray today, in a particular way, for all of the members of the Saint Juan Diego Guild and for all who will be inducted into the Guild today, so that they may always imitate the filial humility and trust of Saint Juan Diego who is their model and their powerful intercessor.

Imitating the humility and trust of Saint Juan Diego, let us now lift up our hearts to the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus. Our hearts, placed completely into His glorious pierced Heart, will be purified of all sin and, at the same time, inflamed with His pure and selfless love. In the Eucharistic Heart of Our Lord, above all, we discover the truth of His words to us in the Gospel, we discover the truth of the words of Our Lady to Saint Juan Diego. Our hearts, one with the Immaculate Heart of Mary, resting in His Heart, trust in His words: “Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves.”<sup>10</sup> One with our Immaculate Virgin Mother in the Heart of Jesus, she speaks to us: “Am I not here, I, who am your Mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Am I not the source of

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<sup>10</sup> Mt 11, 29.

your joy? Are you not in the hollow of my mantle, in the crossing of my arms? Do you need anything more? Let nothing else worry you, disturb you.”<sup>11</sup>

*Heart of Jesus, patient and full of mercy, have mercy on us!*  
*Our Lady of Guadalupe, Virgin most merciful, pray for us!*  
*Saint Juan Diego, pray for us!*

Raymond Leo Cardinal BURKE

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<sup>11</sup> “¿No estoy aquí, yo, que soy tu madre? ¿No estás bajo mi sombra y resguardo? ¿No soy la fuente de tu alegría? ¿No estás en el hueco de mi manto, en el cruce de mis brazos ? ¿Tienes necesidad de alguna otra cosa ? Que ninguna otra cosa te aflija, te perturbe; ...” *Nican Mopohua (Aquí se cuenta,)*, tr. Mario Rojas Sánchez (México, D.F.: Design & Digital Print S.A. de C.V., 2001), p. 13, nn. 119-120. English translation: “Nican Mopohua: Original Account of Guadalupe,” *Handbook on Guadalupe* (New Bedford, MA: Franciscan Friars of the Immaculate, 1997), p. 200.