

VOTIVE MASS OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
QUEEN OF THE AMERICAS GUILD
SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
LA CROSSE
AUGUST 1, 2009

First Reading: *Zec* 2:14-17

Responsorial Psalm: *Ps* 45:11-12, 14-15, 16-17

Second Reading: *Rev* 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab

Alleluia Verse:

Gospel: *Lk* 1:26-38

HOMILY

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

1. Contemplating the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe and reflecting upon her message to us, we recognize the hand of God Who, in his immeasurable and ceaseless love of us, manifests His presence with us in the Church, above all, in the Eucharistic Sacrifice in which we now partake. Our Lady of Guadalupe is the “woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and on her head a crown of twelve stars” (Reading II). It is she who gives birth to a male Child Who indeed is King of Heaven and Earth, against Whom Satan and his cohorts, with all the fury of their anger and rebellion, cannot prevail.

2. Contemplating the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, we mystically hear the voice in heaven proclaim:

Now have salvation and power come,

and the Kingdom of our God

and the authority of his Anointed (Reading II).

As she immediately identified herself at her first apparition to Saint Juan Diego, Our Lady of Guadalupe is the Mother of God. Through her Divine Maternity, God, in fulfillment of His promise made through the Prophet Zechariah, has come “to dwell among [us]” (Reading I). Under her Immaculate Heart, God the Son has taken a human heart. His name is Jesus. He is

the long-awaited descendant of David, Who has saved us from our sins, “and of his kingdom there will be no end” (Gospel). Her image is before us to draw us to her Divine Son, present in our midst, above all, in the Most Blessed Sacrament. Our celebration of her apparitions and her message during these days reaches its fullness in our participation in the Eucharistic Sacrifice, our communion with her Divine Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

3. When Our Lady of Guadalupe first appeared to Saint Juan Diego, he had the profound sense that, in some way, Heaven had come to earth. The singing of the birds and the transformation of the very earth and its foliage made him think that he must be awaking from a dream or that he had somehow died and was in Heaven, for the ordinary world of the hill of Tepeyac was transformed, had been become extraordinary, sharing in some way in the infinite beauty of Heaven. It was Our Lady, or, rather, the Child in her womb, who had transformed his ordinary world and made it extraordinary by the presence of God in his midst. Through his conversations with Our Lady and his obedience in carrying out her will, his life was changed for ever. The chapel built by Bishop Juan de Zumárraga, in which the miraculous image of Our Lady was enthroned, was the sign that the ordinary life of every man has been forever transformed, has become extraordinary, for God the Son dwells with us, He accompanies us each day along the pilgrimage of our earthly life, and He brings us safely to our eternal home with God the Father.

4. Our Lady of Guadalupe is the Mother of Divine Grace. She is the one whom God the Father preserved from all stain of original sin, so that she might be the mother of His only-begotten Son. Even as she was the chosen instrument by which our Savior came into the world, so she continues to be the sign of His abiding presence with us in the Church and the instrument by which His saving grace reaches us in the Church. With maternal love, she brings us to Our Lord Jesus, so that we may know the mystery of God’s mercy and love in our lives and be, with Saint Juan Diego, messengers of God’s mercy and love to all, without boundary or discrimination.

5. In a world in which so many have lost hope, so many do not know the presence of God in the Church for them, Our Lady of Guadalupe asks us to enthrone her image in our churches and in our homes, so that all our brothers and sisters will come to know and love her Divine Son and

find in His Heart, pierced for love of them and ever open to receive them, the secure anchor of their hope. Through Our Lady of Guadalupe, we all come to understand the extraordinary nature of our ordinary life, for God has come to dwell with us, to remain with us, and to bring us safely home to Himself.

6. Our Lord now makes new His presence with us through the Eucharistic Sacrifice. He makes new for us the outpouring of His Body and Blood on Calvary for our eternal salvation. Let us lift up our hearts, with the Immaculate Heart of Mary, to the glorious pierced Heart of Jesus. Through the maternal love of Our Lady of Guadalupe, may we discover the wonder of our daily life in Christ, for God indeed dwells with us.

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!