

2023 Cardinal's  Annual Appeal

His Eminence Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke
Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe
P.O. Box 1237, La Crosse Wisconsin 54602-1237

September 12, 2023

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Brothers and sisters in Christ,

There is no question that society, in general, and the Church are currently experiencing one of the greatest crises which we have ever known. Today, perhaps as at no time in the past, there is an ever more diffuse phenomenon of general confusion and error about the fundamental truths regarding human life, the family as the cradle of human life, and our relationship with God through religious faith.

In such a troubled time in the family, in the Church, and in society, Our Lady of Guadalupe is both our secure guide and our powerful intercessor. Her apparitions nearly 500 years ago brought peace to people and inspired millions of conversions to the true Catholic faith. In a time like the present, we turn to Our Lady of Guadalupe to seek her guidance and to implore her intercession on our behalf, for she teaches us the mystery of God's ever faithful and all-merciful love in her "sacred little house."

At the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, pilgrims seek her intercession and maternal love as much as they seek to satisfy their greatest hunger and thirst in a sacramental way, through Penance and, above all, through the Eucharistic Sacrifice. In Our Lady's "sacred little house" in which these sacramental encounters take place, pilgrims are inspired to pray before the Blessed Sacrament reposed in the tabernacle. They pray under the loving gaze of the Virgin Mother of God, of her most pure spouse, Saint Joseph, and of all the saints, uniting their hearts to the glorious pierced Heart of Jesus.

Today, I ask you to pray for God's blessing upon our annual appeal. If possible, please also prayerfully consider helping the Shrine with a generous gift. Amidst our troubled and troubling times, the mission of the Shrine as a place of pilgrimage is more critical than ever.

Your generous support helps to sustain the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in her mission to care for the corporal and spiritual needs of nearly 90,000 pilgrims each year.

The entire mission of the Shrine is contained in the mission of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Calling her sons and daughters to make pilgrimage, the Mother of God accompanies them, leading them ultimately to the Shrine Church and to the encounter with Christ here in the teaching of His word, in the Sacrament of Penance by which He forgives our sins, and, above all, in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

I invite you, too, to make a pilgrimage to the Shrine to obtain the grace of a fuller union of heart with the glorious pierced Heart of Jesus. Monday through Friday, the Shrine offers two occasions for the Sacrament of Penance and the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, and three occasions for both on Sunday. "Come and see" (Jn 1, 39). Learn more about making a pilgrimage to the Shrine by visiting GuadalupeShrine.org.

Invoking God's blessing upon you and your home, while confiding your intentions to the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe and Saint Juan Diego, I remain

Yours in the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and in the Purest Heart of Saint Joseph,

Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke
Founder, Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe

