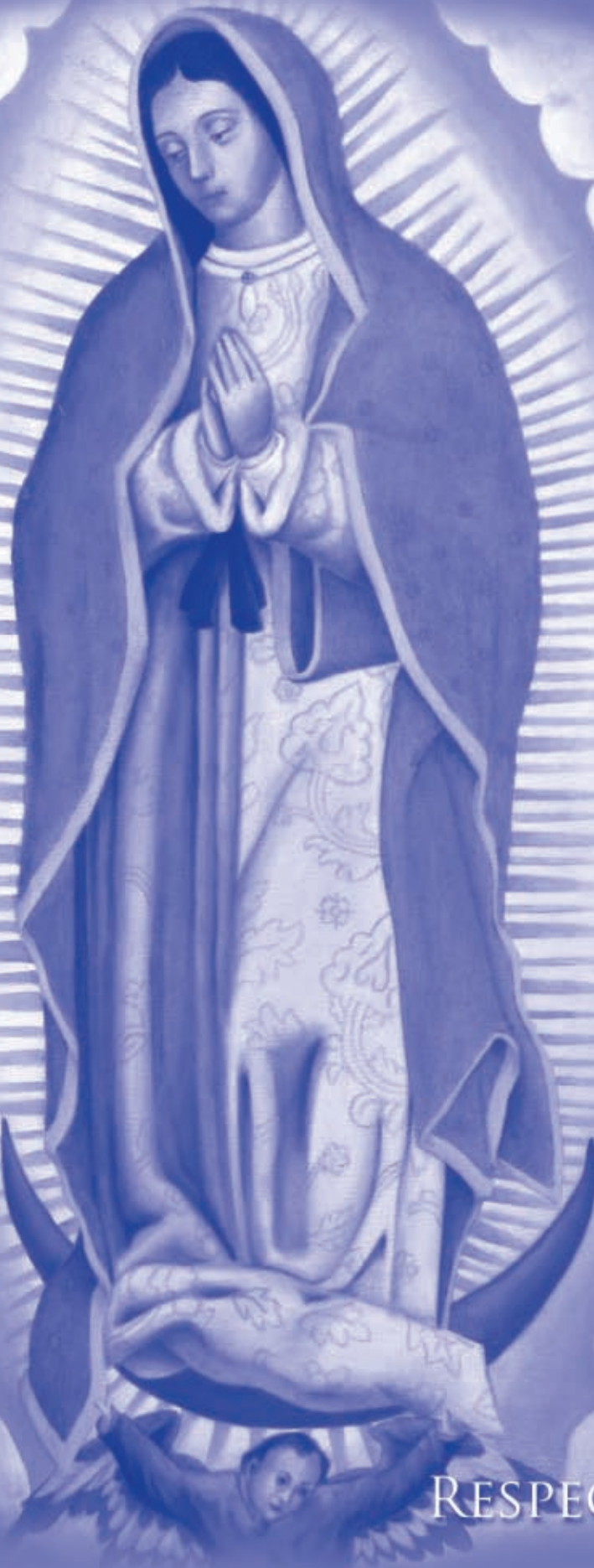


Liturgy Guide

2010-2011



RESPECT LIFE

THE MEASURE OF LOVE IS TO LOVE WITHOUT MEASURE

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The Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities is profoundly grateful to Msgr. James P. Moroney for preparing of the materials on pages 3-9 herein. Msgr. Moroney is rector of the Cathedral of St. Paul in Worcester, MA, serves on the faculty of St. John's Seminary, and is executive secretary of the Vox Clara Committee.

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RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY OCTOBER 3, 2010

Preaching for Life

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME C

Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4/Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14/ Luke 17:5-10 (Lectionary for Mass [LFM], no. 141)

THE FIRST READING is the voice of the oppressed, crying for help to the Lord. It could be the voice of the child torn from her mother's womb or the quiet groan of the old man as he is given an extra shot of morphine to end his "inconvenient" life. It could be the fearful gasp of the executed prisoner, or of the neglected and abused child put out on the street by his own parent. It is the voice of the voiceless and the cry of the desperate.

But the Lord hears the cry of the poor and comes to their aid. If, then, we are to be about the work of God, we will do everything in our power to save the one whose life has been thrown away or taken away. This is truly the work of God.

God cannot leave the crime unpunished: from the ground on which it has been spilt, the blood of the one murdered demands that God should render justice (cf. Gn 37:26; Is 26:21; Ez 24:7-8). From this text the Church has taken the name of the 'sins which cry to God for justice', and, first among them, she has included wilful murder. For the Jewish people, as for many peoples of antiquity, blood is the source of life. Indeed 'the blood is the life' (Dt 12:23), and life, especially human life, belongs only to God: for this reason *whoever attacks human life, in some way attacks God himself.* (*The Gospel of Life [Evangelium Vitae]*, no. 9)

REFLECTION ON THE SECOND READING: How often we look like cowards to the world and to the Lord—and to be honest, to ourselves. Do our co-workers know how we feel about what is done every day to unborn children? Do we teach our children what we believe about the sanctity of life? Do we inform ourselves concerning the positions on the dignity of life taken by those for whom we vote? Are we willing to experience inconvenience, or even to suffer hardship, so that a baby might live?

But where does such courage come from? It comes from hearing the Gospel, listening to God's command, and spending time with him in prayer. The Prophets, the Apostles, and the martyrs were men and women just like us. Yet through the grace of God and openness to his will, they changed the world. Can we but save the life of a little child?

Just as a century ago it was the working classes which were oppressed in their fundamental rights, and the Church very courageously came to their defense by proclaiming the sacrosanct rights of the worker as a person, so now, when another category of persons is being oppressed in the fundamental right to life, the Church feels in duty bound to speak out with the same courage on behalf of those who have no voice. Hers is always the evangelical cry in defense of the world's poor, those who are threatened and despised and whose human rights are violated. (*The Gospel of Life [Evangelium Vitae]*, no 5)

REFLECTION ON THE GOSPEL: I remember the first time I joined those praying at an abortion clinic. I patted myself on the back so many times I think I pulled a muscle. And yet did I do enough? I think of those who write letters day and night to anti-life politicians, of those who patiently sit and counsel new mothers, of those who pray for hours on end for those who have chosen abortion and for their children, of those who volunteer to work in homes for homeless and expectant mothers. All of these people, who do so much more than I did. And yet none of us, even those most dedicated to the cause of life, is doing more than simply what God has asked us to do: to seek him out in the least of our brothers and sisters and to love, protect and nurture him. For whatever we do for these least of our brothers, we do for him.

In effect, the absolute inviolability of innocent human life is a moral truth clearly taught by Sacred Scripture, constantly upheld in the Church's Tradition and consistently proposed by her Magisterium. This consistent teaching is the evident result of that 'supernatural sense of the faith' which, inspired and sustained by the Holy Spirit, safeguards the People of God from error when 'it shows universal agreement in matters of faith and morals'.

Faced with the progressive weakening in individual consciences and in society of the sense of the absolute and grave moral illicitness of the direct taking of all innocent human life, especially at its beginning and at its end, *the Church's Magisterium* has spoken out with increasing frequency in defence of the sacredness and inviolability of human life. The Papal Magisterium, particularly insistent in this regard, has always been seconded by that of the Bishops, with numerous and comprehensive doctrinal and pastoral documents issued either by Episcopal Conferences or by individual Bishops. The Second Vatican Council also addressed the matter forcefully, in a brief but incisive passage. (*The Gospel of Life [Evangelium Vitae]*, no. 57).

INTERCESSIONS FOR LIFE

For all newborn babies:
that they may teach us the consummate beauty and value
of every human life;
we pray to the Lord:

For newly married couples:
that their love for each other might nourish their faith
and strengthen their commitment to do God's will;
we pray to the Lord:

That all government leaders might recognize and promote
the inalienable right to life of every person
from conception to natural death;
we pray to the Lord:

For those who await death in prisons, in hospitals, and at home:
that we might remember them in prayer,
beg God's mercy for their sins,
and love them as Christ loves us;
we pray to the Lord:

For those who, like Simeon and Anna, have grown old:
that we may treasure their lives and rejoice in their presence;
we pray to the Lord:

That like the Good Samaritan,
we might seek to serve the weakest and most forgotten,
and preserve the life of those threatened by violence or selfishness;
we pray to the Lord:

For every woman who has had an abortion:
that she might be given the grace
to embrace the mercy of God
and know healing, strength, and holiness;
we pray to the Lord:

For those who work for the healing
of mothers and their children:
that God will strengthen their resolve
and make their hands gentle yet strong;
we pray to the Lord:

For all who work for the Gospel of Life
and especially for those who teach:
for patient endurance and joy;
we pray to the Lord:

A DAY OF PRAYER AND PENANCE FOR LIFE

JANUARY 22, 2011

Preaching for Life

In all the dioceses of the United States of America, January 22 (or January 23, when January 22 falls on a Sunday) shall be observed as a particular day of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion, and of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life. The Mass “For Peace and Justice” (no. 21 of the “Masses for Various Needs”) should be celebrated with violet vestments as an appropriate liturgical observance for this day. (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, no. 373)

The following readings are taken from the Mass for Peace and Justice (Lectionary for Mass: Various Needs and Occasions, no. 14 LFM, no. 887ff)

Isaiah 9:1-6 (LFM, no. 887)/ I James 3:13-18 (LFM, no. 888)/ John 14:23-29 (LFM, no.891)

Who is in charge, me or God? It is the question that echoes through the history of man, from Eden to America. Who owns the world, and what is it for?

Isaiah proclaims a dominion that belongs entirely to God, while St. James warns us against bitter jealousies and selfish ambitions, lest we fail to cultivate God’s righteousness and peace.

Thus it is that Jesus gives the gift of the Holy Spirit to his Apostles and to his Church. This Advocate “will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you” (Jn 14:26). If we but listen to that Spirit, we will be neither troubled nor afraid and we will know a peace the world cannot give.

But still we resist, for like rebellious children we deny that all life, all meaning belong to God, from the moment I was conceived in my mother’s womb until the moment I die. I am God’s and so is all creation.

It all belongs to God: the rising sun and the blue skies, the birds of the air and the waves of the ocean, the human heart and a baby’s smile, a bowl of wheat or a plate of pasta, a glass of wine or a bottle of milk. As the Psalmist reminds us, it all belongs to God, for his is the earth and all its fullness. It was all made by his hand out of love for us, and we, the crowning achievement of his creation, are made in his image and likeness.

So from the beginning we and all creation were made to reflect his love and to participate in the continuing creation of God’s goodness. Making something out of nothing ... love out of hate ... light out of darkness ... hope out of despair ... life out of death.

That's what Jesus preached in his redemption of all that was evil or empty or poor. He lived among those who had little that he might show how God can create out of nothingness. The Son of Man, having no place to lay his head, made the blind to see, the crippled to walk and the sinner to love. Just as at the first moment of creation, the Spirit of God dwelt over the dark chaos, so Jesus lived among the poor, the sinners and the broken that he might redeem anew all that is lifeless and cold.

That is why Jesus lived among the poor, why he called them blessed and why he said in response to the despair of the rich young man: "How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" (Lk 18:24)

And that's why Jesus gave us the answers to the final exam, the answers we need to get to heaven. For we will be judged not on how often we have prayed, or how well we preached, or how beautifully we wrote about the things of God. No, we will be judged on whether we used this world's goods to love or to be selfish, whether we opened our arms, our hearts, and our lives to the poor or whether we grabbed for all we could get.

Who is the poorest, the most innocent and the most defenseless among us? Who is more susceptible to a violent death than the little child in his mother's womb? He needs the protection of a nurturing mother, of loving parents, and of a society that respects the dignity of his life.

And we will be judged on whether we nurtured, loved and protected him, as individuals and as a society—on whether we saw him as a human being with an inalienable right to life, or as an inconvenient clump of cells to be disposed of like a thing we no longer want to keep.

Yet that child is neither a statistic nor a social problem. He is a human being, made in the image and likeness of God, whom I am called by Christ to love, even as the Lord loved me from the wood of the Cross.

Likewise, in tough economic times it is the easier for the parent with too many mouths to feed to think of the child in his mother's womb not as a full human being, but as another thing which could be removed from the list of worries by an abortion procedure.

We will be judged on how we have treated the least powerful among us, and on how we have loved the least. For God, who is Lord of the heavens and the earth, has told us so. Whatever you do to the least of these, you do to me.

It all belongs to him, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

INTERCESSIONS FOR LIFE



For women haunted by the memory of abortion:
that God might grant his Church the grace
to heal and support them;
we pray to the Lord:

For the members of our Supreme Court:
that they may sustain and promote
the right to life of every little child
from the first moment of conception;
we pray to the Lord:

For children who are lost, abused, or homeless:
that the joy of the past Christmas Season
may give us the strength and the wisdom
to love and protect them;
we pray to the Lord:

For those who seek to serve us in government office:
that by their love for every human being,
from conception to natural death,
they might lead us in a love of what is right and true;
we pray to the Lord:

For all expectant mothers:
and especially those who are very young,
that God's grace might foster
the love they bear for the children in their wombs;
we pray to the Lord:

For the souls of all deceased children:
that from her place in heaven,
the ever gentle Mother of God
might cradle each one in her loving embrace;
we pray to the Lord:

For those whose burden of age has grown heavy:
that God might teach us to love them,
and to assure them of the immense value of their presence;
We pray to the Lord:

For the United States of America:
that we might protect and defend
the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness
for every human being
from conception to natural death;
we pray to the Lord:

A LITANY FOR LIFE

Based on I Corinthians 12:31–13:8a



Lord, love is patient.

Give to the mother who is tempted to abort her child the patience to endure the suffering that will bring forth new life.

Lord, love is kind.

Give to the new father whose friends tell him to abort his child the gentleness, compassion and courage to support his wife and child, protect them from all that could harm them, and sustain them against selfishness and hate.

Lord, love is not jealous.

Remove from all human hearts the temptation to trade human life for advantage, convenience or personal benefit.

Deliver us from the expediency that values personal gain and pleasure over the dignity of human life.

Lord, love is not pompous.

Deliver us from the arrogance that sees our needs or wants as superior to the rights of others.

Help us to see all our brothers and sisters as worthy of all of our love.

Lord, love is not inflated.

Grant us a share in the humility of your Son, who sought not to be served, but to serve.

Help us to see in every human life, rich or poor, young or old, guilty or innocent, a reflection of your image and likeness.

Lord, love is not rude.

Implant a spirit of gentle compassion in the hearts of each of your sons and daughters, Lord, that no person may ever be treated as less than the child of God which you have made them, through the Paschal Death and Resurrection of your only-begotten Son.

Lord, love does not seek its own interests.

Give to all who govern us, Lord, a generous spirit, that our country may not so much seek to be great as to be good, to be rich in possessions as to be rich in mercy, or to be renowned as to be renowned for justice and truth for all.

Lord, love is not quick-tempered.

Grant that by our prudence and patience we might learn to live that sacrificial love by which your Son died for us on the Cross, that all men and women might know our kindness and willingness to love them unto death after the model of our Lord and Savior.

Lord, love does not brood over injury.

Give us the grace of mercy, Lord, that like your Son we might forgive those who sin against us, seeking only their redemption and eternal happiness. Forgive the abortionist who takes the life of an unborn child. Move his heart, grant him the grace of repentance, and give us a full share in your mercy.

Lord, love does not rejoice over wrongdoing.

Help us to seek only the redemption of wrongdoers, Lord, and remove from our hearts all desire for vengeance and hate. Help us to desire not revenge, even for the horrors of abortion, but the repentance and happiness of all your children.

Lord, love rejoices with the truth.

Implant deep within our hearts a sense of the joy of the Gospel of Life, and make us joy-filled evangelists of your great gift of life.

Lord, love bears all things.

When we are insulted or reviled for the sake of the Gospel of Life, give us the courage and the innocence of the children of God. Help us, Lord, to suffer for the sake of your truth, and never to seek our own good, even in the good work we do.

Lord, love believes all things.

Deliver us from every temptation to despair, Lord. When we are discouraged, give us the grace to trust in your mercy and to know that your love is ever victorious, even in the face of darkness, death, and hate.

Lord, love hopes all things.

As we trust in your infinite love, O Lord, give us the trust that comes from the Gospel, and help us to cling to that sure and certain hope that for those who love God all things come to good.

Lord, love endures all things.

In the face of death, destruction, and a culture of death, never let us lose sight of the beauty of the face of your only-begotten Son, Our Lord, who suffered the torments of his Passion and Death for the sake of our sins. Let us trust that through his Passion we will have the strength to do your will and to carry each cross that comes our way for the glory of God and the love of his little ones.

Lord, love never fails.

When the crusade for life seems unending and our latest initiatives have failed, when our hearts are filled with sadness or anger or fear, come to our aid, O Lord, and give us the assurance that you are ever with us, that your mercies will not end, and that you, our Creator and our God, will bring victory to all who seek to love as you have commanded them.

MIRACULOUS APPARITIONS OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

After the death of his wife in 1529, Juan Diego, then a 55-year-old peasant, had been living with his uncle on a little farm about nine miles north of present-day Mexico City. Thanks to the witness and instruction of Franciscan missionaries then newly arrived in the New World, all three of them had converted to Catholicism around 1524. Every Saturday and Sunday, Juan Diego walked more than 18 miles to attend Mass and receive further instruction in the faith.

On a cold December morning in 1531, en route to Mass, he heard sweet singing and then the voice of the Blessed Mother on the crest of Tepeyac Hill on the outskirts of Mexico City. She called him by name, revealed her identity as the Mother of God, and asked him to tell the bishop of Mexico to build a temple on that hill so that “I may therein exhibit and give all my love, compassion, help, and protection, because I am your merciful mother, to you, and to all the inhabitants of this land and all the rest who love me, invoke, and confide in me; [so I may] listen there to their lamentations, and remedy all their miseries, afflictions, and sorrows.” Juan agreed and went at once to the palace of the bishop, Juan de Zumarraga, who promised only to think over the request.

Juan Diego returned to the hill of Tepeyac, reporting to the Blessed Mother the bishop’s skepticism, and suggesting she find a more worthy ambassador who would be more likely to be believed. But she commanded him to return again to the bishop with her request. And on Sunday, after attending Mass, Juan Diego returned to the bishop’s residence and repeated to him every detail of the apparitions. This time, the bishop asked for a sign from “the lady” so he could be sure of her identity. The Blessed Mother had been awaiting Juan Diego at the same spot and promised him that if he returned the next morning (Monday), he would be given a sign for the bishop.

That morning, however, Juan Diego did not return to the site where he’d encountered the Blessed Mother. Instead, he stayed at the bedside of his uncle, Juan Bernardino, who had contracted the plague and was near death. Late Monday, Juan Bernardino asked him to leave at daybreak to bring a priest back to hear his confession and give him last rites. So Tuesday morning, Juan Diego left before dawn in search of a priest, taking care to avoid the side of Tepeyac Hill where he’d spoken with Our Lady. She appeared nonetheless, consoled him with a promise that his uncle was cured, and instructed him to go to the hilltop where he would find the sign the bishop requested. There, in the dead of winter, Juan Diego found a great number of Castillian rose bushes in full bloom. He cut many roses, collecting them in his tilma (a type of cloak made of coarse cactus fibers) and returned to Our Lady. She arranged the flowers in his tilma and sent him back to Bishop Zumarraga.

When at last he opened the tilma to reveal the miraculous roses to the bishop, an even greater miracle occurred: her image, exactly as Juan Diego had described it, appeared on the tilma in brilliant colors and precise detail. No paint was used to create the image; the source of the color has never been identified through chemical analysis. Although a cactus fiber cloth is unlikely to last more than 20 years before disintegrating, the tilma—displayed at the original and the newer Shrine(s) of Our Lady of Guadalupe for nearly 500 years—remains exquisitely beautiful, despite exposure to smoke from fires and candles, water from rain and floods, and even a bomb blast in 1921 that twisted a cast-iron cross next to the tilma and damaged a marble altar rail beneath it.

Bishop Zumarraga built the “temple” requested by Our Lady of Guadalupe and Juan Diego lived in a little room alongside it, where he prayed and witnessed to visitors for 17 years until his death. He was canonized a saint in 2002.

Our Lady of Guadalupe has been honored by twenty-five popes. She has been formally declared Patroness and Mother of the Americas. Informally, she is honored as Patroness of Unborn Children because she appeared to Juan Diego as a pregnant woman and, in the seven years after the apparitions, approximately eight million Aztec people converted to Catholicism, and abandoned a culture of death that had practiced human sacrifice, including infant sacrifice.

May we, through the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, see an end to the killing of vulnerable people in our own day, whether through abortion, euthanasia, or neglect of their basic human needs.

A PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Virgin of Guadalupe,
Patroness of unborn children,
we implore your intercession
for every child at risk of abortion.
Help expectant parents to welcome from God
the priceless gift of their child's life.

Console parents who have lost that gift
through abortion,
and lead them to forgiveness and healing
through the Divine Mercy of your Son.

Teach us to cherish
and to care for family and friends
until God calls them home.
Help us never to see others as burdens.

Guide our public officials
to defend each and every human life
through just laws.
Inspire us all to bring our faith into public life,
to speak for those who have no voice.

We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus
Christ, who is Love and Mercy itself.
Amen.



ENTHRONEMENT OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Introduction

The “Enthronement” of Our Lady of Guadalupe is a ritual recognizing Mary’s great place in God’s plan of salvation for His people. She is Queen in the truest sense of the word, for she rightly reigns at Jesus’ side over the Kingdom He established: The Kingdom of God in Heaven, and His Kingdom in the hearts of men and women.

Preparations

Obtain an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe (remember, Our Lady’s image is on a tilma, so any dignified image—from a photo reproduction to a beautiful statue of her—will suffice).

Prepare for the celebration by familiarizing yourself with the ritual and reading over the scripture passages you will use in the ritual.

With flowers, candles, cloths, etc., decorate the place where the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe will be enthroned.

Ask your parish priest to bless a bottle of holy water for the Enthronement and to always keep in your house. Invite your parish priest, deacon or a religious sister to participate (if possible) in your family celebration.

Gather together the family for the celebration.

Celebration

Parents (or clergy/religious if present):

+In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **R.** Amen.

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be in our hearts and in our home. **R.** Amen.

Parents or older brothers or sisters:

The Catholic faith began to be proclaimed in America 500 years ago. Mexico began to live that faith especially after the apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Tepeyac Hill. Today we put the image of the Virgin of Guadalupe in a special place in our home.

This image will remind us of the close ties of Mary to Christ and His Church. First of all, she is Christ’s Mother, the Mother of the visible image of the invisible God. The Church recognizes in Mary the model of the path and the practice it must follow to reach complete union with Christ. As the Spouse of Christ, the Church raises its eyes to Mary, the exemplar it must look to in carrying out the work of the apostolate.

As a Catholic family, we gather together because we want to express our faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and show our devotion to His mother.

Parents (or clergy/religious if present):

God Our Father, you have blessed the American continent with special protection under the mantle of the Virgin of Guadalupe, Empress of the Americas and Patroness of Unborn Children. Through her intercession, help us understand our faith and seek the progress of our nation and our community in the ways that promote justice and peace and respect for all human life. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **R.** Amen.

Parents or older brothers or sisters:

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke:

“They went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. They made known the message that had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds. And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart” (Lk. 2:15-19).

Parents or older brothers or sisters:

Let us now reflect on these consoling words from Mary to Saint Juan Diego when she appeared as Our Lady of Guadalupe:

“Hear me and understand well, my little son, that nothing should frighten or grieve you. Let not your heart be disturbed. Do not fear any sickness or anguish. Am I not here, I who am your Mother? Are you not under my protection? Am I not your health? Are you not happily within my fold? What else do you wish? Do not grieve nor be disturbed by anything.”

Reflection (and dialogue among participants)

Parents (or clergy/religious if present):

What does Our Lady of Guadalupe offer to us in her message?

Why do we put the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe in a special place in our home?

(After comments have been made, or a reflection offered, continue with the ritual.)

Prayers of the Faithful

Parents (or clergy/religious if present):

Seeking the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, we present our petitions to God Our Father:

Our Response is: “Lord, hear our prayer.”

Parents or older brothers or sisters:

Lord, hear us, assisted in prayer by your holy mother and ours,
that all families live in peace
and promote the development of their members;
We pray to the Lord: **R.**

That parents set a good example of Christian life to their children
and establish a mutual communion of respect and support;
We pray to the Lord: **R.**

That we, as a family, grow in our faith
and give witness to the value of all human beings,
especially unborn babies;
We pray to the Lord: **R.**



[Please add your own petitions that concern the welfare and holiness of your family].
For these and all our intentions, we pray to the Lord: **R.**

Parents (or clergy/religious if present):

Loving Father, hear our petitions that we place in your divine hands with the loving assistance of our Blessed Mother, Our Lady of Guadalupe, and Mother of your Son Jesus the Christ. **R. Amen.**

THE MEASURE OF LOVE IS TO LOVE WITHOUT MEASURE

Blessing of the Image

Parents (or clergy/religious if present):

Lord God, we acknowledge your infinite glory and the abundance of your gifts. Before the foundation of the world, you appointed Christ the beginning and end of all things.

You chose the Blessed Virgin Mary as the Mother and disciple of your Son, the image and model of your Church, the Mother and advocate of us all.

She is the new Eve, through whom you restored what the first Eve had lost.
She is the poor and lowly servant, who trusted solely in her Lord.

You sent her to the people of the Americas to draw them close to your Son and to dispel the fear and hopelessness that had been spread through a culture of death.

Father, may your children who have provided this image (statue) of Mary know her protection and follow her pattern of holiness in establishing a new culture of life.

Bless them with faith and hope, love and humility; bless them with strength and self-respect in poverty; bless them with patience in adversity and kindheartedness in times of plenty. Lead them to defend all human lives, no matter the challenges.

(While sprinkling with holy water) We ask you, Father, to bless this image (statue) of Our Lady of Guadalupe. May she always lead us to your divine Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

We are all now invited to kiss the image while saying:

“Mary, thank you for saying YES to God’s plan to become the mother of Jesus, and our mother as well.”

Let us pray together:

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope! To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to thee we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

L. Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

+In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Closing Hymn

Choose an appropriate Marian hymn, such as “Hail, Holy Queen,” “Immaculate Mary,” or “O, Sanctissima” (“Virgin Full of Grace”).

NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

*Recite the following prayer for nine days from Saturday, December 4 – Sunday, December 12, 2010
(or at a minimum on the first and ninth days of the novena).*

Day One

Holy Mother, you appeared to Saint Juan Diego as a maiden of his own race to reveal that you are the mother of all God's children. Draw close to your heart those who are facing an unexpected pregnancy, so that like you they will say yes to the new life with which God has blessed them.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ...

Day Two

Mary, Mother of divine grace, you appeared to Juan Diego standing on the moon and robed in a royal mantle adorned with stars, showing that you are the Queen of Heaven and Earth, yet far from a haughty or distant Queen. With hands folded in supplication, eyes cast downward in humility and compassion, you did not ask for a temple where you could be honored, but one where you could attend to the "weeping and sorrows of ... all the people of this land, and of the various peoples who love me..." May all who are sorrowing due to abuse, violence, exploitation, neglect, and all sins against the dignity of life, fly to you, Mother, for comfort and hope.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ...

Day Three

Mother of God, your ribboned sash identified you as a pregnant woman, a woman who bore the Christ Child to a world in darkness and who through two millennia has borne the light and love of Christ to a world that has largely rejected Him. May the love of your Son awaken a hymn of thanksgiving and praise in all pregnant mothers, as happened long ago in the home of Elizabeth and Zechariah.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ...

Day Four

Virgin most wise, you chose a humble farmer to announce your motherly concern to the people of Mexico. Although Juan Diego felt unequal to the mission you gave him, you encouraged him to persevere. Faced with powerful anti-life forces today, we also feel unequal to the mission God has given us of building a culture of life and a civilization of love. Help us to persevere always in this great campaign for life, assured of your help and prayers.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ...

Day Five

Virgin gentle in mercy, in Juan Diego's anxiety to bring a priest to his dying uncle he failed to keep his appointment with you. Yet, you rewarded his filial love by restoring his uncle to health. Your compassion allowed Juan Diego to fulfill the mission you gave him, returning to the bishop with the proof the bishop sought. Teach us, Mother, to put God's holy will ahead of all created things, including our loved ones, and help remove the obstacles that prevent us from following God's will.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ...

Day Six

Holy Mary, comfort of the troubled, you sought out Juan Diego when in fear and confusion he took a different route to avoid encountering you. Then you restored his hope and confidence so he could carry out the task you had entrusted to him. Many people today face decisions of life and death filled with fear and confusion. Mother, we ask you to restore their trust and hope in God so that their actions will always affirm the sanctity of human life.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ...

Day Seven

Mystical Rose, your miraculous signs of Castilian roses in winter and your image on the tilma of Juan Diego led to the conversion of eight million Aztec people to Catholicism in just seven years. Mary, Mother of the Americas, intercede again for your children in the Americas, and convert the hearts of all who deny the sanctity of every human life.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ...

Day Eight

Mary, Mother of the Church, your apparitions at Tepeyac and the miraculous image you left fostered unity between Catholic conquerors and clergy and the millions of Aztec converts. Bring unity, Mother, to the various factions within the Church and the wider public so that all may work to establish a culture of life.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ...

Day Nine

Mother of our Savior, the conversion of your Aztec children brought an end to human sacrifice in Mexico. Holy Mary, we implore your help to end the infant sacrifice by abortion throughout the Americas.

Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ...

THE MEASURE OF LOVE IS TO LOVE WITHOUT MEASURE



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