

Personal Consecration to Jesus through the Perfect Virgin, Holy Mary of Guadalupe



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Deepen your Faith * Become Spiritually Renewed * Grow in Holiness

“May the consecration of our diocese to Mary, our Mother, be a vehicle for deepening our friendship with her Son, and a catalyst for evangelization!”¹ Bishop Checchio

Welcome and thank you for using this resource for personal consecration to Jesus through the Perfect Virgin, Holy Mary of Guadalupe. This is a special year in the diocese of Metuchen. Bishop Checchio is inviting us to spiritually prepare for a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit. He is calling upon Our Lady of Guadalupe and asking for her intercession so that we might be people truly on fire with God’s love. It is our prayer that as you spend time reading, praying and meditating with the story of Guadalupe, that you too will be drawn closer to Jesus and be inspired to share your Catholic faith with others.

Before you begin, take time to read the Introduction and the Story of Our Lady of Guadalupe (see below). This will give you the background you need to experience this wonderful time of grace. When you are ready to begin, simply set aside 15-30 minutes a day for nine consecutive days to read, reflect and pray with each of the daily meditations. On the ninth day, you are invited to pray the personal consecration prayer, committing yourself to be an active Catholic and sharing your Catholic faith with others. (Further instructions can be found on page 7, "Are You Ready to Begin?")

This personal consecration can be done during any nine days of the year and is suitable for the individual or small group.

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Introduction

“The time is ripe for renewal!”²

On March 2, 2017 Bishop Checchio published a letter written for all the people of the Diocese of Metuchen entitled, *Lighting a fire in the heart of our world*. In that letter, he reflects on the meaning of the name, Metuchen:

I was fascinated to learn when I arrived, that the name Metuchen comes from the language of the Lenni Lenape Native Americans. It means firewood. Apparently there was a rich supply of dry firewood in the region...In offering this pastoral letter my desire is to call every Catholic in the Church of Metuchen to be, in a sense, firewood.

Bishop Checchio is calling us to be “ready for God to set us on fire with faith, hope and love.” He continues:

As your bishop and your fellow Catholic, I am inviting and counting on you to light a fire with me in the heart of our part of the world. I want us – the laity, religious, deacons, and priests of the Diocese of Metuchen- to be kindling that is set aflame by the Holy Spirit, allowing God’s love and power to burn more brightly here...³

Let’s look at our relationship with the Lord in the context of this analogy. We are the kindling and God is the flame. We can’t just go into the woods and chop down a tree and start a bonfire. The wood must be seasoned first. The moisture must be removed from the wood so that it’s ready for the flame. If we try to start the fire before the wood has been properly seasoned, we will have more smoke than flame. This is a good way to describe the benefits of a personal consecration: time set aside for seasoning the wood.

Most people make personal consecrations because they want more from their relationship with God.

As part of this preparation process,

- We will examine our motives.
- We will be reminded of the importance of prayer and the essential graces offered to us through the Catholic Church.
- We will have the opportunity to consider how our imperfections and weaknesses interfere with our ability to hear and respond to the Lord.
- We will be reminded of God’s endless love and mercy for each of us. We will rededicate ourselves to God.
- We will ask the Lord to stir up in us a holy boldness so that we lovingly share our Catholic faith with others.

This personal consecration is a time for personal growth in holiness, a time dedicated to lifting our hearts and minds to God.

No matter how hard that well-seasoned wood tries, it cannot burn without the flame. The spiritual flame we are seeking to ignite in our hearts is the Holy Spirit. Catholic life isn’t static. It’s a dynamic spiritual journey where we are transformed, little by little, until we are like Jesus Christ. Our progress in becoming holy is totally dependent on the grace of God. Our efforts are not enough to make us saints. But, our effort is necessary. If we are humble, open and obedient, God will transform us into saints. That’s what happened nearly 500 years ago with Saint Juan Diego.

As we prepare to rededicate ourselves to Jesus, we will reflect on the story that took place in central Mexico in 1531 when the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to Juan Diego (a native Mexican who had become Catholic). He lived in a time when the Catholic faith was being preached by missionaries, but not received by the majority of the people. One day, when he was on his way to Church, he saw the Blessed Mother and she asked him to get involved in helping to spread the Catholic faith. Through his cooperation as a messenger for the Blessed Mother, God did miraculous things. Fifteen years after the appearance of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Juan Diego, the Spanish missionaries had baptized 9 million people!⁴ An entire nation became followers of Jesus Christ and entered the Catholic Church. This

happened through the supernatural intervention of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We are asking her to do that again. First, starting with us as individuals, then all throughout the Diocese of Metuchen.

The Blessed Mother is always sensitive to the needs of her family. We are asking for her help so that we can enter a new phase of renewal in the Church. The purpose of this consecration is unique. We want the Blessed Mother to help us receive a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit to inspire us to be evangelizers – people who will boldly, joyfully and lovingly share Jesus Christ and our faith with others. Bishop Checchio writes,

“But we must be clear. The work of evangelization is not entrusted solely to popes and bishops. Nor is the work restricted to priests and religious—far from it. God’s Church on earth has not flourished through the evangelizing efforts of just a few, but by all of its members living and sharing their faith day in and day out, year by year, century by century. It first of all is not carried out through ambitious pastoral programs and well-staffed institutions. The work of evangelization begins with a transformed heart willing to share what Christ has done for him or her.”⁵

We invite you to begin the process of renewal on a personal level and resolve, with the help of the Blessed Virgin Mary, to put Jesus at the center of our lives. Perfect Virgin, Holy Mary of Guadalupe, pray for us!

The Story of the Guadalupe Apparitions – the Conversion of a Nation

The story begins in December of 1531, ten years after the Spanish conquered the Aztec nation in central Mexico. For more than two centuries, human sacrifice played a major part in the Aztec society. They believed that the gods were fed by human sacrifice. When the Spanish conquered the Aztec nation and outlawed human sacrifices, the Indians thought their gods would die and it would be the end of the world. When that didn’t happen, they began to doubt their world view. But doubt wasn’t enough for them to convert to the Catholic faith. The Indians were mistreated and abused by the Spanish government officials. They enslaved the natives, property was confiscated, women were abducted, workers were swindled, and dissenters were killed.⁶

The Spanish missionaries were unprepared to evangelize in a new language. They didn’t understand the culture. They considered the Aztec religion evil because of its violent sacrificial rites and the missionaries resorted to violent displays and tore down idols and statues. Such abrasive and reactionary tactics on the part of the missionaries created resistance in the Indian’s hearts to hearing the truth of the gospel message. They weren’t open to hear what the missionaries had to say.

For a true conversion to happen, there needed to be a new approach. The European mindset and method of evangelization was not working. Instead of a top down style of evangelization where the native people swear allegiance to the church for political reasons, a new method of peer to peer evangelization began with the appearance of the Perfect Virgin Holy Mary of Guadalupe to an ordinary man, Juan Diego. She told Juan Diego to go to the Bishop and carry out her wish to build her “sacred little house” on the hill in Tepeyac. The Bishop wanted a sign to confirm that this was really the Blessed Mother. The Virgin Mary agreed. She told Juan Diego to go to the top of a nearby hill and pick the flowers that he found there.

The *Nican Mopohua* is the oldest narrative of the apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe. It was written in 1548 just before the death of Juan Diego. It’s the closest thing we have to a firsthand account of Our Lady’s visits with Juan Diego. In it we read,

And then Juan Diego climbed the little hill, and when he reached the top, he marveled at how many flowers were spread out there, their blossoms were open, flowers of every kind, lovely and beautiful like those of Castille (a large and powerful state in Spain), when it was not yet their season because it was when the frost was worst. The flowers were giving off an extremely soft fragrance, like precious pearls, as if filled with the night’s dew. Right away he began to cut them, gathered them all and put them in the hollow of his tilma. The top of the hill was certainly not a place in which any flowers grew, because it was rocky, there were burs, thorny plants, prickly pear and an abundance of mesquite bushes. And though some small

grasses might grow, it was then the month of December, in which the ice eats everything up and destroys it.⁷

The presence of the flowers alone was a miracle, but the Virgin Mary didn't stop there. We continue reading in the *Nican Mopohua*, "And immediately he (Juan Diego) came back down, he came to bring the Heavenly Maiden the different kinds of flowers which he had gone up to cut. And when she saw them, she took them with her venerable hands; then she put them back in the hollow of Juan Diego's tilma and she said, "My youngest son, these different kinds of flowers are the proof, the sign that you will take to the Bishop; you will tell him from me that in them he is to see my wish and that therefore he is to carry out my wish, my will; and you, you who are my messenger, in you I place my absolute trust."⁸

Our Lady's trust was not misplaced. Juan Diego went and did her bidding. When he was before the Bishop, "...he opened his white tilma, in the hollow of which were the flowers. And all the different flowers, like those from Castille, fell to the floor. Then and there his tilma became the sign, there suddenly appeared the Beloved Image of the Perfect Virgin Saint Mary, Mother of God, in the form and figure in which it is now, where it is preserved in her beloved little house, in her sacred little house in Tepeyac, which is called Guadalupe. And as soon as the Governing Bishop and all those who were there saw it, they knelt, they were full of awe, they stood up to see it, they were moved, their hearts were troubled, their hearts as well as their minds were raised. And the Governing Bishop, in tears, with sadness, begged her, he asked her forgiveness for not having carried out her venerable will, her venerable breath, her Venerable word."⁹



A tilma was a type of outer garment worn by Aztec men in Central Mexico. The garment was worn at the front like a long apron or it could be draped across the shoulders as a cloak. It was frequently used as a carry all. Usually they were made of agave fiber and should have decayed quickly. Juan Diego's miraculous tilma is still on display today in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe located near the hill in Tepeyac where Our Lady appeared.

The tilma of Juan Diego has withstood an accidental spill of acid. In 1921, a bomb planted in a flower vase near the altar exploded causing great damage to the interior of the building. The tilma survived unharmed. It's still full of vibrant colors and powerful symbols more than 487 years later!

Now let's turn our attention to the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary on the tilma of Juan Diego. We notice that Our Lady appeared as a mestiza – half Spanish, half Indian. At the time of the apparitions, the mestizo children were despised as products of the Spanish conquest. They were mistreated. In her Mestiza face, the Indians of the sixteenth century recognized the Virgin not as a European but as a person of the New World, sharing their distinct cultural identity and their unique physical traits. For the Spanish, there was a profound message: these people were loved to such a degree that the Mother of God took on their appearance, becoming family.



When the native Indian people of the sixteenth century saw the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Juan Diego's tilma, it spoke to their heart. The image was rich in symbolism that resonated with them. The early Aztec written language was one of symbols, not words and they saw the gospel message in her image. Our Lady appeared in royal colors. She is important because she stands before the sun, steps on the moon and dresses herself with the stars, but her countenance tells us that there is someone greater than her; she is looking down as a sign of respect and humility. The dark ribbon high about Our lady's waist indicated that she was pregnant. One four-petal

jasmine flower on the tunic of Our Lady where her womb is located identifies her child as divine. She is clearly revealing that she is the Mother of God. Mary introduces herself to Juan Diego in the first apparition as, “the ever perfect Holy Virgin Mary, who has the honor to be the Mother of the one true God for whom we all live, the Creator of people, the Lord of all around us and of what is close to us, the Lord of Heaven, the Lord of Earth.”¹⁰



The flowers decorating Our Lady’s dress are codes or symbols that spoke to the Indians. One of the flower clusters at Our Lady’s feet has a particularly powerful meaning. When viewed upside down, it resembles a human heart, which is the Aztec symbol for ritual sacrifice. “Yet, while obviously signaling the idea of sacrifice, the heart-flower does so in an entirely new way. Unlike the Aztecs’ own ritual sacrifices, this sacrificial heart is shown to be a divine heart, a heart through which divine blood flows, indicating the sacrifice and thus love of God. With the heart’s artery attached to the Virgin’s celestial mantle, God is shown as the true Giver of life. Rather than being sustained by the Aztecs’ ritual sacrifice, he is shown as the one who sustains his creation through the gift of his own divine life-giving blood.”¹¹

The placement of this heart flower is significant too. In the Book of Genesis, after Adam and Eve had sinned, God said that he would put enmity (hostility) between the woman and the snake. “He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.” (Genesis 3:15) This verse refers to the battle between good and evil. The woman is the new Eve, the perfect Virgin Mary. The snake is Satan. Evil will nip at Our Lady’s heel, but in the end, Christ will crush sin and evil by pouring out his blood and giving his life on the cross.

When the tilma was moved to the newly built chapel on the Tepeyac hill by the Governing Bishop, “absolutely everyone, the entire city, without exception, trembled when they went to behold, to admire her precious Image. They came to acknowledge it as something divine. They came to offer her their prayers. They marveled at the miraculous way it appeared since absolutely no one on earth had painted her beloved image.”¹²

The results were astounding. In his account of the history of the Guadalupe apparitions, the missionary Fernando de Alva Ixtlilxochitl recalled:

(The Indians), submerged in profound darkness, still loved and served false little gods, clay figurines and images of our enemy the devil, in spite of having heard about the faith. But when they heard that the Holy Mother of Our Lord Jesus Christ had appeared, and since they saw and admired her most perfect image, which has no human art, their eyes were opened as if suddenly day had dawned for them.¹³

Another missionary wrote about the conversions of the natives:

In the beginning, (the Indians) started going (to receive baptism) 200 at a time, then 300 at a time, always growing and multiplying, until they reached thousands; some from two days journey, others from three, others from four, and some from farther away. This caused great admiration in those who saw it. Grown people brought their children to be baptized, and the young baptized brought their parents; the husband brought his wife, and the wife, her husband.¹⁴

Fifteen years after Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to Juan Diego, nine million people had converted to the Catholic faith!¹⁵ It took supernatural intervention through the Blessed Virgin Mary and the obedience of Juan Diego to convert an entire nation.

If you are interested in reading the complete story of Our Lady of Guadalupe, you can read a book by Carl Anderson and Monsignor Eduardo Chavez entitled *Our Lady of Guadalupe Mother of the Civilization of Love*.

Are you ready to begin?

What follows is a nine-day preparation for personal consecration to Our Lady of Guadalupe. **On the ninth and final day, you are invited to conclude the preparation process by praying the prayer of Consecration.** We invite you to set aside quiet time each day to read, reflect and pray with each day's meditations. It's helpful to be consistent and pick the same time of day for each meditation. Some people may find their best time will be in the morning; others, the evening. Choose a time when you won't be distracted or tired.

The format for each day begins with an opening prayer invoking the Holy Spirit, then a short reading about the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe. This is followed by a reflection with questions to ponder, and a prayer response. Each day's meditation concludes with praying the "Hail Mary." We also encourage you to end your day by praying the diocesan prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe which can be found in the Appendix.

To the extent that it is possible, this process can be brought to a grace filled conclusion on the ninth day by attending Mass. **On the sixth day or thereafter, we suggest going to the Sacrament of Reconciliation.** It is beneficial to do so prior to making your consecration on the ninth day.

You may choose to go through this consecration process privately, with your family or as part of a parish group.

First day of Preparation
Where are you going?

Relax. Quiet your thoughts. Make the sign of the Cross. Ask the Holy Spirit to be with you and to guide your prayer.

Opening Prayer: Invocation of the Holy Spirit

*Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
And enkindle in them the fire of your love.
Lord, send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
And you will renew the face of the earth.*

*O God, Who instructs the hearts of your faithful
With the light of your Holy Spirit,
Make us responsive to his inspirations
So that we may be truly wise and
Ever rejoice in his consolations.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Read:

Juan Diego was born around 1474 at the height of the Aztec empire in a small village not far from Mexico City. Based on the standards of his time, he would have been considered a middle-class person, just like most of us. At the age of 50, he and his wife asked to be baptized. They were one of the first native Catholic married couples of the New World.

“Five years later, his wife Maria Lucia died, leaving Juan Diego alone with his elderly uncle, Juan Bernardino, also a recent convert to the Catholic faith.”¹⁶ In spite of his trials and sufferings, Juan Diego continued to grow in his faith. His dedication to God must have been a comfort to the missionaries who struggled to share the Gospel with the local people. Since there was no church in his town, Juan Diego got up at dawn and walked nine miles every Saturday and Sunday to go to Mass and to receive instruction in the faith. He was walking to Mass when Our Lady first appeared to him.

Reflect:

All of us are on a journey. We are heading somewhere. In the case of Juan Diego, he was travelling towards God, worshipping Him faithfully as well as learning and growing in his Catholic Faith. Where are you heading in your life? What steps are you taking to draw closer to Jesus? Nine miles is a long walk to Church, but not so if you are hungry for God. Are you hungry for God? Are you willing to sacrifice a little to grow closer to Him?

Spend some time in silent reflection...then respond in prayer.

Respond:

Prayer: *Lord, please stir up in me a deep desire to grow closer to You. Blessed Virgin Mary, help me to be faithful to my weekly obligation to attend Mass and in addition, I ask you to help me to dedicate time to pray every day, even if only for a few minutes; help me make this sacrifice.*

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen. Our Lady of Guadalupe, Pray for us.

Night Prayer – See Appendix A, page 18

Second day of Preparation
God is calling you

Relax. Quiet your thoughts. Make the sign of the Cross. Ask the Holy Spirit to be with you and to guide your prayer.

Opening Prayer: Invocation of the Holy Spirit

*Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
And enkindle in them the fire of your love.
Lord, send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
And you will renew the face of the earth.*

*O God, Who instructs the hearts of your faithful
With the light of your Holy Spirit,
Make us responsive to his inspirations
So that we may be truly wise and
Ever rejoice in his consolations.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Read:

Juan Diego's first encounter with the Blessed Mother happened like this: "It was Saturday, not yet dawn, when Juan Diego was coming in pursuit of God and His commandments. And as he drew near the little hill called Tepeyac, it was beginning to dawn. There he heard singing on the little hill, like the song of many precious birds."¹⁷ Their songs were extremely soft and delightful. Juan Diego stopped to look. He said to himself, is this heaven? "He was looking up toward the top of the hill, toward the direction from which the sun rises, toward where the precious heavenly song was coming from. And when the singing suddenly stopped, when it could no longer be heard, he heard someone calling him from the top of the hill, someone was saying to him, 'Dear Juan, dearest Juan Diego.' Then he dared to go to where the voice was coming from, his heart was not disturbed and he felt extremely happy and contented, he started to climb to the top of the little hill to go see where they were calling him from. When he reached the top of the hill, he beheld a Maiden standing there. She called him to come close to her."¹⁸

Reflect:

At every moment, God is drawing near. He is calling you to Himself in many ways. He loves you! You were created to be part of His precious, holy family. God invites you to seek Him, to know Him, and to love Him with all your strength.

All of us, scattered and divided by sin, are also called into the unity of God's family, which is the Catholic Church. God has not abandoned any of us. He calls each one by name. He knows each one of us, and His call is music to our ears!

Have you ever heard God call you? If so, how did you respond? Were you able to respond joyfully and happily like Juan Diego? If you have not heard Him, would you like to? Would you like to draw closer to God and grow deeper in your relationship with Him?

Spend some time in silent reflection...then respond in prayer.

Respond:

Prayer: *I am so grateful Lord, that You love me, that You call me, and You want me in your family. Every time I remember this, my heart overflows with joy and happiness. Our Lady of Guadalupe, help me to listen attentively for your Son's voice. Help me dare to go wherever He calls me, without disturbance of heart, in happiness and contentment.*

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen. Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us.

Night Prayer – See Appendix A, page 18

Third day of Preparation
The Blessed Mother invites you to her home - to meet Jesus

Relax. Quiet your thoughts. Make the sign of the Cross. Ask the Holy Spirit to be with you and to guide your prayer.

Opening Prayer: Invocation of the Holy Spirit

*Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
And enkindle in them the fire of your love.
Lord, send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
And you will renew the face of the earth.*

*O God, Who instructs the hearts of your faithful
With the light of your Holy Spirit,
Make us responsive to his inspirations
So that we may be truly wise and
Ever rejoice in his consolations.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Read:

Our Lady tells Juan Diego: “I want very much that they build my sacred little house here, in which I will show Him, I will exalt Him upon making Him manifest, I will give Him to all people in all my personal love, Him that is my compassionate gaze, Him that is my help, Him that is my salvation. Because truly I am honored to be your compassionate mother, yours and that of all the people that live together in this land, and also of all the other various lineages of men; those who love me, those who cry to me, those who seek me, those who trust in me. Because there (at my sacred little house) truly will I hear their cry, their sadness, in order to remedy, to cure all their various troubles, their miseries, their pains.”¹⁹

Ultimately, the Bishop of Mexico fulfilled Our Lady’s request and built the initial “sacred little house” in two weeks’ time. However, Our Lady’s greatest desire was not for a building, rather she wanted a sacred home where people could encounter Jesus Christ.

Reflect:

The Catholic Church is our sacred little home. It is a place where Jesus is really, truly present. The Blessed Mother longs for us to come home, where her Son is. This is where we belong.

Jesus says in John’s gospel, “*I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly*” (John 10:10). Jesus is calling us to a new life where he is at the center of everything. It is a good life where our hearts are full of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control²⁰.

Have you encountered Jesus Christ who is Abundant Life? Is He the center of your life? Your hope, your joy, your peace? Mary promised to ‘give Him to all people in her personal love’. Do you want to let her lead you to an encounter with her Son, to a deeper relationship with Him than you currently have?

Spend some time in silent reflection...then respond in prayer.

Respond:

Prayer: *Our Lady of Guadalupe, please reveal your Son to me. Show me how to exalt Him. Lead me to Him. You said that He is your compassionate gaze, your help and salvation. I want this too. Draw me closer to Him. Draw me closer to you.*

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen. Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us.

Night Prayer – See Appendix A, page 18

Fourth day of Preparation
Are you running away from Jesus?

Relax. Quiet your thoughts. Make the sign of the Cross. Ask the Holy Spirit to be with you and to guide your prayer.

Opening Prayer: Invocation of the Holy Spirit
*Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
And enkindle in them the fire of your love.
Lord, send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
And you will renew the face of the earth.*

*O God, Who instructs the hearts of your faithful
With the light of your Holy Spirit,
Make us responsive to his inspirations
So that we may be truly wise and
Ever rejoice in his consolations.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Read:

During the appearances of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Juan Diego, his uncle got sick. Juan Diego went to get the doctor, but it was too late; his uncle was dying. So he begged Juan Diego to get a priest to hear his last confession. Juan Diego was supposed to go to the hill on Tepeyac to fulfill Our Lady's wish. He decided to postpone Our Lady's request and get the priest for his uncle. He even decided to take a different route; "I don't want this Noble Lady to see me"²¹.

As Juan Diego is travelling, the Blessed Virgin blocks his way and asks, "My youngest son, what's going on? Where are you going? Where are you headed?"²² Juan Diego tells her, and she replies, "Listen, put it into your heart, my youngest son, that what frightened you, what afflicted you is nothing; do not let it disturb your face, your heart; do not fear this sickness or any other sickness, nor any sharp or hurtful thing. Am I not here, who have the honor to be your mother? Are you not in my shadow and under my 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?"²³

Reflect:

Like Juan Diego, we can avoid God at the time of our greatest need. Our Lady reassures Juan Diego and us that she loves us, that she is with us and she will protect us. We have nothing to fear. Through the Blessed Virgin Mary's prayers and involvement in our daily lives, we will draw near to God who loves us. The Lord is present and ready to help us with all the problems and trials of life. Do you trust God or are you trying to go it alone?

How about spending 15 minutes with God today? Spend the first 5 to 10 minutes telling Him all the troubles, longings, problems, worries and concerns in your life. Don't ask for answers or suggest solutions. Just tell God what's going on. Invite Him into your life. Spend the last 5 minutes in silence, listening to God. Conclude your time with this prayer:

Respond:

Lord, sometimes I forget that you know my struggles and the deepest desires of my heart. I am grateful for Your comforting presence in my life. Our Lady of Guadalupe, help me to remember that Jesus is always there for me and obtain for me the grace to always turn to Him in trust.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen. Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us.

Night Prayer – See Appendix A, page 18

Fifth day of Preparation
Jesus gave everything for you

Relax. Quiet your thoughts. Make the sign of the Cross. Ask the Holy Spirit to be with you and to guide your prayer.

Opening Prayer: Invocation of the Holy Spirit

*Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
And enkindle in them the fire of your love.
Lord, send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
And you will renew the face of the earth.*

*O God, Who instructs the hearts of your faithful
With the light of your Holy Spirit,
Make us responsive to his inspirations
So that we may be truly wise and
Ever rejoice in his consolations.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Read:

The early Aztec language was not one of written words like English or Spanish, but rather one of signs and symbols. The image of the Blessed Mother contained symbols that spoke volumes to the native people of Mexico. When they saw the image, it was like God was there, speaking to them directly. They knew that the beautiful lady in the picture was royalty. Yet, her downcast eyes and hands clasped in prayer point to someone greater than she; someone to whom she humbly prays.

This beautiful, royal woman, the Blessed Virgin Mary, is pregnant. She carries the divine one, Jesus Christ in her womb. It's as if the words of Holy Scripture have jumped off the page and appear before our eyes. She is the pregnant woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet (from the book of Revelation, Chapter 12, verses 1 and 2). But even more than that, this image speaks to God's desire to dwell with us. The infinite, all powerful, creator of people, the Lord of heaven, the Lord of earth, in an act of pure love for each one of us, took on the innocent, helpless form of a small baby. Why? Because he loves us. We are lost in our sins, separated from Him. He wants to bring us back to God the Father. He wants to restore us completely to the family of God.

Reflect:

It says in the Gospel of St John that *"God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him."*²⁴

Have you ever really thought about what Jesus did for you? He loves you and he wants you to spend eternity with him in heaven. He died on the cross to repair the damage that your sin has caused to your relationship with God. The Father invites you to accept Him as your Lord and Savior. Nine million Aztecs did so freely and consciously and were baptized. You are baptized but may never have consciously asked Jesus to be your Lord and Savior. Will you accept his invitation to eternal life in heaven? Spend some time in silent reflection...then respond in prayer.

Respond:

Prayer: ***Lord, I am so grateful that you sent your son, Jesus to save me from sin and death. I deeply desire to freely live as your child, and to follow your Son, Jesus whole heartedly. Forgive me for my sins. Enter my heart and heal the wounds that afflict me. Guide me. I entrust my life to You. Thank you, Lord, for hearing my prayer. Amen.***

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen. Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us.

Night Prayer – See Appendix A, page 18



Sixth day of Preparation
Are you a Living Tilma?

Relax. Quiet your thoughts. Make the sign of the Cross. Ask the Holy Spirit to be with you and to guide your prayer.

Opening Prayer: Invocation of the Holy Spirit
*Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
And enkindle in them the fire of your love.
Lord, send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
And you will renew the face of the earth.*

*O God, Who instructs the hearts of your faithful
With the light of your Holy Spirit,
Make us responsive to his inspirations
So that we may be truly wise and
Ever rejoice in his consolations.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Read:

After the apparitions, Juan Diego lived on the grounds of the newly built chapel and dedicated his life to prayer. He became an important figure in the Virgin's new shrine. "He was a beautiful expression of holiness that others wished to imitate so that they could obtain the eternal joys of heaven."²⁵

Reflect:

Juan Diego's life was attractive to others. People in his community were drawn to him. They saw the truths of the Christian faith at work in his life and they wanted to be holy like him. The story of salvation was revealed in the image on Juan Diego's tilma (cloak), but it went deeper than that. It was written in his heart. What has happened to the gift of salvation that you received in your Baptism? Are you living a holy life like Juan Diego or are you just going through the motions?

We are all called to be witnesses for Jesus everywhere - at work, with our family, with our friends. Through a life of daily prayer, participating in large and small ways in charitable efforts, making sacrifices for our family and friends, living with integrity and honesty in everything we do, we show others that our Catholic faith is more than something we do on Sunday, it's part of who we are.

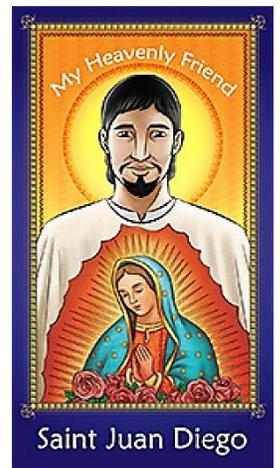
Spend some time in silent reflection...then respond in prayer.

Respond:

Prayer: *Saint Juan Diego, your example has inspired me. You dedicated your life to God. Pray for me so that I can grow in holiness and be a good example for my friends, family and others as an obedient disciple of Jesus. Our Lady of Guadalupe, help me to see where I can improve. Help me to be holy like Juan Diego.*

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen. Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us.

As Catholics, one of the most powerful ways of growing in holiness is to regularly go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Now is a good time to go to confession. If it has been a while since you have participated in the sacrament and you're not sure how to prepare well, go to the Appendix B for an examination of conscience (pages 19 and 20).



Night Prayer – See Appendix A, page 18

Seventh day of Preparation
It's your time to serve God

Relax. Quiet your thoughts. Make the sign of the Cross. Ask the Holy Spirit to be with you and to guide your prayer.

Opening Prayer: Invocation of the Holy Spirit

*Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
And enkindle in them the fire of your love.
Lord, send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
And you will renew the face of the earth.*

*O God, Who instructs the hearts of your faithful
With the light of your Holy Spirit,
Make us responsive to his inspirations
So that we may be truly wise and
Ever rejoice in his consolations.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Read:

The Blessed Mother told Juan Diego to go to the Bishop of Mexico and tell him everything. She said, "tell him how I have sent you, so that you may reveal to him how I very much want him to build me a house here, to erect my temple on the plain; tell him everything, all you have seen and marveled at, and what you have heard. And know for sure that I will appreciate it very much and reward it, that because of it I will enrich you, I will glorify you; and because of it you will deserve very much how I will reward your fatigue, your service in going to petition the matter for which I am sending you. Now, my dearest son, you have heard my breath, my word; go, do what you are responsible for doing."²⁶

Juan Diego immediately responded, "My Lady, My Little Girl, now I will go and make your venerable breath, your venerable word, a reality; for now, I leave you, your humble servant."

Reflect:

The Lord, through the words of the Blessed Mother, is calling us to live active Catholic lives. Juan Diego was open to God's plan for his life; he was not caught up in his own personal agenda. He was generous with his time and dropped everything to do the Blessed Mother's bidding. He didn't count the cost or moan and complain. He had confidence in God that allowed him to fearlessly complete his mission for the Blessed Mother.

How do you respond to God's call to a life of active Catholic service? Will you, like Juan Diego, confidently and boldly offer yourself to God as His humble, willing, loving servant? Will you let His mother encourage and guide you in this?

Spend some time in silent reflection...then respond in prayer.

Respond:

Prayer: *Sometimes, for all the wrong reasons, I hesitate to serve you, Lord. I'm sorry. I love you Lord and I want to be a holy, faithful and dedicated servant like Juan Diego and the Blessed Mother. Holy Mother, help me to be an enthusiastic, outgoing Catholic, full of energy, joy, generosity and boldness. Fill me with your compassionate love for others. Thank you, Lord, for the privilege of serving you.*

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen. Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us.

Night Prayer – See Appendix A, page 18

Eighth day of Preparation
You have been entrusted with an important mission

Relax. Quiet your thoughts. Make the sign of the Cross. Ask the Holy Spirit to be with you and to guide your prayer.

Opening Prayer: Invocation of the Holy Spirit

*Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
And enkindle in them the fire of your love.
Lord, send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
And you will renew the face of the earth.
O God, Who instructs the hearts of your faithful
With the light of your Holy Spirit,
Make us responsive to his inspirations
So that we may be truly wise and
Ever rejoice in his consolations.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Read:

After Juan Diego's failed first attempt to convince the Bishop to build a chapel on the hill in Tepeyac, he suggests to the Blessed Mother that she find someone else to carry out the task. He begs her to find a noble person, well known and esteemed in their community, to be her spokesperson. The Blessed Mother replies, "Listen my youngest son, know for sure that I have no lack of servants, of messengers, to whom I can give the task of carrying my breath, my word, so that they carry out my will; but it is necessary that you, personally, go and plead, that by your intercession my wish, my will, become a reality."²⁷

Reflect:

During the final apparition, when Our Lady is arranging the flowers in Juan Diego's tilma, she tells him that he is her messenger; she says, "in you I place my absolute trust."²⁸

Like Juan Diego, God has confidently entrusted us with a personal mission that only we can fulfill. It's important. He is counting on us. We are God's messengers. It's our duty and privilege to tell others about Jesus. We as Catholics have been quiet for too long. People cannot come into a relationship with Jesus unless someone tells them about Him. They must receive an invitation and decide to live for God alone. We cannot rely only on priests and religious to spread the faith. It's our job too. It is the mission of every baptized Catholic, including you.

The Lord and the Blessed Mother will stand by us and help us fulfill this important, personal mission. Everyone needs God in their lives. Will you keep silent about Jesus Christ at such a time as this?

Spend some time in silent reflection...then respond in prayer.

Respond:

Prayer: *Lord Jesus, thank you for entrusting me with the important mission of telling people about You. Our Lady of Guadalupe, help me to be open and sensitive to others so that I can be a good servant like Juan Diego and never hesitate to talk about what Jesus has done for us. Help me to recognize when someone is open to God. Give me the wisdom to know what to say and the courage to step out in faith and speak to them about Jesus Christ.*

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen. Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us.

Night Prayer – See Appendix A, page 18

Ninth day of Preparation
Don't give up! Turn to the Blessed Mother

Relax. Quiet your thoughts. Make the sign of the Cross. Ask the Holy Spirit to be with you and to guide your prayer.

Opening Prayer: Invocation of the Holy Spirit

*Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
And enkindle in them the fire of your love.
Lord, send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
And you will renew the face of the earth.*

*O God, Who instructs the hearts of your faithful
With the light of your Holy Spirit,
Make us responsive to his inspirations
So that we may be truly wise and
Ever rejoice in his consolations.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Read:

The mission that the Blessed Mother entrusted to Juan Diego had its challenges. He made three trips to see the Bishop of Mexico. Each time, he had to wait hours to see him. He was harassed by the Bishop's servants. During the first two visits, he implored and pleaded with the Bishop to believe the message from the Blessed Mother, yet he could not convince him. After each visit, Juan Diego returned to the Blessed Mother to tell her what happened. She would console him and advise him on what to do next.

Juan Diego's third and final visit to the Bishop started out like the other two. When he arrived, he begged the servants to tell the Bishop he was there. They ignored him. He stood for hours with his head down, doing nothing, waiting in case he should be called. After several hours, the servants noticed he was carrying something. They were curious; they approached him and tried to see what was in his tilma. "And when Juan Diego saw that there was no way he could hide from them what he was carrying, and that therefore they would harass him, push him or perhaps beat him, he gave them a little peek and they saw that it was flowers."²⁹ The flowers were beautiful! The servants tried three times to grab them and pull a few out, "but there was no way they could do it, because when they tried, they couldn't see them (the flowers) anymore, instead they looked painted or embroidered or sewn into the tilma."³⁰

Immediately, the servants went to the Bishop and told him "what they had seen, and how the lowly Indian who had come the other times wanted to see him, and that he had been waiting a very long time there for permission...And the governing Bishop, as soon as he heard this, already had it in his heart that was the sign to convince him so he would carry out the work that the humble man had asked of him."³¹

Reflect:

The work of evangelization requires our unflinching, faithful cooperation with the Holy Spirit, despite any obstacles or hardships. Doing God's work is not like a business transaction or an investment where you can measure your success by the results. It's something deeper which escapes all measurement. We can't see what the Holy Spirit is doing in a person's heart. It's important that we place our hope and trust in God. Remember, He's doing it, not us.

Each time Juan Diego hit a roadblock in his mission, he returned to the Blessed Mother and told her what happened. She listened and advised him on what to do next. We too, should do the same thing in our prayer. In fact, that's the whole point of this personal consecration – to turn to the Blessed

Mother, to ask for her help so that we can be faithful servants like Juan Diego and share the Gospel message with others so that the people in our lives who don't know Jesus can come to believe in Him.

Did you notice that during the final visit, before Juan Diego even showed the flowers to the Bishop, he already had an openness to the message that wasn't there during the first two visits? That's the work of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit prepares people to receive God's message. The Holy Spirit was especially important in the Blessed Mother's life. In fact, the Blessed Mother is the spouse of the Holy Spirit.

Will you ask the Blessed Mother to direct you as you go about God's work? Will you ask her to speak to her spouse, the Holy Spirit to stir up a new openness to God's message like He did with the Bishop of Mexico? Will you ask the Blessed Mother to obtain for you, from the Holy Spirit, a new, holy courage to speak openly and confidently about Jesus to others?

Spend some time in silent reflection...then respond in prayer.

Respond:

Final Consecration Prayer: Consecration to Our Lady of Guadalupe³²

Dearest Mother of the One True God, Mother of the Americas, Our Lady of Guadalupe, I, _____, accept with all my heart, the mission to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ by bearing witness to His love for all mankind, men, women and children, from the moment of conception to natural death. I ask you, as Star of the New Evangelization, to give me the holy confidence to know that as you chose St. Juan Diego, you also choose me to walk in the light of your love and compassion. You, who are my Mother, give me the grace to respond to your call with joy and without hesitation.

I consecrate myself to you as your devoted son/daughter. Let me be your messenger, your ambassador of good will as I strive to bring together your family on earth, in hopes that we will one day be united in heaven.

I know that your love for your children cannot be contained, nor can it be extinguished by the negative forces of this world. Let me be as firewood in your hands. Ignite the sparks of my burning desire to know, love and serve God, with the life-giving breath of your Word. Let the Holy Spirit fan into flame the fire of His love as it spreads from heart to heart.

You appeared, dear Mother, in the midst of a culture of death as a clear sign that our God is a God of life. You shine with the sun behind you, covered in a mantle of stars, standing on the moon. You carry in your womb the Son of God. Your image cannot be denied as even today, you stand before the entire world and invite people of every race, color and creed, to believe in the one true God, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Please give me the courage, as you gave Juan Diego, to step outside my comfort zone and carry your message to whomever I meet.

Holy Mary of Guadalupe, Mother of our Church and our Catholic faith, draw me close to your Son and give me the grace to spread your message of love, compassion and peace to our world that is thirsting for Truth. Help me, Perfect Virgin, to prepare a "sacred little house" within my heart, so that the Kingdom of God will become a reality on earth, as it is in heaven.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of the Americas, pray for us.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Appendix A – Night Prayer
Lighting hearts on Fire Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe

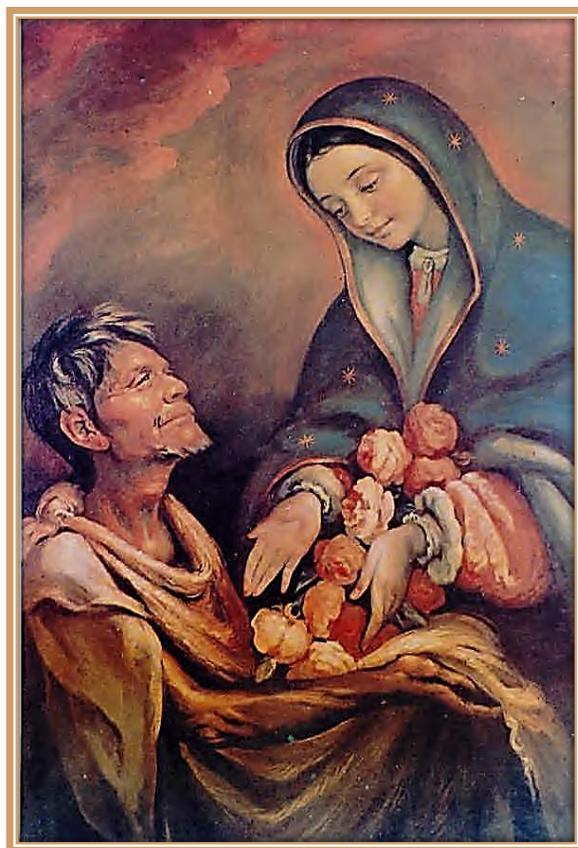
God our Loving Father, we lift up our hearts in gratitude for sending Our Virgin Mother of Guadalupe to set hearts on fire in the “New World” with the saving message of the Gospel.

She is our compassionate Mother and she desires to remedy our troubles, miseries and pain by bringing us into a saving friendship with her Son Jesus Christ.

We turn again with renewed confidence and outstretched arms to our Virgin Mother of Guadalupe to set our hearts on fire in our Diocese of Metuchen as we prepare to be consecrated to her maternal care.

Give to each one of us a desire to be a missionary disciple so that the world may come to know the transformative love of Christ through us.

Mother of the Americas and Star of the New Evangelization, pray for us.



LightingHeartsOnFire.org

Appendix B – Preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation Examination of Conscience

Listed here are three different methods for examining your conscience. It is not necessary to do each one before you receive the sacrament of reconciliation. Choose one method that best suits you.

Method 1: Consider the 10 Commandments & the Precepts of the Church:

1. I am the Lord your God. You shall not have strange gods before me.

Do I seek to love God with my whole heart? Have I had any involvement in the occult, witchcraft, wicca, Ouija boards, séances, tarot cards, new age crystals, fortune telling? Have I put faith in horoscopes? Have I received Holy Communion in a state of mortal sin? Have I abused the Sacrament of Penance by lying to the priest, deliberately not confessing a mortal sin? Have I denied a truth of the faith out of concern for the respect or opinion of others?

2. You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

Have I used God's holy name irreverently? Have I blasphemed God, the Church, Mary, the saints, or sacred places or things?

3. Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.

Do I keep Sunday as a day of prayer, rest and relaxation, avoiding unnecessary work? Have I deliberately come late or left early from Mass without a good reason?

4. Honor your father and your mother.

Do I honor and respect my parents? Have I deliberately hurt my parents? Do I treat my children with love and respect? Do I support and care for the well-being of all family members? Have I neglected family duties? Do I honor and obey my lawful superiors?

5. You shall not kill.

Have I deliberately harmed anyone? Have I had an abortion or encouraged an abortion? Have I attempted suicide or seriously considered it? Have I abused drugs or alcohol? Have I led anyone to sin through bad example or through direct encouragement?

6. You shall not commit adultery.

For the Married: Am I faithful to my spouse in thought and action? Have I used artificial contraception or been sterilized? Was I married outside the Church without proper permission of the Church?

For the Unmarried: Have I engaged in sexual activity with anyone of either sex?

For all: Have I deliberately viewed pornographic magazines, videos or internet websites? Have I masturbated? Have I used impure language or told impure jokes? Do I dress modestly?

7. You shall not steal.

Have I stolen or accepted stolen goods? Have I cheated anyone of what I owe? Do I gamble excessively? Do I share what I have with the poor and the Church according to my means? Have I pirated materials: videos, music, software?

8. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

Have I lied? Have I sworn falsely? Have I plagiarized or been academically dishonest? Have I gossiped? Have I revealed secrets or confidential information without good reason? Have I ruined the good name of others by spreading lies or maliciously revealing their faults and sins?

9. You shall not desire your neighbor's wife.

Have I deliberately and consciously permitted sexual thoughts about anyone besides my spouse? Do I guard my imagination and senses? Have I watched shows, plays, pictures or movies that contain impure scenes with the deliberate intention of being aroused by them? Am I responsible about what I read?

10. You shall not desire your neighbor's goods.

Am I envious of the possessions, abilities, talents, beauty or success of others?

You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Do I love my neighbor? Is there anyone whom I do not love or refuse to love? Have I wished harm or misfortune on anyone? Do I forgive from my heart those who have hurt me? Do I harbor hatred or grudges? Do I pray for my enemies? Have I ridiculed or humiliated others? Do I seek to help others in need? Do I love myself as God loves me? Do I care for my physical, emotional and spiritual health? Do I forgive myself for my sins after bringing them to God in the Sacrament of Reconciliation?

Precepts of the Church

Have I deliberately missed Mass on a Sunday or Holy Day of obligation without a serious reason?

Do I go to confession at least once a year when I have serious sins to confess?

Do I receive Holy Communion, at least once during Eastertime?

Do I take part in the major feasts celebrating Our Lord, the Virgin Mary and the saints?

Do I abstain from meat on Fridays during Lent (for ages 14 and over) and fast on one full meal on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday (for ages 18-59)? Do I fast for one hour before Holy Communion (water & medicine allowed)?

Do I contribute to support the material needs of the Church?

Method 2: Some other questions to ponder:³³

1. What habits, behaviors, vices, addictions do I seem to have the most trouble changing?
2. What are the root problems that are making it hard for me to make progress in these areas?
3. What areas of my life have I not yet submitted to the Lordship of Christ? Where am I not at peace?
4. What wounds do I have that need healing? Where am I hurting?
5. What person, situation, or event am I still resentful, bitter or angry about? Who do I need to forgive (God, myself, others)?
6. Confession calls for a “radial reorientation” of my entire life. In what way(s) am I most unlike Jesus? What do I need to change?
7. What one thing can I resolve to change right now, trusting in God’s grace?

Method 3: How do I measure up?³⁴

I am patient; I am kind; I am not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. I do not insist on my own way; I am not irritable or resentful; I do not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoice in the truth. I bear all things, believe all things, hope all things endure all things. (based on 1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

Receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Father Begins: “In the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit.”

I say: **“Amen. Forgive me Father, for I have sinned. It has been _____ days/months/years since my last confession. These are my sins...”**

Confess your sins openly and candidly.

Father may have a word of advice for you. He will then give you a penance – it could be prayer, a work of mercy or an act of charity. Then, he will ask you pray an Act of Contrition.

I say: **“My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.”**

Father prays the prayer of Absolution: *“God the Father of mercies, Through the death and resurrection of his Son has reconciled the world to Himself and sent his Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins; through the ministry of the Church, may God give you pardon and peace, and I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”* I answer: **AMEN**

Father then says, “Go in peace.”

Endnotes

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- ¹ Bishop James F. Checchio, "Bishop Checchio: 'We must pray for Easter faith'". Catholic Spirit, April 5, 2018, Upfront.
- ² Bishop James F. Checchio. *Lighting the fire in the heart of our World*. 3/2/2017. <https://diometuchen.org/assets/Uploads/Documents/Bishop/PastoralLetter-English.pdf> accessed July, 2018.
- ³ Ibid., 2.
- ⁴ Carl Anderson, Msgr. Eduardo Chavez, *Our Lady of Guadalupe Mother of the Civilization of Love* (United States, Doubleday Religion, 2009), 72.
- ⁵ Bishop James F. Checchio. *Lighting the fire in the heart of our World*. 3/2/2017. <https://diometuchen.org/assets/Uploads/Documents/Bishop/PastoralLetter-English.pdf> accessed July, 2018.
- ⁶ Carl Anderson, Msgr. Eduardo Chavez, *Our Lady of Guadalupe Mother of the Civilization of Love* (United States, Doubleday Religion, 2009), 71.
- ⁷ Ibid. (from Appendix A, the Nican Mopohua), 179-180.
- ⁸ Ibid., 180.
- ⁹ Ibid., 182.
- ¹⁰ Ibid., 173.
- ¹¹ Ibid., 53.
- ¹² Ibid. (from Appendix A, the Nican Mopohua), 183.
- ¹³ Ibid., 31.
- ¹⁴ Ibid., 82.
- ¹⁵ Ibid., 72.
- ¹⁶ Ibid., 5.
- ¹⁷ Ibid., (from Appendix A, the Nican Mopohua), 172.
- ¹⁸ Ibid., 172-173.
- ¹⁹ Ibid., 173-174.
- ²⁰ Galatians 5:22-23 (Revised Standard Version, Catholic Edition)
- ²¹ Carl Anderson, Msgr. Eduardo Chavez, *Our Lady of Guadalupe Mother of the Civilization of Love* (United States, Doubleday Religion, 2009), 178.
- ²² Ibid., 178.
- ²³ Ibid., 179.
- ²⁴ John 3:16-17 (Revised Standard Version, Catholic Edition)
- ²⁵ Carl Anderson, Msgr. Eduardo Chavez, *Our Lady of Guadalupe Mother of the Civilization of Love* (United States, Doubleday Religion, 2009), 23.
- ²⁶ Ibid., Nican Mopohua, Appendix A, 174.
- ²⁷ Ibid., Nican Mopohua, Appendix A, 175.
- ²⁸ Ibid., Nican Mopohua, Appendix A, 180.
- ²⁹ Ibid., Nican Mopohua, Appendix A, 181.
- ³⁰ Ibid., Nican Mopohua, Appendix A, 181.
- ³¹ Ibid., Nican Mopohua, Appendix A, 181.
- ³² Written by Regina DePrima
- ³³ Vinny Flynn, *7 Secrets of Confession* (Stockbridge, Massachusetts, MercySong, Inc., 2013), 185.
- ³⁴ Ibid., 186.

This program was developed for use in the Diocese of Metuchen during the year of spiritual preparation for consecration to Mary (December 12, 2018 to December 12, 2019). To learn more about the spiritual initiatives underway in the Diocese of Metuchen, go to www.lightingheartsonfire.org

Would you like to share how the Lord worked in your heart through the Personal Consecration to Jesus through the Perfect Virgin, Mary of Guadalupe? Email the author at: ourladysown@gmail.com

"May He give you a heart to worship him and to do his will with a strong heart and a willing spirit."
2 Maccabees 1:3

St. Juan Diego, pray for us! Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us!

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