

ON THE NINTH DAY

God of power and mercy,
you blessed the Americas at Tepeyac
with the presence of the Virgin Mary of Guadalupe.
May her prayers help all men and women
to accept each other as brothers and sisters.
Through your justice present in our hearts
may your peace reign in the world.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever.
REFRAIN O Lady of Guadalupe...
Our Father..., *Hail, Mary...* (3x), *Glory be...*

THE COLLECTION FOR THE CHURCH IN LATIN AMERICA

Since 1966, the annual Collection for the Church in Latin America has stood as a tangible demonstration of solidarity within the Catholic Church across the hemisphere. The proceeds of the collection continue to provide opportunities to our brothers and sisters in Latin America who, while lacking financial resources, are rich in faith and love for Our Lord Jesus Christ. Last year, through the generosity of the faithful across the United States, proceeds provided financial assistance to more than 470 pastoral ministry projects in 21 countries.

The significance of these grants is best expressed in the words of thanks received from grant recipients.

Youth Formation and Evangelization in The Dominican Republic

“Our words serve to express our heartfelt thanks for the beautiful assistance that you give to our churches in Latin America and

especially our diocese. May God bless your work and those that assist you so that you can continue to help those churches in need with open hands and hearts.”

Diocese of San Francisco de Mecorís, Dominican Republic

Formation of Seminarians in Peru

“Again I send my profound and sincere gratitude for your assistance that we could not have done without. I will offer a Mass for the bishops of the United States and for all the benefactors that have made the formation of these evangelizers possible in Peru, a land poor and with need, but rich in its love for Jesus Christ and the Church.”

Oblates of Saint Joseph, Lima, Peru

Youth Leadership and Sacramental Preparation Program in Honduras

“In this note I wish to greet you and express my desire that Our Lord Jesus Christ helps you and blesses you in every activity. This collection presents generous assistance to the churches in need in Latin America whose desire is to be fruitful and prosperous in the development of the faith.”

Santa Eucharist Mission, Tegucigalpa, Honduras

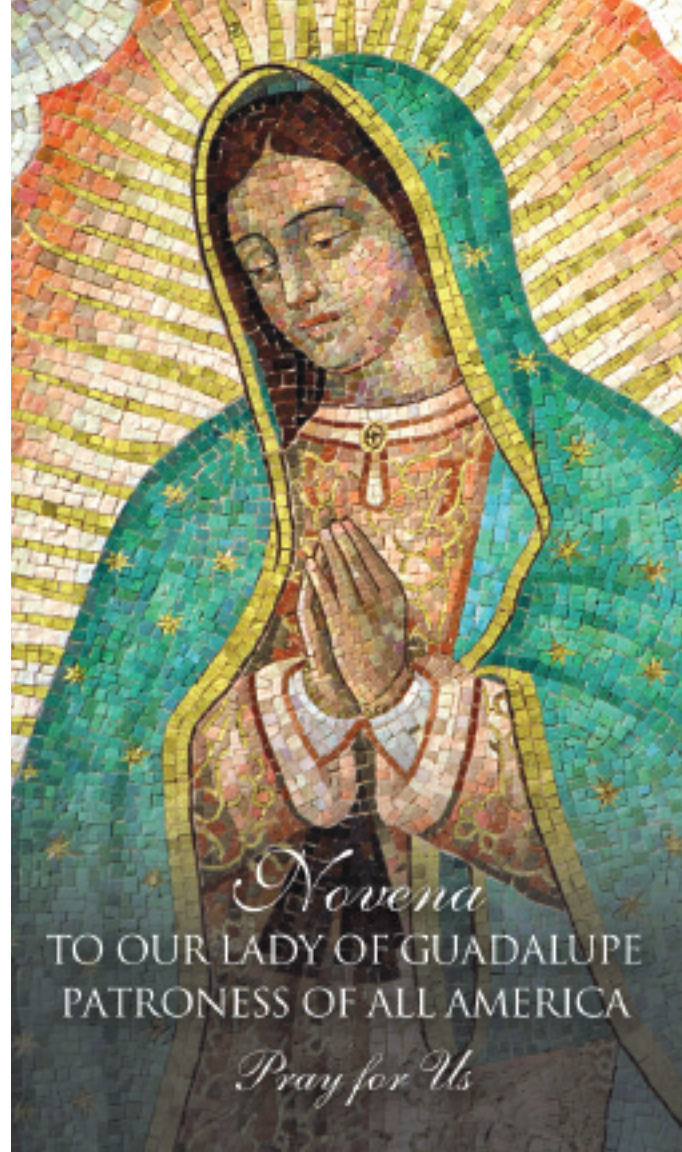
SECRETARIAT FOR THE CHURCH IN LATIN AMERICA

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The shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, near Mexico City, is the most celebrated place of pilgrimage in America. On December 9, 1531, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to St. Juan Diego, an Indian convert, at Mount Tepeyac. She left him with an image of herself imprinted upon his cloak. Devotion to Mary under the title of “Our Lady of Guadalupe” continues to increase and today she is venerated as Patroness of all America. The following Novena may be prayed during any nine-day period, and is most appropriate during the nine days preceding the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12.

ON THE FIRST DAY

Mary, Mother of Jesus,
hear the prayer of the Church in America,
a people rich in promise,
a people much in need of God’s mercy.
As you first brought faith to these lands,
be with us as we build communion and solidarity.

REFRAIN

○ Lady of Guadalupe,
pray for the Church in America
and walk with us in the new millennium of faith.
Our Father... , Hail, Mary... (3x), Glory be...

ON THE SECOND DAY

Mary, Mother of America,
hear the many voices of our land,
pleading for the mercy of your Son,
seeking the shepherd’s voice to lead them home.
Hear the praise of your sons and daughters
and bid your Son to free us
from the scourges of addiction, selfishness, and want.

REFRAIN

○ Lady of Guadalupe...
Our Father... , Hail, Mary... (3x), Glory be...

ON THE THIRD DAY

Mary, Mother of Compassion,
hear the prayer of those most in need of God’s mercy.
Hear the little child whose belly hungers,
the old man with no one to love,
the mother tempted to abandon her child.
Pray for them to the Author of life,
that the fruit of your womb may save and protect them.
REFRAIN ○ Lady of Guadalupe...
Our Father... , Hail, Mary... (3x), Glory be...

ON THE FOURTH DAY

Mary, Mother of Conversion,
pray to your Son for the virtue of hope.
Pray to him to free us from doubt
and to give us the courage of the children of God.
Pray that the light of the world
may dispel the darkness of our fear,
remaking our stony hearts
in the image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus your Son.
REFRAIN ○ Lady of Guadalupe...
Our Father... , Hail, Mary... (3x), Glory be...

ON THE FIFTH DAY

Mary, Mother of all saints,
pray for your children in America.
Pray for those who seek to imitate your example
in humble service to the Gospel of life
and the poorest of the poor.
Pray that your Son may lead us from the darkness of sin
to the light of his eternal glory.
REFRAIN ○ Lady of Guadalupe...
Our Father... , Hail, Mary... (3x), Glory be...

ON THE SIXTH DAY

Mary, Mother of Unity,
intercede for the Church in America,
that we may be gathered together
to form the one people of the New Covenant.
Mother of the human race,
ask your Son to pour out upon us
a spirit of compassion and solidarity.
REFRAIN ○ Lady of Guadalupe...
Our Father... , Hail, Mary... (3x), Glory be...

ON THE SEVENTH DAY

Mary, Mother of the Church,
help the Church in these lands
to follow your example of sublime love and profound humility.
With you, may we be obedient to the commandment of love,
and give our selves wholeheartedly
to seeking the glory of Christ and serving
the needs of our brothers and sisters.
REFRAIN ○ Lady of Guadalupe...
Our Father... , Hail, Mary... (3x), Glory be...

ON THE EIGHTH DAY

Mary, Mother of all Christians,
hear the prayers of all who worship the name of your Son,
Jesus, our hope and salvation.
Under the protection of your prayers,
may the Church in America enjoy unbroken peace.
REFRAIN ○ Lady of Guadalupe...
Our Father... , Hail, Mary... (3x), Glory be...