



VOCATION SPIRIT NEWS

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YEAR FOR PRIESTS

December 12: A Celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe

(A brief history of Our Lady of Guadalupe apparition from www.sancta.org. Click on highlighted words to find out more!).

Mesoamerica, the New World, 1521: The capital city of the Aztec empire falls under the Spanish forces. Less than 20 years later, 9 million of the inhabitants of the land, who professed for centuries a polytheistic and human sacrificing religion, are converted to Christianity. What happened in those times that produced such an incredible and historically unprecedented conversion? In 1531 a "Lady from Heaven" appeared to a humble Native American at Tepeyac, a hill northwest of what is now Mexico City. She identified herself as the ever virgin Holy Mary, Mother of the True God for whom we live, of the Creator of all things, Lord of heaven and the earth. She made a request for a church to be built on the site, and submitted her wish to the local Bishop. When the Bishop hesitated, and requested her for a sign, the Mother of God obeyed with-

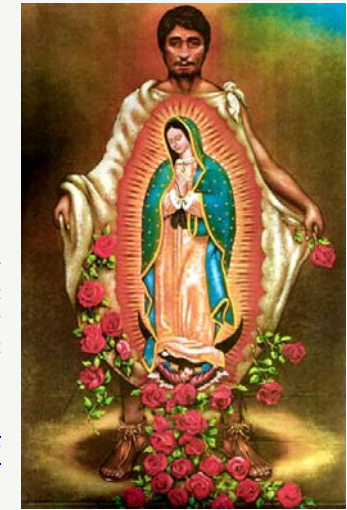
out delay or question to the Church's local Bishop, and sent her native messenger to the top of the hill in mid-December to gather an assortment of roses for the Bishop. After complying to the Bishop's request for a sign, She also left for us an image of herself imprinted miraculously on the native's tilma, a poor quality cactus-cloth, which should have deteriorated in 20 years but shows no sign of decay 477 years later and still defies all scientific explanations of its origin. It apparently even reflects in her eyes what was in front of her in 1531. Her message of love and compassion, and her universal promise of help and protection to all mankind, as well as the story of the apparitions, are described in the "Nican Mopohua", a 16th century document written in the native Nahuatl language. There is reason to believe that at Tepeyac Mary came in her glorified body, and her actual physical hands rearranged the roses in Juan Diego's tilma, which makes this apparition very special. An incredible list of miracles,

cures and interventions are attributed to Her. Yearly, between 18 - 20 million pilgrims visit the [Basilica](#), making it Christianity's most visited sanctuary. Altogether 25 popes have officially [honored Our Lady of Guadalupe](#). His Holiness John Paul II visited her Sanctuary four times: on his first apostolic trip outside Rome as Pope in 1979, and again in 1990, 1999 and 2002. The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is celebrated on December 12th. In 1999, [Pope John Paul II](#), in his homily from the Solemn Mass at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, during his third visit to the sanctuary, declared the date of December the 12th as a Liturgical Holy Day for the whole continent. During the same visit Pope John Paul II entrusted the cause of life to her loving protection, and placed under her motherly care the innocent lives of children, especially those who are [in danger of not being born](#).

[CLICK HERE TO LISTEN TO A FAMOUS OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE SONG!](#)



ABOVE: A picture of Our Lady of Guadalupe. BELOW: Juan Diego, the saint who introduced people to the apparition. Photos from www.sancta.org



VOCATIONAL AND YOUNG ADULT QUICK LINKS:

thinkpriest.org

[HOW DO I KNOW?](#)

vocation-network.org

[Capuchin Volunteers](#)

[Jesuits](#)



www.pphoto.org/.../rose_0206

Symbol of Rose a motif in Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration

"I am the Rose of Sharon, and the Lily of the valleys" - Song of Songs 2:1

"Mystical Rose" - Of Mary it is said in the sacred Canticles, that she was the enclosed Garden of God, My sister, my spouse, is a garden enclosed (4:12). St. Bernard writes, "that our Lord planted all the flowers

which adorn the Church in this garden; and amongst others the violet of humility, the lily of purity, and the rose of charity." "A rose is red, and of a fiery color," says Blessed Raymond Jordano, "which denotes love of God and of our neighbor;" therefore, on account of the ardent love with which the heart of Mary was always inflamed towards God and us, she is called a rose. (from: <http://home.earthlink.net/~mysticalrose/mystrose.html>)

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mystical Rose, intercede for the whole Church



Meet a Seminarian: John Gibson:

I was studying for a degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee with my sights set on a masters degree in aeronautical engineering. I had my life planned out until God first called me to think about the possibility of a vocation to the priesthood. A calling to the priesthood was an alarming, frightening, exhilarating realization for me. However, as time progressed, I became more comfortable with my vocation and soon realized that God had turned my heart. A vocation to the priesthood became something that not only I desired, but God desired. With the help of my pastor, and a particular seminarian, I discovered that I would be most happy serving the Lord as His priest. I can't believe where God has led me in the past few years, but I am thankful that He is in fact leading me and am honored to be discerning a vocation to the priesthood.



John is a first year theology student in Rome. He also writes a blog that you can check out on thinkpriest.org. [CLICK HERE](#) to read John's blog.

A brief Bishop Blurp:

Saint Francis de Sales Seminary was honored to host the archbishop-designate for several events on the day of the announcement. The morning began with an 8:00 a.m. Mass, followed by breakfast with Seminary and Archdiocesan staff and seminarians. ListECKI will be installed as Archbishop of Milwaukee in early January 2010.

*"It's in giving that we receive."
-Prayer of St. Francis,
13th century saint*

*"When you give, You begin to live, You get the world."
- Dave Matthews Band,
21st century musical group*

Seminary Sunday: Taking it to the pews: Seminary Sunday takes our story to parishes throughout the Archdiocese of Milwaukee through weekend visits by the rector and a seminarian. Parishioners hear about our exciting momentum and are asked to support priestly vocations and seminarian education. This outreach program is

sponsored by the Catholic Knights.

Jan 9/10	St. Robert Bel-larmine	Union Grove	Sat. 5:00 Sun. 10:15 am
Jan 30/31	Blessed Teresa of Calcutta	North Lake	Sat. 4:30 Sun. 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 am

A SPECIAL THEOLOGY ON TAP TALK:

Does God have a Plan for me? A talk by Mike Hayes

[CLICK HERE FOR BROCHURE](#)

Thursday, December 10, 2009 7 to 9 p.m.

Saint Clare Center for Ministry Formation,

Cardinal Stritch University

6801 N Yates Rd Milwaukee WI, 53217

No fee, No registration: **Young Adults, married and single in their 20s and 30s are welcome to attend**

The Paradox of Giving: Candace, Chellow-Hodge

I hadn't yet learned the key to receiving. St. Francis knew - even Dave Matthews understands - that receiving is paradoxical. We only get when we give. Whether it's money, love, friendship, kindness, or even anger - it's in giving that we receive. This is why we need to be careful what we give to the world. If we give love, we get love. If we give hate, we get hate. It's a law, like gravity, that we can resist, but we cannot break.

St. Francis echoes the words of Jesus, "Freely you have received, free give" (Matthew 10:8).

Thomas Jeavons and Rebekah Burch Basinger, in their book "Growing Givers' Hearts" note that Jesus "indicates the clear expectation that one of the surest ways to know if someone has been touched by the experience of God's grace and love and has chosen to be in relationship with God is by the evidence of participation in acts of charity and compassion (Matthew 25:31-45) [...] In short, Jesus encouraged his followers to live lives of service and giving rooted in an shaped by their experiences of God's love, understanding of God's faithfulness, and acceptance of God's grace." [p.46]

Jesus makes it clear that the motives behind our giving are very important. We don't "give to get." Instead, our giving is a response to God's love, faithfulness and grace. Certainly, we can give cynically - the law of giving works no matter what - but when we give with a specific goal of getting, the experience of receiving is empty. To fully receive - to receive with a joy that motivates us to keep on giving - we must give from a place of selflessness - from a place of service to others - not selfishness. The mark of a giver who has been touched and deeply affected by God's love, faithfulness and grace is their selfless acts of giving. These are the people who give, expecting nothing in return - though what they receive is often greater than they have ever thought to give.



HOUSE OF PEACE DURING THE HOLIDAYS:

A Capuchin Ministry_

"I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me..." Matthew 25:31

Inspired by the above passage from the book of Mathew, **The House of Peace** has been serving the needy in the heart of Milwaukee's Central City since 1968. During this time it has been a Beacon of Hope for thousands of individuals who were without food or clothing. It has been there to comfort those in despair and to offer help to those who had nowhere else to turn. From its beginnings, the House of Peace has remained faithful to its Mission Statement.

[CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN HELP IN THE HOUSE OF PEACE MISSION THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.](#)

The House of Peace, at 1702 W. Walnut Street Milwaukee. Phone #: 414-933-1300

The House of Peace collects toys to give children during Christmas break. Provide a family in need with holiday joy—give a gift and receive LOVE in return.