

NOVENA IN HONOR OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

With selections each day from the *Nican Mopobua*.¹

To be prayed from
December 3rd - 11th

Totus tuus, Maria!

¹ The *Nican Mopobua* was written between 1545-1547 by Antonio Valeriano, an indigenous man educated by the Franciscans. It recounts the story of the apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe to Saint Juan Diego. Although Valeriano's work is the earliest document attesting to the historical veracity of the apparitions, according to priest, historian, and Guadalupe expert, Mons. Eduardo Chavez, it holds second place to three other historical sources: the oral tradition told by Saint Juan Diego, the signs of the times, and Juan Diego's *tilma*. Nevertheless, since Valeriano was a contemporary of Saint Juan Diego, and most probably heard the visionary's story firsthand, his work remains invaluable to the history of Mexico and Our Lady of Guadalupe. The work is also unique among Mexican literature since it is written in the native Nahuatl language using the Latin alphabet. Portions of this text will be used each day of this novena so as to enrich the faithful's understanding of the miraculous story, learn from St. Juan Diego's example, and listen to Our Lady's sweet words (indicated by the blue text). At the beginning the faithful will find the corresponding paragraph numbers used from the original text. This novena is using the 2008 English translation of the *Nican Mopobua* published by the "Instituto Superior de Estudios Guadalupanos" (ISEG) and made accessible by the Knights of Columbus: <https://www.kofc.org/en/resources/our-lady-of-guadalupe/nican-mopohua.pdf>

TO BE PRAYED EVERYDAY OF THE NOVENA

Make the Sign of the Cross and Say:

THE ACT OF CONTRITION

O My God,

I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee
and I detest all of my sins because of Thy just punishment,
but most of all because I have offended Thee, My God
who are all good, and deserving of all my love.

I firmly resolve with the help of Thy grace, to sin no more,
And to avoid the near occasion of sin.

Amen.

THE FIRST DAY

December 3rd

Compassionate Mother

Through the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Our Compassionate Mother, we ask that the peace of Christ may reign in every heart, in every home, and in every country, so as to reconcile all men to God and among themselves.

Nican Mopobua: Ten years after the conquest of the water, mountain and city of Mexico, when the arrows and shields were put aside, when there was peace in all the towns, their waters and their mountains. Just as it budded, faith now grows green, now opens its corolla, the knowledge of the Giver of life, the true God.²

Our Lady: “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 truly will I hear their cry, their sadness, to remedy, to cure all their various troubles, their miseries, their pains.”³

Heavenly Father, in your merciful providence you sent Holy Mary of Guadalupe as your messenger of mercy and peace to the peoples living in Mexico. Although she came at a time “when the arrows and shields were put aside”, the peace that enveloped that ancient land was merely circumstantial. Your children did not live in the true peace of Christ, but in the false peace of being either the conquerors or the conquered. The false peace of conquest still looms on the horizon of our day. With it the drums of war are still resounding in many lands and between many nations. We pray that through the powerful intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, who is “honored to be our merciful mother”, you may once more take up your staff of “Favor” and remember your covenant of mercy with all your children. We pray you that for love of your Son and the people redeemed by His Blood, Mary may be once more Your chosen riverbed of grace through which the gift of mercy and peace may reach the hearts of every man and woman bringing them to conversion of heart and reconciliation with You and with their neighbor. For only “with the peace of God in our conscience,” and “with our hearts free from evil and hatred, we will be able to bring to all true joy and true peace, which come to us from your son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who with You and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns for ever and ever.”⁴

Pray one Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be...

At the end of this prayer, the litany of Our Lady of Guadalupe is prayed (pg. 12) with the final prayer.

² NM, 1-2

³ NM, 29-32

⁴ St. John Paul II, “Prayer before the Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe”, January 25, 1979, https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/es/speeches/1979/january/documents/hf_jp-ii_spe_19790125_preghiera-guadalupe.html

Concluding Prayer

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe, that in your apparitions on Mount Tepeyac you promised to show pity and compassion to all who, loving and trusting you, seek your help and protection. Accordingly, O Ever-present and Unfailing Mother, listen now to our supplications and grant us relief. We are full of hope that, relying on your help, nothing can trouble or affect us. As you have remained with us through your admirable image, so now obtain for us the graces we need. Amen.