

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 SIXTH DAY

December 8th

Virgin Mother

Through the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Maiden Mother, we pray for the needs of the Church.

Nican Mopobua: [Juan Diego said,] “So I beg you, my Lady, my Queen, my little Girl, to have one of the nobles who are held in esteem, one who is known, respected, honored, have him carry on, take your venerable breath, your venerable word, so that he will be believed . Because I am really just a man from the country, I’m the porter’s rope, I’m a back frame, just a tail, a wing; I myself need to be led, carried on someone's back, it's not my place to go or to stay there where you sent me, my little Girl, my littlest Daughter, my Lady, my Girl. Please, excuse me, I will afflict your face, your heart; I will fall into your anger, your displeasure, my [Madam Lady]¹⁵.” The Perfect Virgin, worthy of honor and veneration, answered him:

Our Lady: “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. And I beg you, my youngest son, and I strictly order you, to go again tomorrow to see the Bishop. And in my name, make him know, make him hear my wish, my will, so that he will bring into being, he will build my sacred house that I ask of him. And carefully tell him again how I, personally, the ever Virgin Holy Mary, I, who am the Mother of God, sent you as my messenger.”¹⁶

O Mary Immaculate, “excellent masterpiece of God’s hands”. Nothing equals you in beauty and majesty, nothing but God Himself.¹⁷ In a stroke of God’s divine artistry, He not only remarkably wed within you the plenitude of grace to the lowliness of a handmaid, but He also joined the continence of virginity to the fruitfulness of motherhood. The brilliance of such craftsmanship is depicted in your image of Guadalupe. Your mantle proclaims you the Queen of Heaven, while your dress reveals you to be a daughter of this earth. Your long flowing hair proclaims your virginity, while your black sash announces motherhood. Marveling at the wisdom of God’s divine handiwork we wish to honor you today as our Virgin Mother. Although we too are unworthy servants—a porter’s rope, a back frame, a tail, a wing—your virgin motherhood inspires us to have a loving confidence in your unfailing help. O Blessed Lady, O Blessed Mother, turn not your eyes away from the needs of the Church, who is also our mother. Help us to remain faithful to Christ Your Son, so that our belonging to His Mystical Body on earth, may come to that truly happy end of being forever united to Him in heaven. May what we possess now by faith and grace, become in heaven an eternal sharing in love and glory.

Here 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.

¹⁵ Edited translation of “Lady Mistress” from the Spanish “Señora Dueña mía”

¹⁶ NM, 54-62

¹⁷ Cf. St. Anselm’s “Third Prayer to Mary”, <https://udayton.edu/imri/mary/a/anselm-of-canterbury.php>

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.