

NOVENA IN HONOR OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

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

To be prayed from
December 3rd - 11th

Totus tuus, Maria!

¹ The *Nican Mopohua* 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 Mopohua* 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 NINTH DAY

December 11th

Comforter of Troubled Hearts

Through the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Comforter of Troubled Hearts, we pray for grace of courage in the face of all life's difficulties.

Nican Mopobua: As soon as [Our Lady] heard Juan Diego's words, the Merciful Perfect Virgin answered him:

Our Lady: 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, I 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? Let nothing else worry you, disturb you; don't grieve your uncle's illness, because he will not die of it for now, you may be certain that he is already healed."

Nican Mopobua: (And at that very moment his uncle was healed, as they later found out). And Juan Diego, when he heard the venerable breath, the venerable word, of the Queen of Heaven, he was greatly comforted by it, his heart became peaceful; and he begged her to send him immediately as messenger to see the Governing Bishop, to take him her sign, for proof, so that he would believe.²¹

God our Father, never was it known that anyone who trusted in You was left unaided. And as a special sign of Your active love and providence in our lives, you sent us Your Daughter under the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Prior to consoling us by leaving her blessed image, she spoke perhaps the most comforting of words atop Tepeyac hill. They were words that were not only intended to pierce the heart of St. Juan Diego, but to penetrate ours as well. "Am I not here, I who have the honor of being your mother?" What tenderness! What consolation! What humility! To have a mother so perfect, so venerable, and so filled with grace, it is we your children who are the ones who should be honored by such love; and yet it is she, Mary of Guadalupe who is honored to be our mother. Grant us, Lord, the grace to always trust in her unflinching protection; to always find our strength in her unwavering care; to always draw our courage from her unyielding love. And so, we also turn in trusting love to you O Mary, Comforter of Troubled Hearts! We need nothing more than you! Keep us in the hollow of your mantle and in the crossing of your arms; for only by remaining with you, can we be certain that we remain close to Christ and filled with His Holy Spirit, the True Comforters of Troubled Hearts. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, O Spouse of the Spirit of Love, despise not the petitions we have brought to you throughout this novena, but in your mercy and consolation hear and answer them. Amen.

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.

²¹ NM, 117-123

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.