

## NOVENA IN HONOR OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

With selections each day from the *Nican Mopohua*.<sup>1</sup>

To be prayed from  
December 3rd - 11th

*Totus tuus, Maria!*

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<sup>1</sup> 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 THIRD DAY

*December 5th*

## Ever Perfect Virgin

*Through the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Ever Perfect Virgin, we ask for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and for the sanctification of all priests.*

*Nican Mopobua:* [Juan Diego] prostrated himself in [Mary's] presence, listened to her venerable breath, her venerable words, which were extremely affable, extremely noble, as if from someone who was drawing him toward her and loved him. She said to him:

Our Lady: "Listen my son, my youngest son, Juanito, where are you going?"

And he answered her: "My Lady, my Queen, my Little Girl, I am going as far as your little house in Mexico Tlatelolco, to follow the things of God that are to us given, that are taught to us by those who are the images of the Lord, Our Lord, our priests." Then she talks with him, she reveals her precious will; she says to him:

Our Lady: "Know, know for sure my dearest and youngest son, that I am truly the ever perfect Holy Virgin Mary, who has the honor to be the Mother of the one true God for whom we all live, the Creator of people, the Lord of all around us and of what is close to us, the Lord of Heaven, the Lord of Earth."<sup>9</sup>

**H**umbling ourselves before Your Majesty O God, Our Creator and Lord, we come to you seeking through the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe the grace of perseverance in our respective vocations. We ask for it not only for ourselves, but also for all who have been baptized into Christ and are called to share in His Paschal Mystery through the special gift of their vocation. In particular we pray for those "who are the images of the Lord", Your priests. As St. Juan Diego experienced in Mary's presence her "extremely affable" and "extremely noble" words, may all priests and bishops trust that in being noble sons of so noble and affable a mother, her love will draw them towards the goal of their priestly consecration: perfect conformity to Christ the Priest on earth and a share in His Eternal Priesthood in Heaven. Knowing that perseverance in their vocations is impossible without "the gratuitous help of God sustaining him in good until the end of life"<sup>10</sup>, may every priest, by holy and humble constancy daily place themselves at Mary's feet entrusting to her precious will and compassionate heart the acquisition of such divine help. While at her feet, may they also learn from her, the "Teacher of hidden and silent sacrifices"<sup>11</sup>, that cooperation with God's grace of perseverance is forged in the hidden and silent sacrifices of each day.

*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.*

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<sup>9</sup> NM, 22-26

<sup>10</sup> St. Thomas Aquinas, *Summa Theologica*, I-II, q. 109, a. 10

<sup>11</sup> St. John Paul II, "Prayer before the Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe".



## Concluding Prayer

**R**emember, 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.