



His Eminence Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke
Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe
P.O. Box 1237, La Crosse Wisconsin 54602-1237

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In these tumultuous times, constant and fierce attack against human life, marriage and the family, the Church and the world cause confusion, error and profound damage to countless souls. Even now, some souls, from the depths of their hearts, might question: *What help is the Mother of God?*

What help did Our Lady bring when she appeared to Saint Juan Diego at Tepeyac in 1531? The Aztec people were engaging in the cruel and demonic practice of human sacrifice, killing violently innocent and defenseless human lives for what they believed in. Today, organizations that promulgate the destruction of innocent and defenseless human life in the mother's womb, describing it as the promotion of woman's health, maintain that same culture of death for what they believe in, too, which, not unlike the belief of the Aztec people, is wrought of evil.

After identifying herself as the Mother of God to Saint Juan Diego, Our Lady did not propose an idea or political action to address the various crises of that age. Rather, her response was total union with her Divine Son in a "little sacred house." And that solution proposed 500 years ago remains our same solution today; for in the same way she called upon the service of Saint Juan Diego, she also summons each of us—you and I together—to assist her in overcoming all the crises of our age by drawing souls into her little sacred house to encounter union with the glorious, pierced Heart of Jesus.

The Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse, Wisconsin, is our response to her summons. Our Lady appeared 500 years ago to bring Christ to the culture then; the Shrine was built for that same purpose now. Our culture needs her maternal love and help.

Today, I ask that you prayerfully consider a generous gift to aid our work in offering to the world, as Our Lady did, the only solution for our salvation: Jesus Christ alive in His Church, Jesus Christ alive in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

Your generous gift will help pilgrims, seeking a deeper understanding of the faith, experience an extraordinary encounter with Our Savior at the Shrine. **For in the troubled times in which we live, in our homes, in our nation and in the world, the mission of the Shrine as a place of pilgrimage is more critical than ever.** Yet, if a gift for this annual appeal is not possible at this time, I ask you to please pray that many will respond to this letter with heartfelt generosity.

In addition to extending to you an invitation to make a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse, Wisconsin, I would also like to remind you that the Shrine





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offers several devotional areas for prayer, the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist three times on Sunday and twice every weekday beginning at 8:00 A.M., as well as the weekday Holy Hour beginning at 3:00 P.M. Visit our website, GuadalupeShrine.org, to learn more.

Finally, I wish to express my deepest gratitude to those of you who have so generously supported the Shrine and the many thousands of pilgrims who came on pilgrimage this year, seeking a deeper union with the Glorious Pierced Heart of Jesus through the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe. **Before the end of this year, would you please support our work at the Shrine?** Your generous donation will strengthen our year-end mission as we prepare to begin next year's ministry for pilgrim souls.

Invoking God's blessing upon you and your home, while confiding your intentions to the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe and Saint Juan Diego, I remain

Yours in the Sacred Heart of Jesus
and the Immaculate Heart of Mary,
and in the Purest Heart of Saint Joseph,

Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke
Founder, Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe

