

Fr. David's Weekly Newsletter



December 9, 2011

Third Sunday of Advent • Rejoice in the Lord always, the Lord is near
O God, who see how your people faithfully await the feast of the Lord's Nativity, enable us, we pray, to attain the joys of so great a salvation and to celebrate them always with solemn worship and glad rejoicing.

Jesus' Relationship With 'The Childlike'

Pope Benedict XVI told pilgrims that through prayer Jesus calls the "childlike" into a loving relationship with him and the Father.

In his "cry of exultation," Jesus "gives thanks to the Father because he has willed to reveal the mystery of salvation not to the wise and learned, but to the 'little ones,'" the Pope told several thousand pilgrims gathered in the Vatican's Paul VI Hall.

Pope Benedict continued his weekly catechesis on prayer with a meditation on the "jewel" of Christ's prayer, his "Hymn of Joy," which is found in the Gospels of St. Matthew 11:25-30 and St. Luke 10:21-22.

This prayer, he said, is the "apex of a path of prayer in which Jesus' profound and intimate communion with the Father in the Holy Spirit and His divine sonship clearly emerges."

At the beginning of the Scripture passages in question, Jesus says, "I praise you, Father, Lord of

heaven and earth." This form of address has a twofold meaning, explained the Pope.

First, it shows "Jesus' awareness and certainty of being 'the Son' in close and constant communion" with the Father. This, he said, is the "central point and source of Jesus' every prayer."

The second meaning is that it "recalls the great biblical narrative of the history of God's love for human beings that began with creation." Jesus, said the Pope, is the "summit and fulfillment" of "this story of love." Thus, through his use of the phrase "Lord of heaven and earth" we also "recognize how Jesus is the one who reveals the Father," as well as "the possibility of access to God" to humanity.

Pope Benedict also reflected on how God's divine revelation does "not occur within earthly logic," which would say that it is "the wise and powerful who possess important knowledge and transmit it to those who are more simple." No, God's logic turns that on its head as "his communication is



My soul rejoices in my God!

addressed precisely to the ‘childlike.’”

This childlike state consists of nothing less than a “pureness of heart” that “allows us to recognize the face of God in Jesus Christ.”

“It is keeping our hearts as simple as those of children, without the presumptions of those who are locked in themselves, thinking they have no need of anyone, not even God,” he said.

Jesus concludes his prayer with the offer of rest to those who are “weary and burdened,”

because his “yoke is easy” and “burden is light.”

The Pope observed that in his prayer, Jesus asks that “we go to Him, the true wisdom” since the “yoke” he speaks of is “neither a doctrine to learn nor an ethical proposal, but rather a Person to follow: He himself, the only-begotten Son, in perfect communion with the Father.”

This means that “we also can address God with the confidence of sons and daughters,” said the Pope.

And when we call God “Father” when we pray, the Pope taught, we also “have to keep the heart of a child, the heart of those ‘poor in spirit,’ in order to recognize that we are not self-sufficient, but that we need God, that we have to seek Him, listen to Him, speak to Him.”

Through prayer, he said, we open ourselves to receiving this gift from God, “his wisdom who is Jesus himself, in order to accept the will of the Father in our lives and to find consolation in the weariness of our journey.”

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

According to tradition, on December 9, 1531 Juan Diego, a simple indigenous peasant, had a vision of a young woman while he was on a hill in the Tepeyac desert, near Mexico City. The lady told him to build a church exactly on the spot where they were standing. He told the local bishop, who asked for some proof. He went back and had the vision again. He told the lady that the bishop wanted proof, and she said “Bring the roses behind you.” Turning to look, he found a rose bush growing behind him. He cut the roses, placed them in his poncho and returned to the bishop, saying he had brought proof. When he opened his poncho, instead of roses, there was an image of the young lady in the vision.

According to the account of Juan Diego, the Virgin Mary described herself using the Aztec Nahuatl word-name of *Coatlaxopeuh* (pronounced “*quatlachupe*”) which the Spanish misunderstood as being the word “Guadalupe”. In Nahuatl “*Coa*” meant serpent, “*tla*” the noun ending which can be interpreted as “the”, and “*xopeuh*” means to crush or to stamp out, translating to mean: the one “who crushes the serpent.” This reflects Catholic theology, in understanding that Mary is the woman described in the twelfth chapter of the Book of Revelation.

Today, the image is displayed in the nearby Basilica of Guadalupe in Mexico City, now one of the

most visited Catholic shrines in the world. The Virgin of Guadalupe is Mexico’s most popular religious and cultural image, with the titles “Queen of Mexico”, “Empress of the Americas”, and “Patroness of the Americas”. Both Miguel Hidalgo (in the Mexican War of Independence) and Emiliano Zapata (during the Mexican Revolution) carried flags bearing the Our Lady of Guadalupe, and Guadalupe Victoria, the first Mexican president changed his name in honor of the image.

Blessed Pope John Paul II visited the shrine in the course of his first journey outside Italy as Pope from 26 to 31 January 1979, and again when he beatified Juan Diego there on 6 May 1990. In 1992 he dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe a chapel within St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. At the request of the Special Assembly for the Americas of the Synod of Bishops, he named Our Lady of Guadalupe Patroness of the Americas on 22 January 1999, and visited the shrine again on the following day.

On 31 July 2002, Blessed Pope John Paul II canonized Juan Diego before a crowd of twelve million, and later that year included in the General Calendar of the Roman Rite, as optional memorials, the liturgical celebrations of Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin (9 December) and Our Lady of Guadalupe (12 December).

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE TRIVIA

1. Where is the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe today?

- a. Madrid, Spain b. Mexico City, Mexico c. Lima, Peru d. Cozumel, Mexico

2. On what article of clothing is the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe?

- a. tilma b. handkerchief c. sock d. hat

3. The image of Our Lady of Guadalupe is on what type of cloth?

- a. cotton fiber b. wool fiber c. cactus fiber d. hemp fiber

4. The name of the hill where Our Lady appeared to Juan Diego is?

- a. Gilgal b. Tepeyac c. Santa Anna d. Rawling

5. What language did Our Lady speak to Juan Diego?

- a. English b. Spanish c. Nahuatl d. Hebrew

6. What sign did Juan Diego bring to the Bishop as proof of the vision?

- a. green dandelions b. shrinking violets c. purple carnations d. Castillion roses

7. Within five years of the vision, how many people were baptized?

- a. 1 million b. 2 million c. 5 million d. 10 million

8. The image of Our Lady of Guadalupe shows her to be ...

- a. pregnant b. royalty c. higher than the sun god d. all of the above

9. What is seen reflected in the eyes of the image of Our Lady?

- a. the crucifixion b. the heavenly host c. Juan Diego d. a sunset

10. Our Lady of Guadalupe is also known as ...

- a. Mother of the Americas b. Patroness of Latin America
c. Protectress of the Unborn d. all of the above.



Answers: 1. b; 2. a; 3. c; 4. b; 5. c; 6. d; 7. c; 8. d; 9. c; 10. d.



**“I am your
merciful
mother,
to you,
and to all the
inhabitants on
this land and
all the rest
who love me.”**

ACROSS

2. The city where the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe is today
5. The language Our Lady spoke to Juan Diego
6. The flowers Our Lady of Guadalupe used as a sign to the bishop

DOWN

1. The hill where Our Lady appeared to Juan Diego
3. The garment that has the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe
4. The fiber on which the image is miraculously imprinted

