

Homily for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Brothers and sisters, today we gather to celebrate the great solemnity of Our Lady of Guadalupe, a day filled with beauty, devotion, and signs. But as we honor her, I want us to take a step back and reflect. Are we celebrating Guadalupe the way *we want* or the way *she wants*? Because let's be honest: sometimes we're like kids on Christmas morning, tearing open the gift she's given us, but completely ignoring the message attached.

Purpose of Guadalupe: The Truth in a World of Relativism

Why did Our Lady appear to Juan Diego in 1531? Was it just to give us an image for our churches and festivals? No! Her purpose was clear: to point us to Jesus, to the Eucharist, and to the truth of the Mass. At a time when Mexico was plagued with confusion, violence, and paganism, Mary stepped in as the ultimate evangelist. She said, "*Let me show you my Son, the Savior of the world.*"

Yet here we are, nearly 500 years later, living in a world drowning in relativism. "***Your truth, my truth, everyone's truth***" — sound familiar? But Our Lady of Guadalupe didn't appear to say, "*Believe whatever you feel like.*" She appeared to reveal *the* truth: Jesus Christ in the Eucharist, the only path to salvation.

Now here's the tough question: do we listen to her? Or do we just throw a big party, eat tamales, and call it a day?

Honoring Our Lady vs. Disrespecting Her Message

Let me paint you a picture. Imagine it's your birthday. Your friends throw you a party, but instead of listening to what you've been saying for years, they decide to play loud music you hate, serve food you can't eat, and ignore your requests entirely. How would you feel? You'd probably think, "*Do these people even know me? Or care about what I want?*"

This is how we sometimes treat Our Lady of Guadalupe. We say we love her. We sing to her. We bring flowers to her image. But then we ignore the truth she came to share: ***her Son, the Eucharist, and the call to holiness.*** How can we call ourselves her devotees when we don't listen to her? You can't honor someone and disrespect them at the same time.

Here in our parish and the missions combined, we have at least 300 Hispanics. Yet how many are here every Sunday to celebrate the Mass she came to defend? 35. That's barely a tithe! We claim to love her, but when it comes to doing the one thing she asks—coming to her Son's table—we're missing in action.

The Challenge: What Can We Do Now?

So, what do we do? Let's start with three simple steps:

1. Listen to Her

Our Lady's message is simple: "*Go to my Son.*" If we're not attending Mass faithfully, we're missing the heart of her message. The Mass isn't optional; it's the source and summit of our faith.

If you're here today but not on Sundays, make a change. Commit to the Eucharist, and honor her the way she desires.

2. Invite Others

Our Lady appeared to Juan Diego, an ordinary man, and made him her messenger. You're her messengers too! If you know someone who isn't coming to Mass, don't just shrug your shoulders. Invite them. Bring them with you. Tell them, "*Come meet the Lady's Son—He's waiting for you.*"

3. Live the Truth

Mary is a mother who wants the best for her children. That means living with integrity, following Christ's teachings, and being a light in our community. If we claim to be Guadalupanos, we must reflect her love and her message in everything we do.

A Personal Decision

Brothers and sisters, Our Lady of Guadalupe is calling us. Not just to celebrate her, but to follow her—to her Son, to the Mass, and to the truth. The question is, will we listen?

Let's not just be fans of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Let's be her true children—children who hear her voice and obey it. Because honoring her doesn't end with flowers or fiestas; it begins with a heart devoted to her Son.

So today, as we kneel before her image, let's promise her this: we'll honor her, not just with our lips, but with our lives. And I think we all know, she'll take that promise straight to Jesus and say, "*Look, my children are coming home.*" Amen.