

## **Prayer Service Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of the Americas**

### **Opening hymn: O Santisima**

**Leader:** On a cold morning in the Tepeyac desert near Mexico city, you said to Blessed Juan Diego,

*“Do not be troubled or weighed down with grief. Do not fear any illness or vexation, anxiety or pain. Am I not here who am your Mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection?”* (December 12, 1531)

Filled with trust in your love for your children, we present our petitions to you and ask that you intercede for us and present our needs to your most holy and compassionate Son.

**Reader 1** As we are surrounded by a culture of materialism and greed, we ask for the ability to be good stewards of our money and possessions . Help us to be generous and always mindful of the needs of others,

**Reader 2** As it is in our nature to want to be in charge, we ask for the ability to discern the will of God and to live as He calls us to live. May we be able to follow your example and say, “Be it done to me according to His will.”

**Reader 3** As it is so easy to be caught up in activity and to be filled with stress, we ask for the wisdom and the ability to set aside time to be nourished by the Word of God and by the frequent reception of the Eucharist.

**Reader 4** As families struggle to live together in harmony and peace, we ask for the grace to love one another unconditionally and the faith to work on our relationships with courage and patience.

**Reader 5** As we face illnesses and chronic health problems, we ask for God’s miraculous healing and for the ability to treat our bodies with respect. Help us to make wise decisions about food and exercise so as to open the way for God’s healing.

**Leader:** Most Holy Mother, as your children we trust in your protection and loving care. As a mother you are always vigilant and fiercely protective of your children. We thank you for your care and for your willingness to watch over us, and we wait patiently for God to answer our prayers. Amen

### **John Paul II’s Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe**

**O** Immaculate Virgin, Mother of the true God and Mother of the Church, who from this place reveal your clemency and your pity to all those who ask

for your protection, hear the prayer that we address to you with filial trust, and present it to your Son Jesus, our sole Redeemer.

**M**other of Mercy, Teacher of hidden and silent sacrifice, to you, who come to meet us sinners, we dedicate on this day all our being and all our love. We also dedicate to you our life, our work, our joys, our infirmities and our sorrows. Grant peace, justice and prosperity to our peoples; for we entrust to your care all that we have and all that we are, our Lady and Mother. We wish to be entirely yours and to walk with you along the way of complete faithfulness to Jesus Christ in His Church; hold us always with your loving hand.

**V**irgin of Guadalupe, Mother of the Americas, we pray to you for all the Bishops, that they may lead the faithful along paths of intense Christian life, of love and humble service of God and souls. Contemplate this immense harvest, and intercede with the Lord that He may instill a hunger for holiness in the whole people of God, and grant abundant vocations of priests and religious, strong in the faith and zealous dispensers of God's mysteries.

**G**rant to our homes the grace of loving and respecting life in its beginnings, with the same love with which you conceived in your womb the life of the Son of God. Blessed Virgin Mary, protect our families, so that they may always be united, and bless the upbringing of our children.

**O**ur hope, look upon us with compassion, teach us to go continually to Jesus and, if we fall, help us to rise again, to return to Him, by means of the confession of our faults and sins in the Sacrament of Penance, which gives peace to the soul.

**W**e beg you to grant us a great love for all the holy Sacraments, which are, as it were, the signs that your Son left us on earth.

**T**hus, Most Holy Mother, with the peace of God in our conscience, with our hearts free from evil and hatred, we will be able to bring to all true joy and true peace, which come to us from your son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who with God the Father and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**A**men.

*His Holiness John Paul II*

*Mexico, January 1979. Visiting Her Basilica during his first foreign trip as Pope.*