

Tepeyac

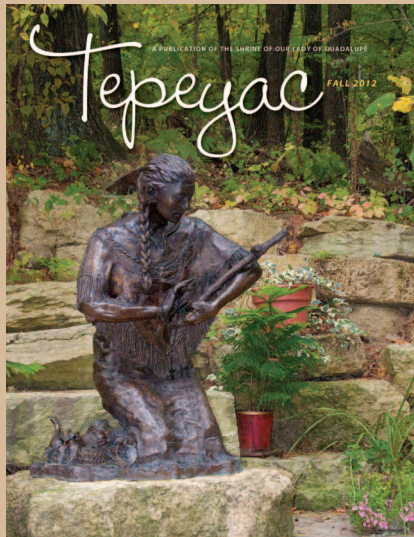
A PUBLICATION OF THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

FALL 2012



Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha
Mass in Celebration of her Canonization
Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe

October 21, 2012



Copyright © 2012. Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe and Cynthia Hitschler, Celstumo/Celebration Studios of Missouri. Photo by Des Sikowski-Nelson.

ON THE COVER: The beautiful bronze is of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, along the Devotional Trail, at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The bronze was sculpted by Cynthia Hitschler, Celstumo/Celebration Studios of Missouri, 18253 Buckboard, Wildwood, MO 63069. You may contact Cynthia Hitschler by calling (636) 458-1819 or e-mail: Celstumo@celstumo.com.

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**Marian Catechist Apostolate
Located at Shrine**

The Marian Catechist Apostolate, founded by Servant of God Father John A. Hardon, S.J., and directed by Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke, has relocated its headquarters to the Pilgrim Center at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The Apostolate's permanent headquarters will eventually be located in the Father John A. Hardon, S.J., Marian Catechist Apostolate Center and Retreat House.

International Office of the
Marian Catechist Apostolate and
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P.O. Box 637 | La Crosse, Wisconsin 54602-0637
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www.MarianCatechist.com

A Word from the Executive Director

Do you believe in miracles?" a young lady recently asked while on pilgrimage to pray for physical healing at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

"Yes, I do," I responded.

"Why?" she asked.

"Because I believe that God is omnipotent and that He can work miracles, which I have seen." I told her about various graces that pilgrims have received at the Shrine. In August 2011, for example, a young couple from St. Louis visited the Shrine on pilgrimage and prayed that they would conceive a child. After three years of marriage, they had been unable to conceive. Their doctor informed them that their case was one of the most difficult cases he had seen in years and that they may never have children of their own. The couple sought the intercession of Saint Gianna Beretta Molla, whose relics are available for veneration at the Shrine. They also had the opportunity to meet Cardinal Raymond Burke, who listened to their story and gave them a blessing, invoking the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe and Saint Gianna.

In August 2012, the couple made a second pilgrimage to the Shrine. This time, they came in thanksgiving, with a baby under tow! Shortly after their first visit to the Shrine, they found out that they had conceived. In fact, their doctor informed them that their baby was conceived on the day they visited the Shrine! They gave their baby a beautiful and appropriate name: Gianna Grace.



Leif Arvidson, Executive Director, displays a case holding a pair of Saint Gianna Beretta Molla's gloves.

Earlier this week, a young couple asked for an opportunity to venerate the gloves of Saint Gianna. When I told them the story related earlier, the young lady was happy, but she was not surprised. She explained that her cousin was infertile for eight years, so she visited the Shrine, venerated the gloves of Saint Gianna, and asked for the saint's intercession. She conceived a child the same day!

Inside this issue of *Tepeyac*, on page four, we have included a story about another baby that was conceived through the intercession of Saint Gianna. The Shrine refers to such babies as "Gianna Babies."

Do I believe in miracles? Yes, I do! As the couple from St. Louis wrote, "Our story is a reminder that God works in many ways, some unexplainable, some simply defined as a 'miracle.' God is at work every day in us and around us." I wholeheartedly agree.

Our Lady of Guadalupe and Saint Gianna Beretta Molla, pray for us!

Mr. Leif E. Arvidson
Executive Director
larvidson@guadalupe Shrine.org

In Loving Memory



M. Lucille Swing, 97, of La Crosse, Wisconsin, passed away earlier this year in the home of her daughter, Mrs. Jeanne Pavela, surrounded by her six children and extended family who were praying

at her deathbed. Lucille was preceded in death by her husband, Robert, in 1994.

In December 1999, a most beautiful site of approximately 70 acres was providentially and generously given by the Robert Swing family to be used for the purpose of building the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The Swing family's gift of

this beautiful tract of land began with the desire of the late Mr. Swing, who had always hoped that the beautiful site for which he had cared so well may one day become a place to draw people closer to God. Mrs. Swing, her son Father John Swing her daughter, Jeanne, and the other children helped realize Mr. Swing's dream.

The Board of Directors, staff, and volunteers of the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe extend their heartfelt sentiments of sympathy to the Swing family on the death of Mrs. Swing, and express their gratitude for the profound generosity of the Swing family in helping to make possible the construction of the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

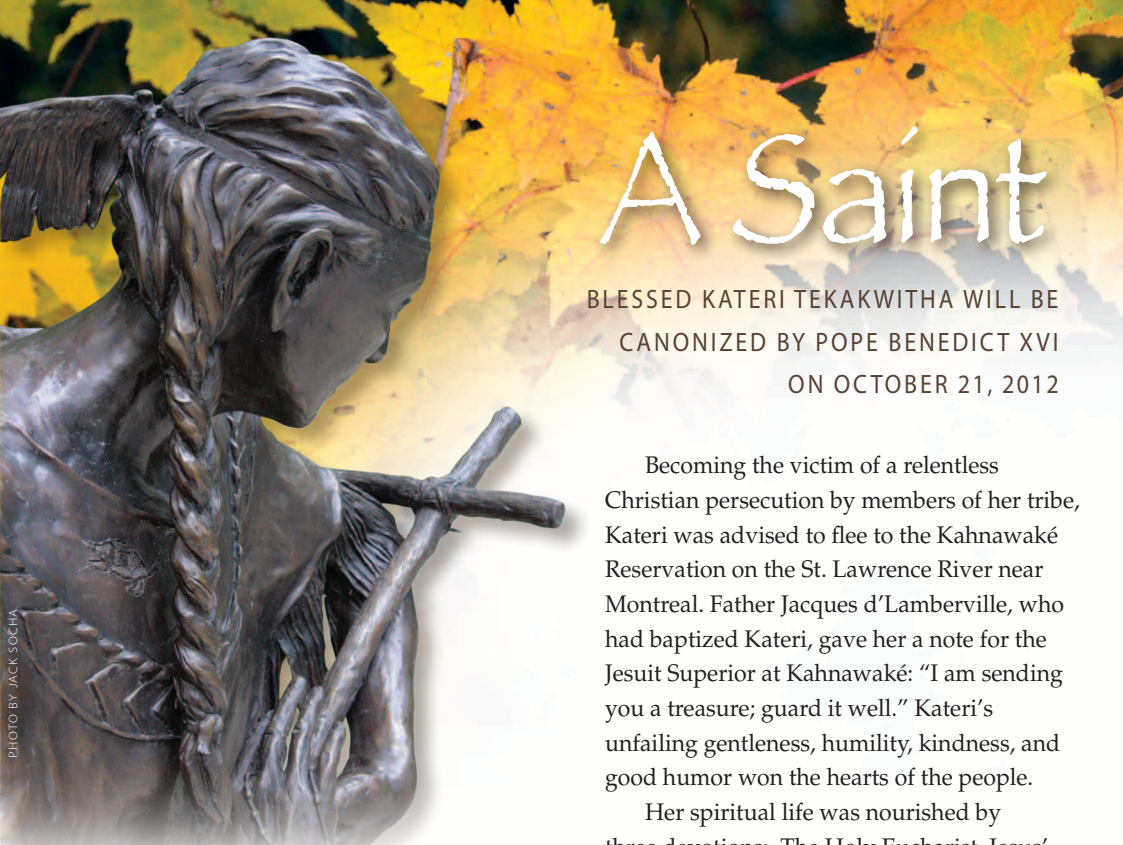


PHOTO BY JACK SOCHA

A Saint

BLESSED KATERI TEKAKWITHA WILL BE
CANONIZED BY POPE BENEDICT XVI
ON OCTOBER 21, 2012

Becoming the victim of a relentless Christian persecution by members of her tribe, Kateri was advised to flee to the Kahnawaké Reservation on the St. Lawrence River near Montreal. Father Jacques d’Lamberville, who had baptized Kateri, gave her a note for the Jesuit Superior at Kahnawaké: “I am sending you a treasure; guard it well.” Kateri’s unfailing gentleness, humility, kindness, and good humor won the hearts of the people.

Her spiritual life was nourished by three devotions: The Holy Eucharist, Jesus’ Passion and the Holy Rosary. She attended Holy Mass daily, then spent time “looking at Jesus” hidden in the Tabernacle. She also practiced mortification. She never neglected her work, however, but did her chores while maintaining communion with her Savior.

A year before she died, on the Solemnity of the Annunciation, she made a vow of perpetual virginity. In this way, Kateri gave herself entirely to Jesus. A year later, on Wednesday of Holy Week, April 17, 1680, Kateri “peacefully fell asleep” with “Jesus and Mary” on her lips. She was only 24 years old. The scars that had marred her face vanished at her death, and she became radiantly beautiful, outwardly expressing the purity of her soul.

Favors and miracles obtained through her intercession occurred immediately. She appeared three times to Father Claude Chauchetière, S.J. She also appeared to Anastasia, a woman whom Kateri had called “Mother”: “She carried a cross in her hand which was more brilliant than everything else.” Speaking to Anastasia, Kateri speaks to us as well: “Look at this cross and see how beautiful it is. It was the source of all my happiness during my life, and I counsel you to make it yours.” ✨

Before she died, Kateri Tekakwitha spoke to those at her bedside, and she speaks thus to each of us today: “I will love you in Heaven. I will help you. I will pray for you.” Who was this young Mohawk who glowed with love of Jesus?

Tekakwitha was born in 1656 at Ossernenon, a village in New York, where St. Isaac Jogues was martyred in 1646. Her mother had in fact been evangelized by the first Jesuit missionaries. In 1660, a smallpox epidemic ravaged her village. Her parents and brother died, and her face was left permanently scarred from the smallpox. Her tribe moved to nearby Caughnawaga, and Ossernenon was burned because of the plague of smallpox. Tekakwitha never forgot the Christian faith of her mother, even though her relatives did not permit her to study or practice the faith, after her mother’s death. She recalled the Christian hymns which her mother sang and the Rosary.

When Tekakwitha was 20 years old, the “Black Robes” arrived and began to catechize the people. Tekakwitha listened to them and tried to learn as much as possible about Jesus and His Church. On Easter Sunday in 1676, Tekakwitha was baptized and given the name “Kateri” (“Catherine”).

Please join us for Holy Mass in Celebration of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha’s Canonization, in the Shrine Church, on Sunday, October 21, 2012.

STORY: Compiled and written by Sister M. Ancilla Matter, F.S.G.M., M.A.



Only known portrait of Kateri Tekakwitha, 1690, Canada (ca. 1690), Father Claude Chauchetière, S.J.

Pope John Paul II, on the Occasion of
Kateri Tekakwitha’s Beatification
in 1980:

“Her beatification should remind us that we are all called to a life of holiness, for in Baptism, God has chosen each one of us ‘to be holy and spotless and to live through love in his presence’ (Eph. 1:4). Holiness of life – union with Christ through prayer and works of charity – is not something reserved to a select few among the members of the Church. It is the vocation of everyone.

My brothers and sisters, may you be inspired and encouraged by the life of Blessed Kateri. Look to her for an example of fidelity; see in her a model of purity and love; turn to her in prayer for assistance. May God bless you as He blessed her.”

PRAYER TO The Lily of the Mohawks

Blessed Kateri, you are revered as the mystic of the American wilderness. Though orphaned at the age of four, and left with a scarred face and damaged eyesight from illness, you were esteemed among the Mohawk tribe. When you asked to be baptized a Christian you subjected yourself to abuse by your people and were forced to run away. You endured many trials but still flowered in prayer and holiness, dedicating yourself totally to Christ. I ask you to be my spiritual guide along my journey through life. Through your intercession, I pray that I may always be loyal to my faith in all things. Amen.

Prayer from: www.usccb.org



PHOTO BY BOB METCALF

Saint Gianna Beretta Molla painting at one of the side-aisle shrines in the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church.

A MODERN DAY GIANNA STORY

Gianna Ramsay



“ Love the Virgin Mary.
She is our tender confidant in difficulty.
Mary is the mother
who cannot ignore our requests.”

*Saint Gianna Beretta Molla (1922 - 1962)
Canonized May 2004 by Blessed Pope John Paul II*

In the Saint Gianna Beretta Molla painting (left), Gianna Ramsay is above the right shoulder of Saint Gianna.

Scott and Amy Ramsay were married in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, during the summer of 2001. Hoping to start a family, nearly a year passed, and they were not able to conceive a child. The following two years found the couple praying, having medical tests run, tracking temperatures, and taking medications – using every permissible means to conceive a child – but to no avail.

They felt called to explore international adoption, although they needed to establish a financial plan first, given the costs involved in such adoption procedures. Simultaneously, they continued to try to conceive a child.

After they had lived in La Crosse, Wisconsin, for a few months, Amy saw an announcement in the St. James the Less Parish bulletin that St. Gianna’s relics were coming to the area. Amy knew very little about St. Gianna but liked the fact that she is a patron of mothers. Unfortunately, the weekend of the St. Gianna presentation,

Amy was committed to attend a baby shower in Oshkosh. She encouraged her husband to attend the event and to pray for a baby.

After the years of infertility, Amy really did not think that she would conceive. Amy, like many people who struggle with infertility, entertained grasping-at-straws daydreams: perhaps the money for an adoption would come through; a new test would reveal a very simple and curable cause of the infertility; or one of the young women with whom she works, “finding” herself pregnant, would choose to give her baby to them.

After Holy Mass on the day of the presentation, a few dozen people stayed to learn about St. Gianna and to venerate her relics, namely, a pair of her gloves and a segment of her wedding dress which was sewn into the vestments worn by the priest during Mass.

As Scott made his way to the altar, he “felt faith enter him from outside of himself”.

At that moment he knew that he could ask and receive. Scott touched and prayed with the relic, asking Our Lord that Amy would conceive during their three year plan, and promising God that a baby girl would be named Gianna Beretta, after St. Gianna, and a baby boy would be named Gerard Majella, after the patron saint of pregnant mothers.

Although Scott and Amy had been open to life all throughout their nearly four years of marriage, within a week of Scott’s praying with the relics, Amy conceived a child!

Scott and Amy’s story is a revelation of God’s goodness! God has given the world a beautiful gift in St. Gianna, not only as a model wife and mother, but also as a powerful intercessor, through whom He has given Scott and Amy the gift of their beautiful daughter, Gianna Beretta Ramsay! 🍁

Taken from a story by Amy Ramsay, mother of Gianna.
Edited by Sister M. Ancilla Matter, F.S.G.M., M.A.

V E N E R A B L E

Bishop Frederic Baraga

Frederic Baraga was born in Slovenia in 1797. Ordained a priest in 1823, he traveled to the United States to be a missionary in 1830 to the Ottawa and Ojibwa region of the upper Great Lakes. Father Baraga traveled throughout the 80,000 square mile territory, spanning upper Michigan and Wisconsin, Minnesota and Canada, by canoe, boat, horse, snowshoes, and dog sled. He was consecrated a bishop of what is now the Diocese of Marquette in 1853.

Robert Edenton's portrait of Bishop Frederic Baraga, which is located in the lower Narthex of the Shrine Church, includes symbols which allow us to better know the Venerable Bishop Baraga.

The **GLOBE** hints at just how far his influence reached: from Eastern Europe over into the wilderness of the upper-Midwest.

The wall **MAP** is true to that time period and shows the vast territory in which Baraga ministered for 37 years. He made many journeys under the harshest and most dangerous of conditions.

Baraga's treks through snowy terrain would have been impossible without **SNOWSHOES**. For this reason, Baraga is known as the "Snowshoe Priest."

Bishop Baraga's goal was to make God known and loved by all. Thus, he learned to speak the languages of the Native Americans, for whom he compiled dictionaries, catechisms, Scriptural and devotional **BOOKS**. Several of these are seen in the foreground. Many of the books in the background are actual titles of that time period. (Perhaps, based on personal interests and location, Baraga would have read some of these titles.)

The **DOVE**, traditionally a symbol of peace, represents the peaceful relationship between Bishop Baraga and the Native Americans.

As a successor of the Apostles, Bishop Baraga's motto emblazoned on his **COAT OF ARMS**, "One thing is necessary," (Lk 10:42), gave focus to his service of God's people.

As shepherd, the **ECCLESIASTICAL GARMENTS** that Bishop Baraga is wearing – an amaranth cassock, a mozzetta, a zucchetto, and a gold pectoral cross suspended from a chain – are based both on what he was known to have worn as well as what would have been customary for a bishop of his time to wear.

The position of his **HANDS** hints at a peaceful nature, but not entirely idle; a calm demeanor, yet ready to open his arms at any time.

Bishop Alexander K. Sample, the fourth successor of Bishop Baraga and a member of the Board of Directors of the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe said, "Venerable Frederic Baraga is a great model and intercessor for us as we go about the New Evangelization, seeking to do so with the same zeal and fervor he exhibited in his own life and ministry."

The Venerable Bishop Baraga died on January 19, 1868. On the day his funeral, practically all work in Marquette, Michigan stopped. Over 3,000 people gathered at St. Peter Cathedral in Marquette for the Funeral Mass. ~

Venerable Frederic Baraga, pray for us!

STORY: Taken from artist Robert Edenton's description. Written by Sister M. Ancilla Matter, F.S.G.M., M.A.

Portraits

Three portraits in the lower Narthex of the Shrine Church honor holy men who have personal ties to the State of Wisconsin: the Venerable Solanus Casey, O.F.M. Cap, the Venerable Samuel Mazzuchelli, O.P., and the Venerable Bishop Frederic Baraga. Artist Robert Edenton of Chicago was commissioned to portray the lives of these men in portraiture. One of them, Venerable Bishop Baraga, is especially known for his total self-giving ministry to the spiritual needs of the local people, most particularly the Native Americans in what was then the Northwest Territory.

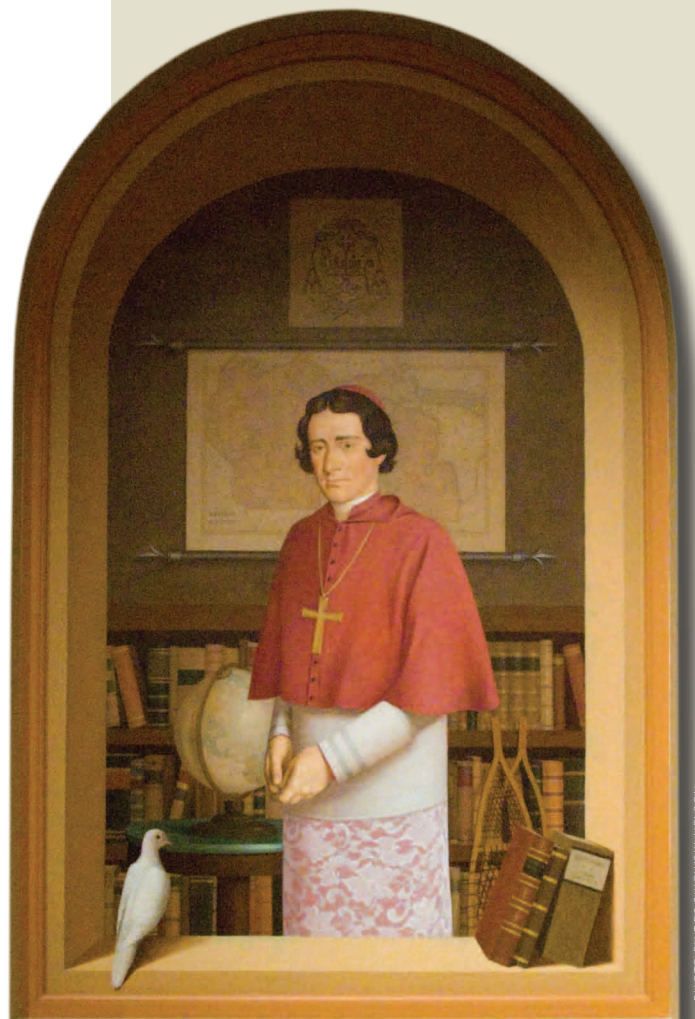


PHOTO BY DEB SIKOWSKI/NELSON

"O Mary ... Jesus loves you greatly...
He promises that at all times He is ready to help us
at your request..."

VENERABLE FREDERIC BARAGA



(L - R) Friar Joseph M. Schmitzer, F.I.,
Fr. Peter Damian M. Fehlner, F.I., and Fr. Jacinto M. Chapin, F.I.

PHOTO BY DES SIKOWSKI-NELSON



Franciscan Friars OF THE IMMACULATE

PHOTO BY BOB METCALF



PHOTO BY DES SIKOWSKI-NELSON



PHOTO BY MATTHEW KOBGER

In 2007, then-Archbishop Raymond Leo Burke approached the Franciscan Friars of the Immaculate to request that they provide pastoral care and spiritual assistance at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe. On July 13, 2008, three Franciscan Friars of the Immaculate arrived in La Crosse and took up residence at the Blessed John Duns Scotus Friary.

The Franciscan Friars of the Immaculate were founded by two Franciscan friars, Father Stefano Maria Manelli and Father Gabriel Maria Pellettieri, on August 2, 1970, in the Marian house “Mary Most Holy of Good Counsel,” at Frigento in the province of Avellino, Italy. Fathers Manelli and Pellettieri outlined a form of life for friars, sisters, and laity after the example of Saint Maximilian Mary Kolbe, giving the fullest expression to the Marian dimension of Saint Francis’ ideal and Rule.

The Franciscans of the Immaculate was established as a diocesan institute in 1990. The Institute was erected as a religious institute of pontifical right by Blessed Pope John Paul II on January 1, 1998, the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God.

Like their Seraphic Father Saint Francis, the Franciscans of the Immaculate strive to be perfectly conformed to the poor, humble, crucified Jesus through a life of obedience, supernatural charity and poverty. They are totally consecrated to the Immaculate Virgin.

At the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Franciscan Friars of the Immaculate provide spiritual assistance and pastoral care for pilgrims by the celebration of the Sacraments, especially the Holy Mass and the Sacrament of Penance, by preaching, and by delivering talks to groups of pilgrims upon request. The Friars also assist in the spiritual and doctrinal formation of members of the Marian Catechist Apostolate.

Father Peter Damian M. Fehlner, F.I., was the first Rector of the Shrine Church. Father Jacinto M. Chapin, F.I., is the current Rector of the Shrine Church, and Friar Joseph M. Schmitzer, F.I., serves as sacristan of the Shrine Church. Father Peter Damian continues to serve at the Shrine. ✨

For more information about the
Franciscan Friars of the Immaculate, please visit www.marymediatrix.com

STORY: Compiled and written by Eugene Diamond.

PHOTO BY DES SIKOWSKI-NELSON



Sisters OF ST. FRANCIS OF THE MARTYR ST. GEORGE

In 2000, the Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George were invited by then-Bishop Burke to come to La Crosse, Wisconsin, to staff the Mater Redemptoris House of Formation. In La Crosse, the Sisters are active in other apostolates as well, such as assisting in the work of the Diocesan Vocations Office and at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

The Sisters' Congregation was founded by then-pastor of St. George Parish in Thuine, Germany, Father Gerhard Dall, and Sister M. Anselma Bopp on November 25, 1869. The Sisters observe the Franciscan Rule of the Third Order.

Consecrated to the Sacred Heart, the Sisters' spirituality finds expression in Scripture: "They will look on the One whom they have pierced" (Jn 19:37). Looking on Him and drawing from the fountain of salvation that is His pierced side, the Sisters maintain inner unity in the various activities of their Congregation and fidelity to their way of life. Motivated by their charism to *make His merciful love visible in their service*, the Sisters seek to respond to what is needed according to the signs of the times, within the Congregation, among children, youth, the aged, the sick, the poor and needy of every condition.

St. Francis of Assisi, the Franciscans' Seraphic Father, exhorted his followers to keep in mind the example of the Virgin Mary, to whom Gabriel the Archangel made known the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and in whose womb He took on our weak human nature. Because Mary is the *Virgin made Church*, the Sisters imitate her as the Handmaid of the Lord, and their devotion to her is expressed especially by praying the Rosary and including her name in their religious names.

At the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Sisters have served in a variety of roles since its beginning. Currently, Sister M. Ancilla serves in various capacities, such as Volunteer Coordinator, Assistant to the Pilgrimage Coordinator, editor of Shrine publications, and organist. Her fellow Sisters volunteer at the Shrine and are available to talk to pilgrim groups upon request.

Most importantly, however, the Sisters provide a religious presence among those who serve at the Shrine and among the pilgrims who seek Christ's Merciful Love in company with Our Lady of Guadalupe and the Saints who are honored here. ~

For more information about the Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George, please visit www.altonfranciscans.org

STORY: Written by Sister M. Ancilla Matter, F.S.G.M., M.A.

PHOTO: Sister M. Ancilla Matter, Volunteer Coordinator, discusses details of the grounds map with volunteer Tom Larkin.

www.guadalupeshrine.org

WISH LIST

We are grateful for all the monetary gifts and in-kind donations that are given to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The Shrine is supported solely by gifts and donations. Thank you for your continued prayers and generosity.



Ambo Panels (6)

ESTIMATED COST: \$8,500 each
These hand carved, wooden panels will honor the four Evangelists and Saints Peter and Paul.



Golf Carts (4)

ESTIMATED COST: \$8,200 each (new)
We are interested in new or 'like new' carts.

Archway to the Stations of the Cross

ESTIMATED COST: \$94,500

Saints Isidore and Maria de la Cabeza Outdoor Devotional Area

ESTIMATED COST: \$245,000

The funds will be used for the bronze sculpture, excavating, and landscaping. Saints Isidore and Maria are the Patron Saints of Farmers.



Endowment Trust

In the hope of ensuring that we will have funds to pay for operational expenses well into the future, we have established an endowment trust. After we receive donations totaling at least \$10,000,000, a percentage of the trust fund will be made available to the Shrine every year to pay for ongoing operational expenses.

If you are interested in helping us with any of the items listed or other opportunities, please contact Leif Aroldson, Executive Director, at (877) 799-4059 or email larvidson@guadalupeshrine.org.

WWW.GUADALUPESHINE.ORG



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EVENTS

SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE



PHOTO BY BOB METCALF

Cardinal Burke will offer the Holy Mass, at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, on December 9th and 12th.

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION
November 3

FEAST OF BL. MIGUEL AUGUSTIN PRO and RELIC VENERATION
November 23

SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE
November 25

FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION
December 1

SAINT NICHOLAS OF MYRA: A CELEBRATION FOR CHILDREN
December 1

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 2

HOLY DAY: IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
December 8

MARIAN FEAST DAY DINNER
December 8 *(reservations required)*

FEAST OF SAINT JUAN DIEGO GUILD DAY
December 9

SOLEMNITY OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE
December 12

HOLY DAY: NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
December 25

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY
December 30

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY PROCESSION
October 20

CELEBRATION OF THE CANONIZATION OF BLESSED KATERI TEKAKWITHA
October 21

WEEKLY SPANISH MASS

The Franciscan Friars of the Immaculate celebrate Holy Mass in Spanish each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. in the Shrine Church. All are welcome!

www.guadalupe Shrine.org

Find us at:



BACKGROUND PHOTO BY JAK SOCHA