

NOVEMBER 1st, 2011
ALL SAINTS

Dear Guadalupanas and Peregrinos.

Today the “Church” prayed, “Around your throne the Saints, our brothers and sisters, sing your praise for ever. Their glory fills us with joy, and their communion with us in your Church gives us inspiration and strength as we hasten on our pilgrimage of faith, eager to meet them. With their great company and all the angels we praise your glory as we cry out with one voice.” (Preface, All Saints) As pilgrims we choose to follow the Saints, as St. Paul writes in the second reading for the feast of All Saints, “Everyone who has this hope based on him makes himself pure, as he is pure.” (I Jn 3-3) This year we will look to “Mary”, “Our Lady of Guadalupe,” as our guide and companion. The theme for our pilgrimages in 2012 is, “Blessed is the fruit of your womb.” (Lk 1:42)

When we pray the rosary, angelus, four o’clock prayer, and chaplets during the pilgrimage, the “Hail Mary” becomes the prayer of the pilgrimage. Mary is our companion along the way. We hope to grow not only in our understanding of this prayer but also deepen our relationship with Mary and her Son, Jesus, the fruit of her womb.

This year marks forty years since the seeds of the pilgrimage were planted. What was intended to be a reward and adventure was transformed as soon at the goal and intent became a pilgrimage to the Santuario. Over the next few years the Spirit would clarify the vision. We now undertake the Pilgrimages for Vocations to pray for vocations to the Priesthood, Consecrated Life, Diaconate, Sacramental Marriage and the Single Life. It is with deep gratitude that this year’s pilgrimages will have a special meaning for all past, present and future Peregrinos and Guadalupanas. We have prayed in hope over these years and God has not abandoned us. Anyone who has participated in the pilgrimage over these years has been invited by the Spirit to look and see “Who” they are becoming. Prayer and Sacrifice is the heart and soul of our pilgrimages. We have all grown and for many their “vocation” has become apparent.

Our pilgrimages do not just happen. They require our constant discernment and action in order to make the pilgrimages a source of spiritual growth for body and spirit. Throughout the year the steering committee meets regularly to evaluate and implement the evolution of the pilgrimage. As Deacon Don say’s, “No one has made this pilgrimage yet.” Only by the grace of God do we all meet at the Santuario on Saturday, knowing that the sacrifice and prayer of each Guadalupana and Peregrino will bear fruit in God’s time. Before we start our pilgrimages we must all do our part in making sure we are ready physically, spiritually, and emotionally.

Please mark your calendars with the following dates.

December 12th, 2011, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Last day to register for May and June pilgrimages. Local leaders are to send one check to Deacon Don made out to the “Pilgrimages for Vocations”. Local leader is responsible for letting their group know how they will handle the registration fees. For the June Pilgrimage three of our routes will have limits (number of participants on the route) East (50), West (40) and North (50). The Peregrinos will be coming from the North for the next three years. It has been two years since the Peregrinos have come from the North. In order to avoid the anticipated number of registrations from the north please note that preference, as in the past will be given to those Peregrinos who have not gone from the North and live in the North. This

will allow them to walk through their home community. Depending on the number of registrations others will be added. So you may not get your first preference this year. Please be ready to go on another route, both Guadalupanas and Peregrinos.

Mothers Day Pilgrimage: Saturday, May 12th, 2012. Pilgrims begin to arrive at the Santuario between 9:00 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. Mass begins when all have arrived.

Day of Recollection for Mothers Day Pilgrimage: As we did last year, the local group will be responsible for their own evening or day of recollection. After our evaluation last July many of our local groups found this was a good opportunity for them to grow.

June Pilgrimage: After some discussion at the steering committee, it was recommended that we continue to call the week long pilgrimage, the “June Pilgrimage”, even when the pilgrimage starts in May.

June Pilgrimage: Sunday, May 27th, 2012 to Saturday, June 2nd, 2012. On Saturday pilgrims begin to arrive at 9:00 a.m. After all routes have arrived the concluding rituals will take place, followed by Mass.

THE FOLLOWING TWO EVENTS ARE MANDATORY FOR ALL JUNE PILGRIMAGE PARTICIPANTS.

June Pilgrimage Retreat: Saturday, March 24th, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. and closing with Mass at 5:00 p.m. at, Church of the Ascension in Albuquerque. Please bring any music instruments and lanyard with name tag.

Formation Session: Sunday, May 6th, 2012 from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Guadalupe in Taos. Please note this is a change from meeting the week after the Mothers day Pilgrimage.

Orientation for new pilgrims will be determined after registrations are in.
Leadership Day of Recollection (Rectors, Spiritual Directors, Local Leaders of both May and June pilgrimages) will be determined at the November Steering committee meeting.

Pilgrimage Shell and Lanyard: With our third taste of food at any meal, we promise to learn the way of simplicity. One way of accomplishing this is to reduce the way we express our uniqueness. Last year the Pilgrimage Shell and Lanyard (Red & Yellow) with a white t-shirt or polo became the articulation of distinctiveness. The white t-shirt or polo, lanyard and pilgrimage shell are to be worn for the closing rituals and mass. For the May Pilgrimage new pilgrims will receive their Lanyard and Pilgrimage Shell at the local day of recollection before the Mothers Day pilgrimage. New pilgrims for the June pilgrimage will receive their Pilgrimage Shell on Friday evening of the June pilgrimage. If you are a veteran Guadalupana or Peregrino and did not register or walk last year you will receive your Pilgrimage shell at the retreat for the June pilgrimage. Veteran May pilgrims will receive Pilgrimage Shell and lanyard at their local day of recollection.

In recent remarks about promoting vocations to the priesthood, Pope Benedict XVI underlined three main points: the desire to collaborate with Jesus in spreading the kingdom of God; the fact the priestly vocation comes from grace and not merit; and the attitude of service. He said the call to priestly ministry is an “encounter with Jesus and being fascinated by him, overcome by his words, his

gestures, his own person.” He added, the clergy “must never forget...the Lord’s call to ministry is not the result of special merit, but is a gift to be accepted...according to his will, even if it does not correspond to our desires for self-realization.” There is a freedom and joy only God can give when one responds to this gift. As Guadalupanas and Peregrinos we also accept the Spirits invitation to pray and sacrifice for those who are being called. With Mary, and all the Saints we pick up the Guia for another pilgrimage of faith.

Be safe and well, peace, love and courage.

Fr. Ed

Fr. Edmund Savilla

Overall Spiritual Director

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