

Homily – Memorial Mass for María Josefa de la Consolación Leal de la Garza – September 27, 2022

In the gospel, there is a story about ten lepers miraculously cleansed by Jesus. They were cured on their way to show themselves to the priests, as they had been instructed. In the end, only one returned to thank the Lord. There is an old rhyme in Spanish saying: “Es de bien nacidos ser agradecidos.” It means that being grateful is a sign of a good upbringing.

Our celebration today bears witness – first of all – to the depth of impact that María Josefa de la Consolación Leal de la Garza made on her adopted descendants. It is most appropriate to offer her – and her husband Leonardo – our gratitude in the name of Christ. Many years have passed, and her love is still remembered. That is remarkable!

St. John – the Evangelist and Apostle – tells us that “we are God’s children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.” (1Jn 3:2). And quoting the prophet Isaiah, St. Paul says: “‘What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love him,’ this God has revealed to us through the Spirit.” (1Cor 2:9-10).

The Lord did rise again from the dead, and he appeared to his disciples for 40 days before he ascended into heaven in their presence. He had come back from the dead to attest to the Father’s mercy and to give them a foretaste of what awaits for those who follow Him. He wanted to strengthen their faith

and increase their hope, so they could follow his directive to announce the Good News to the world. And then the Father and the Son sent the Holy Spirit into the world for the followers of Jesus to participate in His mission.

Through the testimony of Consolación, the Holy Spirit inspires and comforts us. He helps us truly believe that “The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment shall touch them,” (Wis) even if we cannot see them. Through their legacy, nonetheless, we foretaste what awaits us when we encounter each other again in heaven.

The Lord helps us undergo the trials of this life “as gold in the furnace,” while he increases our hope in God’s justice, which manifests itself through mercy. He helps us accept and store his grace, as oil for the lamps we have been given in our baptism. Finally, He enlightens our charity, in anticipation of the coming of the bridegroom of the Church, our Lord Jesus Christ.

The best way to honor the legacy of Consolación is to walk by faith with courage, as St. Paul suggests. Let us ask the Lord for his mercy to shine upon her and for the Holy Spirit to sanctify us, through the spread of hope and love.

May Our Lady of Guadalupe intercede for Consolación and for us.

Ven, Holy Spirit, Ven!