

Homily – Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast

December 12, 2019

We gather at midnight during a time of widespread darkness in our nation, our world. There is so much arrogance, greed, division and polarization. There is widespread lack of respect for the truth, for the dignity and value of each human life. We live in a time me of great chaos and confusion -- and the reign of the forces of darkness.

However, we are not alone. God is with us. God's first creative words were "let there be light!" Jesus is the light of the world, shining in the darkness! Being a missionary disciple of the risen Lord means seeing events and persons as God sees them – with the light of faith. We rely on hope and trust in God's unconditional and abiding love for us.

We gather in darkness this night led by the light of the "star of the new evangelization," Our Lady of Guadalupe. Our Lady is the light of the dawn, dispelling the darkness that surrounds us! She comforts us with her maternal presence and embrace. Pope Francis has said that Our Lady is the "mother of hope," the one who accompanies and encourages us on our pilgrim way on earth.

In the gospel, Jesus, his mother, and his disciples attend a wedding in Cana. Mary notices that they have run out of wine and calls upon her son to solve the problem. He does! There is a deeper meaning in this story. At hand was the water used for Jewish ceremonial washings – not simple water. It was not ordinary wine that Jesus created, but wine of the quality and surprising quantity. The prophets of Israel had often described the messianic age as a superabundance of wonderful wine. The marriage feast at Cana is the beginning of the messianic banquet for which the People of God had waited so long and eagerly. It also anticipates the Last Supper, when Jesus transforms wine into his own Precious Blood. And it all happens because of the sensitivity and intercession of his mother!

Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared to St. Juan Diego and brought unity to two peoples in the Americas. She will show us the way to bridge the chasms that divide, to open up the possibilities for the eventual unity of all peoples. As Pope Francis said at the Basilica in Mexico City: Our Lady says to us “be my ambassador. . . giving food to the hungry, drink to those who thirst, a refuge to those in need, clothe the naked and visit the sick. Come to the aid of those in prison, do not leave them alone, forgive whomever has offended you, console the grieving, be patient with others.” Dear Mother of God, show us the way! Lord God, send your Holy Spirit upon us to carry on your mission! *Ven, Holy Spirit, ven!*