



# THE RAY

*The newsletter of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center*

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Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center  
2281 North Swan Boulevard  
Wauwatosa, WI 53226

(414) 302-0240  
[www.ourladyofgracespiritualitycenter.org](http://www.ourladyofgracespiritualitycenter.org)

## *From the Desk of Mary...*



Greetings from Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center.

I begin by informing you of the passing of my precious mother, Angeline DeSantis, on March 6, 2024 at the age of 97 after having received her last anointing days before. I could never thank Our Lord enough for giving me such a loving and generous mom.

Her devotion to Our Lady has accompanied me from my earliest days, and her kindness and encouragement helped make my education and training for the work of spiritual direction possible.

In considering a theme for this issue, I recalled how she readily gave me permission to spend my sophomore year of college as a participant in a foreign studies program in Mexico City sponsored by the University of Notre Dame.

When our Notre Dame group arrived in July of 1976, the old Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe was structurally unstable and about to permanently close. We had the opportunity to visit it in those final weeks when the doors were still open. And then on the evening of December 11, 1976, we joined pilgrims from around the world inside the new basilica to celebrate her feast at midnight in song and prayer for the first time in that sacred space.

As a way of honoring my mother's love of both Our Blessed Mother and our country, I am devoting this issue to Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas. Included here is an excellent article by Monsignor Charles M. Mangan of the Diocese of Sioux Falls, SD entitled "Our Lady of Guadalupe: Lessons for Our Day". We are very grateful to him for his continued generous support of the Center.

I would also invite you to consider making a beautiful novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe initiated by His Eminence Raymond Cardinal Burke which began in March of this year, and culminates on her feast day, December 12, 2024. As he posts on his website, it is not too late to begin. Cardinal Burke invites the world to join

him today in imploring Our Lady of Guadalupe, "...In our hearts and in our nation, lead us to Him who alone wins the victory over sin and darkness in us and in our world."

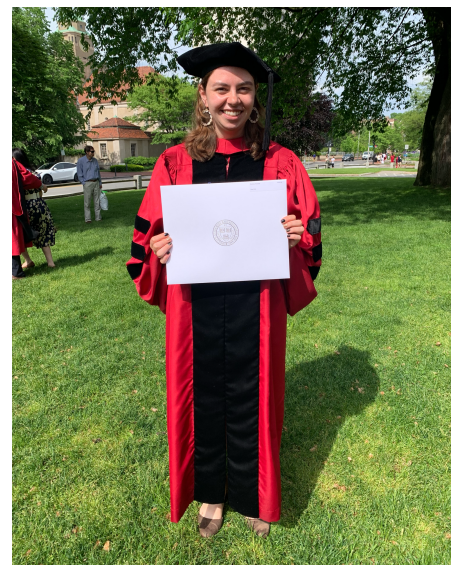
To join this novena for our nation and our world or to download the full text of this prayer, visit:

<https://novena.cardinalburke.com>.

On a very joyful note, we celebrate the great accomplishment of our wonderful newsletter volunteer of many years, Nicolette Bardele, who was awarded a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Sociology from Harvard University on May 23, 2024. Congratulations, Dr. Bardele! May God bless you and protect you in all your professional pursuits and make you a great saint.

The work of the Center continues to be richly blessed. We are so grateful to you for your prayers, referrals, and generous support. Together in mission with you, we are helping young adults discern God's plan for them through careful discernment. And many others continue to benefit from spiritual direction as they sincerely seek the holiness to which we are all called.

May your summer be filled with many restful moments enjoying the peace and joy that come from belonging totally and completely to Christ.



Dr. Nicolette Bardele at her  
Harvard University graduation on  
May 23, 2024

## *Our Lady of Guadalupe: Lessons for Our Day*

*Monsignor Charles M. Mangan*

The alluring story of the apparitions of Our Blessed Lady to Saint Juan Diego in 1531 is increasingly better well known throughout the world. Seemingly more and more persons are coming to realize that even though these noteworthy appearances occurred in North America, their deep significance is universal.

The “Guadalupe event” was quite straightforward: the Ever-Virgin Mother of God showed herself to an unlettered peasant and directed him to approach the local Bishop. Although wary of such a spectacular claim on the part of Juan, the Bishop believed when he saw the delightful roses and the image of Our Blessed Mother on Juan’s tilma.

Such a halt to the indescribable sin of human sacrifice, however, was not unexpected. Why? Because Our Lady was involved! It was her firm gentleness that impressed those responsible for this abhorrent act. They soon realized that Mary would never countenance any sin against human life. Hence, they knew that they needed to make a break with this reprehensible tradition.

Our Blessed Mother’s visitation to Guadalupe teaches us about many things: the utter goodness of the Madonna in appearing to the human race (thanks to the mercy of our Creator), the heroic patience of Saint Juan Diego, the humble willingness of the Bishop to accept the divine sign. But let us not forget another important lesson: the strength of Mary’s example and the power that comes from her heavenly intercession.

The people in the area near Guadalupe were changed by the apparitions. These men and women, boys and girls came to know the unique person of Mary. They marveled at her—the loving Mother of Jesus. And very soon they accepted a vital truth: the Mother of the Messiah really does care how we act. It is not enough that we believe in her and venerate her as the Immaculate Virgin now assumed into Paradise. Our words and deeds must mirror our belief. We must permit the Virgin’s example and prayers to convert us.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas, Pray for Us.



*As Always...*

This newsletter is made possible through the generosity and skills of Dr. Nicolette Bardele.

“Our Lady is brilliantly seen in the mestizo countenance of this image of Mary of Guadalupe who appeared in the beginning of the evangelization of the Americas.... I ask her to ‘visit’ as a ‘pilgrim of faith’ – each and every diocese, parish, and family in America, repeating to her children what she did at Cana, ‘Do whatever He tells you.’ (Jn: 2:5). May she cross this continent bringing it ‘life, sweetness and hope!’”<sup>1</sup>

- Saint John Paul II

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/seasons-and-feast-days/our-lady-of-guadalupe-21357>

To learn more about Our Lady of Guadalupe's image on the tilma of Saint Juan Diego and its miraculous qualities, visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KEhJwCsDDsc>

### *Serra Club of Milwaukee, Thank You!*

Last December we received a generous grant from the Serra Club of Milwaukee to cover most of the rent of our office space in 2024 in recognition of the spiritual direction and vocational discernment we offer young adults who come to us at Our Lady of Grace. We are honored to receive this funding, and very grateful for all that the Serrans do to promote vocations in the Church.

We are so grateful for any donation to the Center. All donations are tax-deductible and may be made payable to **Our Lady of Grace** and mailed to:

**Our Lady of Grace Catholic Spirituality Center**  
c/o Josh Gentine  
1912 NW 21<sup>st</sup> Street  
Oklahoma City, OK 73106

Or, if you prefer, kindly visit our online giving site at:  
<https://snwbl.it/OurLadyofGrace>