# December 12th: Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Queen of Mexico, Patroness of the Americas and the Philippines)

**Gospel text (*Lk* 1:39-48):** Mary then set out for a town in the Hills of Judah. She entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leapt in her womb. Elizabeth was filled with Holy Spirit, and giving a loud cry, said, «You are most blessed among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb! How is it that the mother of my Lord comes to me? The moment your greeting sounded in my ears, the baby within me suddenly leapt for joy. Blessed are you who believed that the Lord's word would come true!».

And Mary said: «My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit exults in God my savior! He has looked upon his servant in her lowliness, and people forever will call me blessed».

***«People forever will call me blessed»***

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Today, Mexico solemnly celebrates Our Lady of Guadalupe, venerated as Queen of the Mexican people. All America also celebrates as its Patroness. But there is still more: everyone is happy with this celebration of our Mother. Not in vain the Holy Spirit inspired her these words: "People forever will call me blessed" (Lk 1,48).

All generations and from all over the world! Does it seem like an exaggeration? Well, it is not. Let's ask ourselves, for example: how many times today we will repeat in the whole world "blessed are you among women"? Millions and millions of times. In one day! And so every day! The Holy Spirit was not wrong.

Virgin Mary is a unique case: no other person is remembered as she is all over the world. It is a "unique case" just as his Son Jesus is, because "there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

There is also another impressive fact in relation to the Virgin: She is venerated in so many different regions of the world. At the same time, she is frequently represented according to the physiognomy and the characteristics of the place. This happens because Mary is Mother of all and logically each village represents her according to its own image. Children physically resemble their Mother! That's why in Mexico we see her dark and with mestizo features. Nor was it casual that Maria spoke to Juan Diego in the

Aztec language.

But let's try to look like her, spiritually above all. The Virgin of Guadalupe reflects in her eyes her beloved son Juan Diego. Our Mother is watching us! What a great responsibility we have! -Mother, I would like your beautiful eyes to reflect only good things, such as the piety, humility and obedience of Saint Juan Diego ... and the flowers that you gave him and that you like so much...