

NOVENA PRAYER BEFORE THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

PRAYER FOR LIFE

(To be said each day of the novena)

O Mary, bright dawn of the new world, Mother of the living, to you do we entrust the cause of life: Look down, O Mother, upon the vast numbers of babies not allowed to be born, of the poor whose lives are made difficult, of men and women who are victims of brutal violence, of the elderly and the sick killed by indifference or out of misguided mercy. Grant that all who believe in your Son may proclaim the Gospel of life with honesty and love to the people of our time. Obtain for them the grace to accept that Gospel as a gift ever new, the joy of celebrating it with gratitude throughout their lives and the courage to bear witness to it resolutely, in order to build, together with all people of good will, the civilization of truth and love, to the praise and glory of God, the Creator and lover of life. Amen.

Pope John Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae*, 1995



Day One: Holy Mother, you appeared to Saint Juan Diego as a maiden of his own race to reveal that you are the mother of all God's children. Draw close to your heart those who are facing an unexpected pregnancy, so that like you they will say yes to the new life with which God has blessed them. *Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ...*

Day Two: Mary, Mother of divine grace, you appeared to Juan Diego standing on the moon and robed in a royal mantle adorned with stars, showing that you are the Queen of Heaven and Earth, yet far from a haughty or distant Queen. With hands folded in supplication, eyes cast downward in humility and compassion, you did not ask for a temple where you could be honored, but one where you could attend to the "weeping and sorrows of ... all the people of this land, and of the various peoples who love me..." May all who are sorrowing due to abuse, violence, exploitation, neglect, and all sins against the dignity of life, fly to you, Mother, for comfort and hope. *Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ...*

Day Three: Mother of God, your ribboned sash identified you as a pregnant woman, a woman who bore the Christ Child to a world in darkness and who through two millennia has borne the light and love of Christ to a world that has largely rejected Him. May the love of your Son awaken a hymn of thanksgiving and praise in all pregnant mothers, as happened long ago in the home of Elizabeth and Zechariah. *Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ...*

Day Four: Virgin most wise, you chose a humble farmer to announce your motherly concern to the people of Mexico. Although Juan Diego felt unequal to the mission you gave him, you encouraged him to persevere. Faced with powerful anti-life forces today, we also feel unequal to the mission God has given us of building a culture of life and a civilization of love. Help us to persevere always in this great campaign for life, assured of your help and prayers. *Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ...*

Day Five: Virgin gentle in mercy, in Juan Diego's anxiety to bring a priest to his dying uncle he failed to keep his appointment with you. Yet, you rewarded his filial love by restoring his uncle to health. Your compassion allowed Juan Diego to fulfill the mission you gave him, returning to the bishop with the proof the bishop sought. Teach us, Mother, to put God's holy will ahead of all created things, including our loved ones, and help remove the obstacles that prevent us from following God's will. *Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ...*

Day Six: Holy Mary, comfort of the troubled, you sought out Juan Diego when in fear and confusion he took a different route to avoid encountering you. Then you restored his hope and confidence so he could carry out the task you had entrusted to him. Many people today face decisions of life and death filled with fear and confusion. Mother, we ask you to restore their trust and hope in God so that their actions will always affirm the sanctity of human life. *Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ...*

Day Seven: Mystical Rose, your miraculous signs of Castilian roses in winter and your image on the tilma of Juan Diego led to the conversion of eight million Aztec people to Catholicism in just seven years. Mary, Mother of the Americas, intercede again for your children in the Americas, and convert the hearts of all who deny the sanctity of every human life. *Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ...*

Day Eight: Mary, Mother of the Church, your apparitions at Tepeyac and the miraculous image you left fostered unity between Catholic conquerors and clergy and the millions of Aztec converts. Bring unity, Mother, to the various factions within the Church and the wider public so that all may work to establish a culture of life. *Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ...*

Day Nine: Mother of our Savior, the conversion of your Aztec children brought an end to infant sacrifice in Mexico. Holy Mary, we implore your help to end the infant sacrifice by abortion throughout the Americas. *Our Father ... Hail Mary ... Glory be ...*

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE – PRAY FOR US!