



The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington

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November 17, 2023

Dear Brother Priest,

I would like to extend to you my heartfelt gratitude for your ministry and all that you do for the community assigned to your care.

In Pope Francis' October 27, 2023, prayer for peace, he prays in part to "Dry the tears of children" and to "be present to those who are elderly and alone; strengthen the wounded and the sick; protect those forced to leave their lands and their loved ones; console the crestfallen; awaken new hope." We must draw from this prayer passage the tremendous need to welcome and accompany the strangers among us, and to trust that Our Lady of Guadalupe intercedes as we pray for peace in the world.

As you may already know, the devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe among Catholics is vast and through her maternal love, our diverse cultures are being united and evangelized. Annually, The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington commemorates the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, with processions to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and a Mass in her honor.

I want to share the beauty of this devotion with you and therefore I invite you to join for the 11:00 am *Walk With Mary* procession which begins from the Shrine of the Sacred Heart parish and ends at the Basilica. The recitation of the Rosary begins at 1:00 pm. I also invite you to concelebrate the 2:00 pm Mass with the principal celebrant Wilton Cardinal Gregory. See the enclosed flyer for more information. If you plan to concelebrate, please kindly RSVP with the Office of Worship at liturgy@adw.org.

Our display of unity among our communities carries tremendous significance, especially in the current cultural climate, where there is much division. I hope that you can join us for this special Mass.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Evelio Menjivar
Auxiliary Bishop of Washington