

**5<sup>th</sup> Annual Queen of the Americas Guild Conference**  
**Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe**  
**La Crosse, Wisconsin**  
**July 30 & 31, 2010**

The Queen of the Americas Guild was pleased to sponsor its fifth conference at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Crosse, Wisconsin last July 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>. Nestled among the beautiful bluffs of the Mississippi Valley, the Shrine and its founder, Archbishop Raymond L. Burke, share a similar purpose to that of the Guild; to promote devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe.

The conference began on Friday, July 30 with the opening Mass, celebrated by Archbishop Raymond L. Burke, Prefect of the Supreme Tribunal for the Apostolic Signatura in Rome, and concelebrated by Bishop Joseph Madera. After Mass and a lunch break, Guild National Coordinator Rebecca Nichols shared a brief history of the Guild, and also a summary of events and plans for the future.

Immediately following, attendees were treated to a spirited talk by Bishop Joseph J. Madera, Bishop emeritus of the Archdiocese for the Military Services of the U.S.A. Aided by a Powerpoint slide show, Bishop Madera shared his thoughts and interpretation of Our Lady of Guadalupe's self-portrait in his humorous and lively style, which was enjoyed by all. Afterwards, attendees enjoyed some free time to explore the many devotional areas of the Shrine complex.

Before dinner, pilgrims re-convened in the church to say a pro-life rosary, led by our Master of Ceremonies, Marty Rotella. Marty is a Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter with a long association with the Queen of the Americas Guild. Marty's thoughts on life and the mysteries of the rosary allowed for a deeper appreciation of the beautiful rosary prayers.

On Friday evening a delicious gourmet dinner with honored guest Archbishop Burke was enjoyed at the Shrine's Culina Mariana Café. This limited-seating event is always very popular. As always, Archbishop Burke gave selflessly of his time and attention, making sure to visit with every table.

Saturday morning began bright and early with a Holy Hour in the Shrine Church. This was followed by the highlight of the conference, the Keynote Address by Archbishop Raymond Burke. His talk, "Our Lady of Guadalupe: Mirror of Justice" was a thoughtful and informative look into the reasons for rejection of Canon Law in the Post-Conciliar Church and Our Lady of Guadalupe's role in leading us back to Her Son. The full text of the keynote address can be found on the Guild's website

([www.queenoftheamericasguild.org](http://www.queenoftheamericasguild.org)). A beautiful Holy Mass celebrating the second anniversary of the dedication of the Shrine Church followed.

After lunch, speaker Benedict Nguyen guided pilgrims through an explanation of the Church's canonical laws on marriage. As Chancellor for the Diocese of La Crosse and holder of a Licentiate in Canon Law, Mr. Nguyen's expertise led us to a greater understanding of the necessity for fidelity to Canon Law.

Fr. Christopher Kubat, Executive Director of Catholic Social Services of the Diocese of Lincoln, NE was our next speaker. Fr. Kubat is a board-certified urologist, and his medical knowledge laid the groundwork for his talk which stressed the necessity for our adherence to Church teaching regarding the safe-guarding of life at all of its stages.

After a brief break, Archbishop Burke again addressed pilgrims. He spoke about several different topics, including the Shrine, the Marian Catechist Apostolate, and Fr. John Hardon. He then opened the floor to questions, and thoughtfully shared his answers on a variety of subjects.

Marty Rotella closed the conference with a lively concert. His music and beautiful voice were the perfect way to end our spiritual journey. Pilgrims then enjoyed a delicious barbeque dinner together, joined by Archbishop Burke and Bishop Joseph Madera. Their time and talents shared at the conference led us all to a greater understanding of Canon Law and the important role it plays in the Church and our lives every day. We look forward to our next conference at the beautiful Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe!

Rebecca Nichols  
Guild National Coordinator  
August, 2010