

COME, LORD JESUS

BY BISHOP STEPHEN BERG



In the days leading to Christmas, Our Lady of Guadalupe has a special place. In the well-known and beloved image depicted on the Aztec *tilma*, she stands humbly, her face transparent and serene. A black ribbon tied around her waist, in the indigenous fashion, shows both that she is expecting a child and that a new era is about to begin. Her hands are folded in prayer, indicating her readiness to serve. One knee is bent, showing that she is dancing. Importantly, she brings her message to the poor, through the humble agency of Juan Diego. Our Lady of Guadalupe, the little Madonna of the poor, dances in prayer with an expression of deep inner satisfaction and exhilaration. This is the heart's response in joy to God's goodness.

In a time of darkness, we hear the prophets calling, "Shout for Joy! One mightier than all is coming! He brings the Holy Spirit and will set hearts on fire. Prepare the way, make straight the path!" In the Christmas of history not so long ago, God blessed a then forgotten place with the birth of an unknown child. Revealed to the poorest shepherds and proclaimed by the angels, the glory of God burst forth into the world. Jesus was born! Now God searches for each one of us, never to give up. That we may discover this child in the forgotten manglers of our hearts, in our turning to the poor, in our response in joy to God's goodness.

I am counting blessings and thinking of you as we enter into the holy season of Christmas. Through the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Saint Joseph, and the child Jesus, may you and yours be renewed in grace, granted the deepest desires of your hearts, and be given the true gift of encountering the newborn Christ. May the Holy Spirit bring to us all, the blessings of Peace in the New Year to come.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Most Reverend Stephen J. Berg

Bishop of Pueblo

