

Celebrating Life in Communion with Christ *“God Prepares the Way”*

Celebrando la Vida en Comuni3n con Cristo *“Dios Prepara el Camino”*

As you may have already figured out, I firmly believe that God’s hand is always working in our lives, opening doors for us, lifting us up, and blessing us in more ways than we can imagine. The grace of living as God’s steward is being able to understand that it is God, not we, who controls the world.

When I was a child, I always hated the First Sunday of Advent. It seems so harsh with Jesus telling us to stay awake and watch. I felt like I had so much to do to be worthy of celebrating Christmas, and I was afraid that I would get no presents if I let Jesus down. Since I began practicing Stewardship, my spiritual life has changed so much that it has even affected my understanding of the Advent Season.

This First Sunday of Advent, we are called to watch, but watch what? We usually think, “watch out,” but that is not the case. Both Isaiah and St. Paul tell us to watch what God is doing in our lives, to see the deeds that no eye has seen and no ear has heard, to see how God keeps us firm to the end. I was always afraid of watching for the Master’s return, but now I see that the servant who is watching rejoices at the coming of his Master. So too, we can rejoice at the coming of Christ because we are watching God prepare the way for us.

For those of you who are now practicing Stewardship, I encourage you to watch this Advent season. God is preparing the way for you to a life of tremendous blessings and great joy. God’s way is not without suffering, and certainly filled with anxiety for those of us who like to be in control. But Stewardship calls us to trust and watch, and we will rejoice.

Rejoice in Christ,



Our Lady of Guadalupe

In 1531, a peasant Indian named Juan Diego was on his way to morning Mass to pray for his uncle. On the way, on the mountain of Tepeyac, he came across a virgin, dressed in Indian robes, yet they were filled with light and decorated with the stars. The Virgin spoke to him and told him that she is his mother and that he was not forgotten. She sent him to the Bishop (a powerful man in those days) to ask that a church be built to honor her. The Virgin appeared to Juan Diego four times and ultimately convinced the Bishop with the miraculous sign of Juan’s tilma now impressed with the Virgin’s image.

Since 1531, the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe has inspired the conversion of the entire Western hemisphere. Our Lady of Guadalupe has been the intercessor for millions of answered prayers from people of every nation on earth. You are invited to bring your prayers to the Novena of Our Lady of Guadalupe as we once more pray for the conversion of the Americas to Christ.

Como usted quiz3s ya lo not3, yo creo firmemente en que la mano de Dios est3 siempre presente en nuestras vidas, abri3ndonos puertas, levant3ndonos, y bendici3ndonos en formas que nunca nos imaginamos. La gracia de vivir como mayordomos de Dios es ser capaces de reconocer que es Dios, y no nosotros, quien tiene el control del mundo.

Cuando era ni3o, nunca me gustaba el primer domingo de Adviento. Parece muy rudo el que Jes3s nos est3 diciendo que estemos despiertos y vigilantes. Me sent3a como que ten3a que hacer much3simas cosas para merecerme celebrar la Navidad, y ten3a miedo de que no fuera a recibir ning3n regalo si defraudaba a Jes3s. Desde que comenc3 a practicar la Mayordom3a, mi vida espiritual ha cambiado tanto que hasta ha transformado mi entendimiento sobre el Adviento.

Este Primer Domingo de Adviento somos llamados a observar, pero observar qu3? Generalmente pensamos, “tengan cuidado” pero tal no es el caso. Ambos Isa3as y San Pablo nos invitan a mirar lo que Dios est3 haciendo en nuestras vidas, a ver las obras que ning3n ojo ha visto y ning3n o3do ha escuchado, a ver como Dios nos mantiene firmes hasta el final. Yo siempre ten3a miedo de vigilar el regreso del Maestro, pero ahora puedo ver que el siervo que vigila se regocia en la venida del Maestro. As3 tambi3n nosotros podemos regocijarnos con la venida de Cristo porque estamos observando a Dios preparar el camino para nosotros.

Para aquellos que ya est3n practicando la Mayordom3a, les animo a observar en este tiempo de Adviento. Dios est3 preparando el camino para ustedes hacia una vida de muchas bendiciones y gran gozo. El camino de Dios tiene tambi3n sufrimientos y est3 lleno de ansiedad para los que como nosotros nos gusta estar en control de la vida. Pero la Mayordom3a nos llama a confiar y observar y por tal motivo nos regocijaremos.

Regocij3monos en Cristo,



Nuestra Se3ora de Guadalupe

En 1531, un ind3gena campesino llamado Juan Diego iba de camino a la misa de la ma3ana para rezar por su t3o. En su camino, en el cerro del Tepeyac se encontr3 una virgen vestida con ropa ind3gena que brillaba y estaba decorada con estrellas. La virgen le habl3 y le dijo que ella era su madre y que se no hab3a olvidado de 3l. Le envi3 con el obispo (un hombre muy poderoso en esos tiempos) para pedirle que construyera una iglesia en su honor. La virgen se le apareci3 cuatro veces a Juan Diego y despu3s de tanto convenc3 al obispo con una se3al milagrosa en la tilma de Juan Diego impresa ahora con la imagen de la virgen.

Desde 1531, la imagen de Nuestra Se3ora de Guadalupe ha inspirado la conversi3n de todo el hemisferio oeste. Nuestra Se3ora de Guadalupe ha sido la intercesora de millones de oraciones escuchadas por Dios de gente de todo el mundo. Est3 invitado a traer sus oraciones a la Novena de Nuestra Se3ora de Guadalupe cuando una vez m3s rezaremos por la conversi3n de Am3rica a Cristo.