

*“And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart”*

(Luke 2:19)



Dear Sisters,

As I write this letter to you, the Blessed Mother is the focus of my thoughts. As we know, she and her baby are the central figures in the Nativity Scene, and this is one of the reasons I chose her to be the theme of this letter.

The Blessed Mother has kept me busy during the month of December. First, the Immaculate Conception, Our Lady of Guadalupe and the “posadas”. But the big Fiesta, especially in this part of the country, is Our Lady of Guadalupe. It is a great celebration not only for the Mexicans and other Latinos, but for Catholics and even non-Catholics.

For those who know the story of this apparition, it is obvious for them that this one is different from other apparitions, where the blessed Mother asked for penance and the conversion of sinners, even a vision of “hell” like in Fatima.

In Tepeyac, Our Lady came as a tender mother. This is what she said to Juan Diego: ‘Listen, put it into your heart, my youngest and dearest son, that the thing that afflicted you, is nothing: do not let it disturb you...I am not here, I am your mother. Are you not in the hollow of my mantle, in the crossing of my arms? Do you need something more?...’

The message of Guadalupe is very connected to the message of Christmas. Both bring peace, comfort, joy and hope. When she appeared to Juan Diego, she was “pregnant” and still reflecting all

these things in her heart. This time regarding the suffering of Juan Diego and his people. She came to do something about it. She was a contemplative in action – for example, visiting her cousin Elizabeth.

As Mary, we need to do the same. In my personal experience and with others e.g. co-workers, we continue to serve by writing letters to lawyers for young people of the DACA or dreamer programs, helping the poor through Catholic Social services and other agencies and welcoming immigrants, etc.

So, the Glory of God who was manifested in such a beautiful way in the first Christmas, can also be displayed in us by our actions towards the needy whom we accompany on their journey.

Merry Christmas/Feliz Navidad

Sister Celeste.