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**Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe-Mexico
From September 23-29 of 2024**

**Directed by Fr. Walter Martinez & Fr. Oscar Saul Medina
St. Helen Church- Fresno & St. Jude Church-Easton-CA-USA**

Day 1: Depart for Mexico City

Make your way to your local airport where you will board your flight (s) to Mexico City. Upon arrival, you will collect your luggage in the baggage claim area and continue to the Arrival's Hall where you will be greeted by a tour guide and/or driver. Transfer to **Puebla**. Arrive at your hotel for dinner & Overnight.

Day 2: Excursion to Puebla



After breakfast visit the Church of Los Remedios above the Pyramid of Cholula, visit Tonantzintla and San Francisco Acatepec. Return to Puebla. Upon arrival in Puebla, a typical cultural lunch is waiting. After lunch, visit Cathedral and Chapel of the Rosary and Church of San Francisco. At the Church of St. Francis of Assisi, where you will view the incorrupt body of St. Sebastian of Aparicio. Have free time for the remaining afternoon.

Day 3: City of Tlaxcala – Archaeological Sites of Cacaxtla and Xochitecatl – Mexico



Breakfast at the hotel. We leave in the morning towards the residential city of Tlaxcala, which is a small state in central Mexico, east of Mexico City. In the south, the Cacaxtla archaeological site displays colorful Mayan frescoes, while the nearby ruins of Xochitecatl include ancient pyramids. Northeast of here, the state capital of Tlaxcala features notable architecture like the Palacio de Gobierno de Tlaxcala, with an orange-tiled facade and murals depicting local history. In the afternoon we will go to our hotel in **Mexico City**.

Day 4: Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe and San Juan Teotihuacan



Buffet breakfast at the Hotel, you will depart for the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Patroness of the Americas), by way of the Plaza of the Three Cultures. You will first visit the Church of Santiago Tlatelolco where St. Juan Diego was baptized. The plaza is important as it symbolizes the unique blend of the pre-Hispanic, and Hispanic cultures that make up Mexico. Continue to the Shrine of Guadalupe, built in response to Our Lady's request to the visionary, St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin. Upon arrival at the Shrine, you will celebrate Mass as you marvel at the brilliantly colored Basilica. After Mass, join other pilgrims as you kneel in front of the "Tilma", where Our Lady's image was miraculously imprinted. Following this visit, you will make your way to San Juan Teotihuacan, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. According to mythology, this site was chosen to be the center of the universe, and from then on, it became a prominent site was chosen to be the center of the universe, and from then on, it became a prominent political and religious center from the second century until the ninth century. While in San Juan Teotihuacan, you will enjoy a Buffet lunch at a nearby restaurant, followed by a guided tour of the Archaeological zone. View the pyramids of the Sun and Moon and learn how the Aztecs used to work the obsidian stone and the multiple uses of the Maguey Plant. Your busy day will culminate with a delicious dinner at Villa Maria restaurant (with Mariachis) where you will be received with a Welcome Margarita cocktail. Return to Hotel and an overnight.

Day 5: Mexico City



Buffet breakfast at the Hotel. This morning, your day will begin with the Mass at the Holy Family Church, where you will see the tomb of Fr. Miguel Agustin Pro, the Jesuit martyr. In a time of religious persecution, Fr. Pro was exiled from Mexico during the Mexican Revolution. However, he returned to Mexico and was helped by a secret ministry that helped him hide from the authorities. During his time in Mexico, he helped many people with their spiritual as well as temporal needs. He was eventually found out, arrested, and killed by the authorities. While you are in the Church of the Holy Family, you can pray to this great martyr who remained full of joy to serve Our Lord even in difficult times. You will also visit the small but very inspiring Museum dedicated in honor of Padre Pro. After this visit, you will tour the oldest and largest cathedral in Latin America, the Metropolitan Cathedral. Throughout his time in the cathedral, he will be overwhelmed by the beautiful paintings, altarpieces, and statues. His tour continues with a transfer. Then you will visit the Plaza de Santo Domingo. This plaza contains two holy places that are architecturally exquisite; the Church of Santo Domingo, the first church built by the Dominicans in 1576 and the Sanctuary of Our Lady of the Rosary, the first Sanctuary of the Rosary in Mexico. In addition, Buffet Lunch, then will continue to the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Covadonga, headquarters of the Brotherhood of the Most Holy Rosary. The Sanctuary is dedicated to the Patroness of Asturias (Spain). Return to your hotel to enjoy a delicious dinner and overnight.

Day 6: Church of Tlaxpetlac - Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe



Buffet breakfast at the Hotel. transfer to the Church of the 5th Apparition, where the Blessed Virgin Mary of Guadalupe appeared to Juan Bernardino, Juan Diego's uncle. Here you can find a healing water well that the locals drink from. Then will continue to the nearby Town of Tepotzotlan for the visit of the Museo del Virreinato (in the interior, is a replica of the house of the Loreto Virgin (the original is in Italy). Lunch Then we do return for the visit to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe to attend Mass. Free time in the afternoon before dinner and accommodation in Mexico.

Day 7: Return to USA

After breakfast and fond farewells to new friends, you will transfer to the airport for the return flights home.