

- We celebrate the mystery, etc
- The reason for this singular privilege was in light of the conception of the Son of God: she had to be sinless
- The burning bush: an image of Our Lady—she should be destroyed, but she is not, and that because God prepared her for her life's work
- We have lesser missions in life, and so we inherit original sin, unlike Mary, but we are also called to carry Christ in our minds and hearts and bring him to life in others
- For this, Christ has given each of us a measure of his grace
- Just as he prepared Our Lady to be His mother, so he prepares us to carry out the little tasks he wants us to undertake; we and no one else
- Tomorrow marks the anniversary of the first apparition at Tepeyac, and we do well to remember that St. Juan Diego did not want to do what he was asked to do; he suggested that Our Lady choose someone else, someone more important, someone more capable
- But she would not let him do that, just as God would not let Moses beg off the work he wished him to do
- So it is that when God asks something difficult, we should trust him that he will give us the grace to do what he asks; even better, he has already given us the grace
- For when he asked Mary to be the Mother of God, she had already been made immaculate
- Thus our whole lives, and all the gifts of grace and wisdom we have received are for now; they are for today and today's challenges
- If we get weary of this, we must approach, as Moses did, the burning bush; the Lord was in the bush, but he wished to look at the bush first, and only then did the Lord call out to him
- So also Mary is our mother, and she wishes to lead us to Christ, to make us capable of bearing the weight of the grace he has given us
- No matter our experience of our own mothers, whether good or bad, Mary is our perfect Mother, and wishes to love us unconditionally and give us whatever we need to serve her Son and reach the kingdom of heaven where she lives
- Thus we should ask her, just as we would ask a good mother, for what we need
  - Mom, I need help
  - Mom, I need someone to talk to
  - Mom, I need a friend
  - Mom, I need some advice
  - Mom, I need a hug
- It might seem silly to ask some of these things, but trust someone who has asked, at times with tears and great pain of heart: she will listen
- And if she does not appear to us as she did to St. Juan Diego, she will nevertheless send someone to help, someone to console us, someone to walk to Calvary with us