

December 12th 2009 Feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe- Reflection
Christian Life Community Canada - Graydon Nicolas

December 12th has been celebrated as the Feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe. It is also the day designated by the CCCB as the National Day of Prayer for Aboriginal People in Canada since 2001.

When Jesus sent his Mother to Mexico City between December 9-12, 1531, the evangelization by her and St Juan Diego converted nine million Indians to the Catholic faith in a span of ten years They succeeded, when the conquering Spaniards failed. The conversion took place because of love, peace and acceptance that God loves all of us. Pope John Paul II stated on the canonization of St. Juan Diego on July 31, 2002 that,

“The Guadalupe Event”, as the Mexican Episcopate has pointed out, "meant the beginning of evangelization with a vitality that surpassed all expectations. Christ's message, through his Mother, took up the central elements of the indigenous culture, purified them and gave them the definitive sense of salvation" (14 May 2002, No. 8).

Consequently Guadalupe and Juan Diego have a deep ecclesial and missionary meaning and are a model of perfectly inculturated evangelization... In accepting the Christian message without forgoing his indigenous identity, Juan Diego discovered the profound truth of the new humanity in which all are called to be children of God.”

On June 24th, 2010, our catholic roots in this country will celebrate the 400th Anniversary of Grand Chief Membertou of the Mi'Kmaq Grand Council which took place on June 24th 1610. We have come a long way and need to go a greater distance to accept the spiritual gifts that our Aboriginal brothers and sisters received from our Creator. Let us take some sacred time to reflect on the giftedness that has resulted from the inculturation of aboriginal spirituality and catholic spirituality.

I hope that this message is not too long or too late for you to send it out. I am travelling to Nova Scotia this afternoon to Shubenacadie where the Catholic Residential School was located. We are having a special Mass tomorrow morning (December 12). I appreciate all of the prayers of you and our CLC family across this great land and throughout the world.

**Blessings,
Graydon**



December 12th 2009 Feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe- Reflection
Christian Life Community Canada - Graydon Nicolas