



# News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Knights of Columbus Releases New Short Film**

### ***Our Lady of Guadalupe: Woman of the Eucharist***

*Short film commemorates Our Lady's apparition on Tepeyac Hill, Mexico City, in 1531, and her timeless, Christ-centric message*

**NEW HAVEN, Conn.** — The Knights of Columbus today announced the release of a new short film titled *Our Lady of Guadalupe: Woman of the Eucharist*, to coincide with her Dec. 12 feast day. The Virgin of Guadalupe is invoked as the patroness of the Americas and Star of the New Evangelization, as well as patroness of both the Knights of Columbus and unborn children. In 1999, when Pope John Paul II established Dec. 12 as Our Lady of Guadalupe's feast day, he said, "This is our cry: Life with dignity for all! For all who have been conceived in their mother's womb, for street children, for Guadalupe!"

This year's feast day is especially significant in that it begins a nine-year "novena" in anticipation of the 500th anniversary of the Blessed Virgin Mary's apparitions to St. Juan Diego from Dec. 9-12, 1531, on Tepeyac Hill in Mexico City. The anniversary will occur in December 2031.

"This powerful and moving film shows how Catholics encounter Christ through prayer and devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe. Mary was completely focused on Our Lord with ever greater devotion," said Patrick Kelly, Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus. "To imitate her and to be devoted to her as Mother of our Lord and our mother is a sure way to greater love of the eucharistic Lord, who gave up his life for the world. And the more we devote ourselves to the Eucharist, the more we will understand what it means to live a life of self-gift to one another and so strengthen the unity of the body of Christ."

Supreme Knight Kelly advanced the Knights of Columbus' dedication to fostering eucharistic devotion this May, when he announced the Order would provide \$1 million in support of the upcoming National Eucharistic Congress to be held in Indianapolis, Indiana, July 17-21, 2024. Additionally, the Knights of Columbus Supreme Council has developed several resources, including eucharistic procession training materials, in consultation with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). These will serve as a key component of the Knights' support for the three-year National Eucharistic Revival, which is organized by the USCCB and was officially launched June 19, 2022, the feast of Corpus Christi.

“The addition of *Our Lady of Guadalupe: Woman of the Eucharist* to these resources further supports and emphasizes the importance of the National Eucharistic Revival. We must be apostolic in how we live our faith, and nothing is more important than Christ being the center of our lives,” said Damien O’Connor, vice president of Evangelization and Faith Formation of the Knights of Columbus. “This short film powerfully expresses Our Lady of Guadalupe’s desire to bring all of humanity to her son, and through her intercession, she will show the way.”

Luis Guevara, the Knights of Columbus executive director for Hispanic Development, noted, “In consoling Juan Diego, Our Lady of Guadalupe told him, ‘Am I not here, I who has the honor and joy to be your mother?’”

“This is a timeless message,” Guevara added, “and Knights of Columbus, in imitation of St. Juan Diego, will work even harder over the next nine years as we move toward her 500th anniversary to bring her maternal message to all, especially those who suffer and are in need.”

To view the 10-minute film *Our Lady of Guadalupe: Woman of the Eucharist*, visit the Knights of Columbus YouTube Channel [here](#), or [kofc.org/news](http://kofc.org/news).

### **About the Knights of Columbus**

In 1882, Blessed Michael McGivney, a young parish priest in New Haven, Connecticut, founded the Knights of Columbus to serve the needs of a largely immigrant Catholic community. What began as a small fraternal benefit society has since grown into one of the world’s leading international charitable organizations, with more than 2 million members in over 16,000 local councils. Last year, Knights around the world donated nearly 48 million service hours and nearly \$154 million for worthy causes in their communities. The Knights of Columbus also offers extensive life insurance products to members and their families. Knights of Columbus currently has more than \$120 billion\* of life insurance in force and was named by Forbes as one of *America’s Best Insurance Companies 2023*. In addition, the Knights provides investment services in accord with Catholic social teaching through Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors, which holds more than \$25 billion in assets under management. Based on the founding principles of charity, unity and fraternity, the Knights of Columbus is committed to strengthening Catholic families and parishes and to practicing faith in action through service to all in need. To learn more or to join the Knights of Columbus, please visit [kofc.org/join](http://kofc.org/join).

\*As of June 30, 2022

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