

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Norman Moran

Lectionary 690A:

Rev 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab

Jdt 13:18bcde, 19

Luke 1:26-38

Possible preaching themes:

- God speaks to us through created signs (from the Book of Revelation)
- The free will of Mary that allowed her to say yes (from the Gospel)

Possible scientific resources:

- The Language of the Universe and the Stars
 - The importance of creation and creation myths across cultures
 - <https://soar.suny.edu/handle/20.500.12648/3465>
 - <https://www.britannica.com/topic/creation-myth/Creation-by-world-parents>
 - Astronomy reveals the vastness of God's creation
 - <https://www.space.com/17-amazing-hubble-discoveries.html>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i93Z7zljQ7I>
 - All the forces of the Universe can be understood as Music
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fW6JFKgbAF4>
- Formation of conscience and free will
 - Development of the moral self
 - <https://www.simplypsychology.org/kohlberg.html>
 - Development of free will
 - <https://courses.lumenlearning.com/sociology/chapter/theories-of-self-development/>
 - <https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/cross-check/free-will-is-real/>

Homily outline on option one: God talks to us through created signs

- God talks to people through different means
 - God often uses the created world to reveal his power and glory.

- Many passages, especially from the Old Testament, confirm this
 - This is very true in the psalms, e.g., Ps 19:1 notes now the heavens declare the glory of God
 - In Exodus God separated the sea so that Moses and the children of Israel could escape from Pharaoh (Exod 14:21-22)
- In the New Testament
 - God used a star to bring the Magi to the newborn Christ (Luke 2:1)
 - Jesus calms the waters in a storm, revealing his power over creation (Luke 8:22-25)
 - The Book of Revelation is particularly rich in cosmic images of God and Christ and the church.
- The sciences are unlocking many of the mysteries of the cosmos
 - Astronomy shows us the immensity of the universe that continues to expand
 - The Hubble telescope has opened our eyes to many new worlds <https://www.space.com/17-amazing-hubble-discoveries.html>
 - it has also revealed the existence of many previously unknown stars
 - String theory contends that the cosmos can be understood as a symphony of vibrating strings as subatomic particles that continuously vibrate <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fW6JFKgbAF4>
 - physics can be understood as laws of harmony that you can write on vibrating strings
 - some even contend that the mind of God is cosmic music resonating through hyperspace
 - The Idea that the universe can be understood as music began over 2000 years ago with the Greek philosopher Pythagoras https://www.ted.com/talks/matt_russo_what_does_the_universe_sound_like_a_musical_tour?language=en
- Through the Guadalupe's apparition, God talks to indigenous peoples of America. <https://fsspx.news/es/news-events/news/nican-mopohua-relato-original-de-las-apariciones-de-nuestra-se%C3%B1ora-de-guadalupe> =
 - The description of Juan Diego's outer garment (or *Tilma*), reveals to the natives knew that he had received a special message from God.
 - That message was revealed through Stars, roses, and music.
 - The stars recall the passage from the Book of Revelation we read today: "a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and on her head a crown of twelve stars" (Rev. 12, 1.)
 - The 46 stars in Juan Diego's *Tilma*, coincide with the constellations appeared in 1531. <https://denvercatholic.org/lady-guadalupe-numbers/>
 - Thus, creation itself seems to confirm this divine revelation
 - Flowers in a hilltop of Tepeyac
 - The Blessed Virgin instructed Juan Diego to go to the top of the hill where she appeared and cut all the roses blooming there

- He doubted that was possible because it was a rocky place that had practically no vegetation and it was December
 - **Music: Juan Diego hear a beautiful music never heard before**
 - Described as “different beautiful birds” singing.
- **Our Lady of Guadalupe**
 - is often understood through cultural lenses
 - E.g., her brown skin identified her with Indigenous people
 - the way her hands are place are culturally interpreted as a gesture of offering
 - the sash is a cultural image that she is with child
 - **But what happens if we interpret her through cosmic lenses**
 - She is not only a revelation for people of the Americas, but for the cosmos
 - She reveals God’s cosmic power and expansion through a seemingly fragile and marginalized young girl
 - She reveals that God’s cosmic power can break through in something as seemingly insignificant as a flower in the snow
 - And she reveals that the music of God’s voice is the very cosmic vibration that give all of us life
 - Mary is God’s own version of the Hubble Telescope, revealing the expansiveness of God’s universe of care for all, especially the marginalized
- **Attending to God**
 - God spoke through Mary at Tepeyac through specific cultural signs
 - But God also spoke to all humanity through cosmic signs
 - Stars
 - Flowers
 - Music
 - The revelation at Tepeyac is not confined those of Mexican heritage but is a gift to all humanity
 - We are still in aw of God’s cosmos and the cosmic revelations of God
 - if only we are attentive to God’s signs
 - Announcing that the presence of God is our midst
 - In the vastness of the cosmos
 - And in the fragility of a marginalized young woman or culture
 - That presence invites us also to change the face of the earth.

Tags: astronomy, cosmos, creation, hubble telescope, string theory

About the Preaching with the Sciences Initiative

A primary way Roman Catholics explore their faith and nourish their spirituality is by participating in Sunday Mass and actively engaging in the homily. However, few preachers explicitly connect faith or spirituality with ctu.edu/preaching-with-the-sciences

science. The Preaching with the Sciences initiative, made possible by a generous grant from the John Templeton Foundation, gathers scientists and leading homileticians to explore the positive contributions science can make to preaching, and consequently contribute to more contemporary modes of believing. Such contributions are grounded in the rich imaginations that scientists bring to their work as well as in scientific discoveries that have a potential for revealing religious truths and even shedding new insight on ancient teachings and beliefs.

With guidance from world-renowned scientists with differing areas of expertise, a select number of homileticians will draft homily outlines for preaching key Sundays and feast days across the 3-year lectionary

cycle. Over 100 homily outlines will highlight some of the way's sciences and the contemporary search for religious meaning can interface. These free homiletic resources have the potential to influence thousands of preachers seeking help each week in crafting sermons and helping to shape a scientifically informed religious imagination among future preachers.