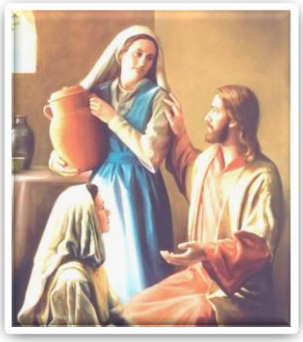

TASTE Reflection Questions #26
May 2, 2019

The Truth about Abortion and the Impact on Women
Theresa Bonopartis

www.tasteprogram.com

Next week, May 9, 2019, we will have a large group time of sharing to reflect on what we have received from TASTE during the 2018-2019 year. Please be in prayer this week about the blessings you have received from TASTE and what the Lord might like you to share with others.

1. What was most meaningful to you this year?

2. Tell me about a new TASTE sister you met this year?

3. Was there something you learned that surprised you? Did you receive an unexpected grace this year?

4. Please share a fruit of this year's study.

5. How has attending TASTE impacted your prayer life?

6. What was your favorite TASTE talk this year? Why?

7. Write down the names of 2 women you could invite to TASTE next year.

Our Lady of Guadalupe and the Pro-life Movement

Fr. Frank Pavone, National Director Priests for Life

If you are involved in the pro-life movement for any length of time, you will encounter the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. There are many connections between this particular image of Our Lady and the pro-life cause.

On December 12, 1531, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to an Indian named Juan Diego and requested that a shrine be built and dedicated to her on the Hill of Tepeyac. She instructed Juan to deliver roses to the bishop, and as he opened his tilma (a type of pancho), the roses fell to the floor. All who were present were startled to see an image of Our Lady on the tilma. Today this image is still preserved on Juan Diego's tilma, which hangs over the main altar in the basilica at the foot of Tepeyac Hill just outside of Mexico City. In the image, Our Lady is pregnant, carrying the Son of God in her womb.

Human Sacrifice Then and Now

Some nine million Aztecs were converted to Christ by the power of the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. At that time, the Aztec peoples were practicing human sacrifice. As a result of the image's presence among the people, their hearts were converted to the true God and the practice of human sacrifice was abolished. A key theological dynamic operating here is that Our Lady turned the Aztecs from a worldview of despair to one of hope, from a conviction that the gods were against them to a conviction that God was so much for them that He became one of them.

We can listen to stories of Aztecs cutting out their victims' hearts or placing their heads on poles and say, "Oh, how terrible that was!" But America is not doing any better, as the hearts and heads of innocent babies are destroyed by abortion! The image is therefore being used again to change the hearts of our people.

From Despair to Hope

Our Lady is carrying God within her womb. The God of the Universe has now become a human being. No longer is there any question as to whether God is on our side. He is not a God who will destroy us; He is a God who has become our brother. He is not a God far away who waits to be appeased by blood. He is a God who shares our own flesh and blood, and is as close to the human family as an unborn child to his mother.

The universe into which Our Lady of Guadalupe invites us is no longer an unstable universe. God clearly reveals Himself as the only God, who is and shares both love and life. This truth brings hope. There is no longer need for human sacrifice, whether on pagan altars or in abortion clinics, because both the present and the future are in the hands of a God who is "God with us."

The Image and the Pro-life Movement

The image of Our Lady of Guadalupe which converted the Aztecs has been replicated and travels the United States on an explicit mission to end abortion. It is carried into Churches and it is brought in front of abortion clinics nationwide. The image speaks to a message of hope. It also speaks to the pro-life people a message about the task before us. We who fight abortion do not see abortion walking down the street. Instead, we see a girl, frightened and in the grip of despair. We, the Church, are to reach out to her in what is the most critical pastoral mission of our day.

Our Lady of Guadalupe has been declared the "Patroness of the Unborn." They will be saved by the message of hope she brings, and by the message of concrete charity with which she challenges the Church.

Conclusion: Today the Blessed Mother addresses to us who defend life the same words she addressed to Juan Diego:

"Hear and let it penetrate your hearts, my dear little ones. Let nothing discourage you, nothing depress you; let nothing alter your heart or your countenance. Do not fear vexation, anxiety or pain. Am I not here, your Mother? Are you not in the folds of my mantle, in the crossing of my arms? Is there anything else that you need?"

If you or someone you love has experienced the devastation of abortion, do not despair, there is healing & hope for you.

Rachel's Vineyard: 877 HOPE 4 ME (877-467-3463)

National Hotline for Abortion Recovery: 866-482-LIFE (866-482-5433)