

ROSARY FOR A SYNODAL CHURCH

Tuesdays in October at 12 pm ET/9 am PT/6 pm Rome



Opening Song: *Stone by Stone* by Claire Hitchins
<https://catholicartistconnection.com/art-synodality/stone-by-stone>

Adsumus Sancte Spiritus

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;

Teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.

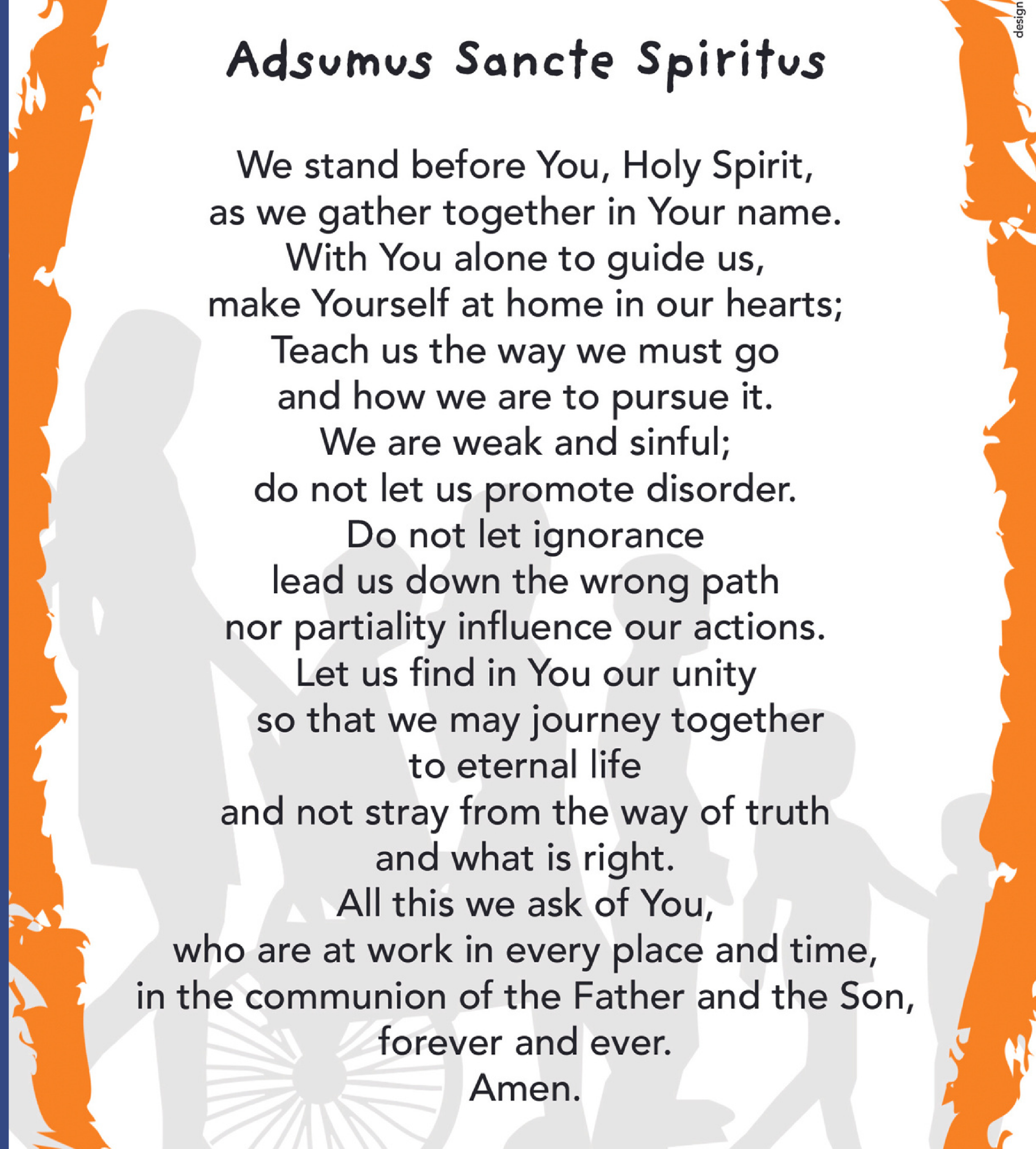
We are weak and sinful;
do not let us promote disorder.

Do not let ignorance
lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together
to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth
and what is right.

All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son,
forever and ever.

Amen.



Fourth Mystery for a Synodal Church: Jesus receives an anointing

Matthew 26:6-13

Now when Jesus was in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, a woman came up to him with an alabaster jar of costly perfumed oil, and poured it on his head while he was reclining at table. When the disciples saw this, they were indignant and said, "Why this waste? It could have been sold for much, and the money given to the poor." Since Jesus knew this, he said to them, "Why do you make trouble for the woman? She has done a good thing for me. The poor you will always have with you; but you will not always have me. In pouring this perfumed oil upon my body, she did it to prepare me for burial. Amen, I say to you, wherever this gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be spoken of, in memory of her."



The Foot Washing, Wayne Forte

Reflection:

Jesus receives the anointing of women.

Each Gospel gives us an account of a profound encounter where this happens. Jesus welcomes women's hands touching him with precious oil, hair touching his feet, tears flowing.

In this account in Matthew, the one anointing Jesus is unnamed – even as Jesus claims that wherever the gospel is proclaimed what she has done will be spoken of, in memory of her.

She knew he was going to his death.

She knew that care for his body was an act of love that she could offer, in the face of all that was beyond her control. That he would be betrayed, convicted, executed – this was out of her hands. She saw it coming, and knew it was time to mark his journey – in the hopes that his final way would carry the whiff of the scent of this rich oil.

She pours it out.

We are in a Church today that seems to be afraid that pouring out sacred oils will run the Church dry. As if there is but so much sacramental grace.

Reflection: (continued)

Only priests and bishops can administer the oils of anointing at last rites.

Deacons today mourn that they are not authorized to do so.

Women everywhere mourn that they cannot offer chrism to the baptized except in extraordinary circumstances, they cannot anoint the sick at last rites except with the oil we carry in our purse and the blessings we keep on our tongues. We cannot offer the sacred chrism of confirmation to seal with the gifts of the holy spirit.

But the Gospels present us with a definitive witness and encounter: Jesus receives women's anointing. Jesus receives women's ministry.

Women mark out a path of sacred worship of Jesus – through the anointing of his body.

Always have. May it yet be so again in our Church – that we are not afraid to pour out sacred oils of orders and healing, baptism and holy spirit.

Let it be poured out. Let the oils flow from our hands, that we might help ease the suffering in this land of the living, and draw nearer to Christ's kingdom on earth.

Why not let the sacred oils of our church be poured out at the hands of women, and restore to them this Biblical witness of women, anointing the Body of Christ?



Mary Anoints His Feet, Wayne Forte

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done
on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
Amen.

Our Lady of the Rosary by Alisha Monnin





Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou amongst women
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.

(x10)

*Glory Be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be, world without end.*

LITANY

Holy Mary Mother of God
Walk with us on our synodal journey

Mother of the Church
Walk with us and pray for us

Mother of the disciples of Jesus
Walk with us and pray for us

Mother of the lost and the lonely
Walk with us and pray for us

Mother of the confused and hesitant
Walk with us and pray for us

Mother of those who are searching and questioning
Walk with us and pray for us

Mother of those who are on the margins
Walk with us and pray for us

Mother who gives us direction and points the way ahead
Walk with us and pray for us

This litany was developed by the Knock Shrine in Ireland, in response to Pope Francis' call for us to consecrate the synodal path to Mary,



Santa María del Camino by Rev. Fernando Aritzti, SJ
In which Mary clears the path of rocks to make a way for migrants seeking refuge

Woman of silence and reflection
Help us to listen to the Spirit

Woman of service and action
Help us to listen to the Spirit

Woman who sets out in mission
Help us to listen to the Spirit

Woman who directs us towards your Son
Help us to listen to the Spirit

You journeyed from Nazareth to Bethlehem
Be with us on our pilgrim way

You journeyed on the refugee road into Egypt
Be with us on our pilgrim way

You journeyed as a pilgrim to Jerusalem
Be with us on our pilgrim way

You accompanied your Son Jesus on the road to Calvary
Be with us on our pilgrim way

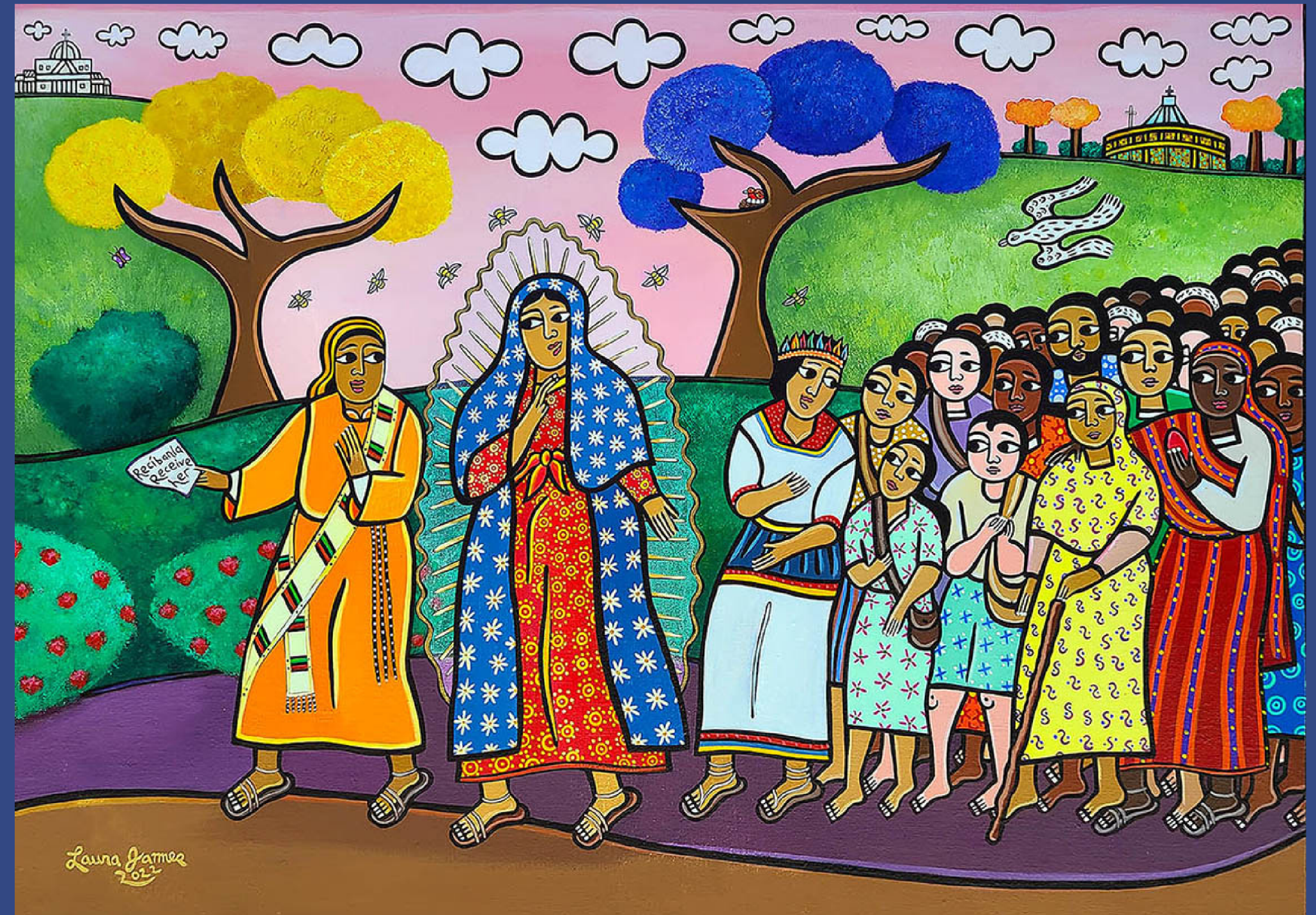
You walked with the disciples as they shared the Good News
Be with us on our pilgrim way

Holy Mary,
Mother of God
and Mother of the Church.
Guide our steps along the right path.
Direct us towards your Son and
help us to follow Him faithfully.

Our Lady of the Way
Pray for us

Our Lady of the Way
Stay with us

Our Lady of the Way
Walk with us



Mientras recorres la vida
Tu nunca solo estás
Contigo por el camino
Santa Maria, va

**Ven con nosotros al caminar
Santa Maria, ven
Ven con nosotros al caminar
Santa Maria, ven**

Aunque te digan algunos
Que nada puede cambiar
Lucha por un mundo nuevo
Lucha por la verdad

Si por el mundo los hombres
Sin conocerse van
No niegues nunca tu mano
Al quien contigo estás

Aunque parezcan tus pasos
Inútil caminar
Tu vas haciendo caminos
Otros los seguirán

Santa Maria del Camino

song by Juan A. Espinosa

Suggested recording by Veronica Sanfilippo
<https://youtu.be/1XvGo6viUdE?feature=shared>



Santa Maria del Camino, painting by Fr. Fernando Aritzti, SJ, 1988
original painting at Dolores Mission Church, Los Angeles

As you go through life
You are never alone
With you along the way
Santa Maria goes

**Come with us as we walk
Santa Maria, come
Come with us as we walk
Santa Maria, come**

Even if some tell you
That nothing can change
Struggle for a new world
Fight for the truth

If in the world people
walk without knowing one
another
Never hold back your hand
From the person who is with you

Even though your steps
may seem useless
If you make the way
Others will follow

