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## **"They are thirsting for God"**

On December 9, at the Opening Mass of the International Congress on the Church in America, Benedict XVI entrusted the new evangelization to the intercession of our Lady of Guadalupe.

12/14/2012

Dear friends, the love of Christ impels us to devote ourselves without reserve to proclaiming his Name throughout America, bringing

it freely and enthusiastically to the hearts of all its inhabitants.

There is no more rewarding or beneficial work than this. There is no greater service that we can provide to our brothers and sisters. They are thirsting for God. For this reason, we ought to take up this commitment with conviction and joyful dedication . . .

This will be encouraged by suitable catechesis and a correct and ongoing doctrinal formation marked by complete fidelity to the word of God and the Church's magisterium and aimed at offering a response to the deepest questions and aspirations of the human heart.

The witness of your faith will thus be more eloquent and incisive, and you will grow in unity in the fulfilment of your apostolate. A renewed missionary spirit and zealous generosity in your commitment will

be an irreplaceable contribution to what the universal Church expects and needs from the Church in America.

As a model of openness to God's grace and of perfect concern for others, there shines forth on your continent the figure of Mary Most Holy, Star of the New Evangelization, invoked throughout America under the glorious title of Our Lady of Guadalupe. As I commend this Congress to her maternal and loving protection, I impart to you, the organizers and participants, my Apostolic Blessing as a pledge of abundant divine graces.