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**SAINT JOHN NEUMANN HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP
MONDAY, 12/13/04, 7:30 PM
HOT TOPIC**

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OUR LADY of GUADALUPE visits MEXICO with MIRACLES LEAVES IMAGE on TILMA

Tilma is an Mexican word for an outer garment very similar to the scapular worn by order priests such as Carmelites or Franciscans



A tilma was rough woven from cactus or vegetable fiber, probably maguey. If it was of cactus fiber it was probably woven using the needle at the tip of the cactus leaf. It felt much like burlap used today to make bags for various farm products. Most tilma deteriorate and decompose after less than 25 years of use. Even in museums and with the greatest of care these natural fiber garments decompose in about 50 years.



This tilma made prior to 1531 is still as strong as it was the day Quauhtlatoatzin (baptized Juan Diego and now Saint Juan Diego) presented it to Bishop Zumarraga in the Cathedral of Mexico City.

This tilma is made of two long pieces seamed together near the center. The seam can be seen in some of the photographic reproductions such as the missionary image shown on page 4.

Because the fiber used to make the tilma was all natural there were inconsistencies in it that created bumps or gaps in the weave. When the miraculous image was placed on the tilma of Juan Diego, it was placed in such a manner that it took advantage of the inconsistencies in the weave pattern to highlight the features of the pregnant Aztec Indian woman clothed with the sun, moon, and stars.

Most of you have seen the movie "Once Upon a Barren Hill" so you have a general idea of what went on between 9 December 1531 and 12 December 1531. There is a complete chronology of events on pages 10 and 11.

Tonight we are going to concentrate on the miraculous aspects of the image imbedded in the fibers of the tilma during the apparition of Our Lady to Saint Juan Diego prior to his visit to Bishop Zumarraga about 10:30 AM on 12 December 1531.

Internet Links

<http://www.sancta.org/>

http://www.maryknoll.org/MARYKNOLL/SOCIETY/mm_guadal.htm

<http://www.theotokos.org.uk/pages/approved/appariti/guadalup.html>

<http://www.princeofeden.com/>



IMAGE

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Mesoamerica, the New World, 1521: The capital city of the Aztec empire falls under the Spanish forces. Less than 20 years later, 9 million of the inhabitants of the land, who professed for centuries a polytheistic and human sacrificing religion, are converted to Christianity. What happened in those times that produced such an incredible and historically unprecedented conversion?

In 1531 a "Lady from Heaven" appeared to a poor Indian at Tepeyac, a hill northwest of Mexico City; she identified herself as the Mother of the True God, instructed him to have the bishop build a temple on the site and left an image of herself imprinted miraculously on his tilma, a poor quality cactus-cloth, which should have deteriorated in 20 years but shows no sign of decay 469 years later and still defies all scientific explanations of its origin.

It apparently even reflects in her eyes what was in front of her in 1531!



Her message of love and compassion, and her universal promise of help and protection to all mankind, as well as the story of the apparitions, are described in the "Nican Mopohua", a 16th century document written in the native Nahuatl language.

There is reason to believe that at Tepeyac Mary came in her glorified body, and her actual physical hands rearranged the roses in Juan Diego's tilma, which makes this apparition very special.

An incredible list of miracles, cures and interventions are attributed to Her. Yearly, an estimated 10 million visit her Basilica, making her Mexico City home the most popular Marian shrine in the world, and the most visited Catholic church in the world next to the Vatican.

Altogether 24 popes have officially honored Our Lady of Guadalupe. His Holiness John Paul II visited her Sanctuary four times: on his first apostolic trip outside Rome as Pope in 1979, and again in 1990, 1999 and 2002.

The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe is celebrated on December 12th. In 1999, Pope John Paul II, in his homily from the Solemn Mass at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, during his third visit to the sanctuary, declared the date of December the 12th as a Liturgical Holy Day for the whole continent.

During the same visit Pope John Paul II entrusted the cause of life to her loving protection, and placed under her motherly care the innocent lives of children, especially those who are in danger of not being born.

Image Description

Image - Size of the image: 6 1/2' X 3 1/2' Mary adolescent, around 15, oval face, Mexican clear dark face, a little mother

Angel - as a caryatid, wings half open, sustain Our Lady red, white, blue in color the angel is holding both: the pink dress represents earth; the blue mantle represents heaven meaning: Heaven and earth are witnesses to the truth of the apparition message

Stars:

Brightest gold - finest - royalty: as if woven, as if they would fall at touch 48 stars, 8 points; 22 on right, 26 on left show constellations that were in the sky at the time of the apparition 10:30 am December 12, 1531



Pattern - The stars on one side represent the northern constellations, the others represent the southern constellations. Can see Venus the morning star, Virgo would fall on the hands, Leo on the womb, crown of stars on the head.

Dress - in Nahuatl the designs of gold thread as embroidered flowers of 8 petals represent mountains; the only 4-petal flower on womb just below sash in the center means life and movement

Sash - tied around the waist; symbol of pregnancy Central part of dress bulging - means She is with child

Cuffs - End of dress rolled back over the sleeves white fur means nobility - dressed in Jewish nobility - nothing Indian about it

Hands - joined in prayer of supplication, therefore not a goddess; there is someone greater than Her

Moon - stands on moon, horns up - Rev. 12:1 moon pagan god of night, providence, youth, war She is greater than the moon

Sun - mighty god; Our Lady blocks the sun behind Her She is brighter than the sun god

Rays - rays bright near body, fade out away from body 129 rays - 62 on right, 67



on left equidistant alternating forms: 1) straight like swords 2) undulating flames

Red Border - because of rising sun - new life

Cloud - surrounding the entire image

Indexed Features on Image

1. Stands before a Brilliant Light - Indians worshipped the sun god. If the sun did not rise each day, they had offended their god, so they would sacrifice humans to appease him. This showed she was clothed in the sun, that her God was more powerful.

2. Blue Mantel - Blue was a sign of royalty, a sign of virginity, also color the goddesses wore. Stars in mantel are the exact same constellation as in the sky the night of December 12, 1531. Indians lived by the stars and here she wore them showing her God is more powerful than the stars.

3. Head Bowed - Indian culture gods and goddesses looked you straight in the eye to show their power and were often depicted with large eyes. Mary, with her head bowed, showed she was neither a god or goddesses, that there was a higher power above her.

4. Grayish skin - Color of the skin of the 1st generation of intermarriage of the Spaniards with the Indians of the Americas. Message for us is: we are neither Indian, Spanish, French, American, etc ... but all ONE people in the eyes of GOD.

5. Forehead - Dove (Holy Spirit)

6. David the King (Prophet)

7. Right Eye - Scientific examination shows reflection of three men, one is Juan Diego, one is Bishop Zumarraga's, and the third is unidentified. This is NOT a painting but proves Our Lady's actual presence.

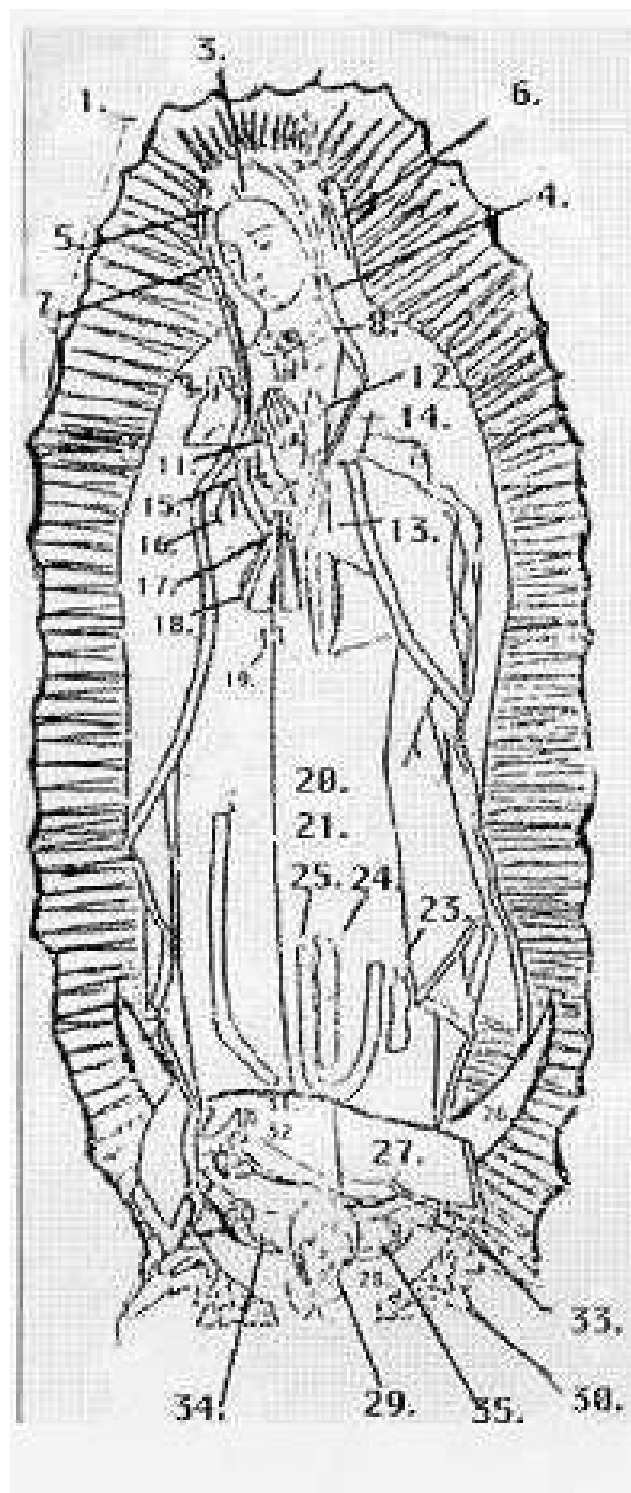
8. Brooch with black Cross - the Cross, a sign of salvation on the mast of the Spaniards ships.

9. Solomon the King

10. Heart on the back of the hand - Sacred Heart as we depict it with flames above. Only in Guadalupe and Fatima apparitions have this sign on the hand appeared which shows they are related.

11. Key between her hands - hands are folded pointing upward towards Heaven. Prayer is the KEY to Heaven.

12. The Nativity, The Babe lying in the manger, the ox a mule, and the lambs.



13. **Scourging of Jesus** at the pillar or Christ dying on the cross.
14. **The Cross of Calvary, the Cave of Bethlehem and the rivers of Living Water** (Jesus).
15. **Fur Cuffs** - Symbolizes royalty.
16. **Abraham**
17. **Holy Face**
18. **Black sash?** (can't tell) - In both the Indian and Spanish language means pregnancy (new life). This would indicate she was pregnant with the Child Jesus at the time of the apparition. Mary would possibly be around the age of fourteen.
19. **Sun Flower** - Aztec symbol that represents the sun god. She has it on her belly. (The Heart of Heaven - Jesus).
20. **Jewish dress** of two thousand years ago - Mary was Jewish.
21. **Gold thread design in dress** - gold was important to the Spaniards. Design is said to be the hills and volcano of Mexico.
22. **LUZ** - Light in Spanish
23. **Daniel the Prophet.**
24. **Jesus in the Sepulchre**
25. **US** (United States) - There were no states or countries at that time, only known as the Americas (Patron Saint of America).
26. **Crested Moon** - Indians worshipped Quetzalcoatl (Stone serpent) represented as a crested moon, as one of their gods. Mary's feet are standing firmly on the moon symbolizing she is crushing their god. Guadalupe means LIGHT in Spanish and CRUSHER OF THE STONE SERPANT in Indian language.
#22 LUZ - Light, #26 Quetzalcoatl - Stone Serpent
27. **Bible** - Old and New Testaments. In Genesis, Mary is the woman who will crush the head of the serpent.
28. **Cherub** (Angel) - Shows she is a heavenly being
29. **The Angel** has the face of an adult, but the forehead of a child. This is for us to understand that only those who are like little children will enter into the kingdom of Heaven.
30. **The Angel's wings** are the colors of the Maylean(??) flag.
31. **Jesus's hands blessing the bread** at the Last Supper. (bread - Mary's shoe)
32. **Hands raised with Child** - Presentation of Jesus in Temple.
33. **Angel holding up big baby bawling(???)** with Child in It - could also represent the Presentation in the Temple of Jesus.
34. **Judas** and the demon face (two-faced). In his hands he holds the money bags (Judas sold Jesus for 30 pieces of silver.)
35. **Agony in the Garden** of Gethsemene - Jesus kneeling in prayer by a rock in the garden.

An Aztec Pictograph

The Image of Our Lady is actually an Aztec Pictograph which was read and understood quickly by the Aztec Indians.

1. THE LADY STOOD IN FRONT OF THE SUN

She was greater than the dreaded Huitzilopochtli, their sun-god of war.

2. HER FOOT RESTED ON THE CRESCENT MOON

She had clearly crushed Quetzalcoatl, the feathered serpent moon-god.

3. THE STARS STREWN ACROSS THE MANTLE

She was greater than the stars of heaven which they worshipped. She was a virgin and the Queen of the heavens for Virgo rests over her womb and the northern crown upon her head. She appeared on December 12, 1531 and the stars that she wore are the constellations of the stars that appeared in the sky that day!

4. THE BLUE-GREEN HUE OF HER MANTLE

She was a Queen because she wears the color of royalty.

5. THE BLACK CROSS ON THE BROOCH AT HER NECK

Her God was that of the Spanish Missionaries, Jesus Christ her son who died on the cross for all mankind.

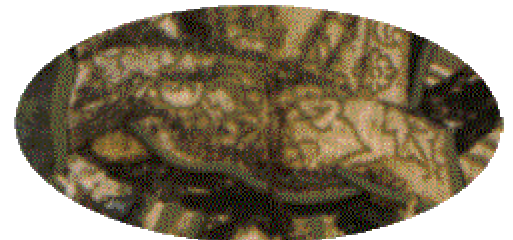


6. THE BLACK BELT

She was with child because she wore the Aztec Maternity Belt.

7. THE FOUR PETAL FLOWER OVER THE WOMB

She was the Mother of God because the flower was a special symbol of life, movement and deity-the center of the universe.



8. HER HANDS ARE JOINED IN PRAYER

She was not God but clearly there was one greater than Her and she pointed her finger to the cross on her brooch.

9. THE DESIGN ON HER ROSE COLORED GARMENT

She is the Queen of the Earth because she is wearing a contour map of Mexico telling the Indians exactly where the apparition took place.



The Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe and Science

1. The image to this date, cannot be explained by science.

2. The image shows no sign of deterioration after 450 years! The tilma or cloak of Saint Juan Diego on which the image of Our Lady has been imprinted, is a coarse fabric made from the threads of the maguey cactus. This fiber disintegrates within 20-60 years!

3. There is no under sketch, no sizing and no protective over-varnish on the image.
4. Microscopic examination revealed that there were no brush strokes.
5. The image seems to increase in size and change colors due to an unknown property of the surface and substance of which it is made.
6. According to Kodak of Mexico, the image is smooth and feels like a modern day photograph. (Produced 300 years before the invention of photography.)
7. The image has consistently defied exact reproduction, whether by brush or camera.
8. Several images can be seen reflected in the eyes of the Virgin. It is believed to be the images of Juan Diego, Bishop Juan de Zummaraga, Juan Gonzales, the interpreter and others.
9. The distortion and place of the images are identical to what is produced in the normal eye which is impossible to obtain on a flat surface.
10. The stars on Our Lady's Mantle coincide with the constellations in the sky on December 12, 1531. All who have scientifically examined the image of Our Lady over the centuries confess that its properties are absolutely unique and so inexplicable in human terms that the image can only be supernatural!



The Mystery in Our Lady's Eyes

According to many scientists who have inspected the image we can see reflected in her eyes, in both of them and in the precise location as reflected by a live human eye, many figures that have been extensively analyzed and seem to correspond to the shape and size of human figures located in front of the image.

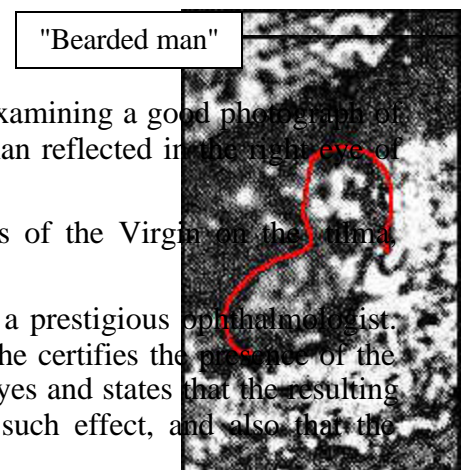
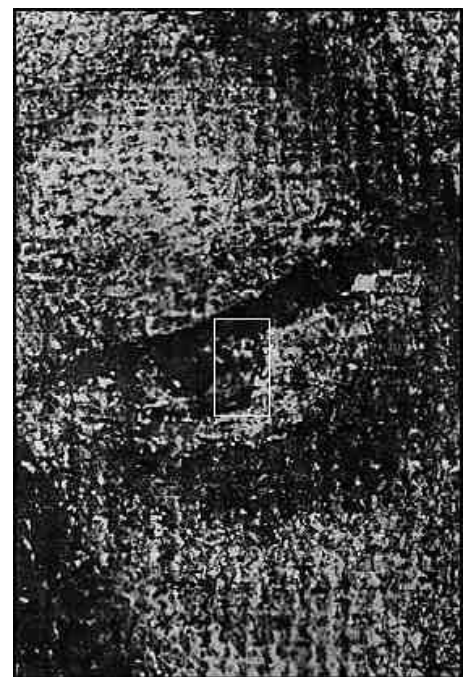
In 1929, Alfonso Marcue, who was the official photographer of the old Basilica of Guadalupe in Mexico City, found what seemed to be a clear image of a bearded man reflected in the right eye of the Virgin. Initially he did not believe what was before his eyes. How could it be? A bearded man inside of the eyes of the Virgin?. After many inspections of many of his black and white photographs he had no doubts and decided to inform the authorities of the Basilica. He was told that time to keep complete silence about the discovery, which he did.

More than 20 years later, on May 29, 1951, Jose Carlos Salinas Chavez, examining a good photograph of the face, rediscovers the image of what clearly appears to be a bearded man reflected in the right eye of the Virgin, and locates it on the left eye too.

Since then, many people had the opportunity to inspect closely the eyes of the Virgin or the image, including more than 20 physicians, ophthalmologists.

The first one, on March 27, 1956, was Dr. Javier Torroella Bueno, MDS, a prestigious ophthalmologist. In what is the first report on the eyes of the image issued by a physician, he certifies the presence of the triple reflection (Samson-Purkinje effect) characteristic of all live human eyes and states that the resulting images are located exactly where they are supposed to be according to such effect, and also that the distortion of the images agree with the curvature of the cornea.

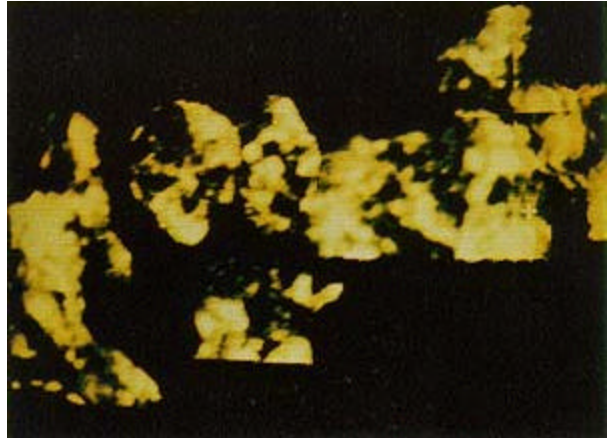
The same year another ophthalmologist, Dr. Rafael Torrija Lavoignet, examined the eyes of the image with an ophthalmoscope in great detail. He observed the apparent human figure in the corneas of both



eyes, with the location and distortion of a normal human eye and specially noted a unique appearance of the eyes: they look strangely "alive" when examined.

Many other examinations by ophthalmologists have been done of the eyes of the image on the tilma after these first ones. With more or less details all agree with the conclusions of the ones mentioned above.

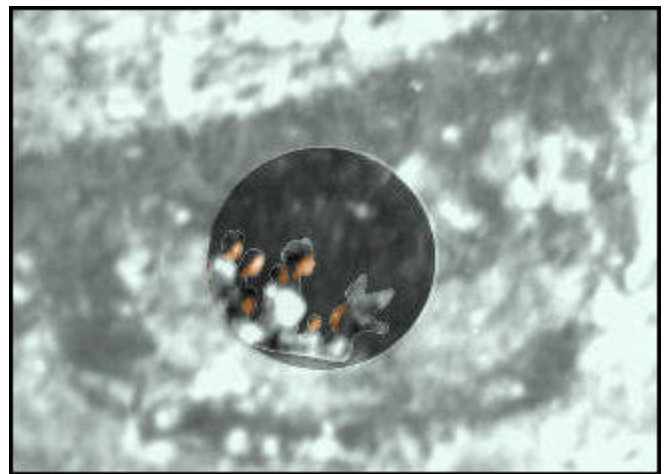
But a new and fascinating kind of analysis of the eyes started in 1979, when Dr. Jose Aste Tonsmann, Ph D, graduated from Cornell University, while working in IBM scanned at very high resolutions a very good photograph, taken from the original, of the face on the tilma. After filtering and processing the digitized images of the eyes to eliminate "noise" and enhance them, he made some astonishing discoveries: not only the "human bust" was clearly present in both eyes, but another human figures were seen as reflected in the eyes too!



Dr. Aste Tonsmann published his last studies on the eyes on the tilma in the book "El Secreto de sus Ojos", with complete details and photographs of his work . Perhaps one of the most fascinating aspects of the studies is his conclusion that Our Lady of Guadalupe not only left us her miraculous image as proof of her apparition but some important messages too. These messages were hidden in the eyes on the image until our times, when new technologies would allow them to be discovered, when they are most necessary.

According to Dr. Tonsmann, from left to right we can see "the Indian", "Bishop Zumarraga", the "translator", "Juan Diego showing the tilma" and below "the family".

That would be the case with the image of a family in the center of the Virgin's eye, in times when families are under serious attack in our modern world. The image of various human figures that seem to constitute a family, including various children and a baby carried in the woman's back as used in the 16th century, appears in the center of the pupil, as shown in this great image of the right eye highlighting the family, generously provided by Dr. Tonsmann.



Internet Links

<http://www.sancta.org/intro.html>

<http://www.sancta.org/eyes.html>

<http://www.ewtn.com/jp99/image.htm>

<http://www.jkmi.com/ologimage.htm>

<http://www.jkmi.com/miimage.htm>

<http://www.shjolg.com/page10.html>

http://landru.i-link-2.net/shnyves/Mary_of_Guadalupe.html

<http://landru.i-link-2.net/shnyves/Guadalupe.gif>

<http://www.geocities.com/anthonybrach/guadalupe.html>

CHRONOLOGY of EVENTS

YEAR	EVENT
1474	An Indian named Quauhtlatoatzin was born in Cuautitlan.
1476	Juan de Zumarraga was born in Spain.
1492	Christopher Columbus landed on an island in the Americas and named it San Salvador.
1514	The first Marian Shrine in the New World was established in the city of Higuey, first to be built on American soil.
1519	Hernan Cortez landed in Mexico.
1521	The capital city of the Aztecs falls under Cortez.
1524	The first 12 Franciscans arrive in Mexico City.
1525	The Indian Quauhtlatoatzin is baptized by a Franciscan priest. He received the Christian name of Juan Diego.
1528	Friar Juan de Zumarraga arrives in the New World.
1529	Juan Diego's wife, Maria, became sick and died.
1531	Year of the apparitions to Juan Diego
1533	The first sanctuary was erected.
1541	Franciscan priest and early historian of New Spain "Motolinia" writes that some nine million Aztecs had become Christians.
1548	Death of Juan Diego.
1555	In the Provincial Counsel, the second archbishop of Mexico, Alonso de Montúfar, formulated canons that indirectly approved the apparitions.
1556	Archbishop Montúfar began the erection of the second church.
1560	A document known as the Valeriano Relation is written by an Indian named Antonio Valeriano. Also known as the Nican Mopohua. (Between 1540 and 1580).
1564	An image was carried on the first formal expedition to the Philippine Islands.
1567	The new church ordered by Archbishop Montufar is completed.
1570	Archbishop Montufar sent to King Philip II of Spain an oil painted copy of the image of Guadalupe.
1571	Admiral Doria carried a copy of the image aboard ship during the battle of Lepanto and imputed to the Virgin of Guadalupe the victory over the Ottoman Empire forces.
1573	The "Primitive Relation" was written by the historian Juan de Tovar, who transcribed the story from a still earlier source, probably Juan Gonzalez, Bishop's Zumarraga's translator. (Discovered in the Mexican national Library Archives)
1647	The image is covered with glass for the first time.
1648	The priest Miguel Sanchez published in Mexico City, in Spanish, a work entitled "Image of the Virgin Mary, Guadalupan Mother of God".
1649	Luis Lasso de la Vega published the "Huey Tlanahuicoltica", telling the story in Nahuatl. It refers to earlier Nahuatl sources.
1666	A formal inquiry and investigation was conducted by the Church from February 18 to march 22 in order to give authority to the tradition.
1695	The first stone of the new sanctuary was laid. The sanctuary was solemnly dedicated in 1709.
1723	Another formal investigation ordered by Archbishop Lanziego y Eguilaz.
1737	The Most Holy Mary of Guadalupe was chosen as the patroness of the city of Mexico.
1746	The patronage of Our Lady of Guadalupe was accepted for all of New Spain, which then embraced the regions from northern California to El Salvador.
1746	The knight Boturini Benaducci promoted the solemn and official coronation of the image.
1754	Benedict XIV approved the patronage of New Spain and granted a Mass and Office proper to the celebration of the feast on December 12.
1756	Famous painter Miguel Cabrera publishes his extensive study of the Image in the book "American Marvel".
1757	The Virgin of Guadalupe was declared patroness of the citizens of Ciudad Ponce in Puerto Rico.

1767	The religious of the Society of Jesus are expelled from the Spanish dominions, and the image is carried to various parts of the world.
1895	Took place the coronation of the image, with pontifical authority and the attendance of a great part of the episcopate of the Americas.
1910	Pius X declared the Virgin of Guadalupe Patroness of Latin America.
1911	A church was built on the site of Juan Bernardino's home.
1921	A bomb placed beneath the image exploded, causing great damage, but nothing happened to the tilma.
1924	A very important 16th century source documenting the miracle is found in Peru by anthropologist M. Saville. It is a pictorial calendar known as the Codex Saville and shows the image of our Lady located in the position representing the year 1531.
1928	A coronation of the image was made in Santa Fe, Argentina.
1929	First documented note of an apparent reflected image of a man's head in the right eye of the Virgin, by photographer Alfonso Marcue.
1935	Pious XI extended the patronage of the Virgin of Guadalupe to the Philippines.
1945	Pious XII stated that the Virgin of Guadalupe was the "Queen of Mexico and Empress of the Americas" and that she had been painted "by brushes that were not of this world".
1946	Pope Pius XII declared her to be the Patroness of the Americas.
1951	Examination of the image by Carlos Salinas. Apparent reflection of a man's head in the right eye of the Virgin observed.
1956	Dr. Torroela-Bueno, an ophthalmologist, examined the eyes of the Virgin on the tilma.
1958	Dr. Rafael Torija-Lavoignet published his study of the Purkinje-Sanson effect as exhibited in the Guadalupan image.
1961	Pope John XXIII prayed to her as Mother of the Americas. He addressed her as Mother and Teacher of the Faith to the peoples of the Americas.
1962	Dr. Charles Wahlig, O.D. announces the discovery of two images apparently reflected in the eyes of the Virgin when studying a photograph enlarged twenty five times.
1966	Pope Paul VI sent a Golden Rose to the Basilica.
1975	Glass was removed so the image could be examined by another ophthalmologist, Dr. Enrique Grave.
1976	Dedication of the new Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, located four miles from central Mexico City.
1979	Dr. Philip Callahan takes 40 frames of infra-red photographs of the image. Later concluded that the original image is unexplainable as a human work.
1979	Pope John Paul II called her the "Star of Evangelization", knelt before her image, invoked her motherly assistance and called upon her as Mother of the Americas.
1979	Dr. Jose Aste-Tonsmann announces the finding of at least four human figures apparently reflected in both eyes of the Virgin. Dr. Tosmann used sophisticated image processing techniques with digitized photographs of both eyes.
1988	The liturgical celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12 was raised to the status of a feast in all dioceses in the United States.
1990	Juan Diego was declared Blessed by Pope John Paul II at the Vatican.
1990	Pope John Paul II returns to the Basilica in Mexico City. Performed the beatification ceremony of Juan Diego.
1992	Pope John Paul II dedicated a chapel in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe in St. Peter's Basilica.
1999	Pope John Paul II, during his third visit to the sanctuary, declared the date of December the 12th as a Liturgical Holy Day for the whole continent.
2002	Pope John Paul II, during his fourth visit to the sanctuary, officially Canonized Blessed Juan Diego.

Internet Link

<http://www.sancta.org/table.html>

WHY THE NAME “of GUADALUPE

“Then the uncle manifested that it was true that on that occasion he became well and that he had seen her in the same manner as she had appeared to his nephew, knowing through her that she had sent him to Mexico to see the bishop. Also, the Lady told him that when he would go to see the bishop, to reveal to him what he had seen and to explain the miraculous manner in which she had cured him, and that she would properly be named, and known as the blessed Image, the ever-virgin Holy Mary of Guadalupe.”(Nican Mopohua)



Why should the Virgin Mary appearing to an Indian in recently conquered Mexico and speaking to him in Nahuatl call herself “of Guadalupe”, a Spanish name?

Did she want to be called de Guadalupe because of the statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Estremadura, Spain?

In all apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary she identified herself as the Virgin Mary and phrases like Mother of God or another of her titles, and was later usually known by the name of the place or region where she appeared (Lourdes, Fatima).

So why should Mary, when appearing to an Indian in recently invaded Mexico and speaking in the local language, want to be named with the Spanish name of Guadalupe?

Was she talking about the miraculous statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe, that was given by Pope Gregory the Great to the Bishop of Seville, was lost for 600 years and was found in 1326 by a cowherd named Gil Cordero guided by an apparition of Our Lady? The statue was named Guadalupe for the village located near the place of discovery.

The origin of the name Guadalupe has always been a matter of controversy. It is nevertheless believed that the name came about because of the translation from Nahuatl to Spanish of the words used by the Virgin during the apparition to Juan Bernardino, the ailing uncle of Juan Diego.

It is believed that Our Lady used the Aztec Nahuatl word of coatlaxopeuh which is pronounced "quatlasupe" and sounds remarkably like the Spanish word Guadalupe. Coa meaning serpent, tla being the noun ending which can be interpreted as "the", while xopeuh means to crush or stamp out. So Our Lady must have called herself the one "who crushes the serpent."



Serpent-god Quetzalcoatl

We must remember that the Aztecs offered annually at least 20,000 men, women and children in human sacrifice to their gods. In 1487, just in a single 4 days long ceremony for the dedication of a new temple in Tenochtitlan, some 80,000 captives were killed in human sacrifice.

Certainly, in this case She crushed the serpent, and few years later millions of the natives were converted to Christianity.

Internet Links

<http://www.sancta.org/nameguad.html>

<http://www.queenofpeace.ca/The%20Story.htm#Apparitions>

http://www.queenofpeace.ca/Original_XVI_Story.htm

CUAUHTLATOATZIN (baptized Juan Diego and now Saint Juan Diego)

A Model of Humility

CUAUHTLATOATZIN or QUAUHTLATOATZIN means “eagle that talks” in Nahuatl the language of the Aztec Indians. During the investigation for his beatification on 9 April 1990 and his canonization on 31 July 2002 much was discovered about the background of this humble Indian believed by many historians to be a peasant because of his total dedication to the poverty of Christian life. A movie title “Prince of Eden” starring Martin Sheen has been in the making since 2001 and should be released to theaters soon. It is based on a book that was written to publicize what was discovered about this man chosen by God to listen to the Blessed Virgin Mary and honor her through following her requests to build a shrine in her honor. He was indeed an “eagle that talks” but in the humility of a Christian Roman Catholic.

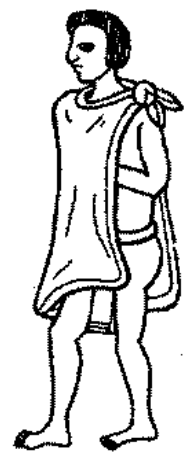


Most historians agree that Juan Diego was born in 1474 in the calpulli or ward of Tlayacac in Cuauhtitlan, which was established in 1168 by Nahua tribesmen and conquered by the Aztec lord Axayacatl in 1467; and was located 20 kilometers (14 miles) north of Tenochtitlan (Mexico City).

His native name was Cuauhtlatoatzin, which could be translated as “One who talks like an eagle” or “eagle that talks”.



The Nican Mopohua describes him as a 'macehualli' or “poor Indian”, one who did not belong to any of the social categories of the Empire, as priests, warriors, merchants,...but not a slave; a member of the lowest and largest class in the Aztec Empire. When talking to Our Lady he calls himself “a nobody”, and refers to it as the source of his lack of credibility before the Bishop.



He devoted himself to hard work in the fields and manufacturing mats. He owned a piece of land and a small house on it. He was happily married but had no children.

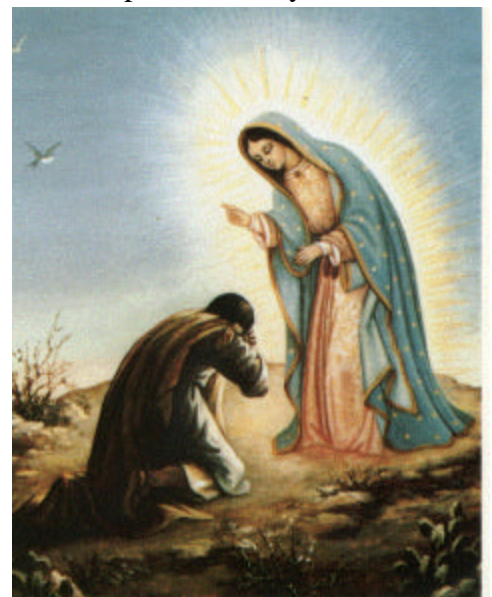
A macehualli

Between 1524 and 1525 he was converted and baptized, as well as his wife, receiving the Christian name of Juan Diego and her wife the name of Maria Lucia. He was probably baptized by the famous and loved Franciscan missionary Fray Toribio de Benavente, called “Motolinia”, or “the poor one”, by the Indians for his extreme kindness and piety.

According to the first formal investigation by the Church about the events, the Informaciones Guadalupanas of 1666, Juan Diego seems to have been a very devoted, religious man, even before his conversion. He was a solitary, mystical character, prone to spells of silence and frequent penance and used to walk from his village to Tenochtitlan, 14 miles away, to receive instruction on the doctrine.

His wife Maria Lucia became sick and died in 1529. Juan Diego then moves to live with his uncle Juan Bernardino in Tolpetlac, which was closer (9 miles) to the church in Tlatelolco - Tenochtitlan.

He walked every Saturday and Sunday many miles to church, departing early morning, before dawn, to be on time for Mass and religious instruction classes. He walked on naked feet, as all the people of his class, the macehualli. Only the higher social classes of the Aztecs wore cactlis, or sandals, made with vegetal fibers or leather. He used to wear in those chilly mornings a coarse-woven



cactus cloth as a mantle, a tilma or ayate made with fibers from the maguey cactus. Cotton was only used by the upper Aztec classes.

During one of his walks to Tenochtitlan, which used to take about three and a half hours between villages and mountains, the First apparition occurred (See The apparitions page), in a place that is now known as the “Capilla del Cerrito”, where the Blessed Virgin Mary talked to him in his language, Nahuatl. She called him “Juanito, Juan Dieguito”, “the most humble of my sons”, “my son the least”, “my little dear”.



He was 57 years old, certainly an old age in a time and place where the male life expectancy was barely above 40.

After the miracle of Guadalupe, Juan Diego moved to a room attached to the chapel that housed the sacred image, after having given his business and property to his uncle; and he spent the rest of his life propagating the account of the apparitions to his countrymen.

He died on May 30, 1548, at the age of 74.

Juan Diego deeply loved the Holy Eucharist, and by special permission of the Bishop he received Holy Communion three times a week, a highly unusual occurrence in those times.

Pope John Paul II praised Juan Diego for his simple faith nourished by catechesis and pictured him (who said to the Blessed Virgin Mary: “I am a nobody, I am a small rope, a tiny ladder, the tail end, a leaf”) as a model of humility for all of us.

Internet Links

<http://www.sancta.org/juandiego.html>

<http://www.princeofeden.com/juan.html>

<http://www.catholic-forum.com/saints/saintjem.htm>

http://www.queenofpeace.ca/St_Juan_Diego.htm



PROTECTRESS of the UNBORN

Scripture - Leviticus

We read in the Book of Leviticus how the Lord tells Moses about the serious crime of offering children to Molech, referring to the Canaanite custom of sacrificing children to the god Molech. The little victims were first slain and then cremated. (Leviticus 20,1-5 and 18,21).

Sacrifice of Children in the Aztec Empire

In the Americas, five centuries ago, cruel human sacrificing rituals were performed in the Aztec empire. Between 20,000 and 50,000 were sacrificed a year. The rituals included cannibalism of the victims limbs. Most of them were captives or slaves, and besides men they included women and children. The early Mexican historian Ixtlilxochitl estimated that one out of every five children in Mexico were sacrificed.

The climax of these ritual killings came in 1487 for the dedication of the new and richly decorated with serpents temple of Huitzilopochtli, in Tenochtitlan (now Mexico City), when in a single ceremony that lasted four days and four nights, with the constant beating of giant drums made of snakeskin, the Aztec ruler and demon worshiper Tlacaellel presided the sacrifice of more than 80,000 men.

Our Lady of Guadalupe crushed this serpent in 1531

Today, the ancient Serpent is certainly achieving big hits in its attack upon human life. Millions of unborn children are killed every year around the globe, in procedures that in some countries are not only legal but also officially supported and financed. In many cases the procedures follow the same rules as the sacrifices to the ancient god Molech: the slain and then cremation of the little children.

The Woman clothed with the sun, in the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Protectress of the Unborn, will crush this serpent again.

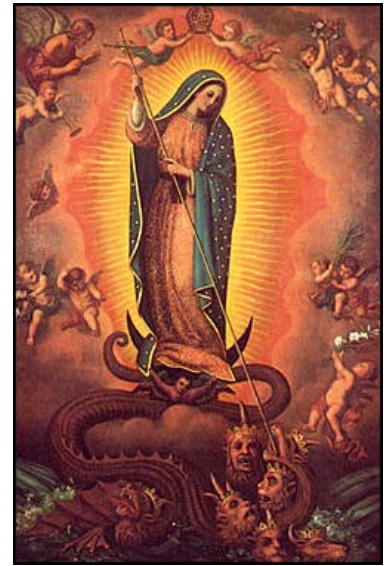
Prayer of John Paul II for Life

O Mary, bright dawn of the new world, Mother of the living, to you do we entrust the cause of life: Look down, O Mother, upon the vast numbers of babies to be born, of the poor whose lives are made difficult, of men and women who are victims of brutal violence, of the elderly and the sick killed by indifference or out of misguided mercy. Grant that all who believe in your Son may proclaim the Gospel of life with honesty and love to the people of our time. Obtain for them the grace to accept that Gospel as a gift ever new, the joy of celebrating it with gratitude throughout their lives and the courage to bear witness to it resolutely, in order to build, together with all people of good will, the civilization of truth and love, to the praise and glory of God, the Creator and lover of life.

Pope John Paul II

Encyclical Letter "[The Gospel of Life](#)"

Given in Rome, on March 25, the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, in the year 1995.



A Prayer for Abortion Victims

May those involved in abortions be reconciled to God and may the innocent dead be saved.

Holy Mother of God and of the Church, our Lady of Guadalupe, you were chosen by the Father for the Son through the Holy Spirit.

You are the Woman clothed with the sun who labors to give birth to Christ while Satan, the Red Dragon, waits to voraciously devour your child.

So too did Herod seek to destroy your Son, Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and massacred many innocent children in the process. So today does abortion killing many innocent unborn children and exploiting many mothers in its attack upon human life and upon the Church, the Body of Christ.

Mother of the Innocents, we praise God in you for His gifts to you of your Immaculate Conception, your freedom from actual sin; your fullness of grace, your Motherhood of God and the Church, your Perpetual Virginity and your Assumption in body and soul into heaven.

O Help of Christians, we beg you to protect all mothers of the unborn and the children within their wombs. We plead with you for your help to end the holocaust of abortion. Melt hearts so that life may be revered!

Holy Mother, we pray to your Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart for all mothers and all unborn children that they may have life here on earth and by the most Precious Blood shed by your Son that they may have eternal life with Him in heaven. We also pray to your Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart for all abortionists and all abortion supporters that they may be converted and accept your Son, Jesus Christ, as their Lord and Savior. Defend all of your children in the battle against Satan and all of the evil spirits in this present darkness.

We desire that the innocent unborn children who die without Baptism should be baptized and saved. We ask that you obtain this grace for them and repentance, reconciliation and pardon from God for their parents and their killers.

Let there be revealed, once more, in the history of the world the infinite power of merciful love. May it put an end to evil. May it transform consciences. May your Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart reveal for all the light of hope. May Christ the King reign over us, our families, cities, states, nations and the whole of humanity.

O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary, hear our pleas and accept this cry from our hearts!

Our Lady of Guadalupe, Protectress of the Unborn, Pray for us!



Internet Links

<http://www.sancta.org/patr-unb.html>

<http://www.trosch.org/gra/madonna2.htm>