

*Florentine*TM

Lives of the Saints

*Our Lady of
Guadalupe*

with Prayers and Devotions

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Regina
Press

Introduction

Christians believe that the will of God is made known in all things. In fact, in the history of Christianity God has revealed his will through some of the most unlikely persons, places and events imaginable.

The Gospel tells us, for example, that God chose Mary, an unknown young Jewish woman from Nazareth, to become the mother of his Son. After accepting her calling, Mary proclaimed in the beautiful Magnificat prayer that God “has looked upon his servant in her lowliness.”

Mary’s son Jesus also came into the world in humble and obscure circumstances. It’s not surprising, then, that Jesus’ message to humanity was about a Kingdom of God that belonged first and foremost to the poor, the lowly and the forgotten people of this world.

This aspect of the Christian faith is significant in light of the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe. It helps us to understand why the Virgin Mary would appear to a poor, unknown Native American convert to Christianity on a rugged hill outside Mexico City in the year 1531.

Mary’s apparitions to Juan Diego make sense,

The Story of Our Lady of Guadalupe

There was no way Juan Diego could have anticipated what was about to happen to him – and eventually to the Church in the Americas – as he hiked along the rugged path toward the church at Tlatelolco to attend Mass that Saturday morning. The date was December 9, 1531.

Juan had been born in 1474, in the village of Tlayacac, about fifteen miles north of present-day Mexico City. At birth he had been given the indigenous name Cuauhtlatoatzin, which means “the eagle who speaks.” He was a poor, yet free man who had worked as a farm worker, field laborer, and mat maker. He had been married, but his wife Maria Lucia died in 1529, and the couple had no children.

He had been a very religious man even before his conversion to Catholicism in 1525. At baptism he had taken the Christian name Juan Diego.

Now in his mid-fifties, Juan was as devout a Catholic as he had been in the Aztec religion of his birth. Every Saturday and Sunday he made

Prayers to Our Lady of Guadalupe

Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe

Our Lady of Guadalupe, my mother,
into your hands joined in prayer,
take my prayers, petitions and hopes,
and present them to Jesus.

Remembering the love and care
your hands rendered to him,
he will not refuse what they hold now.
Amen.

Morning Offering

Immaculate Heart of Mary, heart of my
Mother, Our Lady of Guadalupe, I unite to your
purity, your holiness, your zeal and your love,
all my thoughts, words, acts and sufferings this
day, that there may be nothing in me that does
not become, through you, a pleasure to Jesus, a
gain to souls, and an act of reparation for the
offenses against your Son. Amen.