

Benediction Saturday
at 11:00

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
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Pick up Novena Cards
at pamphlet racks.

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The Vision At Guadalupe.

Every Notre Dame man knows the wonderful story of the apparitions of Our Blessed Mother to the little girl Bernadette at Lourdes in France. Few, however, know that Our Lady appeared in America long before the visions of Lourdes. 325 years before Lourdes the Blessed Virgin appeared to a poor Mexican weaver, Juan Diego, as he was hurrying to Mass in Mexico City. Tomorrow the Church remembers these appearances in a special feast -- the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. This is the story of our Heavenly Mother's visit to America.

The fifty-five year old Indian, Juan Diego, was dazzled by a bright light as he walked along. When he grew accustomed to the radiance, he discovered that it came from a very beautiful maiden: Our Lady. Addressing him in sweet and tender tones and calling him "My son", Our Lady asked Juan to be her messenger to Bishop Zumarraga and to tell him that she wished a shrine built where she stood. From it she would watch over and love his people.

Juan obeyed. The bishop interviewed the weaver, but was sceptical. On the following day, Sunday, the Virgin again appeared to Juan, who told her of the bishop's doubts. He asked Our Lady to send a more influential messenger, but she insisted that she had a reason for her choice. Juan was ordered to go again to the bishop. This time the bishop told Juan to get a sign from the Lady which would prove she was the Mother of God.

All day Monday Juan was busy, caring for an uncle who seemed to be dying of fever. So on Tuesday, December 12, Juan hurried for a priest. He did not take his accustomed path; he wanted to avoid the apparition and a scolding. But he did not escape.

Our Blessed Lady met him and asked: "What road is this thou takest, son?"

There followed an intimate conversation between Mary and Juan. She assured Juan that his uncle was cured. The uncle himself had a visit from Mary who introduced herself as Holy Mary of Guadalupe.

Juan was again told to go to the bishop. He asked for a sign, and Our Lady gave it to him. She directed him to go to the top of the hill and gather roses. Juan knew that this was neither the time nor the place for roses; yet he obeyed. To his surprise and delight, he found that a profusion of roses had sprung up from the barren rocks. Placing many in the lap of his tilma, a long cloak worn by the Mexican Indians, Juan returned. Rearranging the roses, the Blessed Virgin instructed him to keep the roses untouched and unseen till he delivered them to the bishop.

Juan went before the bishop, unfolded the cloak and allowed the roses to fall to the floor. The bishop and his attendants knelt before him. Poor Juan was bewildered, until he looked where their eyes were riveted. Upon the tilma was glowing the life-size figure of the Virgin Mother just as she had appeared to him. The bishop was convinced, and work was started on the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe. That was four hundred years ago.

The picture on the cloak of Juan became the object of public veneration. It still exists. During the persecution of the Church under Calles, plans were made to destroy the famed picture. Word leaked out. The next morning a vast crowd of people surrounded the shrine. The soldiers departed without touching the miraculous picture.

Tomorrow, pray to Our Lady of Guadalupe for your parents, for yourself.