

Benediction Saturday
at 11:00. Drop in
after class.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
December 12, 1946

Don't delay your
Christmas confession.

The Miracle Of The Roses.

This is the story of a fifty-five year old Indian, Juan Diego. One day, as he walked along, he became dazzled by a bright light. When he grew accustomed to its radiance, he discovered that the light came from a very beautiful young girl, Our Blessed Mother. She called Juan, "My son," and asked him to be her messenger to the bishop. She wanted a shrine built where she stood, and from it she would watch over and love Juan and his people.

Juan obeyed and went to the bishop. After interviewing the old Indian, the bishop still remained sceptical. A day after her first appearance, Our Lady visited Juan again, who told her about the bishop's doubts. Juan begged her to send a more capable messenger. But Juan yielded when his heavenly visitor explained that she had a reason for her choice.

The bishop was still sceptical. He wanted tangible evidence that the vision was true. So he told Juan to secure some sign from the Lady proving that she was the Mother of God.

On December 12, two days after the interview with the bishop, Juan was hurrying to the church to secure a priest for his dying uncle. He did not take his accustomed path, because he wanted to avoid the apparition and a scolding. But he did not escape.

Our Blessed Lady met Juan, and asked, "What road is this that you are taking, son?"

Then there followed an intimate conversation between Mary and Juan. She assured Juan that his uncle was cured. It is a matter of fact that the uncle himself had a visit from Mary who introduced herself as Holy Mary of Guadalupe.

Mary ordered Juan to go to the bishop. When the old Indian asked for a sign, she gave him one. 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 of them in the lap of his tilma, a long cloak worn by the Mexican Indians, Juan returned to the Lady. Mary rearranged the roses, and instructed Juan to keep them untouched and unseen until 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 appeared to Juan. The bishop was convinced by this sign, and he began at once to build the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

All this happened in our country long before Our Lady appeared to Bernadette at Lourdes, 325 years before, to be exact.

The story is told at this time of the year, so near Christmas, that your prayer to her may become more ardent and more frequent. With her in your thoughts, you will pray better for your parents and for the virtues that should be in your soul when you visit the Crio on Christmas Day.

PRAYERS: (Ill) friend of Robert Horn (How). Two Special Intentions.

MEETING OF THIRD ORDER OF ST. FRANCIS, SATURDAY 1:00 P.M. IN SORIN HALL CHAPEL