

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Mary gives us an example of how to grow in our relationship with God and with the Church.

In 1531 Mary appeared to Juan Diego at Tepeyac, in what is now Mexico City. When Juan Diego told the bishop that he had seen Mary, the bishop did not know whether to believe him.

When Juan returned to the site where he had seen Mary, she appeared to him again. She told him to pick roses to take to the bishop to help convince him of her appearance to Juan Diego. He picked roses and wrapped them in his *tilma*, or cloak.



Juan Diego went to visit the bishop again, and when he did so, he opened his cloak to show the bishop the roses he had gathered. In addition to the roses, however, he found an image of Mary imprinted on his cloak. Many people were so moved by the image that they became Christians.

The type of cloth out of which Juan Diego's cloak was made usually does not last more than 20 years. The cloak with Mary's image, however, has lasted for nearly 500 years. Every year millions of people view the cloak at the Basilica of Guadalupe.

Design a Faith Symbol

Think about who you are as a person of faith. On a separate sheet of paper, design a symbol that represents you. For example, flowers, crowns, and rosaries are all symbols associated with Mary, and the cross is a symbol associated with Jesus.