

# GUADALUPE

MEXICO, 1531

The indisputable history of the Eucharist and the Incarnation of the Son of God, “Flesh of Christ, flesh of Mary”, says Saint Augustine. The Church “contemplates Mary with joy in the purest image - that which she desires and hopes to be in her entirety” (SC, 103): tabernacle, womb, pyx. The Madonna appeared in Guadalupe dressed in a gown fastened at the waist with a black belt, identical to that worn by the local women during pregnancy.



New Sanctuary of Guadalupe



Old Basilica of Guadalupe



Procession that takes place in honor of the Virgin Mary

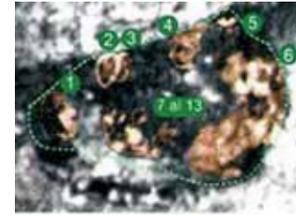


Image of the Virgin of Guadalupe. Like the Shroud of Turin, it is an image created not by the human hand, as scientists J.B. Smith and P.S. Callahan have demonstrated through the analysis of the infrared x-rays. Their conclusion is as follows: “The results of the image of Guadalupe are inexplicable”.

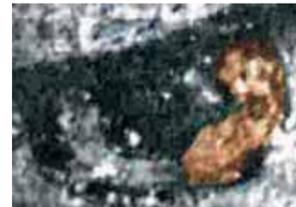


Image of the Virgin appeared on Juan Diego's cloak

On May 6, 1999 Pope John Paul II before the image of the Virgin of Guadalupe during a pilgrimage



Carlos Saslina and the scientist Tönsmann analyzed and discovered imprints of the people present during the apparition of Juan Diego in the irises of the eyes of the Virgin of Guadalupe



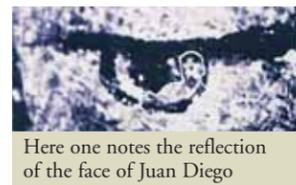
Enlargements of the images present in the eyes of the Virgin



The belt signifies the pregnancy of the Virgin. It is found above the navel. The shape of the belt, in the náhuatl world, represents the end of a cycle and the birth of a new era. In the image of the Virgin of Guadalupe it symbolizes that with Jesus Christ a new era will begin both for the old and new world.



Ancient paintings that depict Juan Diego and the Virgin



Here one notes the reflection of the face of Juan Diego

At dawn on December 9, 1531, the young Indian, Juan Diego, went up the hills of Tepeyac, in the northern outskirts of the City of Mexico, heading towards Tlatelolco, for his usual catechism lesson. Suddenly he heard a soft song and turned towards the source of this sound. He came upon a young woman wearing a shiny dress, who revealed herself to be the Virgin Mary. The Madonna begged Juan Diego to ask the bishop of the capital city to build a temple in the place where she appeared so that all can come to honor her son Jesus. Juan Diego obeyed, but the Bishop Juan de Zumárraga did not believe him and asked him to ask Mary for a sign. When the Virgin appeared the third time to Juan Diego, she promised to give him a sign the following day. On Monday however he did not go to his appointment because his uncle fell gravely ill, so

much so that he needed to receive the Last Rites. The next day, Juan Diego went out very early directly to Tlatelolco, where he wanted to look for a priest for his uncle. He decided to avoid the hills of Tepeyac, so he would not encounter Our Lady, but she met him during his walk. He then confided in her about his pain and she asked him to have faith in her and announced the cure of his uncle. Then she asked him to go to the top of the hill and collect and bring her any flowers that he could find.

*Juan Diego went* to the place she told him and found it covered with marvelous roses and other flowers, unusual for the winter season and the arid nature of the land. He picked them and put them in his tilma, a typical apron worn by the Aztec farmers, and he took them to

the Virgin who told him to take the flowers to the bishop as proof of the apparition. The man did as he was asked and went to Mexico City where, after a long wait, he was seen by the prelate. He showed him the tilma and when he spread it out the roses and other flowers fell and on it appeared a blazing image of the Madonna. The Bishop fell to his knees before this miracle. He marveled, and repenting he asked the Virgin to forgive him for his defiance. Then he took the tilma and put it in a chapel. The next day Juan Diego returned home anxious to see his uncle, who he had left in grave condition. Juan Diego found his uncle completely recovered and he told him about the Madonna and how she appeared to him the day before presenting herself as the Holy Mary of Guadalupe, announcing he would be cured.