

Silver Rose Talk 2021

Thank You Father –

On December 9, 1531, in Mexico, Our Lady appeared to Juan Diego, a poor humble Aztec Indian who had recently converted to the Catholic faith, on Tepeyac Hill. She asked him to go to the Bishop and tell him to build a church on that site. Juan Diego did as she asked, but the Bishop requested a sign that the message was really from Our Lady.

Mary granted the Bishop's request by showing Juan a garden of the most beautiful Castilian roses in the midst of frozen earth on the top of the hill. After Juan gathered the roses, Our Lady helped him arrange them in his tilma, or poncho, and told him to take them to the Bishop.

When Juan brought the roses to the Bishop, the Bishop was amazed, but was even more amazed at what began to happen to Juan Diego's tilma. Right before their very eyes, the image of Our Lady began to form on the cloth. The picture of Mary was beautiful and the Bishop fell to his knees and later had the church built, as she had requested.

Now Juan, as I mention earlier, was a recent convert to Catholicism. Many of the indigenous Aztecs still believed in human sacrifices, which was distasteful to the Spanish. However, after Mary's appearance, everything changed. In the course of the next seven years the Indians embraced Christianity and more than 6,000,000 Indians converted to the Catholic faith, which was the largest conversion in the history of the Church! This is why Our Lady of Guadalupe is referred to as the Patroness of the Americas and the Unborn. As for Juan Diego, the humble man to whom Mary appeared, he was canonized in the summer of 2002 by Pope John Paul II.

Juan's tilma is still intact, today, after 470 years. The colors have not faded and the cloth has not deteriorated. It is on display in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe and a Feast is held in her honor every December 12th in Mexico City.

Running of the Silver Rose

The Silver Rose Program began in 1960, when the first rose – a real Rose – traveled from Canada to Mexico City for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. Today the original real rose has been replaced with Silver Roses. All of the Roses travel from Canada through the US to Texas, where they are transferred to the Mexican Knights. On December 12th, The Roses are displayed during the Mass for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City.