

Celebrating Our Lady of Guadalupe

December 12

Background Guadalupe in Aztec language means, “Woman who crushed the head of the serpent.”

Setting the Theme As people gather, have music playing in the background that reflects the Mexican culture.

Introduction Arrange for five people to portray the story of the appearance of Mary to Juan Diego in dramatic reading and action.

Presentation

Speaker 1 We meet Juan Diego in 1531 at Tepeyac, Mexico. He lives at a time when the indigenous Mexican people were oppressed and without hope. Juan Diego is a person of simple living and deep faith as he walks the roads of his home area. *(Juan Diego enters walking slowly and gazing from side to side. He stops suddenly as a woman approaches him slowly from one side. She is dressed to depict Mary, the Mother of God.)*

Mary Greetings, Juan Diego. I come to bring you new hope from our God.

Juan *(kneeling before her in astonishment)* Holy woman, our people are in great need. What hope can we have in this time of great distress?

Mary Bring the message to the people. Tell them to have great faith and hope. I am their Mother and will always be with them. I am their mother and attend to all their needs. I am the Mother of all Humankind.

Juan What service can I be to you, my Mother?

Mary You will be my messenger to the Bishop. He must have great faith and lead the people in their time of need. Go to the Bishop and tell him that I ask him to build a church where all my children can come to me. Go with faith and courage. *(Mary leaves the scene.)*

(Juan arises and walks off to one side. From the other side, the Bishop enters and is seated in the center. Juan comes before him.)



Bishop Fray Juan de Zumarrago My son, you have requested to see me in an urgent matter. Tell me what you wish to bring before me.

Juan I have seen the mother of God. She has sent me to bring you her message.

Bishop A message from the Mother of God? And what has she told you, Juan?

Juan She has asked you to have faith and lead the people in this time of need. She has requested that you build a church where all people can come to her.

Bishop To build a church is a mighty order, Juan. This would require much work and many funds. This cannot be done on your word alone. Tell this Lady that I must have a sign that she is in truth the Mother of God and Queen of Heaven.

Juan Yes, your Reverence. I will tell her of your need of a sign.

(Juan and bishop both leave. Then Juan again enters looking about and Mary walks slowly toward him.)

Mary Juan, my son, you have seen the Bishop?

Juan Yes, my Mother. He has a request to you. He says he must have a sign to know that you are the Queen of Heaven. This is needed for such a great undertaking.

Mary Yes, Juan. We will find a sign to send him that he may believe as you have done. Go now up this hill and bring me the flowers that you will find.

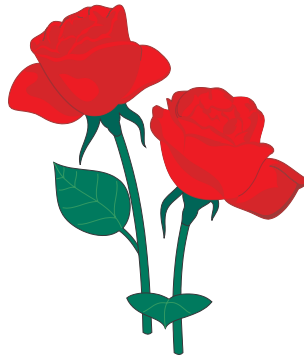
Juan Flowers? Here? At this time of winter?

Mary You have faith, Juan. Do not doubt.

Juan Yes, my Mother, I will go. *(Juan walks off as Mary waits. Juan reappears, comes before Mary and opening his cloak lets fall a number of roses.)*

Mary You have great faith, Juan. Your message will be heard. *(Mary gathers up the flowers and returns them to Juan's tilma.)* Go now with your sign to the bishop.

(Both Mary and Juan leave. The bishop enters again and is seated. Juan enters with the cloak of roses.)



Bishop Juan, you have returned and has this Queen of Heaven given you a sign to bring?

Juan Yes, my bishop. I present her sign to you. *(He unfolds his cloak and lets the flowers fall.)*

Bishop *(He rises quickly with astonishment.)* Roses? In the dead of winter? Yet what is this image in your cloak,

Juan? *(Juan looks surprised as both kneel before the image in the cloak.)* Juan, she is a true mother. We will indeed build this church and bring the people home. *(Both walk out.)*

Speaker 2 In having spoken to Juan Diego in his own language, Our Lady helped him understand -- and through him, all his race -- that a new world was being born with encouraging and dynamic hope, where the indigenous and their culture have a place. This culture would enrich the culture that had come from across the sea. Guadalupe not only animated the hope of the indigenous races but She presents herself as the symbol of it.

Speaker 1 Guadalupe spoke of herself as the Mother of God, Mother of humankind, Our Mother. In the ancient religion, these expressions signified the feminine aspect of God. It was God, under a determined aspect, announcing something new.

Speaker 2 The Guadalupano message is a demand to incarnate truth, justice, and liberty in structures and institutions -- to construct a community more just and more aware of the needs of all.

Speaker 1 With the diverse roses in the depth of the tilma, a symbol of the indigenous, God unites humankind through Guadalupe -- since the image of a mestiza queen announces the new race.

Speaker 2 Roses grew in a place and at a time when nothing as delicate as they ever grew. Roses communicate a clear message of hope even today. *Let us pray in this hope:*



Song **

Mexicans run fast behind the banner of the Virgin,
and in the struggle
you shall be victorious in defending
the Country and God.

From the Holy mountain peak,
appeared like a star Maria,

to put to flight with placid fire
the darkness of idolatry.

She is the Patron of the Indian,
her mantel "Al Anahuac"
protects and gives glory,
raise, Mexicans, the song of praise
and eternal victory.

Prayer

Our Lady of Guadalupe, through you, God announces good news to us. For us, who come to you in our need, you are like the rising light of morning that opens the way for the sun. In you, we find a message of hope.

Psalm 34:1-7

Antiphon (together)

Blessed are those who seek after peace.

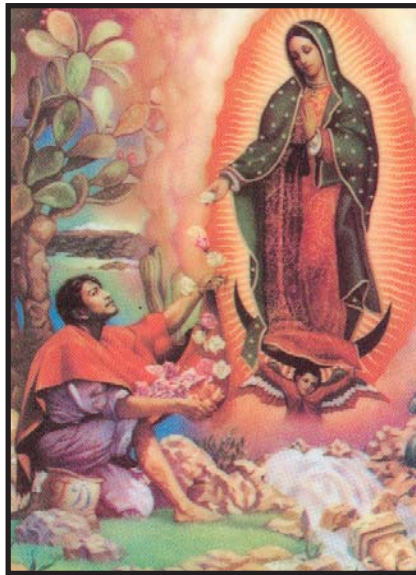
Side 1 I will bless you, O God,
at all times,
your praise always on my lips.
My soul makes its boast in you;
the afflicted shall hear and be glad.
Glorify our God with me.
Together let us praise God's name.

Side 2 I sought you, and you answered me;
and delivered me from all my fears.
Look towards the Most High, and be radiant;
let your faces not be ashamed.
These poor ones cried; you heard them,
and saved them from all their troubles.

Side 1 God's eyes are turned to the righteous,
God's ears toward their cry.
God's face turns away from evil,
that it not be remembered on earth.

Side 2 When the just cry, the Most High hears,
and delivers them from their troubles.
God is close to the brokenhearted;
saving those whose spirits are crushed.

Side 1 Many are the afflictions of the just;
they will be delivered from them all.
God will keep guard over all their bones,
not one of them shall be broken.



Side 2 Evil shall be
its own destruction;
oppression shall be condemned.
You redeem the lives
of your servants;
those who take refuge in you
shall not be condemned.

Antiphon (together)

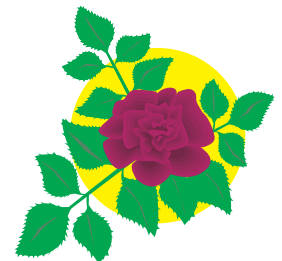
*Blessed are those who seek
after peace.*

Reflection What do I look to God for? Why is God my source of hope? (Pause for personal quiet time and for sharing.)

Gospel Luke 1:39-45

Reflection Elizabeth reminds us that the greatness of Mary is her faith in God. How do I let the word of God give me life and hope? Do I let my desires, whims, moods and things direct my life? How do I help others find hope?

Prayer Our Lady of Guadalupe, mystic rose, intercede and help all who invoke you in their needs. You are the Mother of God. Obtain for us from your Son the graces to preserve our faith and hope in times of trial and difficulties. May the grace of charity be ours so that we may persevere for the honor and glory of God. Amen.



Song Hail Mary, Gentle Woman. (Gary Landry)

Acknowledgments

"Celebrating Our Lady of Guadalupe" ritual: [Lucy Regalado, OLVM](#); adapted from "Santa Maria de Guadalupe y su Mensaje" (pages 21, 24, 32, & 33) by Martinez, Pedro Gil, C.P.; Publicaciones Paulinas, S.A. Mexico, D.F., 1982.
** "Mexicanos Volad Persurosos" from same book (pages 51-52). Introductory skit: [Marguerite Samz, OSM](#).
Ritual from [Hill Connections](http://hillconnections.org) (<http://hillconnections.org>), a web site linking [Contemplation](#) and [Social Justice](#).