

Our Lady of Guadalupe – Patroness of the Americas

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS RELATED TO THE MIRACLE

- 1474** — An Indian named Cuauhtlatoatzin was born in Cuautitlán.
- 1476** — Juan de Zumárraga was born in Spain.
- 1492** — Christopher Columbus discovered the Americas, when he makes landfall on an island he calls San Salvador.
- 1517** — Martin Luther started the Protestant Reformation.
- Francisco Hernández de Córdoba discovers México.
- 1518** — Juan de Grijalva oversaw the second expedition to Mexico.
- 1519** — 1521 Hernán Cortes landed in Mexico and conquers the capital city of the Aztecs.
- 1524** — The first twelve missionaries (Franciscans) arrived in Mexico City.
- 1525** — The Indian Cuauhtlatoatzin is baptized by a Franciscan priest. He receives the Christian name of Juan Diego.
- 1526** — Dominican missionaries arrived.
- 1528** — Friar Juan de Zumarraga arrived in the New World.
- The terrible period of the *Primera Audiencia* (First Audience) headed by President Nuño de Guzmán begins.
- 1529** — Juan Diego's wife, Maria, died.
- August 27** — Problems arose between the Spanish who established the government of the *Primera Audiencia* and the evangelizing missionaries. There was a plot to assassinate the bishop Juan de Zumárraga, but he escaped harm.

The GUADALUPE STORY

1531 —

A series of natural events such as earthquakes, a comet and a solar eclipse led the Indians to believe the world is about to end.

From the 9th to the 12th of December. During the winter solstice the Indians celebrated the most important feast of their calendar. During this pagan feast Our Lady of Guadalupe chose a humble Indian messenger, Juan Diego to bring her Son to the New World. The *tilma* was presented to Bishop Juan de Zumárraga.

The first chapel was erected to Holy Mary of Guadalupe of the Tepeyac, Mexico, and on December 26th, the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe was carried in procession to this first chapel.

A composition called the *Pregón del Atabal* was written to celebrate the procession of the tilma from the Primary Church of the city of Mexico to the chapel on Tepeyac where the image was placed.

1537 —

Pope Paul III issued the bull "Sublimis Deus," on June 9th, 1537 which declared the Indians were able to receive the sacraments, as were all human beings, and encouraged their catechesis.

1541 —

Franciscan priest fray Toribio de Benavente, an early historian of New Spain, wrote that some nine million Aztecs had become Christians.

1544 —

May 15th – The uncle of Juan Diego, Juan Bernardino, died.

1545 —

A document was written by an Indian named Antonio Valeriano, this became known as the *Nican Mopohua*.

1548 —

Both Juan Diego and Bishop Juan de Zumárraga died in the same year.

In the Codex of 1548 the death of Juan Diego was commemorated through pictures. This document was a synthesis of all the events related to the apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

1554 —

Francisco Cervantes verified the existence of the chapel at Tepeyac.

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1555 — The Chapel of the Tepeyac was put on the map “Uppsala”, named after the city in Sweden where it is located.

1556 — The Document *Reporte de 1556* affirmed that Montúfar defended the Guadalupe Devotion.

Archbishop Montúfar began the construction of the second church.

A Chapel was built next to Juan Diego’s house in Cuautitlán and another in Tulpetlac.

1559 — The daughter of Juan Martin Garcia gave a detailed testimony about Juan Diego, his wife Maria Lucia, where they were married and where they lived.

1562 — Census of Martin de Aranguren, spoke of the Virgin of Guadalupe. This document is located in the museum of the Basilica.

1563 — Francisco Verdugo Quetzalmamaliztlin from the town of San Juan Teotihuacan, spoke in his will of the existence of the chapel of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Tepeyac.

1564 — An image of Our Lady of Guadalupe was carried on the first formal expedition to the Philippine Islands.

1567 — The new church started by Archbishop Montúfar is completed.

1568 — Bernal Díaz del Castillo, in his work “Verdadera Historia del Conquista de la Nueva España” (True History of the Conquest of New Spain), mentioned on two occasions the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Guadalupe and noted that many miracles took place there.

The pirate Miles Philips described the great devotion of the Spaniards and Indians to Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Fray Bernardino of Sahagún incredulously spoke of the chapel of Our Lady Guadalupe on Tepeyac.

The GUADALUPE STORY

- 1570** — Archbishop Montúfar sent to King Philip II of Spain an oil painted copy of the image of Guadalupe.
- Account of Father Antonio Freyre in which he spoke of the existence of the Guadalupe Shrine which belonged to the Archdiocese of Mexico. This document is located in the Archivo General de Indias, Seville, Spain.
- 1571** — Admiral Doria carried a copy of the image aboard ship during the battle of Lepanto and credited the Virgin of Guadalupe with the victory over the Ottoman Empire forces.
- 1573** — The historian Juan de Tovar, who transcribed the story from a still earlier source, probably Juan Gonzalez, Bishop's Zumarraga's translator, wrote the "Primitive Relation". (Discovered in the Mexican national Library Archives)
- 1574** — The annals of Juan Bautista spoke of Our Lady of Guadalupe.
- A letter from the religious Jerónimo fray Diego de Santa María spoke of the sanctuary of Guadalupe on Tepeyac.
- 1575** — The letter from Virrey Martín Enríquez also spoke of the sanctuary on Tepeyac.
- The will of Mrs. Ana María spoke of the chapel of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Tepeyac.
- 1576** — The pious work of Cofradía spoke of how the chapel of Our Lady of Guadalupe was in favor of helping orphans.
- Pope Gregory XIII extended indulgences and blessings to the chapel at Tepeyac. The letter from the archbishop of Mexico Pedro Moya de Contreras thanked the pope for the blessings and indulgences given to the chapel.
- 1577** — Testimony of Elvira Ramírez who made donations to Our Lady of Guadalupe on Tepeyac.
- 1578** — **October 30th** — Testimony of Alonso Monte Vamonde who donated to the sanctuary of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Tepeyac.
- 1582** — Two important documents in the Archive of Chimalhuacán Chalco, an "Exvoto" (a sign of gratitude for a favor) and a sonnet which described the apparitions of Guadalupe.
- 1587** — The will of Ana Luján spoke of the existence of the chapel of Our Lady of Guadalupe.
- 1589** — Suárez de Peralta spoke of the apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

The GUADALUPE STORY

- 1590** — The *Nican Motecpana* is written. It is a historical document which retold the story of the apparitions and the virtuous life of Juan Diego.
- A 16th century drawing which captured the apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe to Juan Diego.
- 1606** — First copy of the tilma dated and signed by Baltazar de Echave.
- 1615** — The artist Stradanus created a bronze plaque which highlights different moments of the story of the apparitions.
- 1622** — A publication from Publicación de Diego Garrido which captured the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe.
- 1647** — The image was covered with glass for the first time.
- 1648** — The priest Miguel Sánchez published in Mexico City, in Spanish, a work entitled "Image of the Virgin Mary of Guadalupe, Mother of God".
- 1649** — Luis Lasso de la Vega published the "Huey - Tlanahuicolteca", telling the story in Nahuatl. It referred to earlier Nahuatl sources.
- 1650** — The construction of the Indians' parish was complete and the chapel is now used as a sacristy.
- 1666** — A formal inquiry and investigation was conducted by the Church from February 18th to March 22nd in order to give authority to the tradition.
- The chapel of the "Cerrito" (Hill) was built at the highest point on Tepeyac.
- 1667** — Pope Clement IX instituted the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12
- 1689** — Carlos de Sigüenza y Góngora wrote "The Heroic Piety of Fernando Cortes" in which he spoke of the apparitions of Guadalupe.
- 1695** — The first stone of the new sanctuary was laid. The sanctuary was solemnly dedicated in 1709.
- 1723** — Another formal investigation ordered by Archbishop Lanziego y Eguilaz.

The GUADALUPE STORY

- 1737** — The Most Holy Mary of Guadalupe was chosen as the patroness of the city of Mexico.
- 1746** — The patronage of Our Lady of Guadalupe was accepted for all of New Spain, which then embraced the regions from northern California to El Salvador.
- Pope Benedict XIV ratified the building of the Collegiate of Our Lady of Guadalupe.
- The knight Boturini Benaducci promoted the solemn and official coronation of the image.
- 1754** — Benedict XIV approved the patronage of New Spain and granted a Mass and Office proper to the celebration of the feast on December 12th.
- 1756** — Painter Miguel Cabrera published his study of the *tilma* and image in the book "Maravilla Americana."
- 1757** — The Virgin of Guadalupe was named patroness of Ciudad Ponce in Puerto Rico.
- Benedict XV allowed King Ferdinand VII to use the offices and Masses of Our Lady of Guadalupe in the Spanish territories.
- 1767** — When the Society of Jesus was expelled from the Spanish territory, the Jesuits carry the image with them around the world.
- 1795** — Acid was accidently poured on the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe.
- 1810** — Fr. Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla took the image of Guadalupe as his flag and initiates the independence of Mexico.
- 1821** — Agustín de Iturbide put the Mexican nation in the hands of Our Lady of Guadalupe and proclaimed her Patron and Empress of Mexico.
- 1895** — Many of the bishops from throughout the Americas attended the pontifically authorized coronation of Our Lady of Guadalupe.
- 1899** — The first Plenary Council of Latin America, meeting of the Latin American bishops with the Pope, took place in Rome and recognized the special protection of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

The GUADALUPE STORY

- 1900** — Pope Leo XII proclaimed the offices and Masses of Our Lady of Guadalupe should be celebrated in perpetuity.
- 1904** — Pius X elevated the Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe to a Minor Basilica.
- 1910** — Pius X declared Our Lady of Guadalupe Patroness of Latin America.
- 1911** — A church was built on the site of Juan Bernardino's home.
- 1921** — **November 14th** – A bomb placed beneath the image exploded, causing a great deal of damage within the basilica, but the *tilma* was unharmed.
- 1924** — A very important 16th century source documenting the miracle was found in Peru by anthropologist M. Saville. It was a pictorial calendar known as the Codex Saville and shows the image of our Lady located in the position representing the year 1531.
- 1926** — The Cristero War adopted the battle cry: "Viva Cristo Rey, Viva la Virgen de Guadalupe!" ("Long live Christ the King and Our Lady of Guadalupe!") The North American episcopate and the Knights of Columbus supported the persecuted Catholic Church in Mexico.
- 1928** — A copy of the image was crowned in Santa Fe, Argentina.
- 1929** — Photographer Alfonso Marcue made the first documented discovery of an apparent reflection of a man's head in the right eye of the Virgin.
- 1933** — The day Our Lady of Guadalupe was proclaimed Patroness of Latin America is commemorated in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.
- 1935** — Pius XI named Our Lady of Guadalupe Patroness of the Philippines.
- 1938** — The president of the "Holy Name Society" in California declared Our Lady of Guadalupe to be the Queen of the New World, who should be honored by all Catholics in the United States and Canada.

The GUADALUPE STORY

1941 — Archbishop John J. Cantwell of Los Angeles led a delegation of American clergy to Mexico City and petitions that Our Lady of Guadalupe be named Patroness of the United States. The Archbishop of Mexico City, Luis Maria Martinez, gave a small piece of the *tilma* to Archbishop Cantwell.

1945 — Pius XII stated that the Virgin of Guadalupe was the “Queen of Mexico and Empress of the Americas” and states that the image was not of this world.

1946 — Pope Pius XII declared Our Lady of Guadalupe Patroness of the Americas.

1951 — Examination of the image by Carlos Salinas, and found the reflection of a man’s head in the right eye of the image of Our Lady.

1956 — Dr. Javier Torroella Bueno, an ophthalmologist, examined the eyes of the Virgin on the tilma and confirmed the existence on human reflections.

1958 — Dr. Rafael Torija Lavoignet publishes his study of the Purkinje-Sanson effect which states the reflection of images are inverted in the inner surface of the eyes’ lens, as exhibited in the image of Guadalupe.

1961 — Pope John XXIII prayed to her as Mother of the Americas. He addresses her as Mother and Teacher of the Faith to the peoples of the Americas.

1962 — Dr. Charles Wahlig, O.D. announced the discovery of two images apparently reflected in the eyes of the Virgin when studying a photograph enlarged twenty five times.

1966 — Pope Paul VI sent a Golden Rose to the Basilica.

1975 — The glass covering the image was removed so another ophthalmologist, Dr. Enrique Graue, could examine the image.

1976 — Dedication of the new Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, located four miles from central Mexico City.

1979 — John Paul II celebrated mass in the sanctuary of Our Lady of Guadalupe which was his 1st international pilgrimage.

Dr. Jose Aste Tönsmann announced finding of at least four human figures apparently reflected in both eyes of the Virgin. Dr. Aste Tönsmann used sophisticated image processing techniques with digitized photographs of both eyes.

The GUADALUPE STORY

1981 — The process of Juan Diego's canonization was opened.

1988 — The liturgical celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12th was raised to the status of a feast in all dioceses in the United States.

1990 — **May 6th** – Juan Diego was declared Blessed by Pope John Paul II at the Vatican.

Pope John Paul II returned to the Basilica in Mexico City to preside over the beatification ceremony of Juan Diego.

1992 — Pope John Paul II dedicated a chapel in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe in St. Peter's Basilica.

1999 — John Paul II proclaimed Our Lady of Guadalupe as Patroness of the whole American continent.

2001 — Msgr. Eduard Chavez is named official postulator for the cause of canonization of Juan Diego.

Carl A. Anderson, Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus, dedicated the Knights of Columbus to Our Lady of Guadalupe.

2002 — Pope John Paul II presided over the canonization of Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin in Mexico City.

2003 — A relic of the *tilma* toured the United States. The pilgrimage was organized by the Apostolate for Holy Relics and sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and Holy Cross Family Ministries. The relic was then enshrined in the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles.

Archbishop Norberto Rivera Carrera founded the Guadalupe Studies Institute, led by the postulator of Juan Diego's Cause for Canonization, Msgr. Eduard Chavez and the vice postulator Prof. Jose Luis Guerrero.

2007 — Benedict XVI stated: "When the Virgin of Guadalupe appeared to the native Indian Saint Juan Diego, she spoke these important words to him: "Am I not your mother? Are you not under my shadow and my gaze? Am I not the source of your joy? Are you not sheltered underneath my mantle, under the embrace of my arms?" Shrine of the Aparecida, Brazil, May 13th, 2007