

MODEL OF FAITH

St. Juan Diego

On December 9, 1531, Mary appeared to Saint Juan Diego, an Indian Christian, whom she sent to the bishop with the request to build a church in her honor on the hill where she appeared. The bishop asked Juan Diego for a sign to prove that the Virgin had appeared to him. Our Lady appeared to Juan Diego again on December 12 and promised that his uncle would be healed. She directed Juan Diego to gather a bouquet of roses that miraculously appeared on a bush nearby (roses did not bloom at this time of the year there) to present to the bishop. Juan Diego gathered the roses in his tilma (cloak). When he opened his tilma before the bishop, the roses fell to the floor, and the bishop was amazed to see the miraculous image of the Mother of God imprinted on the cloak. The image persuaded the bishop to believe what Juan Diego had told him, and the church was built. This "Guadalupe Event" had a significant impact on the spread of Catholic faith within Mexico.

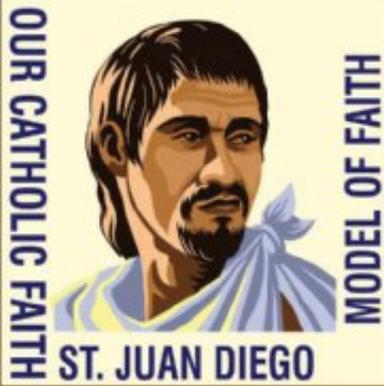
INSTRUCTIONS

To earn this patch, learn about Saint Juan Diego. Complete one activity from each section. Although you may want to add this page to your journal or scrapbook, you do not need to write out the answers. If you are working together as a group or troop, have discussions and/or group activities. If you are working individually, include your family. If you are older, learn about Juan Diego and teach younger children.

Once you have learned about Saint Juan Diego, your leader, advisor, or parent may order the patch for you by visiting www.nfcym.org and clicking the "SHOP" link at the top of the page to access the store.

Take Action

- Juan walked 15 miles to attend Mass every day. Participate in Mass one day this week in addition to Sunday Mass.
- Take a long walk outside and notice the miracles of God's love during that walk.
- Attend a Mass that celebrates a different culture from yours or that is in a different language.
- Participate in an activity around the New Evangelization.



Learn & Take Action

For All

- How do we know about Saint Juan Diego?
- How would you have reacted if the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to you?
- Whom would you have told?
- Share what you learn with someone else.

Why Is It?

Saint Juan Diego is frequently pictured with roses and eagles.

Why do you think these symbols were chosen to represent him?

For Older Youth

- The "Guadalupe Event" meant the beginning of the evangelization in the Americas. What is the difference between evangelization and the New Evangelization; how does this occur in your community?
- Learn about multicultural ministry occurring in your diocese. Research if there are any celebrations for Our Lady of Guadalupe.
- Read Matthew 15:21-28, John 4:5-42, Acts 10:1-35, Acts 15:21-28, and Galatians 2:11-16. What was Juan Diego like? Why did God look upon him?
- Share what you learn with someone else.

Activity Suggestions

Learn more about Saint Juan Diego and create your own activity.

**Catholic Identity Patch Program is a project of the
NCCGSCF & NFCYM**



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