

Readings

First Reading

Reader 1:

In 1531, ten years after the conquest of Mexico by Spain, Mary, the mother of the one true God, appeared to a man by the name of Juan Diego on the hill of Tepeyac. He was a Native Mexican man of the Nahuatl (pronounced *Na-wa*) people. He had lived through the conquest and had later converted to Catholicism.

Reader 2:

The conquest had left the people of Mexico feeling beaten. They felt abandoned and alone. Their gods had failed them, and there was no one to turn to. But Mary, the Mother of the one great God, came to heal all their wounds. Listen to the words that she had to say to Juan Diego.

Reader 3:

"Know now for certain, my son, the smallest one, that I am the perfect and ever virgin holy Mary, mother of the one true God, through whom one lives, the creator of mankind, the one who owns what is near and beyond, the owner of heaven and earth. I ardently desire that here they build me my sacred little house, a *Teocalli*.

Reader 1:

"There I will offer him to all the people with all my love, my compassionate gaze, my help, and my salvation because I am truly your merciful mother

and mother of all who live united in this land and of all mankind, of all those who love me, of those who cry to me, of those who search for me, of those who have confidence in me. There I will listen to their cry, to their sadness, so as to curb all their different pains, their miseries and sorrow, to remedy and alleviate their sufferings."

Second Reading

Reader 1:

Our mother Mary sent Juan Diego to deliver her message to the bishop of Mexico and to ask that a church be built for her at the site where she appeared to Juan Diego, but the bishop did not believe him. When Juan Diego returned, he told Mary that the bishop had not believed him because he was a man of no importance and that she should send someone else. This is how she answered him:

Reader 2:

"But it is very necessary that you personally go and request that my wish, my will, be realized, be carried out, through your intercession. I beg you earnestly, youngest son of mine, and solemnly do command you that once again tomorrow you go to see the bishop. From my part, let him know, let him hear my wish, my will, so that he will make, he will build the temple that I ask. So, once again, tell him that it is I personally, the ever virgin, holy Mary, the Mother of God, who is sending you."

Third Reading

Reader 1:

Juan Diego returned to the bishop again. This time the bishop asked for a sign that would prove it was the mother of God who made such a request. When Juan Diego returned to the Virgin Mary, she assured him that she would give him the sign the bishop needed the next morning. When Juan Diego reached his home, he found that his uncle was near death. The next morning, fearing that his uncle would die, he decided not to run the errand that Mary had given him but to go to Mexico City to find a priest for his uncle. But when he reached the foot of the hill of Tepeyac, the Virgin appeared to him again. Juan Diego was very frightened and told her that his uncle was dying. This is what she said to him:

Reader 2:

"Listen and keep in your heart, my youngest son, that there is nothing for you to fear, nothing to afflict you. Let neither your face nor your heart be worried. Do not fear this or any other illness, or anything pounding or afflicting. Am I not here, I who am your mother? Are you not in my shadow, under my protection? Am I not the fountain of your joy? Are you not in the fold of my mantel, in my crossed arms? Is there anything else you need? Don't let anything afflict you, perturb you. Let not the sickness of your uncle cause pain. He will not die of it now. Be assured that he is well."

Reader 3:

When Juan Diego heard her words, he was greatly comforted by them. His heart became peaceful.

(Portions of this handout are from a translation of *Apparitions Our Lady of Guadalupe*, from the original story known as "Nican Mopohua," by Antonio Valeriano and translated by Fr. Angel Cerda, on the EWTN Web site, www.ewtn.com/jp99/apparition.htm, accessed May 7, 2003.)