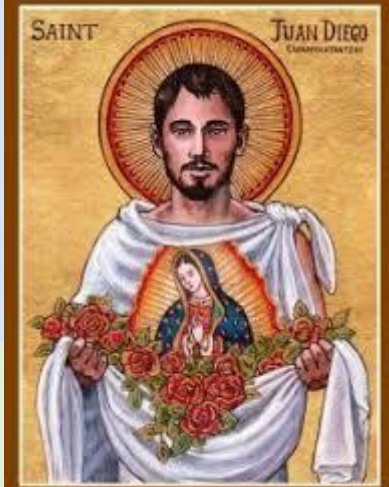


## Saint Juan Diego - Patron Saint of Indigenous people

### Who

Juan Diego was born in 1474 near Mexico City. His Indian birth name, **Cuauhtlatotzin**, means “one who talks like an eagle”. He was a poor man who farmed and made mats out of local cactus fibers to support himself and his wife. When he was about 50 years old, he was baptized into the Catholic Faith and was given the Christian name Juan—Spanish for John



### What

Juan was very devoted to his faith and walked 14 miles several times a week to attend Mass. Being a poor man, Juan walked barefoot, clothed in a cape, or **tilma**, made of fibers from the maguey cactus.

Juan received a special mission from the **Virgin Mary** to tell the bishop that she wanted him to build a chapel in her honor. Juan delivered the message, but the Bishop was skeptical—why would the Blessed Mother appear to one so lowly? He asked for proof that it was truly Mary. The Virgin Mother told him to go to the hillside to gather flowers in his tilma as proof of her true identity.

### Feast day

December 09

### Patrons Saint

of Indigenous people

**Born:** 1474

**Died:** 1548

**Beatified:** 1990

**Canonized:** 2002

### WOW!

Juan gathered **roses**—flowers that never grew in that area—and presented them to the Bishop as a gift from Mary. As he opened his tilma and the flowers spilled out, everyone was amazed that the image of Mary herself was imprinted on his tilma.

By following the instruction of the **Virgin of Guadalupe**, Juan Diego helped build a Church where the native people of Mexico would feel welcome. Juan's tilma hangs to this day in the Basilica.

Juan lived out his life in a hut built next the church. He died at age 74 and was beatified on **May 06, 1990** by Pope John Paul II. Was canonized on **July 31, 2002**. He was the first indigenous American Saint.



*“Hear me and understand well, my little son, that nothing should frighten or grieve you. Let not your heart be disturbed. Am I not here, who is your Mother? Are you not under my protection? Am I not your health? Are you not happily within my fold? What else do you wish?” ~Lady of Guadalupe to San Juan*

## *Prayer for the Intercession of Saint Juan Diego*



Happy Juan Diego, true and faithful man!

We entrust to you our brothers and sisters so that, feeling the call to holiness, they may permeate every area of life with the spirit of the Gospel.

Bless families, strengthen spouses in their marriage, sustain the efforts of parents to give their children a Christian upbringing. Look with favor upon the pain of those who are suffering in body or spirit, on those afflicted by poverty, loneliness, marginalization or ignorance.

May all people... always act in accordance with the demands of justice and with respect for the dignity of each person, so that in this way peace may be reinforced.

Amen!