



Minute of Mercy

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Many are familiar with Our Lady of Guadalupe, the title given to the Blessed Mother Mary who appeared to a poor Aztec Indian Juan Diego. The appearance took place in central Mexico in the sixteenth century. After Her request that a church be built on site, and upon collecting flowers as per Her request to bring to the bishop, Juan Diego opens his tilma to show the flowers; however, what is shown is a beautiful image of Our Lady perfectly portrayed on his tilma. This tilma is on display today in Mexico City.

What one may not be familiar with are the many miracles associated with Her and the tilma referenced above. For example, the tilma's fibers are those of the maguey cactus, and it is said that these fibers only last for a maximum of 30 years before deterioration occurs. How blessed we are that we are able to view it and honor it some 500 years later! Science has also shown that the image is not actually touching the tilma itself, and this unexplainable fact has baffled those scientists who have studied the tilma for years.

Aside from the physical aspects of the tilma, there are miracles that have come through prayer and veneration of the image. Conversion of the pagan Aztec nation to the Catholic faith is most miraculous. The Aztecs practiced human sacrifice. The land was saturated with the blood of 20,000 men, women, and children to appease the gods; in one ceremony alone, 80,000 were killed in a dedication of a new temple. The image of Our Lady drew the attention of the people who came to see this image and admire Her and to pray. As a result, 9 out of 10 million Aztecs were converted to the Catholic Faith.

Let us reflect on Our Lady of Guadalupe and appeal to Her powerful intercession for the conversion of those in the abortion industry. In addition, let us pray for the conversion of our nation to return to the worship of God and to following His laws.

Mercy in Action

*This week's **Mercy in Action** is for all of St. Peter Parish to pray for the conversion of the nation through the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe. A prayer and more information on the tilma can be found on the Year of Mercy table in the back of church.*