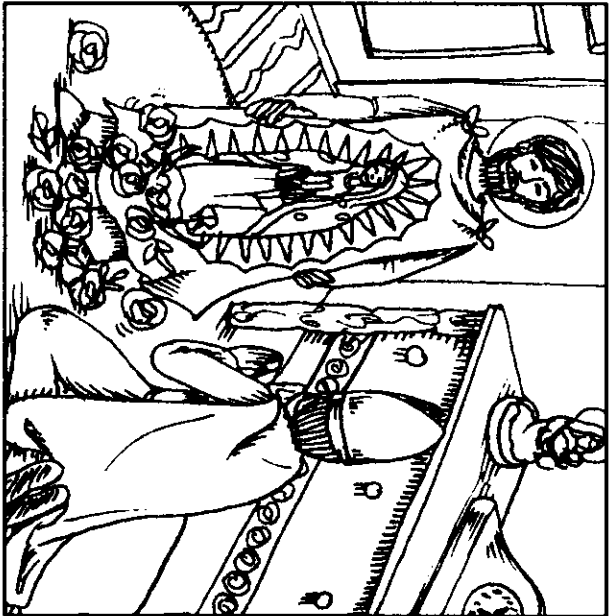
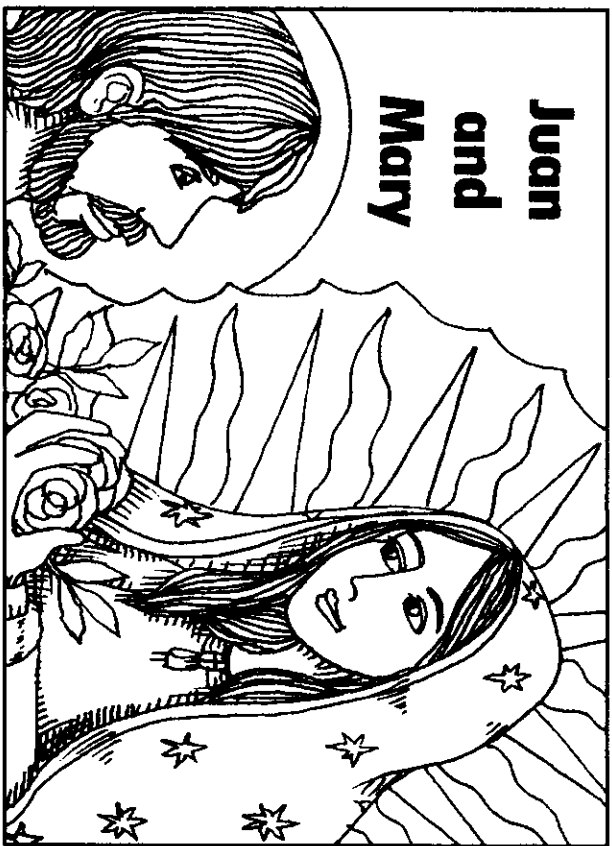


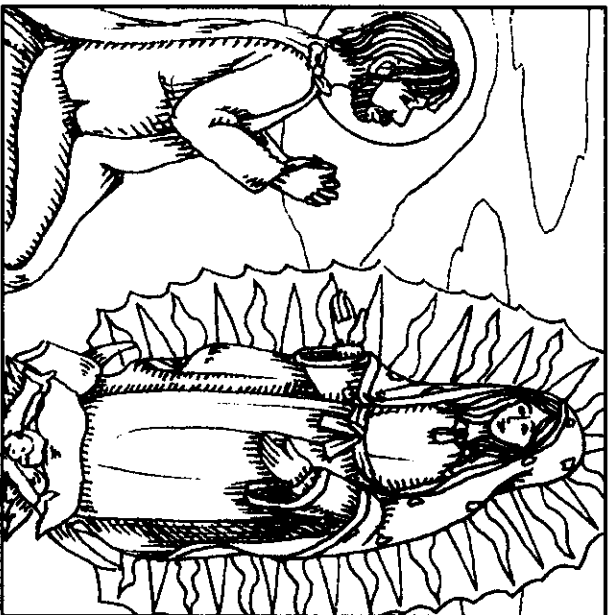
Today, almost 500 years later, Juan's tilma still hangs in Mexico City in the Basilica. Our Lady of Guadalupe is known as the Empress of the Americas, the Star of the New Evangelization and the Patroness of the Unborn, as miracles still flourish with her intercession.



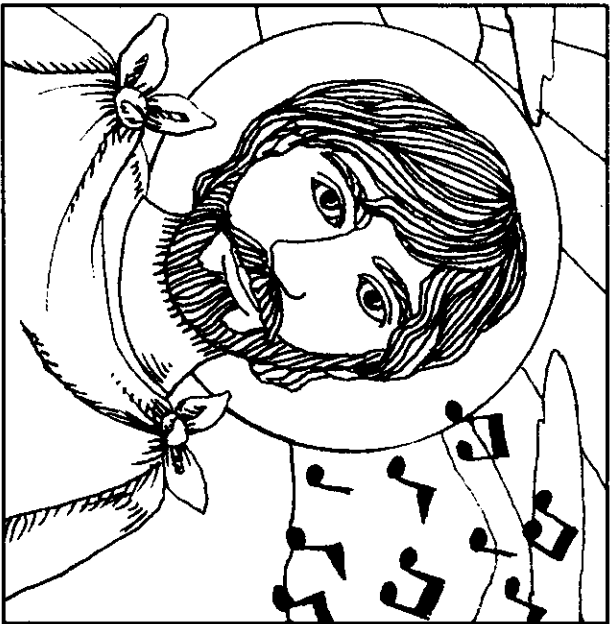
When Juan released the roses, the bishop fell to his knees in tears. Our Lady's image, just as Juan had seen her, was imprinted on his tilma. Mary also appeared to Juan's uncle, whose health was restored.



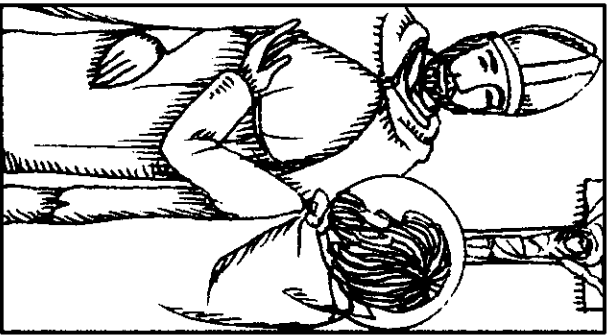
Juan and Mary



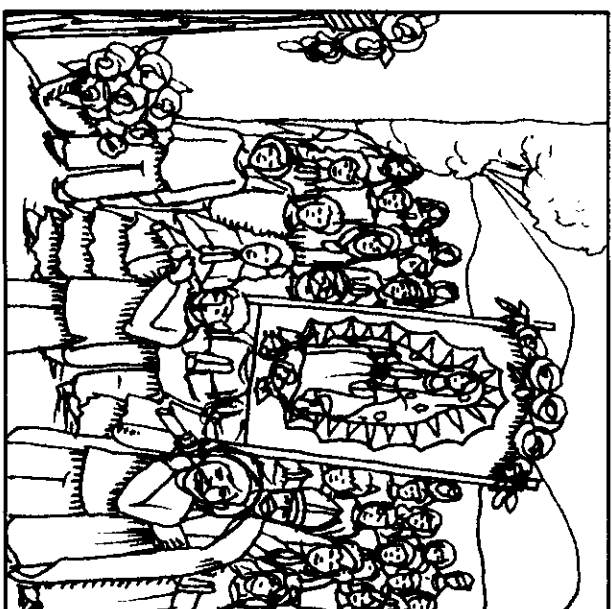
Standing in front of him was a beautiful young woman dressed like an Aztec queen. She said, "I am the ever Virgin Mary. Mother of the True God who gives life."



Juan Diego was an Aztec from a small Mexican village. On December 9, 1531, as he hurried to Mass, he heard beautiful music on Tepeyac hill.



Mary asked Juan to go and tell the bishop to build a church on the hill for the Mexican natives. The bishop didn't believe Juan at first, but then agreed to fulfill Our Lady's request if Juan could bring him proof of her appearance. However, the next day, Juan was called away to fetch a priest for his dying uncle. Juan went a different way to avoid going past Tepeyac hill and the Virgin Mary.



It took only thirteen days for a chapel to be built. The people called Mary "Our Lady of Guadalupe" and joyfully carried the tilma in procession. Eight million natives were baptized in the seven years that followed.



Mary found him and told him not to worry about his uncle but tend to her request. She arranged a bouquet of Castilian roses, mysteriously blooming in winter, in his tilma as a sign for the bishop.