

St. Juan Diego (12/9) and Our Lady of Guadalupe (12/12)



In 1531, Mary came as a Nahuatl-Aztec Indigenous woman to an extremely poor Nahuatl farmer, her 'dignified son' Juan Diego in Mexico, during the worst massacres in history. Mary sent Juan Diego to convert the colonial Bishop. Learn more. Mary is Mother of Compassion for all the Americas. Mary became known as Our Lady of Guadalupe. Mary's tender compassion is extremely significant for the times of Indigenous massacres and racial exclusion, wars and climate crisis. Remember Mary's love for all creation.

ACTIONS: 1. Share the story of Our Lady of Guadalupe with at least one other person (even if you both knew it already). 2. Following Pope Francis' desire that all parishes/communities listen longer to each, take time in silence to imagine Mary, Joseph and Jesus as Palestinians in Bethlehem. Pause. Then picture any white statues of them in our churches. Pause. Can you imagine having their white flesh painted to look middle Eastern? They were all born, lived and died Jewish in Palestine/Israel (one country). Pause Each has time to share as all listen well without discussing or opposing. Quiet to ponder: What did we say, as a group? Share. End by one more round, How was this for me? Since images and symbols are deeper that words, often picture them as brown-skinned. Connect this with our commitment to heal racism and respect all peoples in universal communion.

Advent Series: Our Lady of Guadalupe Vigils (12/1 – 12/12)

In the days leading up to the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, join the Ignatian Solidarity Network to stand in solidarity with our migrant sisters and brothers by learning about experiences of those in migration. Click here to learn more and register to receive materials.

Images

Juan Diego.

Acrylic painting by Barbara Paleczny SSND

12 x 18 inches.

Our Lady of Guadalupe: La Morenita del Tepayac

Oil Painting by Barbara Paleczny SSND

24 x 36 inches.