

ST. JUAN DIEGO 1474-1548 MEMORIAL: DECEMBER 9

On July 31, 2002, thousands of people joined Blessed John Paul II as he canonized Juan Diego, the first indigenous American saint, in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe near Mexico City. The basilica is named for the apparition of the Blessed Mother that St. Juan Diego witnessed on the hill of Tepeyac in the sixteenth century.

After seeing apparitions of the Virgin of Guadalupe in 1531, the widower Juan Diego told local Bishop Juan de Zumarraga of Mary's visitations and her desire to have a church built where she appeared to him. In response to the bishop's request that he ask Our Lady for a sign, Juan Diego went back to Tepeyac on a December day and implored the Virgin Mary to provide something to convince the bishop of her wishes. The Virgin instructed him to gather flowers from the hillside, and even though roses in December are rare, he was able to fill his cloak with them. When St. Juan Diego returned to the bishop and opened his cloak, the fresh roses fell to the ground and miraculously revealed an imprint of Our Lady's image. A church was built on the site, and Juan Diego lived out his days nearby, helping others, praying, and doing penance.

At his canonization, Blessed John Paul II called the new saint "a simple, humble Indian" who accepted Christianity without giving up his identity as an Indian (St. Juan Diego's Canonization Mass, July 31, 2002).



United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
Migration And Refugee Services

ST. JUAN DIEGO



ORACIÓN A SAN JUAN DIEGO

San Juan Diego, nuestro primer santo de las Américas, ruega por nosotros. Le pedimos a Dios, nuestro Padre que derrame la protección amorosa de su espíritu sobre todos los inmigrantes, poniendo especial atención en aquellos que necesitan ayuda, que están aislados o separados de sus tierras natales, sea por elección o por necesidad.

San Juan Diego,
intercede por aquellos que han sido separados de sus familias en
la búsqueda de trabajo,
para que puedan volver a reunirse esposos con esposas, y padres con hijos.

Así como la Virgen de Guadalupe te prometió
sus oraciones compasivas por los pobres de México,
ahora alza tu ruego misericordioso
por los inmigrantes, mujeres y niños
quienes son particularmente vulnerables a los peligros del tráfico humano.
Búscales la protección sobre todo mal.

Que nosotros, O Bendito Juan Diego, recibamos por medio de tus ruegos,
la gracia de recibir con amor en nuestro país a todos los inmigrantes
que buscan en nuestras parroquias y comunidades un hogar.

Te pedimos que unas tus ruegos a los de Nuestra Señora
que se te apareció como Madre tuya y Madre de todos en nuestra tierra.
Que ella envuelva en su manto protector a todos los inmigrantes.

Rogamos su amor, compasión, ayuda y protección para todos los inmigrantes
que hoy pasan grandes sufrimientos, dolores, necesidades y desgracias.

En el poder que compartes con Cristo
y en la unión del Espíritu Santo,
decimos: Amén.

A PRAYER TO ST. JUAN DIEGO

St. Juan Diego, our first saint from the Americas, pray for us.
We ask God the Father
to pour forth the protecting love of his Spirit upon all migrants,
taking special heed of those in need of support,
who are isolated or separated from their native lands,
whether by choice or necessity.

St. Juan Diego,
intercede for those torn away from their families in pursuit of work
that they may be reunited: husbands with wives and parents with children.

As the Virgin of Guadalupe promised you
her compassionate prayers for the poor of Mexico,
so now raise your merciful pleading
for migrant women and children
who are particularly vulnerable to the dangers of human trafficking.
Seek for them protection from all evil.

May we, O Blessed Juan Diego, receive through your prayers,
the grace to welcome with love to our country
all migrants who seek a home in our parishes and communities.

And we ask that you join your prayers to those of Our Lady,
who appeared to you as your Mother and as Mother of all in our land.
May she wrap her mantle of protection around all migrant people.

We beg for her love, compassion, help, and protection on all immigrants
who today experience great sufferings, sorrows, necessities, and misfortunes.

In the shared power of Christ
and the union of the Holy Spirit,
we say: Amen.