

**La Virgen de Guadalupe**

**¿**No estoy aquí, yo, que soy tu madre**?** *Am I not here, who am your Mother? Are you not under my shadow and protection? Am I not the fountain of your joy?*

On Dec. 12, the Catholic Church celebrates the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, marking the day when, in 1531, the Blessed Mother appeared in Mexico to a 57-year old peasant named Juan Diego. The Virgin Mother spoke to Juan Diego in his native language (Nahuatl), and appeared to be wearing the dress of an Aztec princess. This sparked the conversion of 9 million Aztecs to the Catholic faith in just under seven years.

**SOME MIND BLOWING FACTS!**

*The cloak, (tilma) that belonged to Juan Diego and, on which the image of the Virgin later appeared, is made of maguey (Agave plant) fiber, which is why the image, under normal conditions, wouldn’t last more than 20 or 30 years. The image, which is in the basilica of Mexico City, is more than 500 years old and still as vibrant as on the day of the apparition.*

*In the magnified eyes of the image, there are 13 individuals in both eyes at different proportions, just as the human eye would reflect an image. It appears to be a snapshot of the very moment Juan Diego opens up his cloak in front of the Bishop and roses, not native to the area, fall out and reveal the image we see today.*

*The cloak’s temperature inexplicably remains at around 97.8°F, the same temperature a live body maintains.*