

PATRONESS OF THE  
DIOCESE OF METUCHEN



**SPECIAL  
POINTS OF IN-  
TEREST:**

- **Symbols that spoke to the Aztecs**
- **Salvador Dali**
- **Soldiers of Our Lady of Guadalupe**
- **85 Year Old fight management for her Virgin painting**



# Our Lady of Guadalupe

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## Miracle Crash

On December 12, 2018 Aeromexico Flight 2431 crashed and burned just seconds after takeoff. Miraculously 103 passengers and the flight crew all survived, some people sustained injuries but nothing life threatening. Fr. Esequiel Sanchez one of the passengers credits the 'miraculous' crash to the intervention of **Our Lady of Guadalupe**.

The flight hit strong winds shortly after takeoff, causing the plane to tilt and one wing hit the ground. This impact caused both engines to fail and hurled the huge commuter jet to the ground. One wall was torn from the aircraft and the emergency

exits were clear and opened quickly. Within 90 seconds all aboard were off the plane. As they ran from the burning wreckage the aircraft exploded. The final report stated that there were 14 serious injuries and 25 minor injuries. Fr. Sanchez suffered a broken arm.

Fr. Sanchez said to the Catholic New Agency, "I prayed 'God come to our assistance, Blessed Mother come to help us,' and then I began to absolve everybody on

the plane. I immediately said: 'I absolve everyone on this plane, may the Lord have mercy. I thought it was just going to be it, because it was happening so fast. You don't (crash) a 100-ton airplane at 150 miles per hour and think you're gonna be ok. But happily we were.'" From the CNA "The plane completely disintegrated, Sanchez said, so the lack of deaths or worse injuries is miraculous." Fr. Sanchez is the rector of the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Des Plaines, Ill.

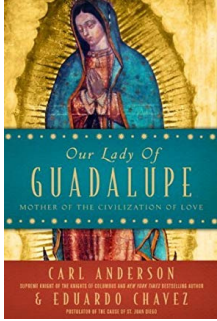


## Mosaic Dormition Abbey

The Church of the Dormition, or Dormition Abbey is located in Jerusalem on Mount Zion. Dormition refers to 'the sleep of Mary.' This is where our Blessed Mother went to heaven, body and soul while she was asleep. Located in the fortress-like church is aMosaic of Our Lady of Guadalupe.



# Symbols of The Virgin



Carl Anderson is the Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of The Knights of Columbus. He wrote the above book and has great devotion to Our Lady under her title Virgin of Guadalupe. The Knights headquarters in New Haven Connecticut has a wonderful display of The Virgin of Guadalupe. See the last page for pictures.



**Her skin color** – she is a mestiza, not dark like the natives or pale like the Spanish, the Virgin is mixed blood. She is of the New World, linking the Spanish and Indigenous cultures and is the mother of all.

**The Sun is at her back and the moon at her feet** – she is the Woman of the Apocalypse (Rev 12:1). The Aztecs see her as having power over Huitzilopochtli, the bloodthirsty Sun god and over Quetzalcoatl, the feathered serpent represented by the moon. To the natives this symbolizes an end to human sacrifice and a new order from the skies.

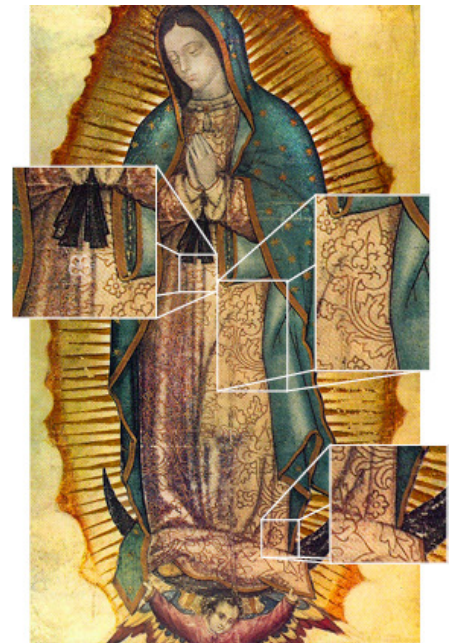
**The Eagle-winged Angel** – beneath her feet she is carried by an Angel with jeweled colored Eagle wings. The Aztecs believed the eagle is a 'herald of civilization and the symbolic conveyor of the Aztec's sacrificial offerings to the gods.' (Carl Anderson, Head of Knights of Columbus) Human sacrifice is not needed to reach God. The Angel/Eagle bearing the Virgin shifts the culture from trying to reach the divine, now God has come to them through the Virgin. St. Juan Diego's native name, Cuahtlatotzin means 'one who speaks like an eagle,' which further proves the herald of a new civilization.

## Her Clothing

**Stars on Her Veil** – show the constellations at the exact time of her Apparitions. **Blue-green color** – the color of Aztec's emperors and of the divinity. **Rich pink color** - represents the earth. **The Veil and the tunic meet in the Angel's hand** – represents a harmony on a significant day for both the Aztecs and for Christian Europe, Winter Solstice. The shortest day of the year symbolizes rebirth and new life.

**Golden Flowers** – these are not decorations but represent important concepts and ideas in Nahutal, the native language. The **Jasmine flower** represents Ometeto the highest Aztec god who has nothing to do with humans. This flower is positioned over The Virgin's unborn

Child, indicating that God is now reachable and has concern for humanity. When the Virgin speaks of her Son she used the same terminology that had been used for Ometeto. **The eight petaled flower** – represents Venus. Venus was important in the Aztec calendar but by the time of conquest was inaccurate and often opposed to solar movement. On Her garments, Venus was no longer dominant, restoring cosmological harmony. The **large flower clusters** represent hill and water, which enforce the concept of nation. Water and mountains represent all that is essential for human life. When the **Flower cluster is turned upside down** – it becomes a human heart with its arteries. This represents to the natives a sacrifice in an entirely new way. This is the divine heart and blood that carries sacrifice and love to humanity. Her posture is a radical change from what the Aztecs believed about God or in this case the Mother of God. Her humility, her clasped hands, her reverential gaze down are all understood by both cultures. Importantly for the Aztecs she is woman in motion, her bent knee, her weight on one foot indicates a dance movement, and dancing is the highest form of prayer for the Aztecs.



## The Virgin of Guadalupe—Salvador Dali

Salvador Dali, was one time the darling of paganism and considered its greatest painter. If not the father of Surrealism he is its main adherent. He had a difficult childhood – his father was an anticleric atheist and his mother a devout Catholic. He had an older brother who died shortly after birth and nine months later Salvador was born. His parents told him he was the reincarnation of his older brother also named Salvador. His beliefs and faith were uncertain and confused. As a young man he said “Heaven is to be found exactly in the center of the bosom of the man who has faith. At this moment I do not yet have faith, and I fear I shall die without heaven.”

His fame peaked in the 40's, 50's and 60's. Dali had slowly returned to the faith of his mother by the end of the 1940's, he started his religious themed work at this time.

He had started the decade declaring “I intend to become classical.” In 1959 he



completed The Virgin of Guadalupe. His painting of The Virgin of Guadalupe borrows from the old and the new. The Madonna is in the style of Raphael, copying his image from Raphael's Sistine Madonna, which was painted two decades before the miracle of Guadalupe. The very bottom of the painting is a throw back to Dali's early days, the desert wasteland. According to Elizabeth Lev,

Art Professor in Rome, the fragile vase and Jasmine flower were inspired by Fra Filippo Lippi's altarpiece, and the flesh tones of the figures also invoke Raphael. She sees the influence of Leonardo di Vinci in the figures as well. Dominating the background is Dali's 'signature atomic clouds.' The center of the picture invokes the discovery of the New World, reminiscent of an earlier Dali painting. The kneeling figures draw our attention to the Virgin holding the Child Jesus. St. Juan Diego's roses are scattered below the figures. Perhaps classical would not be the right word to describe Dali's The Virgin of Guadalupe, but his sincerity cannot be faulted in this 'contemporary' interpretation of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

## Pilgrims Travel 200 mile by Foot and Bikes

The Diocese of Querétaro sponsored a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. Queretaro is located approximately 200 miles from Mexico City. The pilgrims came by bike, and on foot. The trek took 17 days. Arriving first were the cyclists, 300 strong. Six hours later 23,000 women arrived on foot and finally 34,600 men arrived. These men are known as 'soldiers of Our Lady of Guadalupe.' Their bishop, Bishop Faustino Armendáriz Jiménez accompanied them and offered three masses at the shrine, one for each group.

### Quotes from his sermons:

*“to give our time to Christ.*

*Let's not be afraid to spend our free time with Jesus and to have a time shared with him! Yes, let us open up our time to Christ so he can illuminate and direct it.*

*You can find true and complete peace, the fruit of reconciliation within yourself, in all your relationships: with God, with others and with the world.*

*Many of our adolescents and young adults go about like sheep without a shepherd. If we don't have our hearts renewed in Christ and on fire with the Spirit, it will be impossible to feel compassion for them and sadly we will thus be unable to do anything.*

*Let's not say that it's harder today; it's different. But let's learn from the saints who have preceded us and faced their own difficulties in their times”*



Artwork commissioned by the Knights of Columbus on display in the Knights HQ in New Haven CT.

## Prayer for Life

Oh Mary, Mother of Jesus and Mother of Life,  
We honor you as Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Thank you for pointing us to Jesus your Son,  
The only Savior and hope of the world.

Renew our hope in him,  
That we all may have the courage to say Yes to  
life,  
And to defend those children in danger of  
abortion.

Give us your compassion  
To reach out to those tempted to abort,  
And to those suffering from a past abortion.

Lead us to the day when abortion  
Will be a sad, past chapter in our history.

Keep us close to Jesus, the Life of the World,  
Who is Lord forever and ever. Amen.

### The Tilma:

Dr. Philip C. Callahan, a biophysicist, concluded, “The original figure including the rose robe, blue mantle, hands and face... is inexplicable. In terms of this infra-red study, there is no way to explain either the kind of color pigments utilized, nor the maintenance of color luminosity and brightness of pigments over the centuries. (From Catholic Straight Answers)

## Senior Citizen Fights for Her Virgin of Guadalupe

Millie Francis attributes her miracle recover to Our Lady of Guadalupe. Over 16 years ago Ms. Francis was declared clinically dead for 15 minutes following surgery. Today she is fine, a feisty 85 year old fighting her property management. Ms. Francis lives in a mobile home park – and during the summer received permission from the park to replace one of her large windows with a sheet of plywood. She did this because of nosy neighbors and the security lights at night. After receiving permission for the change Ms. Francis was inspired to paint a picture of The Virgin of Guadalupe on the board. Since it has been put up she had been battling the management to keep it up.

“They’ll have to kill me first.” She is quoted as saying. She is relying on the help of her local Knights of Columbus and parish to continue this fight.

