

Smart Martha Presents:

Our Lady of Guadalupe

(A short play with simple parts for easy memorization)

Characters (And suggested costumes/props)

Narrator (Should read part)

Juan Diego (He wears the tilma most of the time. It has the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe painted on it. It can be turned inside out and worn like this until the end of the play.)

Uncle (He can wear a poncho or tunic.)

Mary (She can just wear a blue cloth over her head. Possibly a pink robe or gown underneath. She needs to carry in the artificial bunches of roses.)

Guard (He has a tunic and spear. If desired, this character could instead be a Franciscan assistant to the Bishop so he would wear a brown robe.)

Bishop (He wears a brown robe like a Franciscan priest.)

Narrator: A long time ago in 1531 in Mexico, there lived an Aztec Indian name Juan Diego. He had recently converted to the Catholic faith because of the influence of the Spanish conquerors under Cortez and the missions that followed. After the conquest, however, the Spanish rulers were very cruel to the Aztecs and an uprising was rumored. This worried the present Bishop Zumarraga, who prayed to Our Lady for her special intervention.

(In the home of a poor Aztec Indian family—Juan is comforting his sick Uncle)

Juan: Dear Uncle, I have come home from work to see how you are feeling.

Uncle: I am not feeling very well, Juan.

Juan: I can see that. I will hurry and get the priest for you.

(Juan picks up a walking stick, bag, etc. and pretends to walk on a long journey back and forth across your stage area while the Uncle leaves the stage.)

Narrator: So on December 12, 1531, Juan Diego got ready to journey to a nearby village to get a priest. On the way there, he traveled over the barren Tepeyac hill, which is now part of Mexico City. Suddenly, he saw a bright light. To his surprise, a beautiful woman appeared.

(Mary appears standing on a stool or small chair.)

Mary: Hail, Juan Diego. Please do not be afraid. I know that you are worried about your uncle. But there is no need of that. He is now feeling well. I bring you great news of peace. All I ask is that a church be built here in this place that I may give my love and protection to my people. You must go see the Bishop and make this request known to him.

Juan: I will do whatever you ask.

(Mary goes away, and Juan journeys again.)

Narrator: Juan journeyed again, this time to see the Bishop. When he arrived they made him wait outside for a very long time.

(Juan sits a little off center on the stage with his head hanging low. A guard finally approaches Juan and wakes him up.)

Guard: You may finally see the Bishop now.
(Bishop enters.)

Juan: Your Excellency *(bow)* I have seen a great lady on the hill of Tepeyac. She appeared to me from out of nowhere. She wants a church built there in her name.

Bishop: If this is true, tell her that I need some kind of a sign.

(Bishop and guard exit.)

Narrator: Juan left feeling disappointed. He returned home and made his plans to journey again to where the lady appeared to him.

(Juan journeys again.)

Three days after he first saw the lady, she appeared to him again on the same spot.

(Mary puts down the roses nearby and appears like she did before.)

Juan: My lady, I fear I have failed you. The Bishop would not believe what I said unless I showed him some kind of a sign.

Mary: Do not be downhearted, Juan. Am I not here who is your mother? I am ready to give the Bishop the sign that he needs. Look over there. See those roses?

Juan: Yes, I have never seen roses like those in this barren place during this time of year.

Mary: Pick them and give them to the Bishop.

Juan: I will.

(Juan picks the roses and puts them into his tilma. Juan needs to exit the stage area and secretly either change his tilma or just turn one inside-out so that the image of Our Lady is ready to show when Juan opens his tilma for the Bishop.)

Narrator: Juan returned to the Bishop. He held the roses in his tilma close to his heart. His heart beat faster and faster as he waited once again to see the Bishop.

(Guard enters and then Bishop like before)

Guard: The Bishop will see you now.

Juan: Your Excellency (*bow*), I, Juan Diego, return to you with the sign you have requested.

Bishop: I remember you well, Juan Diego. What have you brought me?

(Juan opens the tilma so that the audience and Bishop can see the roses fall and the image of Our Lady on the tilma.)

Narrator: With that, Juan Diego opened his tilma to released the roses. As the roses fell to the ground a miraculous image of the Lady appeared on the tilma. The Bishop needed no other sign. A church was built and devotion was spread to the Lady, known as Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Millions converted to the faith. If you travel to Mexico City, you can see this tilma that has not disintegrated even after 460 years. Many scientists and doctors have examined the tilma and have concluded that it is beyond explanation. It is a miracle.

What our Lady proclaimed to Juan Diego many years ago is still true today,
Am I not here who is your Mother?

(Copyright Smart Martha 2011)