

## **The Silver Rose of Our Lady of Guadalupe**

On December 9, 1531, in Mexico, Our Lady appeared to Juan Diego, a poor humble Aztec Indian who had recently converted to the Catholic faith, on Tepeyac Hill. She asked him to go to the Bishop and tell him to build a church on that site. Juan Diego did as she asked, but the Bishop requested a sign that the message was really from Our Lady. Mary granted the Bishop's request by showing Juan a garden of the most beautiful Castilian roses in the midst of frozen earth on the top of the hill. After Juan gathered the roses, Our Lady helped him arrange them in his tilma, or poncho, and told him to take them to the Bishop. When Juan brought the roses to the Bishop, the Bishop was amazed, but was even more amazed at what began to happen to Juan Diego's tilma. Right before their very eyes, the image of Our Lady began to form on the cloth. The picture of Mary was beautiful, and the Bishop fell to his knees and later had the church built, as she had requested. Now Juan, as I mention earlier, was a recent convert to Catholicism. Many of the indigenous Aztecs still believed in human sacrifices, which was distasteful to the Spanish. However, after Mary's appearance, everything changed. In the course of the next seven years the Indians embraced Christianity and more than 6,000,000 Indians converted to the Catholic faith, which was the largest conversion in the history of the Church! This is why Our Lady of Guadalupe is referred to as the Patroness of the Americas and the Unborn. As for Juan Diego, the humble man to whom Mary appeared, he was canonized in the summer of 2002 by Pope John Paul II. Juan's tilma is still intact, today, after 470 years. The colors have not faded, and the cloth has not deteriorated. It is on display in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe and a Feast is held in her honor every December 12th in Mexico City. Running of the Silver Rose The Silver Rose Program began in 1960, when the first rose – a real Rose – traveled from Canada to Mexico City for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. Today the original real rose has been replaced with Silver Roses. All of the Roses travel from Canada through the US to Texas, where they are transferred to the Mexican Knights. On December 12th, The Roses are displayed during the Mass for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City

## **ICPI- International Centennial Pilgrim Image Our Lady of Fatima**

The Alliance of the Holy Family International, had 6 of these images blessed by Pope Francis in 2017 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the messages of Our Lady of Fatima. The Alliance was commissioned to bring each of these pilgrim images to the 6 continents of: North America, South America, Europe, Africa, Asia, and Oceania. The Mission is to promote Our Lady of Fatima's message of prayer and penance. Each of the images have been traveling along with our AHFI missionaries to explain the importance of the messages summarized in a brief acronym COR-CARE (Consecration, Oblation/ Offering, Reparation- Confession, Adoration, Rosary, Eucharist), with the goal to consecrate parishes and families, and to invest everyone present with the Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. If you are also interested in following the travels of the 6 Pilgrim Images, worldwide since 2017, visit our YouTube channel- AHFI Fatima 100 years. Below are the two links you will find of interest.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=roSUicblZ74> THE PAPAL BLESSING OF THE SIX IMAGES OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8R3C2VkVqeg> THE GLOBAL 3-YEAR JOURNEY OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA ICPI 2017 2019

## **The Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel**

In the year 1251, in the town of Aylesford in England, Our Lady appeared to St. Simon Stock, a Carmelite. She handed him a brown woolen scapular and said, "This shall be a privilege for you and all Carmelites, that anyone dying in this habit shall not suffer eternal fire." In time, the Church extended this magnificent privilege to all the laity who are willing to be invested in the Brown Scapular of the Carmelites and who perpetually wear it.

The Blessed Virgin of Mount Carmel has promised to save those who wear the scapular from the fires of hell; She will also shorten their stay in purgatory if they should pass from this world still owing some debt of punishment.

This promise is found in a Bull of Pope John XXII. The Blessed Virgin appeared to him and, speaking of those who wear the Brown Scapular, said, "I, the Mother of Grace, shall descend on the Saturday after their death and whomsoever I shall find in purgatory I shall free so that I may lead them to the holy mountain of life everlasting."

The Blessed Virgin assigned certain conditions which must be fulfilled:

1. Wear the Brown Scapular continuously.
2. Observe chastity according to one's state in life (married/single).
3. Recite daily the [Little Office of the Blessed Virgin](#) OR Observe the fasts of the Church together with abstaining from meat on Wednesdays and Saturdays OR With permission of a priest, say five decades of Our Lady's Most Holy Rosary OR With permission of a priest, substitute some other good work.

Pope Benedict XV, the celebrated World War I Pontiff, granted 500 days indulgence for devoutly kissing your scapular.