

## Our Lady of Guadalupe – Patroness of the Americas



Our Lady of Guadalupe is the patroness of the Americas and the Diocese of Sioux City. She appeared four times to a native peasant boy, Juan Diego, in 1531. She asked Juan to build a church in her honor at the top of Tepeyac Hill. Juan Diego went twice to the archbishop to try and carry out Guadalupe's request, and during his second visit, the archbishop demanded a sign. Guadalupe told Juan Diego to take Castilian roses from Tepeyac Hill to the archbishop. These Castilian roses weren't native to the area, and it wasn't the time of the year that these flowers typically grow. As Juan Diego opened his cloak to present the roses to the archbishop, the image of Guadalupe miraculously appeared on Juan's tilma. The most famous words from Guadalupe's conversations with Juan Diego are, "Am I not here? I, who am your mother?" Guadalupe reminds us that no matter whom we are or where we are from, each of us is special in her eyes. She looks at each of us as a mother looks at her children.