

Juan Diego

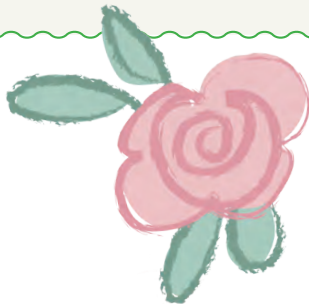
Mary's Humble Messenger

1474–1548

Born near present-day

Mexico City, Mexico

Feast Day: December 9



Text by Barbara Yoffie

Illustrated by Katherine A. Borgatti



Liguori

Dedication

To my family:
my parents Jim and Peg,
my husband Bill,
our son Sam and daughter-in-law Erin,
and our precious grandchildren
Ben, Lucas, and Andrew

To all the children I have had the privilege of
teaching throughout the years.

Imprimi Potest:

Harry Grile, CSsR, Provincial
Denver Province, The Redemptorists

Published by Liguori Publications
Liguori, Missouri 63057

To order, call 800-325-9521
Liguori.org

Copyright © 2012 Liguori Publications

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or any other—except for brief quotations in printed reviews, without the prior written permission of Liguori Publications.

ISBN 978-0-7648-2238-4

Liguori Publications, a nonprofit corporation, is an apostolate of The Redemptorists. To learn more about The Redemptorists, visit Redemptorists.com.

Printed in the United States of America
23 22 21 20 19 / 6 5 4 3 2
First Edition

Dear Parents and Teachers:

Saints and Me! is a series of children's books about saints. Six books make up the first set: *Saints of North America*. In this set, each book tells a thought-provoking story about a heavenly hero.

Saints of North America includes the heroic lives of six saints from the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Saints Kateri Tekakwitha and Elizabeth Ann Seton were both born in the United States. Saint Juan Diego was born in Mexico, and Saint André Bessette was from Canada. European missionaries also came to North America to spread the Catholic faith, making it their home while they worked with people in the New World. Saints Rose Philippine Duchesne and Damien de Veuster were missionary saints.

Through the centuries, saints have always been dear to Catholics, but *why*? In most instances, ordinary people were and are transformed by the life of Jesus and therefore model Christ's life for us. It is our Lord who makes ordinary people extraordinary. As your children come to know the saints, it is our hope that they will come to understand and identify that they, too, are *called to be saints*.

Which saint wanted to work with Native Americans? Who wanted to work with the sick people on the island of Molokai, Hawaii? To which saint did the Virgin Mary appear? Who loved Saint Joseph? Which saint started the first American religious community of women? Do you know which saint is the patron of nature? Find the answers in the *Saints of North America*, *Saints and Me!* set and help your child identify with the lives of the saints.

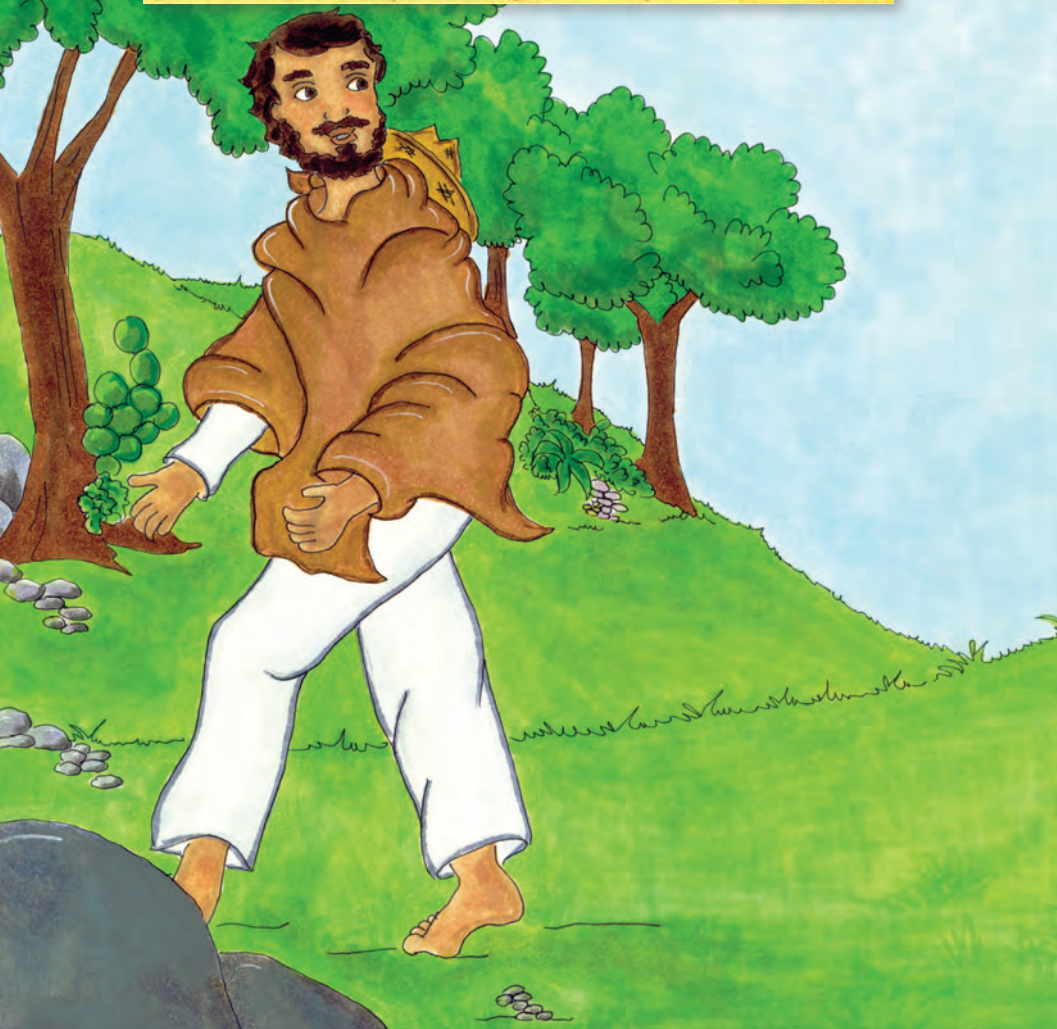
Introduce your children or students to the *Saints and Me!* series as they:

- READ** about the lives of the saints and are inspired by their stories.
- PRAY** to the saints for their intercession.
- CELEBRATE** the saints and relate to their lives.

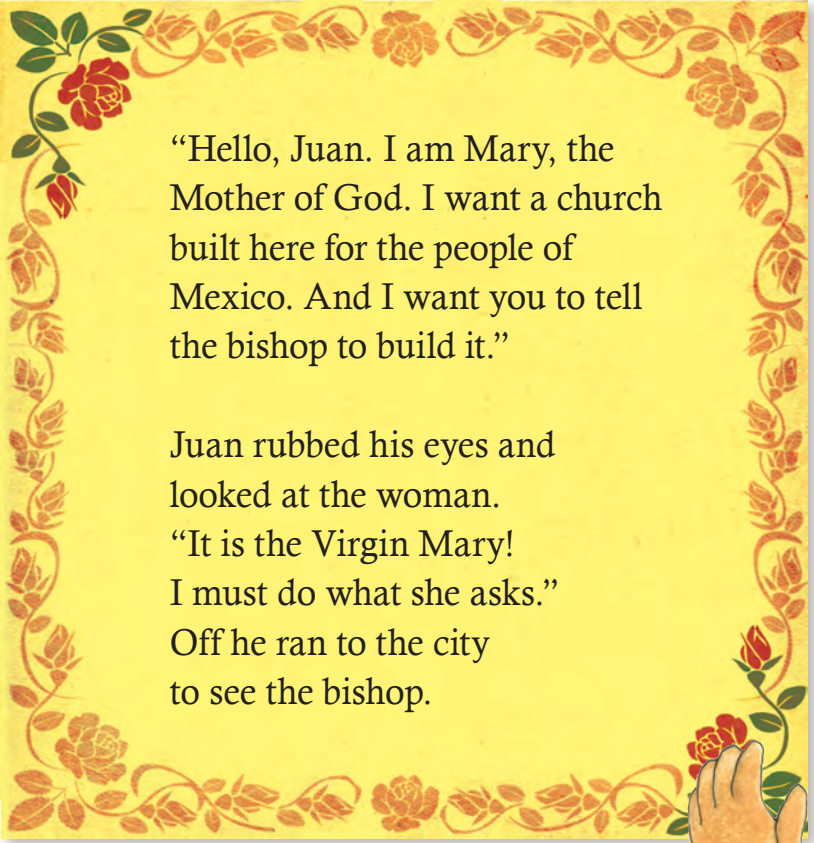


Juan Diego was born near present-day Mexico City, Mexico. He was a poor Aztec Indian. The Aztec Indians were treated unkindly by their rulers. But Juan found peace in the Catholic faith. Juan liked to pray and go to Mass.

On his way to Mass one chilly morning, someone called out his name. "Juan, please come here." He turned and saw a beautiful Indian woman. A bright light glowed all around her.







“Hello, Juan. I am Mary, the
Mother of God. I want a church
built here for the people of
Mexico. And I want you to tell
the bishop to build it.”

Juan rubbed his eyes and
looked at the woman.

“It is the Virgin Mary!
I must do what she asks.”
Off he ran to the city
to see the bishop.





“I saw Mary. She spoke to me.
She wants you to build a church on
Tepeyac Hill. She wants the church
built for all the people of Mexico.”
The bishop didn’t know what to do.
“I will have to think about this,”
he said. “Come back later.”

