

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE MASS

Church fest celebrates the Queen of Mexico

Two accounts published in the 1640s, tell how peasant Juan Diego saw a vision of a young lady, bathed in light, while walking from his home village to Mexico City on Dec. 9, 1531. The young lady asked for a church to be built at that site in her honor. The peasant recognized her as the Virgin Mary.

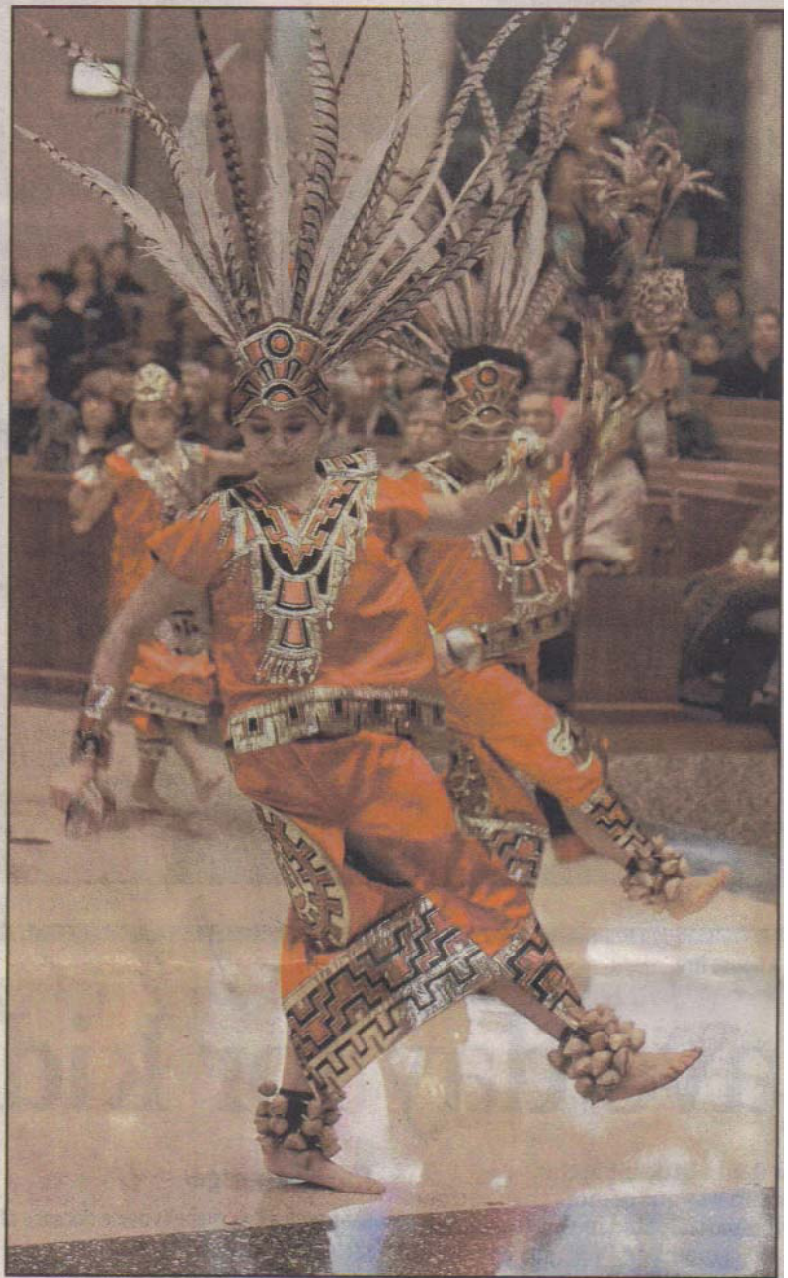
Diego told his story to a Spanish bishop, who told him to return and ask the lady for a miraculous sign to prove her claim. The Virgin told Juan Diego to gather some flowers from the top of Tepeyac Hill.

It was winter and no flowers bloomed, but on the hilltop Diego found flowers of every sort. The Virgin herself arranged them in his tilma, or peasant cloak.

When Juan Diego opened the cloak before the bishop on Dec. 12, the flowers fell to the floor, and in their place the image of the Virgin of Guadalupe, miraculously was imprinted on the fabric.

RIGHT: Mariachi Tapatio of Chicago provides music at the Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass at St. John the Evangelist Church in St. John.

JOHN J. WATKINS PHOTOS | THE TIMES



LEFT: Mariachi Tapatio of Chicago provides music at the Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass.

RIGHT: Javier Garcia explains to his grandson Javier Soto about the Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass at St. John the Evangelist Church in St. John.

