



# The Trinity and The Shamrock

St. Patrick Catholic Parish

## Peace on Earth

As the holidays rapidly approach and we find ourselves in the midst of the inevitable "December rush," a few minutes of peace and quiet seems like the most wonderful gift we could possibly receive. Our calendars are filled with activities, the PDA is overflowing with our 'to do' lists and our homes patiently await our attention as we prepare for holiday visitors. We sometimes are so busy that we fail to listen to our spirit quietly whispering its desire to just slow down . . . peace!

Peace, according to Daniel Webster (*pax* in Latin) is defined as: freedom from public disturbance; harmony; an undisturbed state of mind; serenity; calm; quiet; freedom from war or civil strife.

Thomas Kempis shares his way to attain great peace in a wonderful

book *The Imitation of Christ* . . . "Do the will of another rather than your own. Always choose to have fewer riches rather than more. Always seek the lowest place and desire to be subject to all. Always wish for and pray that the will of God be accomplished in you. Such a person enters into the abode of true peace and inward rest."

An old Scottish Peace Blessing reads:

***If there is righteousness in the heart, there will be beauty in the character.***

***If there is beauty in the character, there will be harmony in the home.***

***If there is harmony in the home, there will be order in the nation.***

***If there is order in the nation, there will be peace in the world!***

We are made up of body and spirit. When our bodies become hyperac-

tive in our daily lives, our spirit is often neglected. If we neglect our spirit, we will eventually lose our inner peace. Perhaps the state of the world is a reflection of our personal loss of inner peace?

Advent is here. We await the celebration of the coming of Christ - God's gift to us. Let's give our spirit a gift during this wondrous season - a gift of peace - a few quiet moments during our hectic days to just *be*, to breathe, to rest, to listen and to grow in spirit. Who knows . . . "Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me?"

The Trinity and the Shamrock contributors would like to wish you and your loved ones a very blessed Christmas season, filled with love, hope, and with great peace.

December 2009

Volume 2, Issue 4

### Merry Christmas



#### HUGS FOR OUR HOMEBOUND LADIES

- Faye Gwinn
- Virginia Gwinn
- Margaret O'Farrell
- Gemma Leftwich
- Grace Repetti
- Sarah Smith

Please keep these wonderful ladies in your daily thoughts and prayers. Though they are unable to be with us during our Eucharistic Celebration, they are with us in thought. Call them or send a note to them to let them know how blessed we are to have them in our parish family.

*Cold nose...  
...warm heart*



## This Christmas



Let's Give a Little Jesus  
a thoughtful word or deed.  
An act of generosity  
for someone who is in need.

Let's Give a Little Jesus  
that's what really counts!  
Not what's spent or bought,  
for whom, in what amount.

Let's Give a Little Jesus  
for everyone, large or small.  
For Jesus, the Messiah,  
is the Greatest Gift of All!

# Advent Activities



\*Nov. 29 - First Sunday of Advent

Blessing of Advent Wreathes.

The Kirkham Family will light the first candle of the parish Advent Wreath (Representing: Family).

\*Dec. 5 - Women of St. Patrick Christmas Festival. 10:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

St. Patrick Parish Christmas Float can be viewed in the Hinton Christmas Parade

\*Dec. 6 - Second Sunday of Advent.

Dr. Joanna Roberts & Sr. Gretta Schmitz will light the second candle of the parish Advent Wreath (Representing: Healers).

Faith-Sharing Breakfast

Summers County Chorus Performs at St. Patrick

Feast Day of St. Nicholas

\*Dec. 12 Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe

\*Dec. 13 - Third Sunday of Advent. Waja Cobb, Katherine Holt & Barbara McLean will light the third candle of the parish Advent Wreath (Representing: Pillars).

Taize3 Prayer - Service begins at 5:00 p.m.

\*Dec. 20 Fourth Sunday of Advent. Joe Aucremanne, Wes Bennett, Joe Garcia & Chuck Maxant will light the fourth candle of the parish Advent Candle (Representing: Four Corners).

Parish will decorate the church for Christmas.

Parish Christmas Party - 4:00 p.m. Door prizes and entertainment. Bring a side dish to share.

\*Dec. 24 Christmas Eve. Eucharistic Liturgy. 11: 00 p.m. Refreshments in the Parish Hall.

An Advent banner will be placed on the stair railing in front of the church.

Advent wreathes can be purchased from the parish store in the Parish Hall.

A list of the names and addresses of our homebound members for your Christmas card mailing can be found in the rear of the church.

## A Note from our CCD Director

CCD was able to begin this year on November 1<sup>st</sup>, this due in part to the wonderful group of teachers who have committed themselves to sharing their faith, values, & knowledge with our youth. I would like to thank Nancy Durnan, Joe Peplowski, & Lee Pivont for co-



teaching our middle school group.

They are in the midst of preparing for their confirmation. Another special thanks to Pat Dotson; her dedication to the CCD program must be recognized. She has been behind the scenes acting on behalf of our program.

I have the awesome privilege of teaching the young ones this year, but I am "learning" so much from them too. Their minds are like sponges, they have

the amazing ability to remember & discover & pass on this knowledge. I have been humored many times such as when Sullivan informed me that "God is the boss of this whole town" & then my own child Ellie clued me in that "God knows more than Santa Claus."

Our youth are an important structure in St. Patrick's. If it wasn't for those who take their time to volunteer we wouldn't have this program.

Thank You!

Paula Rhodes



# ST. PATRICK KUDOS KORNER

**kudos n. Gr.** credit for an achievement; glory.

Congratulations to **Robelle Dalido, Kelly Eagle, Avery Pivont and Evan Pivont**, who were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society. **Kelly** was one of the keynote speakers during the induction ceremony, which was held at Summers Middle School on November 19, 2009.

**Pearl Knott, Katie Peplowski and Kelly Eagle** will be selling Girl Scout cookies beginning January

8, 2010. Summers County Girl Scout Daisy Troop 2321 and Cadette Troop 8135 made over 80 Christmas decorations to take to Summers County Continuous Care Center residents and St. Patrick shut-ins as a service project. The Girl Scouts recently had a sleep-over at Shepherds Care Family Worship Center.

**Scott Hanna** was selected from SCHS to compete in the State Golf

Tournament in October.

The SCHS Volleyball Team had a season record of 40-5 with four players from St. Patrick. Sophomores **Olivia Walters, Keri Hudson** and Juniors **Hallie and Hanna Gunnoe** participated in the winning season for the team. For the

third year in a row the team returned to Charleston for the Girls State Volleyball Tournament in November.



## A NEW APPRECIATION OF THE ROSARY

By Loretta Sanda

Many years ago, when I would walk to church with Abraham Lincoln, I would take my St. Mary *MY EVERYDAY MISSAL and HERITAGE* to Mass. That was when the Latin was on the left page and the English on the right side.

When looking up at the altar you saw the back of the priest celebrating the Mass. When the priest was offering the Body and Blood of Jesus to the Father and holding up the Host and the Chalice, if your eyes were not looking up, and if you were not softly pounding on

your heart as the altar boy was ringing the bells, you certainly got it after Mass from the Nun of your class.

When receiving Communion, your hands were folded and your fingers were pointed "toward heaven." You took your place outside of the altar rail on the kneeler as the priest came by and placed the Host on your tongue and the altar boy held the plate under your chin. Some of the changes I do like. Some I cannot change. I feel that Nun looking over my shoulder!

I have never fully read my Missal but every now and then will bring this precious little book out. It was printed by the Monks of St. Mary's Abbey, Newark, N.J., Rt. Rev. Patrick O'Brien, O.S.B. Abbot.

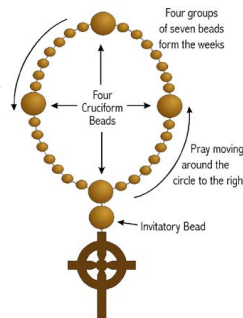
I did that just recently and came upon "The Rosary." Now I have read this a zillion times but not the very, very beginning. Remember that I was just a kid. But in reading it now, at my age, I found a new appreciation and enlightenment of the Rosary.

## THE ROSARY - ORIGIN and DEVELOPMENT

The Rosary is a form of prayer in which fifteen decades, or tens of Hail Marys are recited with the Lord's Prayer at the beginning of each. While saying each decade, a meditation is made on the great mysteries of our redemption.

The Rosary had its origin in the Middle Ages, and developed from the custom of reciting the 150 Psalms for departed members of

Religious Orders. Gradually the Our Father was substituted for the Psalms and, later still, the Hail Mary was added. In order to keep count of the prayers, knotted cords were used. Soon, meditations on the mysteries were joined to the prayers and the devotion



became known as the Psalter of Mary. The number and form of the prayers became uniform under the name of the Rosary. Our Blessed Lady has encouraged it by her apparitions at Lourdes and particularly at Fatima, in which she urged the daily recitation of the Rosary.

# INDULGENCES FOR FIVE DECADES

*Partial: For each recitation, five years; if said with others, 10 years. During October, seven years each day.*

*Plenary: Requiring Confession, Communion, Visit- on last Sunday of each month if said on three days of each preceding week; on feast of Holy Rosary and during Octave.*

That's a lot of years you don't have to spend in Purgatory!

I heard Father John Corapi once say that the Rosary was *meditating on the Holy Bible*.

Here's a thought for a Parish project, one combining a devotional to Mary and a benefit to our parish shut-ins: A recorded session of the Rosary from St. Patrick Church in which those unable to attend later can participate in their own homes. A little time and effort - a wealth of good.



## PASTORAL COUNCIL NEWS

It's been a very productive and a busy few months for the new session of the Pastoral Council. We consider it a privilege to serve the Lord and our parish through this ministry.

The Council will continue to offer the parish a Faith-Sharing Breakfast every three months. The format may vary, but the breakfast following Eucharistic Liturgy will continue to offer an opportunity for the parishioners to share their faith in some way with each other as we gather in fellowship for breakfast. The CCD children will join the parish during the breakfasts and perhaps will offer to share *their* faith with *us* at some point.

St. Patrick is a very welcoming community and embraces all who enter into our "family" as visitors or as potential new members, regardless of race, nationality or faith. Let us be true *imitators of Christ* in all areas of our lives, but especially as we gather as a Christian family. What better way to allow the Light of Christ to radiate through us and

into our surrounding community? Let us share our faith with others, in our actions as well as in our words!

The Parish Mission Statement has been finalized and will be ratified by the entire parish at the beginning of the New Year. We thank everyone who contributed their thoughts and ideas in this project.

Thanks to Paula Rhodes' generous giving of her time and energy as director, the CCD program is now underway. Due to the lack of available teachers for the program, Paula met with the parents of our CCD students and "reinvented" the program. That was made possible by Nancy Durnan, Joe Peplowski and Lee Pivont coming forward to co-teach the Confirmation class. The children are the future of our parish! Please offer a sincere thank-you to Paula, Nancy, Joe and Lee for their willingness to share their time and talent with our parish.

We've noticed several new

### A FEW ROSARY FACTS:

1. Rosary is Latin and means: GARLAND OF ROSES.
2. In the 12<sup>th</sup> Century, Religious Orders recited together the 150 Psalms as a way to mark the hours of the days and the day of the week. During the 15<sup>th</sup> Century, a Carthusian monk divided the Rosary into fifteen brackets (or decades) and a Dominican assigned mysteries to each of the decades.
3. Praying on beads began as a parallel to the Psalms. Reciting the Rosary was a way for those who could not read or write to remember our Lord and His Mother throughout the day.

faces in our parish and would like to welcome them to "our family" and thank them for helping with the Italian Dinner, Friar Club projects and the Christmas Festival and parade float.

And now for the long awaited news ... the new parish directory should be ready for distribution in time for Christmas. Those working on this project have encountered computer glitches, serious illness of family members and every hurdle imagined along the way. In spite of the many obstacles, a rough draft of the directory is now in print and is being reviewed for the final release. Please check the bulletin for updates regarding the directory.

The members of the Pastoral Council, Lynne Bauer, Patti Crawford, Pat Dotson, Patty Jeffries, Andrea Pack and Joe Peplowski, would like to wish our parish community a very blessed Christmas Season. May the peace of the Lord be with you always!



# GIVE IT TO MIKEY

which appeared in the September issue, was written by Loretta Sanda. Here are a few more ideas of creative cooking with mayonnaise...

I was told by a friend who shared this recipe with me not to let the family know what I was doing until after this delicious meal was consumed:

1. Using skinless, boneless chicken thighs and/or chicken breasts,

dredge the chicken in mayonnaise and then in Progresso Italian Bread Crumbs.

2. Place in an ungreased baking pan and put in a 350-degree oven and bake for 30 minutes and then turn the chicken and bake another 30 minutes.

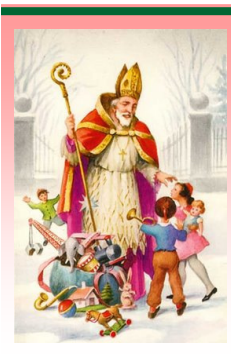
She was absolutely right. It is delicious. The whole family loves till



this day. It is even good cold. Brown bag, if you have any left over.

There is a web site to visit: [www.hellmanns.com](http://www.hellmanns.com) for recipes. Pancakes are not listed! I still thank God for getting my *Pransom Hince* and me through that morning of 30 years ago!

# ST. NICHOLAS ~ FATHER CHRISTMAS



The man behind the Story of Father Christmas, better known as Santa Claus

Orphaned at a young age, St. Nicholas inherited his father's wealth

but gave his inheritance away to those who were less fortunate. He was known as a very kind man who had a reputation for secret gift giving to people who were poor and in need. Because of his kindness,

Nicholas was made a Saint. St. Nicholas is not only the saint of children but also of sailors.

St. Nicholas became a monk and was later made Abbot and ultimately an Archbishop. Nicholas was persecuted by the Emperor Diocletian and later exiled from his homeland of Myra, in Asia Minor (now called Turkey). During persecution, St. Nicholas suffered for the Faith and was sent to prison.

The stories of St. Nicholas' great generosity traveled throughout Europe and later to the United States. The United Kingdom came to know St. Nicholas as Father Christmas. In Germany, St. Nicho-

las was known as 'Christ Kind', which became Kris Kringle. Later, Dutch settlers in the USA took the old stories of St. Nicholas with them and Kris Kringle became 'Sinterklass' or as we now say 'Santa Claus'! Many countries, especially ones in Europe, celebrate St. Nicholas Day on December 6th.

*A Visit from St. Nicholas*, a poem written in 1882 by Dr. Clement Clarke for his children, portrays St. Nicholas as a kind man, dressed in red and white and riding in a sleigh pulled by eight reindeer. So, you see, there really is a St. Nicholas ... or is that Santa Claus?



# THE WOMEN OF ST. PATRICK NEWS

The Women of St. Patrick will host their first Christmas Festival on December 5, 2009 from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Visitors to the festival can enjoy fresh baked cookies and hot cocoa or hot mulled apple cider while browsing through the crafter's merchandise before or after watching the Hinton Christmas Parade. Handmade gift items, homemade jams, jellies, jewelry and holiday treats are just a few of the unique items on display for purchase.

There will also be a selection of gently used Christmas decor items available and a special table of children's gift items for parents and grandparents at very reasonable prices. The drawing for the beautiful afghan, handmade by Donna Scott (pictured) will take place at 1:00 p.m.

The Women will meet in late November



Donna Scott with her afghan

to finalize preparations for the Christmas Festival and to discuss hosting a monthly breakfast following Sunday Eucharistic Liturgy. Please consider helping with this project. We will need breakfast items (juice, pastries, etc.) in addition to help in setting up the dining room for the breakfast.

# St. Colman Statues

In his letter accompanying a collective donation for St. Colman Chapel, Leo Porreca of St. Francis DeSales in Beckley began with: "I'm very saddened to read your recent email that advised of St. Colman's loss of statues of the Virgin Mary and St. Joseph. The world certainly has changed from my early years; I think it only has gotten worse."

Yes, Leo; and no. If not an early visit by Santa Claus, then certainly someone with even higher motives paid a visit to St. Colman Chapel following publicity in the local media that two statues had been stolen from the always-open Church.

"An anonymous angel has brought an early Christmas to St. Colman Chapel, proving once again that some good indeed can come out of evil," said Father Arthur.

Some time between mid-September and early November a party or parties unknown entered the always-open St. Colman Catholic Chapel and stole two statues, one of Mary the Blessed Mother and the other of St. Joseph.

At the time, Father Arthur noted he did not understand to what purpose a thief possibly could put those statues. "To take food when one's family is starving is not stealing; to take the means of warmth when one's family is

freezing is not stealing, but to remove symbols of faith from a place of worship, that simply is heinous. It is a desecration and a sacrilege."

Apparently, someone agreed with those sentiments. According to Father Arthur, "While meeting with contractors who will be making repairs to the Chapel's roof, a member of our Finance Council noticed that two statues similar to those which had been stolen, had been placed in the church.



"The immediate reaction, of course, was that the thief or thieves, upon reflection, had returned the statues. The first indication that this was not so was the placement of the statues. There are four wall brackets

within the Chapel, one on each sidewall and two that flank the entrance. It would seem reasonable to presume that the person or persons who had removed them would have replaced them from where they had been taken, but these were on the other brackets.

"Secondly," Father Arthur continued, "whoever did place the statues within the Chapel left behind the box in which they had been transported. Found tucked under one of the box flaps was a price tag with the name of

the store from which the statues apparently had been purchased. Besides which, it later was noticed the statues were of a different material than those that had been stolen and they obviously were new."

Father Arthur credited the attention brought about by news reports of the theft—first published in *The Register Herald* Saturday, November 13 and subsequently aired over the weekend on WVVA-TV—for the anonymous gifts. As reported then, the theft of the statues was discovered in early November by members of *The Friars Club* who routinely clean the Chapel and perform maintenance on the grounds and cemetery.

"We heard from many, many people who had read and seen the news reports," Father Arthur said. "In no small measure, it was this publicity, along with the expressed shock of those who read and saw it, that helped bring this about. But more than that, it was the generosity and obvious good heart of our benefactor or benefactors who expended some effort to elevate a good intention to a good deed; St. Colman is not the easiest of destinations.

"Attesting to the basic goodness of whoever replaced the statues, there was no entry made of it in the Chapel's registry; it was an act of kindness and, I believe, faith, and we thank whomever it was. Yes, Virginia there is a Santa. And yes, Leo, there still is good—and good

## St. Colman Statues Replaced Not an Early Santa Claus But an Unknown Angel

## Who Was St. Colman?

According to Father Arthur St. Colman most likely was named in honor of Bishop Colman of Cloyne of Munster, Ireland, but there are at least 227 other possibilities as listed in the Twelfth Century *Book of Leinster*.

"Bishop Colman was born in 530 and died in 606," Father Arthur explained. "He became a poet and royal bard at Cashel and, at the age of 50, was baptized by St. Brendan. He later was ordained and worked in Limerick and

Cork, where he became the first Bishop and Patron of Cloyne. It is said he taught at St. Columba, building the first church at Cloyne and another at Kimaclenine. His feast day is November 24."

# Diocese to Help Fund Restoration Project

Significant progress has been made in the financing of two major projects, the ensuring of the structural integrity of St. Patrick Church and the refurbishing of St. Colman Chapel.

Father Arthur reported to the Council that the Diocese will provide for half the anticipated \$100,000 that will be required to reinforce the Church walls, replace the guttering and downspouts, and selectively re-point and paint the exterior. In addition, Father Arthur said the Diocese would loan the Parrish the remaining \$50,000 with which to complete the work.

The Finance Council now is faced with devising fund raising methods with which to repay the Diocese loan on the basis of a recommended five-year pay-

back. Suggestions from Parishioners are encouraged and very much would be appreciated and welcomed.

At St. Colman, where extensive refurbishment is required, it had been decided that first the roof had to be replaced and guttering and downspouts added before any other work could be attempted; the major obstacle to which, of course, was funding.

Within a matter weeks of that decision and realization, St. Colman was the recipient of \$1,600 collected over the years by a group of St. Francis deSales parishioners who stipulated only that the funds be allocated to Chapel repairs. With this largess covering more than half the cost, work on the new roof will be done in December.

The Finance Council reminds all Parish organizations that, under Diocese regulations, a financial report on all fund raising activities and expenditures are due to the Council at the end of the year. Also as required by the Diocese, each organization is to submit to the Parish money remaining in their respective accounts beyond what is reasonably anticipated as necessary for that group's continued operation.

Any questions and/or suggestions regarding the activities of the Parish Finance Council, including fund raisers, can be addressed to any member: Kit Durnan, Katherine Holt, Lee Pivont, or Art Sanda.

## Friars Club Gets Off to Great Start

The Men of St. Patrick, organized under the banner of The Friars Club, had their Third Monthly Breakfast November 21 at the Parish Hall. A dozen Friars shared bread, brotherhood, and bravery in eating their own cooking.

Open to all men of the Parish, the Friars Club provides the platform for the exchange of thoughts and concerns regarding the Parish, for identifying needs and devising solutions that will enhance and promote the community life of St. Patrick.

Since its inception in September, the Friars have organized work parties for the cleaning of St. Colman Chapel and maintenance of the grounds and cemetery and the recaulking of the Parish Hall windows and cleaning up around the exterior of the Church.

It takes a Parish, and a darned good one, to put on an Italian Dinner the likes of St. Pasquale. The Women of

the Parish and kids from CCD joined with The Friars Club in bringing off a wonderfully successful Second Annual St. Patrick Italian Dinner Saturday, November 14. Between early take-outs and eat-ins, 157 dinners were served

At their breakfast the following Saturday, the Friars expressed their appreciation for the outpouring of support and already are planning next year's Third Annual Italian Dinner.

In their short business meeting, The Friars Club agreed to undertake:

Assisting the Parish Council in the construction of a float for the Hinton Christmas Parade, December 5;

To have another work party Saturday, November 28 to refurbish the Church

wrought iron railings and clean the Parish Hall and kitchen, and

To assist in developing fund raising activities to repay the Diocese loan of \$50,000 that will be used together with a \$50,000 Diocese grant to repair and refurbish the Church.

With the hustle and bustle of the Christmas Season, the next Friars Club Breakfast is set for Saturday, January 14 at the Parish Hall. All men of St. Patrick are encouraged to attend and to join the Friars Club and to contact any member with questions or comments:

Kit Durnan, Chairman

Art Sanda, Secretary-Treasurer

Father Arthur, Chaplain

Members:

Joe Aucremmane, Wes Bennett, Roger Dalida, Dennie Dotson, Joe Garcia, Pat Hanifin, Scott Hannah, Kyle Lively, Chuck Maxant, Windle McQuaig, Tim O'Farrell, Lee Pivont and Frank Seitz





## Beatitudes for Women

Blessed is she who suffers with the very young, the very old, and the very lonely, for she has compassion.

Blessed is she who greets the world with joy, laughter, and anticipations, for she has

courage.

Blessed is she who speaks gently, lives humbly, and chooses to give freely, for she has dignity.

Blessed is she who listens and hears and extends her hands as

a friend, for she has understanding.

Blessed is she who gives simply, loves deeply, and walks joyfully in life, for she has awareness.

Blessed is she who has compassion and

courage, freedom and dignity, understanding, sincerity, and awareness, for she is a woman, a gift, a blessing.

*Courtesy of the Newark Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women)*

## The Story of Our Lady of Guadalupe

(based on the original account)

December 9th, 1531, the feast of the Immaculate Conception. Juan Diego, a recent convert to the Catholic faith, was walking to attend the early morning Mass in Mexico City. Passing by Tepeyac Hill he heard the beautiful singing of birds, seemingly from heaven. Looking to see where the celestial music was coming from, he suddenly heard a young woman's voice affectionately calling his name, "Juanito." Reaching the top of the hill, he saw a radiant woman clothed in splendid light - the Ever Virgin Holy Mary, Mother of God. She told Juan that she desired him to be her special messenger to the Bishop of Mexico City. Juan was to tell the bishop that Our Lady wanted a church to be built where she could manifest her Son and hear the petitions of her spiritual children.

After being put off by the bishop's servants, Juan was finally granted an audience with Franciscan Bishop Fray Juan Zumarraga. The bishop didn't initially believe Juan Diego and asked him to return another day. Secretly, the bishop had been invoking the intercession

of the Mother of God for help. The Spaniards had recently conquered the native Aztec people and were treating them harshly. Very few were willing to abandon their pagan gods and embrace the religion of their new dictators. All of this weighed heavy on the heart of Bishop Zumarraga, whom history now knows as the "Protector of the Native People." He wondered if Juan Diego's story was the answer to his prayers.



Dejected, Juan returned to Tepeyac and asked Our Lady to use someone else more worthy than himself. She assured him that he was personally chosen to be her ambassador. The next day he returned to plead with the bishop. Though impressed by Juan's persistence, he was still unsure. He sent Juan to tell the Lady he needed a sign in order to know if it was truly her.

Upon hearing the bishop's request, Our Lady told Juan to return the next day and she would give him the sign he needed. Returning home, Juan found his uncle ill and close to death. Instead of returning the next day, Juan stayed home and took care of his ailing uncle. Early on December 12th, Juan rushed to Mexico City in order to get a priest to administer the last rites to his dying uncle. On his way he went around the back of Tepeyac Hill in order to

avoid Our Lady whom he knew would surely understand.

But Our Lady meet him anyway telling him not to worry, his uncle was already healed. He was to learn later that at that moment Our Lady had appeared to his uncle, who was restored to health. She urged Juan to go to the top of the hill where he would find flowers miraculously growing. Juan was astonished to see so many vibrant flowers during the frosty time of the year. He cut them and gathered them in his tilma (cloak). Our Lady arranged the flowers with her own hands, rolled up the tilma and ordered Juan not to unfurl his tilma until he was in the presence of the bishop.

After being harassed by the bishop's servants, Juan was finally brought in to see him. After recounting every detail of his conversation with Our Lady, he let down his tilma and the flowers fell to the floor. Juan was surprised when everyone in the room also fell to the floor on their knees. The image of Our Lady had miraculously appeared on Juan's tilma! Repenting for his unbelief with abundant tears, Bishop Juan Zumarraga promised to build the shrine that Our Lady had requested.

Soon the church was built and the holy image transferred. The story spread like wildfire and people began to stream in to see the heavenly image and hear the story from Juan Diego. Many miracles starting happening and in the following years some 10 million were baptized and converted to the Jesus Christ! Pope John Paul II declared Blessed Juan Diego the greatest evangelist of all times.