The story of Our Lady of Guadalupe is amazing in so many ways! The Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to St. Juan Diego in Mexico in 1531. She wanted him to build a shrine for her.

He didn’t think that anyone would believe that he had seen and talked to Our Lady. She told Juan Diego to climb a hill and pick some roses for his archbishop.

It was December and Juan Diego was pretty sure there were no flowers growing, but, of course, he listened to Our Lady. Guess what? He found a bunch of flowers – flowers he had never seen before!

When he showed them to the archbishop, they realized that these flowers didn’t even grow in Mexico! Not only that, when the flowers fell out of Juan Diego’s cloak (called a tilma), they found something even more miraculous than the flowers.

The famous image of Our Lady of Guadalupe was imprinted on the tilma! Scientists say the image is more like a photo than a painting, because there are no brush strokes. This was five centuries ago – and there was no way anyone could have made an image like that.

Modern scientists have discovered numerous amazing things about the tilma.

**SAINT SUPERHERO**

St. Juan Diego

Say it: waan dee-ay-go • Feast: Dec. 9 • Patron of Indigenous people

Juan Diego was one of the first Aztecs to be baptized and even though it was hard to be Catholic, he tried very hard to be holy.

Juan Diego was in a hurry one day to go to Mass when he saw a beautiful lady who looked like an Aztec Indian. She even spoke in his language. Of course, this was Our Lady of Guadalupe and she was also pregnant with Jesus!

Our Lady told Juan Diego that she wanted a chapel built in her honor. She appeared to him several times, even when he tried to avoid her. He knew this was a big deal and told her that he was a nobody – not an important person.

Our Lady wants us to know that we are all important and can do anything she asks of us, even if it seems impossible!

A magnificent chapel was built. St. Juan Diego became very famous and many, many Indians became Catholic. He was still humble and lived a quiet life, even after Our Lady chose him for such a big mission.