

## INTRODUCTION

**T**he image of a woman “clothed with the sun” inspired more than nine million people to be baptized in just ten years after appearing as an imprint on St. Juan Diego’s tilma back in the sixteenth century. Today she draws millions more pilgrims each year, many on their knees, to the *Basílica de Santa María de Guadalupe* in Mexico City. But there is another, sometimes overlooked, aspect of the miraculous events on the Hill of Tepeyac, which brings even deeper meaning to the beloved image of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Mary’s own words, spoken in Juan Diego’s native Nahuatl language, record her call, revelation, and mission for God’s humble servant. They also recall various events in Jesus’ life: the call of his disciples, his miracles and teachings, and even his suffering, death, and resurrection. Let Our Lady’s words, faithfully translated and accompanied by Scripture, prayers, and suggestions for action, bring you comfort and hope. May they lead you to even deeper union with “the God of truth, through whom everything lives.”

# GOD KNOWS MY NAME

*Juanito, dearest Juan Diego...*

## **Scripture**

I have called you by name: you are mine.

**ISAIAH 43:1**

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## **Prayer**

Lord God, you have created stars and galaxies. For all your power, you reveal yourself in the most gentle and loving of ways: a young mother calls to a middle-aged widower, her words echoing those of your prophet. When Mary calls Juan by his familiar name, as a mother speaks to her child, I know she speaks to me too. For my name is written in the palm of your hand. You love me, not for any great deeds I've done or will do, but because you are the source of all the love in the universe. And I am yours, Lord. That is enough for me.

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## **Action**

Today, when I see my name written or hear it spoken, I will ponder what God is saying to me.

## WALK WITH ME

*Listen, my dearest and youngest son,  
where are you going?*

### **Scripture**

He walked along from there and saw two other brothers, James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John...He called them.

**MATTHEW 4:21**

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### **Prayer**

As I begin my day, Lord, please ask me where I am going. Ask me about my plans. Let me pour out my heart in answer. Help me listen to what you have to say. Let us have a conversation as we walk along. Then, Lord, I will go where you send me. If you ask me to accompany others, give me the grace not to hurry them along or point them in my direction. Let me simply walk and talk with them, as your mother does. Let me be your disciple.

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### **Action**

Before I plan my day, I will ask God what he has in mind for me today.

## WHO AM I?

*Know that I am the perfect and ever Virgin Holy Mary,  
Mother of the God of truth through whom everything lives,  
the Lord of the earth and sky.*

### **Scripture**

Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased... Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth... **ISAIAH 42:1, 5**

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### **Prayer**

Jesus, you once asked, "Who do you say that I am?" I know that answer. But what if you were to ask me who I am? How do I respond? Your mother, Mary, identifies herself in relationship to you. How do I describe myself? By my relationships? My job title? My country? Jesus, help me remember that your Father has created me in his image. What does this mean for me right now?

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### **Action**

Today, I will ask Jesus: Who do you say that I am?

## THE THING I WANT

*I want very much to have a little house built here  
for me, in which I will show him, exalt him,  
and make him manifest.*

### **Scripture**

“My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord.”

LUKE 1:46

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### **Prayer**

Lord God, throughout her life and up to the present day, Mary's deepest desire is to love and exalt you. What are my deepest desires? Do they arise from something I lack or need? Love? Approval? Something else? Can I share my desires with you, Lord? Will you accept them? Now I ask you, God, what are your desires for me? I am your creation. Whatever you want for me will, ultimately, bring me peace, joy, love, and life. Bring me closer to you, Lord, that I may know your desires for me.

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### **Action**

Today I will ask God what he wants for me, and I will wait patiently for his answer.

## ALL FOR YOU

*I will give him to the people in all my personal love,  
in my compassion, in my help, in my protection.*

### **Scripture**

“Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” **LUKE 1:38**

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### **Prayer**

God of love, your servant Mary did not hesitate to serve you. She lives always by your word, which is Jesus. And Jesus’ word is this: “As I have loved you, so you also should love one another.” As my mother, Mary covers me with her love, compassion, help, and protection. Am I fully aware of this? Or does the thought creep into my mind that I can’t possibly deserve such unconditional love? Help me to live in this love every day.

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### **Action**

Today I will place myself in Jesus’ loving presence. I will imagine him sitting next to me, and I will know I need nothing else.

## WHEN I FALL

*I am truly your merciful mother...*

### **Scripture**

While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him.

LUKE 15:20

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### **Prayer**

Loving, merciful mother, I am in need of so much help. Walk with me to the Father. Pray with me; present my needs to him as only a mother can. Be with me as I grieve my selfishness and sin. Help me turn to Jesus and see his immense love for me. Stand by me as I make amends and try to do better. You who are all good, guide me in your ways.

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### **Action**

Someone, somewhere, is in need of my mercy today. Remembering Jesus' love for me, I will not hesitate to give mercy to this brother or sister.

## ONE HEART

*I am yours and all the people who live united in this land,  
all people of different ancestries, all those who love me,  
seek me, and trust in me.*

### **Scripture**

They shall be my people, and I will be their God.  
I will give them one heart and one way...

**JEREMIAH 32:38–39**

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### **Prayer**

We are, each of us, unique, my Lord God. Yet in you we are of one heart. This is the awesome beauty of your creation. We praise you in many languages, but our prayer is in one voice; we seek you in different churches but find you in one person— your Son Jesus Christ. We are many families, yet we have one loving mother. Let me not be afraid of our differences, Lord. Allow me to discover what you teach me through them.

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### **Action**

Today I will learn something new about a culture or religion I am unfamiliar with.