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radio ends  
three-year  
run,  
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# Hispanic Triangle News

GOD, COUNTRY, FAMILY

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER COMMUNITY

JANUARY 8, 2008

## "La Reina de México"

# Our Lady of Guadalupe

By Fernando Ramirez  
Hispanic Triangle News

In churches dedicated to La Virgen de Guadalupe, millions of the faithful gather on Dec. 12 for processions, prayers, songs, dances, and fireworks to honor "La Reina de México" (the Queen of Mexico).

In Port Arthur, Catholics walked from St. Joseph Catholic Church on Procter Street to Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church on Ninth Avenue.

Father Blanco from our Lady of Guadalupe and Father Macrate from St. Joseph celebrated Mass after the procession arrived at our Lady of Guadalupe. Father Blanco said that many of the people waiting in their cars while the people crossed Ninth Avenue into the church parking were taking pictures with their cell phones.

With a smile on his face, Father Blanco commented that it must have been an odd sight for those who were not Catholic. For those in traffic, here is the story behind the Tribute to Our Lady of Guadalupe.

In 1523, after Hernán Cortés and the Conquistadors captured the Aztec capital of Tenochtitlan,



Courtesy Photos

Left, Angels place a crown on the Virgen Mary played by Neida Salazar from Memorial 9th Grade Campus. Right, Our Lady of Guadalupe procession passes the Vietnamese "Queen of Peace Shrine" on their march to the Shrine of "Our Lady of Guadalupe".

the Roman Catholic Church began to send missionaries to start the religious conquest of Mexico. Franciscan brothers immediately immersed themselves in the intensive study of the different indigenous tongues, customs and religious practices of the Aztecs.

On the morning of Dec. 9, 1531, a native baptized with the Christian name Juan Diego, crossed the hill called Tepeyac to attend Mass.

Suddenly, he saw a bright light and heard the sound of beautiful music. Before him appeared a beautiful vision, a

dark-skinned woman. She called the Indian "my son," and declared herself to be the Virgin Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ. She instructed Juan Diego to have a church built on Tepeyac hill, and asked him to give that message to Bishop Juan de Zumarraga.

It took several attempts, but Diego was granted an audience with the Bishop. The Bishop demanded that he be provided with some proof of the unlikely vision. Frightened, Juan Diego avoided Tepeyac for several

days. Several days later on Dec. 12, he needed to find a priest for a seriously ill uncle, he had to travel across the hill. The Lady again appeared and Juan Diego told her of the Bishop's request. The Virgin instructed him to pick roses from the barren and desolate hill and deliver them to Zumarraga as the sign.

Juan Diego gathered up the miraculous blossoms in his cloak and hurried off to see the Bishop. When he reached the Bishop, he let the roses

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