

Juan Diego

Mary's Humble Messenger

1474–1548

Born near present-day

Mexico City, Mexico

Feast Day: December 9

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Liguori

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Dedication

To my family:
my parents Jim and Peg,
my husband Bill,
our son Sam and daughter-in-law Erin,
and our precious grandchildren
Ben, Lucas, and Andrew

To all the children I have had the privilege of
teaching throughout the years.

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First Edition

Dear Parents and Teachers:

Saints and Me! is a series of children's books about saints. Six books make up the first set: *Saints of North America*. In this set, each book tells a thought-provoking story about a heavenly hero.

Saints of North America includes the heroic lives of six saints from the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Saints Kateri Tekakwitha and Elizabeth Ann Seton were both born in the United States. Saint Juan Diego was born in Mexico, and Saint André Bessette was from Canada. European missionaries also came to North America to spread the Catholic faith, making it their home while they worked with people in the New World. Saints Rose Philippine Duchesne and Damien de Veuster were missionary saints.

Through the centuries, saints have always been dear to Catholics, but *why*? In most instances, ordinary people were and are transformed by the life of Jesus and therefore model Christ's life for us. It is our Lord who makes ordinary people extraordinary. As your children come to know the saints, it is our hope that they will come to understand and identify that they, too, are *called to be saints*.

Which saint wanted to work with Native Americans? Who wanted to work with the sick people on the island of Molokai, Hawaii? To which saint did the Virgin Mary appear? Who loved Saint Joseph? Which saint started the first American religious community of women? Do you know which saint is the patron of nature? Find the answers in the *Saints of North America*, *Saints and Me!* set and help your child identify with the lives of the saints.

Introduce your children or students to the *Saints and Me!* series as they:

- READ** about the lives of the saints and are inspired by their stories.
- PRAY** to the saints for their intercession.
- CELEBRATE** the saints and relate to their lives.

saints of north America



Kateri Tekakwitha



Juan Diego



Rose Philippine
Duchesne



Damien of Molokai



Elizabeth Ann Seton



André Bessette

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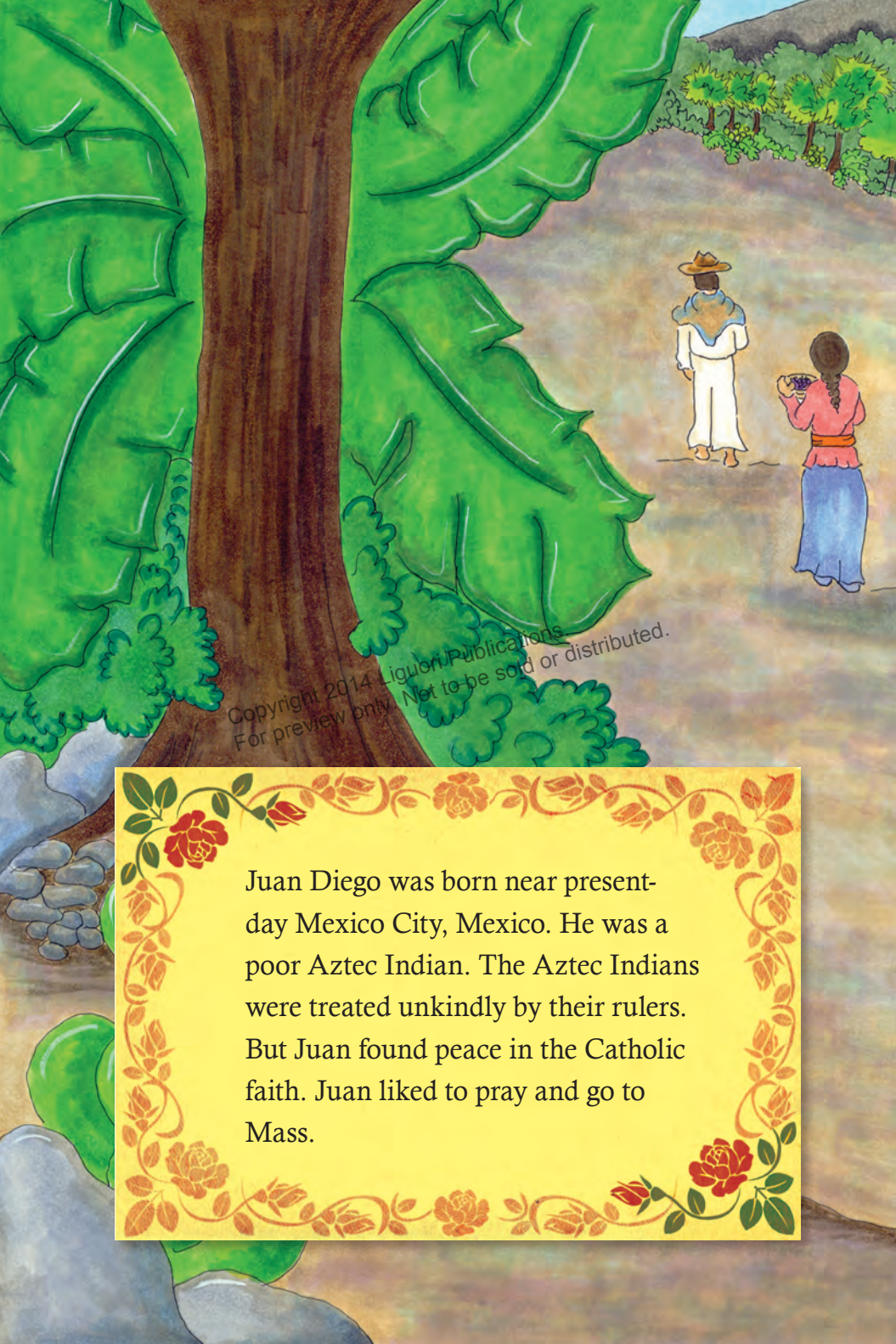


Belgium

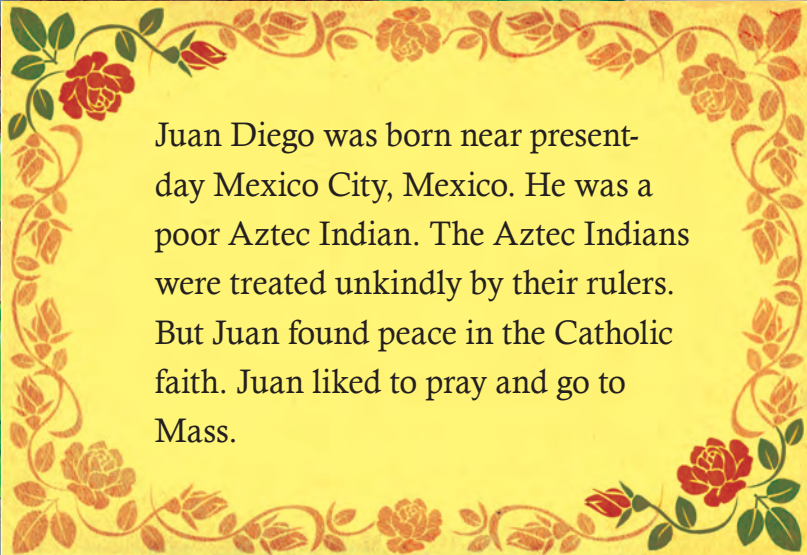


France

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A colorful illustration of a man and a woman walking away from the viewer on a dirt path. The man is on the left, wearing a white tunic, a blue shawl, and a brown hat. The woman is on the right, wearing a pink top and a blue skirt, holding a small basket. They are surrounded by large green trees and a forest in the background. A copyright notice is overlaid on the bottom left of the illustration.

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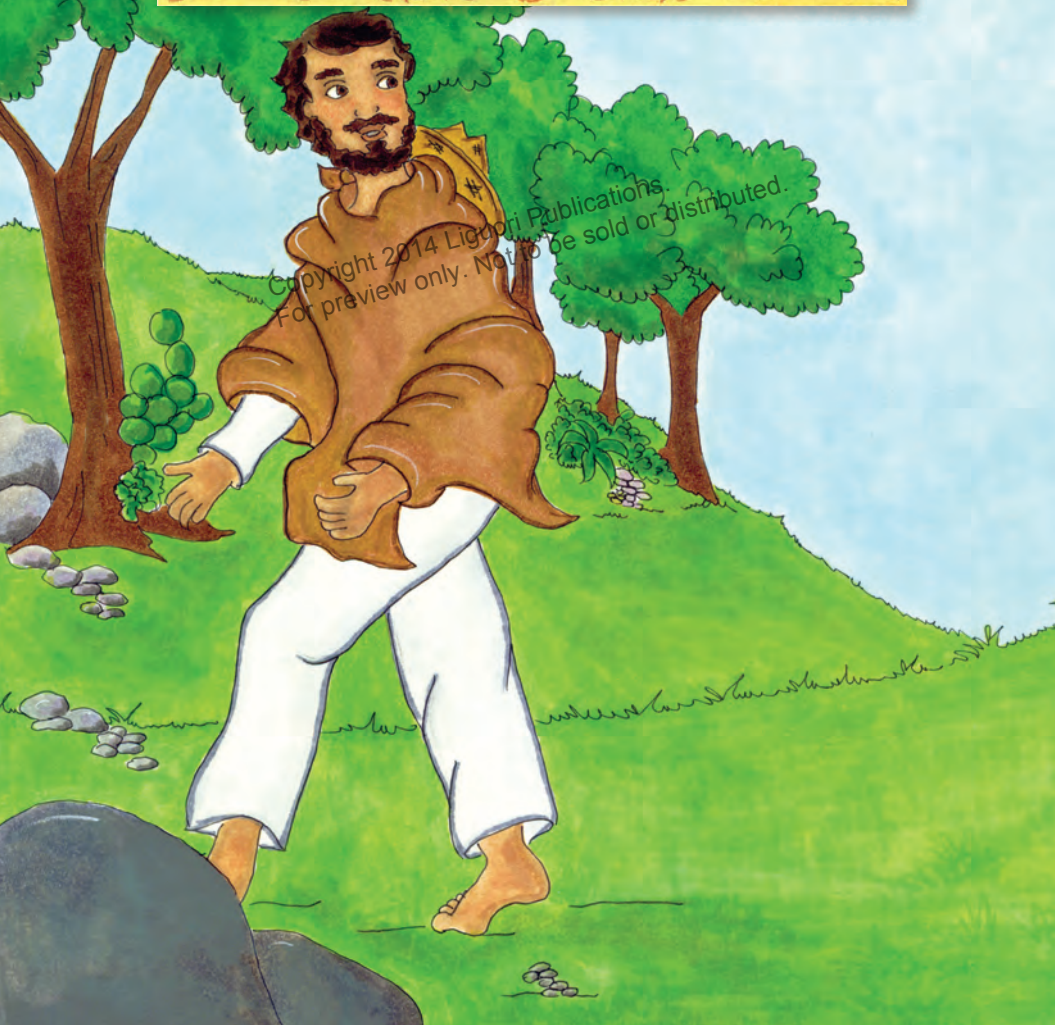
A decorative rectangular border with a yellow background, featuring red roses and green leaves.

Juan Diego was born near present-day Mexico City, Mexico. He was a poor Aztec Indian. The Aztec Indians were treated unkindly by their rulers. But Juan found peace in the Catholic faith. Juan liked to pray and go to Mass.



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On his way to Mass one chilly morning, someone called out his name. "Juan, please come here." He turned and saw a beautiful Indian woman. A bright light glowed all around her.





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“Hello, Juan. I am Mary, the
Mother of God. I want a church
built here for the people of
Mexico. And I want you to tell
the bishop to build it.”

Juan rubbed his eyes and
looked at the woman.

“It is the Virgin Mary!
I must do what she asks.”

Off he ran to the city
to see the bishop.

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saints and me! series
SAINTS OF NORTH AMERICA

Available now!

Kateri Tekakwitha
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Rose Philippine Duchesne
Damien of Molokai
Elizabeth Ann Seton
André Bessette

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Reproducible activities
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