



Cathedral of Our Lady of
GUADALUPE
DIOCESE OF FOZ DO IGUAÇU



*Welcome to the
Cathedral, a place of
blessings and grace.*



*The Apparition of
Our Lady of
Guadalupe*

In early December 1531, an indigenous man named Juan Diego was heading at dawn from his village to Mexico City for his catechism lessons and to attend Holy Mass. As he reached the hill of Tepeyac, the day was breaking, and he heard a voice calling his name.

He climbed to the top of the hill and saw a Lady, whose dress was as radiant as the sun, and with kind words, she said:

"I wish for a temple to be built here, quickly; then I will be able to show all my love, compassion, help, and protection, because I am your merciful Mother, and of all the inhabitants of this land and of all others who love, invoke, and trust in me. And to accomplish what my mercy intends, go to the Bishop of Mexico and tell him that I express my great desire for a temple to be built for me here, in this place.

You shall tell him exactly everything you saw, admired, and heard. Rest assured that I will be very grateful and will reward you. I order and entrust this to you. Take heed, you have heard my command, my humble son, go and put all your effort into it."

Juan Diego bowed before her and replied, "My Lady, I am going to fulfill Your order; now I bid You farewell." Without wasting time, he went straight to the bishop's palace, who had recently arrived and was named Friar Juan de Zumárraga, a Franciscan friar.

Upon arriving, he sought to see him and asked the servant to announce his presence. He waited a long time. When he finally entered, he knelt and conveyed to the bishop the message from Our Lady of Heaven, as well as everything he had seen, heard, and admired. But after listening to everything, the incredulous Bishop said to him, "Return later, my son, and I will gladly hear you. I will examine everything and think over the reason for which you have come."

Juan Diego obediently returned to his village. Shortly afterward, he met the Virgin Mary again and explained what had happened. The Virgin asked him to go once more to speak with the bishop the next day and to repeat the message. This time, the bishop told him that he must ask the Lady to give him a sign to prove that she was the Mother of God.

At dawn on December 12th, Juan Diego hurriedly set out to find a priest because his uncle was dying. Upon reaching the hill, he decided to take another path to avoid her. Suddenly, she came to meet him and asked where he was going. Embarrassed, the indigenous man explained what was happening. She told him not to worry; his uncle was already healed. Then the man asked her for the sign he needed to bring to the bishop. She instructed him to climb to the top of the hill, where he found fresh Castilian roses and placed as many as he could into his poncho, and to take them to the bishop.

With difficulty, Juan Diego was received by the bishop. He had his poncho, or tilma, folded and filled with roses. Then he opened the tilma, and the flowers fell to the ground. When the bishop saw this, he still did not believe. Then, to the amazement of everyone in the room, a beautiful image of Our Lady of Guadalupe was imprinted on the indigenous man's poncho, just as he had described to the bishop. Everyone in the room, including the bishop, believed. From that moment on, everything changed.

The event caused a great stir among the Mexican people. Soon, a great church was built on the site indicated by Our Lady, and Juan Diego's poncho, with the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe imprinted on it, was placed there to be venerated. Guadalupe became the great Sanctuary of Mexico, and devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe spread throughout Latin America. In 1979, Pope John Paul II consecrated Our Lady of Guadalupe as the Patroness of Latin America.

The spiritual meaning of the building

The Diocesan Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe strengthens the devotion to the Patroness of Latin America in a region centered in Foz do Iguacu, a city at the intersection of three borders, a primary point of privileged contact between various cultures and traditions.

The modern construction blends a Gothic style in the lower windows and columns, with arches, and a modern structure with a metal frame on the roof.

The very structure itself is a work of art. Designed in the shape of a Greek Cross, that is, a straight cross with all arms of equal length. At the center of the cross lies the Circle, a sign of the perfection and eternity of God. It is also a symbol of the great Covenant of Love between God and humanity.

It is located in Vila A, one of the highest points in the city of Foz do Iguacu, referring to all the significance of the Mountain in biblical literature: Moses receives the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai, Jesus always climbs the mountain (Mount of Olives, Mount of Beatitudes) when he goes to pray. The mountain is the place closest to God.

The church has three identical doors symbolizing the equality of the three peoples living here at the triple border. Each of them represents a people: Brazilians, Paraguayans, and Argentinians.

In the church courtyard, there is a Hermitage with a replica of the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, a place erected with solid and artistic material. It is properly adorned for Prayer and the practice of Devotion to Our Lady.



The Light of Salvation

In the presbytery, the real presence of Christ is celebrated, the sun that illuminates the life of the Catholic Church or, in the inspired words of Dionysius the Areopagite: ***"The Sun, especially, holds the meaning and image of God. Through the main door, the glory of the Lord enters the temples."*** The presbytery, the place where the altar is located, is the central part of the Church, with a rounded shape, representing Christ as the Head of the whole assembled congregation.



The Roof Covered with Meanings

On the roof, there are three levels: The first is shaped like the mantle of Our Lady, with a slight curve as if it were enveloping the very face of Mary.

On the second level, there is an undulation that carries two meanings: first, it takes the form of a Stole, and second, it reflects the falls of the Iguazu Falls, the greatest gift of God given to this marvelous land of Foz do Iguazu.

On the third level, we find a Crown, symbolizing, first and foremost, Christ the King of the Universe (hence the Cross above it) and, secondly, the great Catholic devotion to Mary, Queen of Heaven and Earth.

All three levels have four sides, symbolizing the four Evangelists. Each level has an elevation, from the inside out, projecting the Word proclaimed within the Church to all four corners of the world and for the entire world. "They spread the Gospel and the presence of God to all sides and to the world!"

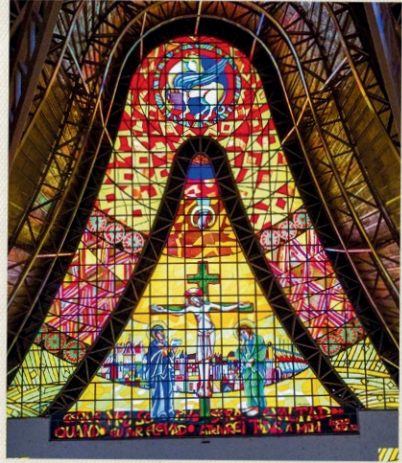
And as the highest point of the entire Church, above the roof, we find the tower with the Christian symbol, the Cross: the sign of salvation and liberation given by Christ. The tower with the Cross is the main identifying characteristic of Catholic Churches: "*Then he said to them all: 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.'*" Luke 9:23, and also: "*For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved, it is the power of God.*" 1 Corinthians 1:18.

Stained Glass Windows

The stained glass windows represent the four Evangelists and the elements of nature: **water, earth, fire, and air.**



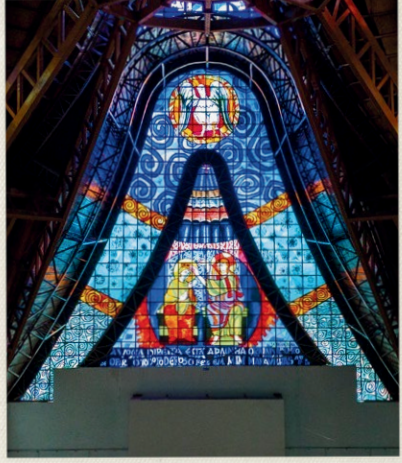
Water Evangelist Matthew:
Angel, Element of Water,
Incarnation of Jesus Christ



Earth Evangelist Luke:
Bull, Element of Earth,
Crucifixion of Jesus Christ



Fire Evangelist Mark:
Lion, Element of Fire,
Resurrection of Jesus Christ



Air Evangelist John:
Eagle, Element of Air,
Glorification of Jesus Christ



Mosaic

The architectural-liturgical-iconographic design of the cathedral was constructed according to criteria derived from the great Tradition of the Church and includes elements (stars) that are on the Mantle of Guadalupe.

Entrance to the central nave

The Cathedral features a nave of grand proportions, both horizontally and vertically. The horizontal plane is defined by the aisle leading to the sanctuary-presbytery. This significant path serves as an entryway of light which, within the context of the cathedral, becomes a pathway of stars guiding the faithful toward the light that is Jesus Christ.

This is symbolized by the stars on the mantle of the Virgin of Guadalupe, depicting the constellation at the moment of the Apparition on December 12, 1531.

The sanctuary-presbytery, where the altar is located, is oriented toward the east, symbolizing that Christ is the sun and the light of our lives.

EVENTS AT THE CATHEDRAL OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Maína Feast: Last weekend of May

Diocesan Pilgrimage:

Last weekend of August

12/12 - Feast in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Patroness

Every 12th of the month - Day of Devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe.

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VISITING HOURS FOR THE CATHEDRAL:

Monday: 2:00 PM to 5:30 PM

Tuesday to Friday: 8:00 AM to 11:30 AM and 2:00 PM to 5:30 PM

Saturday: 8:00 AM to 11:30 AM

TO HELP WITH THE CATHEDRAL'S MAINTENANCE, MAKE YOUR DONATION IN PERSON AT THE OFFICE, VIA QR CODE, OR PIX KEY - CNPJ: 74.044.827/0001-33



PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday: 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Tuesday to Friday: 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM and 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Saturday: 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM

SCHEDULE OF HOLY MASSES

Monday to Friday: 7:30 PM (Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament)

Wednesday: 3:00 PM and 7:30 PM - Mass and Health Novena (Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament)

Saturday: 7:30 PM

Sunday: 8:00 AM, 10:00 AM, and 7:30 PM

First Friday of the month: 3:00 PM - Apostleship of Prayer Mass

First Saturday of the month: 8:00 AM - Mass in the Cathedral Crypt

Every 12th of the month: Day of Devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe

*Bless all who visit
this sacred place!*



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GUADALUPE
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