In the year 1541, a terrible epidemic of the plague devastated villages in the region of Ocotlán, Mexico. One day, Juan Diego Bernarda, a devout native who worked with the sick and took care of the sick, encountered the Virgin Mary in the courtyard of the Church of San Lorenzo. The Virgin Mary, in an exhortation to Juan Diego, asked him to go to the town to bring a message of hope and comfort to the people. The Virgin Mary instructed him to gather flowers from the garden and place them in a basket to show proof of her presence. Juan Diego, obeying the Virgin Mary’s command, went to the garden and collected petals from the flowers. He returned to the Virgin Mary and placed the basket in front of her. Suddenly, the Virgin Mary told him, “My Son, take this basket and deliver it to the Bishop of Mexico.” Juan Diego did as he was instructed and presented the basket to the Bishop. The Bishop, impressed by the miracle, declared the Virgin Mary as the patroness of Mexico. This event is known as the Apparition of the Virgin Mary in Ocotlán and it is considered one of the most important Marian shrines in Mexico.

The Apparition of the Virgin Mary in Ocotlán

MEXICO, 1541