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Bus drivers and cabbies regularly display her image in their vehicles.

Grocery store and bar owners, tenants, and prison inmates pay tribute to her legacy by exhibiting her visage for all their visitors.

World leaders, including former U.S. Vice President Richard M. Nixon in the 1950s, have traveled to see her picture encased in a basilica in the villa of Guadalupe, Mexico.

She is Patroness of the Americas, Queen of the Mexican people, and a balm to those who have suffered oppression — be it spiritual or physical — in the Western Hemisphere.

"Our Lady of Guadalupe is very much the maternal face of God," said Father Enrique Cadena, assistant pastor of Corpus Christi Parish, 864 E. Main St., Rochester. A native of Mexico City, Father Cadena will give the homily at a Mass celebrating Our

Lady of Guadalupe's feast day Saturday, Dec. 12, at 6:30 p.m. The liturgy will take place at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, 1095 Joseph Ave., Rochester.

In addition to Corpus Christi and Our Lady of Perpetual Help churches, Mount Carmel, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Michael, Ss. Peter and Paul and St. Francis Xavier/Holy Redeemer parishes will participate in the celebration.

Father Cadena is one of millions of Mexicans for whom Our Lady of Guadalupe signifies God's desire to reach people in a way they

can readily understand. Illiterate Catholics, especially, have found solace in the lady's image, the priest said.

"A lot of people who are really uneducated in religion somehow felt that through her they had something," the priest commented.

Indeed, it was a humble Indian —
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Our Lady of Guadalupe serves to unify Hispanics, Americas

Story by Rob Cullivan

