

# Mexican Phoenix: Our Lady of Guadalupe: Image and Tradition Across Five Centuries, Cambridge University Press, 2002, 464 pages, D. A. Brading, 9780521531603, 2002

Celebrant at Phoenix Our Lady of Guadalupe event, Phoenix AZ, December 2015  
Courtesy Roman Catholic Diocese Phoenix. According to lore, it was a winter's day in 1531 when the Virgin Mary first appeared to Juan Diego, a peasant, as he was crossing a hillside near present-day Mexico City. The cloak bearing the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe is on display, its colors seemingly not faded after hundreds of years. December 12th became a national holiday in Mexico in 1859. In some ways, Our Lady of Guadalupe has become less of a religious symbol and more of a general cultural symbol, says John Moran Gonzalez, director of the Center for Mexican American Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. In 1999, the revered image of Our Lady of Guadalupe had been proclaimed patron saint of the Americas by the Pope. How did a poor Indian and a sixteenth-century Mexican painting of the Virgin Mary attract such unprecedented honours? Across the centuries the enigmatic power of the image has aroused fervent devotion in Mexico: it served as the banner of the rebellion against Spanish rule and, despite scepticism and anti-clericalism, still remains a potent symbol of the modern nation. This book traces the intellectual origins, the sudden efflorescence and the adamant resilience of the tradition of ... In 2001, Brading published *Mexican Phoenix, Our Lady of Guadalupe: Image and Tradition across Five Centuries*, a detailed history of the most important religious icon in Latin America - the Virgin of Guadalupe. *Foreign Affairs* magazine commented in a review saying that it was "brilliant" and having "remarkable insight" [13][23][24]. Article contents. Abstract. Mexican Phoenix. Our Lady of Guadalupe: Image and Tradition Across Five Centuries. By D. A. Brading. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2001. Type. Book Reviews. Information. *The Americas*, Volume 58, Issue 4, April 2002, pp. 625 - 626. - No HTML tags allowed - Web page URLs will display as text only - Lines and paragraphs break automatically - Attachments, images or tables are not permitted. Please enter your response. Your details.