Our Lady of Guadalupe & the Conquest of Darkness
Chris Check

Recommended Reading:

Bernal Diaz, *The True History of the Conquest of New Spain* (One of the greatest epics ever written. Take all the screens away from your sons until they read it; if they get it, they will never want to look at a screen again.)

William Weber Johnson, *Cortés* (A well-written, accessible life of one of the most extraordinary men in history. Not a whitewash; not a paean.)

Carl Anderson and Eduardo Chavez, *Our Lady of Guadalupe: Mother of the Civilization of Love* (Monsignor Chavez is the leading authority on the Tilma and the postulator of the cause of St. Juan Diego. The book contains a translation of the *Nican Mopohua*, the primary source document of the apparitions on Tepayac Hill. This is the best book for understanding what the Tilma meant to the natives.)

Francis Johnston, *The Wonder of Guadalupe* (Short, easy-to-read volume.)

Stafford Poole, C.M., *Our Lady of Guadalupe: The Origins and Sources of a Mexican National Symbol* (Father Poole is a skeptic and a trained historian. I do not agree with either his arguments or his conclusions, but anyone intending to be engaged in deeper conversations about the Guadalupe story and cult should know his arguments. Not light reading.)

Grezegorz Górny, Janusz Rosikon, *Guadalupe Mysteries: Deciphering the Code* (This is a beautiful coffee-table book that would make a great Christmas present, brought out in English by Ignatius Press. It's a little soft on the Mexican revolution of the mid 19th Century.)

Paul Badde, *Maria of Guadalupe: Shaper of History, Shaper of Hearts* (A moving and inspiring first-person travel journal of a man's encounter with this singular mystery.)

Warren Carroll, *Our Lady of Guadalupe and the Conquest of Darkness* (The leading contender for the if-you-are-only-going-to-read-one-book-on-the-subject category. Written with the great Dr. Carroll’s deep love of Our Lady and deep love of Spain.)

Bishop Francis Kelley, *Blood Drenched Altars: A Catholic Commentary on the History of Mexico* (Kelley was the energetic and brilliant founder of the Catholic Extension Society. If you want to see where he was born, join us for Catholic Answers next cruise, Montreal to Boston, June 3-10: CatholicAnswersCruise.com)

Prelude: November 14, 1921

**Altogether unique in salvation history**
- The collision of civilizations
- The person of Cortés
- The Apparitions at Tepayac Hill and following

The Collision of Civilizations: A Supernatural contest
- Who were the Aztecs?
- What was Spain?

Hernan Cortés (d. 1547)
- From Extramaduro (home of the first Our Lady of Guadalupe)
- Hispaniola/Cuba/quarrel with Velasquez
- Expedition to the Yucatan/La Malinche/Veracuz/Scuttling of the ships
- Recruiting tribes/Tenochtitlan/Moctezuma/Velasquez sends an army
- La Noche Triste/Martin Lopez/Amphibious assault and final siege
- A new nation

Evangelization Begins
- The Twelve Poor Men/Cortés to Honduras
- Charles V appoints Zumarraga (good) and the Audiencia (bad)

Enter Cuauhtlatoa (Talking Eagle)—Juan Diego
- December 9-12, 1531
- “Gaudalupe”
- Within fewer than 20 years: 9 million baptisms

A few of the mysteries of the Tilma
- Hands in prayer (3-1)/posture of the knee/eyes cast down/pregnancy band (encita)
- Agave fiber (tests, saltpeter)
- Brushstrokes/sketch?
- Constellations
- Music
- Glyphs/Volcanoes
- Eyes: Reflections (Iris is 5/16 of an inch)/3-D Vision
- Purkyne-Sanson Effect

Epilogue: March 2009

**Christopher Check is President of Catholic Answers, www.Catholic.com.**
Prior to joining Catholic Answers, Chris, a graduate of Rice University, served for nearly two decades as Executive Vice President of The Rockford Institute. Prior to that he served for seven years as a field artillery officer in the Marine Corps attaining the grade of captain. He writes and lectures on Church and military history, lives of saints, and the dangers of modern communication technology. He has lectured to many audiences reputable and disreputable across the republic and in Europe. Chris and his wife Jacqueline and their four sons, Nicholas, Alexander, John Paul, and Nathanael, show and breed Cavalier King Charles Spaniels under the kennel name Top Meadow Cavaliers, named for G.K Chesterton’s Beaconsfield estate.