

ABSTRACT

THE MAIDEN WARRIOR: AN EVOLUTION OF THE VIRGIN OF GUADALUPE

This thesis is concerned with the role that the Virgin Mary played in the Conquest of Mexico. Used by Cortés as a symbol of warfare during his march to Tenochtitlan, Mary's image made a profound and lasting impact on native culture and subsequent Mexican Catholicism. Chapter 1 examines Biblical and medieval writings concerning the theory of Mary's Immaculate Conception, as well as her role in Spanish medieval warfare during the Reconquest. Chapter 2 explores elements within Aztec religion that would collide with Spanish religion and the Virgin during the Conquest. Finally, chapter 3 examines the Virgin Mary's role in the Conquest.

George Patrick Fontes
May 2006