

The following story expresses Our Lady's gratitude to the American Church for this honor and promises her special help and protection for these United States of America. It is the story of a Mother's love for her children, especially her children in America, and her mandate from heaven that we in America, in particular, help her renew the face of the earth by assisting her in bringing America, and the whole world, back to Faith and Purity. She herself says she comes to America as a last resort.

Part II – God's Choice of a Messenger for Our Times

Consider your own calling, brothers. Not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. Rather, God chose the foolish of the world to shame the wise, and God chose the weak of the world to shame the strong, and God chose the lowly and despised of the world, those who count for nothing, to reduce to nothing those who are something, so that no human being might boast before God.

(New American Bible, 1 Corinthians 1: 26-30)

August 2, 1916: The birth of a chosen "little one."

On this day, Mildred Marie Neuzil was the first American born child of Austrian parents, John and Anna (Smerda) Neuzil. She was born in Brooklyn, NY, baptized at Most Holy Trinity Church there, and shortly after moved to Cleveland, Ohio, Our Lady of Good Counsel parish. In Austria her father had been a gardener to Johann Strauss. In America he became a homebuilder.



Sister Mary Ephrem with family at first vows

September 12, 1930: Mildred enters religious life.

At age 14, Mildred Neuzil entered the active religious congregation of the Sisters of the Precious Blood, a papal religious community.

August 15, 1933: Sister takes first vows.

At age 17, Mildred made her first vows as a professed religious and received the name Sister Mary Ephrem, a name that means “doubly fruitful.” She carried out her duties, mostly in domestic work and as a kindergarten teacher. Her first mission activity included multiple diocesan jurisdictions in Washington, DC where she remained until 1937 when she was sent to the Chancery in Cincinnati, Ohio.

(Editor’s Note: **There are no accidents with God.** Sister began her religious service in Washington, D.C. where her mission from heaven would center its message. From there Sister is sent to Cincinnati where God would give her a holy man, priest, and later bishop, to guide her.)

1938: Sister begins to have mystical experiences.

Just five years after her First Profession of vows, Sister Mary Ephrem began to have mystical experiences which, in her simplicity, she thought were common to all religious, so she paid no undue attention to them.

August 15, 1939: Sister Mary Ephrem takes perpetual vows with the Congregation of the Sisters of the Precious Blood.

1940s: Sanctification of the Christian family.

Sister began to share these experiences with her confessor who cautioned her of an overactive imagination. These locutions with Jesus included **special espousal with Him and an understanding that her mission was to converge on the sanctification of the Christian family.**

1947: Sister’s mission work.

In this year, Sister Mary Ephrem was sent for the *first* time to help at Kneipp Springs, Rome City, IN and also that year at Denver, CO. Sister had met Reverend Paul Leibold previously and he had become her spiritual director since 1940. Rev. Leibold, familiar with the mystical prayer life of Sister Mary Ephrem, which included locutions with our Lord, began to instruct Sister to write down her experiences in a diary. These mystical experiences were preserved and later became the basis of the published

booklet, “Our Lady of America” Diary.

Sister Mary Ephrem (Mildred Marie) Neuzil was blessed to have Rev. Paul Leibold as her spiritual director for 32 years, from 1940 – 1972 when he died. In 1958, he was promoted to Auxiliary Bishop of Cincinnati, Ohio, and in 1966, he became the Bishop of Evansville, Indiana. On October 2, 1969, he was made Archbishop of Cincinnati. He was always careful to protect her hidden life. What an extraordinary grace to have a bishop for one’s spiritual director, a bishop still remembered as a very holy man whenever his name is mentioned, even so long after his death.

1948: Messages become more pressing.

While stationed in North Dakota the messages became more pressing. Sister began to write them down more diligently. Various priests found nothing adverse to faith or morals in the messages which indicated a theological understanding that exceeded what Sister could have learned from her courses.

1949: New mission work.

Sister was stationed at St. Mark’s in Cincinnati, Ohio until 1953 when she went to Ottawa, Ohio.

Locutions with Our Lord - My Mission is to Converge Toward the Sanctification of the Family.

At a moment in history in which the family is the object of numerous forces that seek to destroy it or in some way to deform it, and aware that the well-being of society and her own good are intimately tied to the good of the family, the church perceives in a more urgent and compelling way her mission of proclaiming to all people the plan of God for marriage and the family, ensuring their full vitality and human and Christian development, and thus contributing to the renewal of society and of the people of God.

(Familiaris Consortio-On the Family, Apostolic Exhortation, Pope John Paul II, December 15, 1981.)

1954: Messages become a program of special devotion to Mary.

Sister is sent to Arizona. As these visits take on the nature of a specific

program of special devotion to Mary, Sister is convinced of Our Lady's command to propagate this particular devotion to her as Our Lady of America.

Our Lord often spoke to me in the past and already in the early 1940's it was made known to me interiorly that my mission was to converge towards the sanctification of the family. I was not further enlightened at that time as to how this was to be accomplished. In the year 1954, however, Our Lord addressed the following words to me:

May 22, 1954: Our Lords words.

My little white dove, if the world is dying, it is because it will not let Me give it life. I am the resurrection and the life, and unless souls seek their life in Me, they will find only death and destruction.

They fear man-made destroyers of life, yet destruction is in themselves. Man destroys himself through the evil that is in himself.

Implements of war kill only that which is without. Man kills that within himself which none but he can kill.

God is light, man is darkness, and unless he comes into the light, he will be forever darkness. The Voice of My Heart is the Voice of Mercy. If man will not listen, there is no more I can do, for he ties My hands.

May 29, 1954: Our Lords words.

My Heart beats with compassion for the sorrows of man. Oh how gladly would I help him bear the weight of his terrible cross, fashioned, for the most part, by his own guilt! But alas, he will have none of My help. So I am forced to stand by the side of the road and watch him struggle hopelessly in his agony.

O man, what have I done to you that you should refuse My aid.

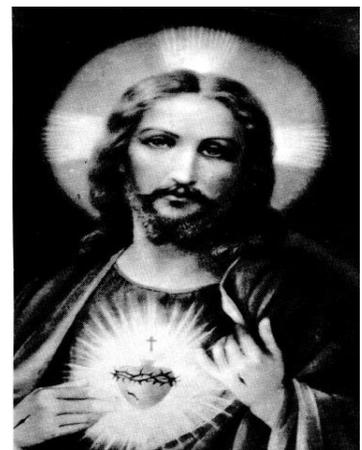
My little white dove, do you know what I find most lacking in the world today? It is FAITH. There are so few souls that believe in Me and My love. They profess their belief and their love, but they do not live this belief. Their hearts are cold, for without faith there can be no love. Pray and sacrifice yourself, My Child, that faith may once again find entrance into the hearts of men.

July 11, 1954: Our Lords words.

My daughter, I am not loved in the homes of men. And because I am not loved, the Divine Trinity refuses to dwell therein.

Children are not taught to love Me, because those who have charge over them have no time or patience to do so.

My Heart grieves over My children in the world. Their hearts are being driven farther and farther away from Me. They will not even listen to My Mother, because they have



never been taught to listen.

I am a Beggar for love, but how few give to Me the means by which to satisfy My divine hunger. I hunger for the love of My own and receive only the crumbs no other would accept.

My Father is angry. If My children will not listen to My Heart, which is a Voice of mercy and instruction, punishment will come swiftly and none shall be able to stay it. The pleadings of My Heart have held back the divine justice about to descend on an ungrateful and sinful generation.

Woe to parents who set a bad example to their children! Terrible will be their judgment. I will demand a strict accounting of every soul entrusted to their care.

Woe to Children who disobey and show disrespect towards their parents! 'Honor thy father and thy mother'. On this shall they be judged most severely.

July 12-14, 1954: Our Lords words.

Blessed are the homes that honor My Name and the Name of My Father.

Blessed are the homes where I am loved, for there the Holy Trinity dwells.

Blessed are the parents and children who have made a home for God in their hearts. Little secretary of My Heart, write these instructions for the sanctification of My people.

My Father's house is a house of prayer, and you have made it a den of thieves.

My children, every home and every soul is My Father's house, for He made them and they are His, but many of them are no longer sanctified by His Presence. Thieves have entered in and stolen from Him His temples of prayer. It is you My children, who have let them in. If, My children, you will cleanse your temples, My Father will return and We will come and make our abode with you.

Return, My people, for My Heart hungers and thirsts for your love. If you will not return, the just anger of My Father will descend upon you. What would you – My love or My Father's anger? Choose, and as you choose, so shall it be done. I will not force your free will, for that is yours to use as you desire.

The Visions of the Angels

Put on all the armor that God gives you, so that you will be able to stand up against the Devil's evil tricks. For we are not fighting against human beings but against the wicked spiritual forces in the heavenly world, the rulers, authorities, and cosmic powers of this dark age. So put on God's armor now!...

So stand ready, with truth as a belt tight around your waist, with righteousness as your breastplate, and as your shoes the readiness to announce the Good News of peace. At all times carry faith as a shield; for with it you will be able to put out all the

burning arrows shot by the Evil One. And accept salvation as a helmet, and the word of God as the sword which the Spirit gives you. Do all this in prayer, asking for God's help.

(Good News Bible, Ephesians 6:11-18)

Fall of 1954: Apparition of St. Michael, Angel of Peace.

As a preparation for her mission, Sister is graced with an appearance of St. Michael, the Angel of Peace, who offered her a sword (to conquer the world, the self and the devil), a palm (for victory) and a cross (for the suffering she would be asked to endure in union with Jesus' passion), reminding her that our real battle is with the Powers and the Principalities always at war with Jesus.



As Sister was suspicious of the offer of a palm of victory, for she could think of no victory of hers deserving of such a reward, St. Michael then asked her, “Will you accept the cross?” She replied, “Yes, I will accept the cross.” To this St. Michael then said:

Then you will accept the palm and the sword. With the sword the saints conquered themselves, the world and the devil. I am the Angel of Peace, I come to those whose hearts are attuned to the Voice of God. To such as these I remain a perpetual light through blinding darkness. I was sent by Him who said, “I am the Light of the world.”

November 8, 1954: Our Lady's words on the Family.

It is the wish of my Son that fathers and mothers strive to imitate me and my chaste spouse in our holy life at Nazareth. We practiced the simple virtues of family life, Jesus our Son being the center of all our love and activity. The Holy Trinity dwelt with us in a manner far surpassing anything that can ever be imagined, for ours was the earthly paradise, where once again God walked among men.

As in our little home no sin was to be found, so it is the wish of the Heart of my Son and my Immaculate Heart that sin should, as far as possible, be unheard of in the homes of our children.

The Divine Trinity will dwell in your midst only if you are faithful in practicing the virtues of our life at Nazareth. Then, you also, my children, will become another paradise. God will then walk among you and you will have peace.

I need your help to bring peace into the world. Do not disappoint me.

November 20, 1955: Apparition of St. Gabriel, Angel of Purity.

I knelt down and asked him, “Who are you?” He replied, “I am the Angel Gabriel. I have come to tell you that Our Lord is pleased with your effort to do good. He asks that you go to His Mother and learn great purity of heart.”

Following the visits of these two archangels, the apparitions of Our Lady herself began and the favor and the responsibility to her children in America were made very clear.

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