

Part III -
Victory Over Satan in Rome City, IN Crowned by
Our Lady's Comforting Visit

1956: Second assignment to Kneipp Springs, Rome City, Indiana.

In 1956, Sister was stationed in three different locations, Ligonier, Rome City and Collegeville in Indiana. It was in the Fall of 1956 that Sister was sent to Kneipp Springs, Rome City, IN for the second time. She had a terrible foreboding about this assignment and did not wish to go but obeyed. Here she encountered Satan quite vividly, but her obedience was rewarded with the first visits of Our Lady of America, perhaps to comfort her.

In an interview with Sister Mary Ephrem, now using her baptismal name of Sister Mildred, E. Michael Jones, editor of *Fidelity* magazine, writes in the December 1983 issue about the days before the first apparitions occurred there in Rome City:

Sister Mildred had just recently been transferred to the water cure staffed by her order of nuns in Indiana to wait on tables but had not been happy about the move. When she got to her room, she felt, as she said later, "like jumping out of the window." She left her room that night and went to the chapel, but the feeling did not leave her. "It seemed to me," she said, "like I was in a ring of evil. I couldn't get out of it, and it was telling me to get out of there." One night she awoke with the sense that something was perched on her pillow a little behind her head. Before she could discern just what it was, she felt it grab her face across the eyes and pull down on them. "Like this," she said, and made a motion which implied that whatever it was had claws. She found no marks on her face afterward though. The next day she went to her superior and asked to be transferred back to Ligonier. She could have gone if she had found someone to wait on tables in her stead, but couldn't and so didn't, and as a result had her first encounter with the Blessed Mother instead.

September 25, 1956: Eve of the feast of the North American martyrs, Our Lady appears as Our Lady of Lourdes.

During evening holy hour, Our Lady came as Our Lady of Lourdes, though I felt her presence more than seeing her. **She promised that greater miracles than those granted at Lourdes and Fatima would be granted here in America, the United States in particular, if we would do as she desires."**

I am pleased, my children, with the love and honor my children in America give to me, especially through my glorious and unique privilege of the Immaculate Conception. I promise to reward their love by working through the power of my Son's Heart and my Immaculate Heart, miracles of grace among them. *I do not promise miracles of the body, but of the soul.*

For it is mainly through these miracles of grace that the Holy Trinity is glorified among men and nations. Let America continue and grow in its love for me, and I in return, in union with the Heart of my Son, promise to work wonders in her. My child, I desire that this be known.

Our Lady emphasized her anxious concern about our inner lives.

September 26, 1956: Our Lady appears twice under the new image of Our Lady of America.



JESUIT MARTYRS OF NORTH AMERICA
1642 - 1649

After Mass the next morning, the feast of the North American Martyrs, Our Lady appeared to Sister, enveloped in a soft glow of light. Our Lady said:

“I am Our Lady of America. I desire that my children honor me, especially by the purity of their lives.”

She was very beautiful and her smile held me. Throughout my work of the day, I was conscious of our Lady's presence in a very special manner, in a way distinctly new to me. That afternoon, during the *last* half of the Holy Hour, the Immaculate Virgin spoke to me at length in these words:

My child, I entrust YOU with this message that you must make known to my children in America. I wish it to be the country dedicated to my purity. The wonders I will work will be the wonders of the soul. They must have faith and believe firmly in my love for them. I desire that they be the children of my Pure Heart. I desire, through my children of America, to further the cause of faith and purity among peoples and nations. Let them come to me with confidence and simplicity, and I, their Mother, will teach them to become pure like to my Heart that their own hearts may be more pleasing to the Heart of my Son.

After this date I saw Our Lady frequently, Sister said.

September 27, 1956: Our Lady's apparition holding the

world in her hands as She wept over it.

Our Lady again appeared to me while I was at prayer. She held the world in Her hands. From Her eyes tears were flowing upon it, as though she longed to cleanse it from its guilt. It was then that I heard these words filled with sorrow and longing:

Behold, O my children, the tears of your Mother! Shall I weep in vain? Assuage the sorrow of my Heart over the ingratitude of sinful men by the love and chasteness of your lives. Will you do this for me, beloved children, or will you allow your Mother to weep in vain? I come to you, O Children of America, as a last resort. I plead with you to listen to my voice. Cleanse your souls in the Precious Blood of My Son. Live in His Heart and take me in that I may teach you to live in great purity of heart which is so pleasing to God. Be my army of chaste soldiers, ready to fight to the death to preserve the purity of your souls. I am the Immaculate One, Patroness of your land. Be my faithful children as I have been your faithful Mother.

These are my words, O my daughter. Make them known to my children. I desire to make the whole of America my shrine by making every heart accessible to the love of my Son.

Locutions with St. Joseph and the Focus on the National Shrine

Early October 1956: Locutions with St. Joseph.



It is true, my daughter, that *immediately* after my conception, I was, through the future merits of Jesus and because of my exceptional role of future Virgin-father, cleansed from the stain of original sin.

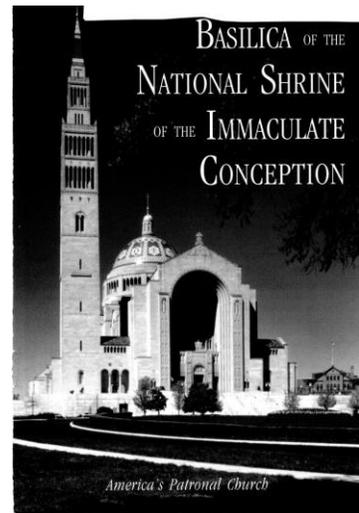
I was from that moment confirmed in grace and never had the slightest stain on my soul. This is my unique privilege among men. My pure heart also was from the first moment of existence inflamed with love for God. *Immediately*, at the moment when my soul was cleansed from original sin, grace was infused into it in such abundance that, excluding my holy spouse, I surpassed the holiness of the highest angel in the angelic choir. My heart suffered with the Hearts of Jesus and Mary. Mine was a silent suffering, for it was my special vocation to hide and shield, as long as God willed, the Virgin

Mother and Son from the malice and hatred of men.

The most painful of my sorrows was that I knew beforehand of their passion yet would not be there to console them. Their future suffering was ever present to me and became my daily cross. I became, in union with my holy Spouse, co-redemptor of the human race. Through compassion for the sufferings of Jesus and Mary, I cooperated, *as no other*, in the salvation of the world.

October 5, 1956: Our Lady places the words of the Prayer to the Immaculate Conception in Sister's mind.

On December 5, 1956, I felt suddenly urged to write a prayer to Our Lady, Patroness of our land. I knelt by the little table in my room, and as I did so Our Lady came to me. She stood at my right side very close to me. Though I did not hear any words, the thoughts came into my mind one after the other, and I wrote without stopping until the prayer was finished.



This Devotion is Centered in our Patronal Church in Washington, D.C.

October 13, 1956: Our Lady's appearance highlighting *her* desire for the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

Our Lady appeared to Sister Mary Ephrem in the same manner as she did on the feast of the North American martyrs, except that her Immaculate Heart did not appear. Instead of the lily, she held with both hands a small replica of the finished Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Sister was overwhelmed with Our Lady's beautiful smile and heavenly way, her holiness. She then knelt down and wrote Our Lady's words as she desired:

This is my shrine, my daughter. I am very pleased with it. Tell my children I thank them. Let them finish it quickly and make it a place of pilgrimage. It will be a place of wonders. I promise this. I will bless all those who, either by prayers, labor, or material aid, help to erect this shrine.

Our Lady often emphasized her desire that the shrine in Washington D.C. be made a place of special pilgrimage, a place where she would work her wonders. The Shrine was completed and dedicated three years later on

November 20, 1959.

November 15, 1956: Our Lady teaches Sister a powerful ejaculation and asks for the drawing of her image as Our Lady of America.



This morning Our Lady taught me this little prayer: **“By thy Holy and Immaculate Conception, O Mary, deliver us from evil.”**

“Our Lady then asked me to draw *a picture of her first appearance*. She also requested a statue made according to this likeness and placed, after being solemnly carried in procession, in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. She wishes to be honored there in a special way as Our Lady of America, the Immaculate Virgin.” The image posted here is Sister Mary

Ephrem’s own drawing as she herself saw Our Lady in 1956.

(Editor’s Note: Sister Mildred explains in her letters that this does not detract from devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe, who is Empress of *all the Americas*. America (the US) is its own nation and since Our Lady is giving America (US) a special mandate to lead the world toward peace and purity, she is giving it a special favor as well to fulfill its mission).

1957 – 1958: Warnings! The hour grows late!

Sister says Our Lady’s warnings came to her again and again. **“The hour grows late,”** Our Lady said. **“My Son’s patience will not last forever. Help me hold back His anger which is about to descend on sinful and ungrateful men.”**

To my spiritual director I was asked to send this message:

“Hurry, my son, for the time is short but the punishment will be long, and for many, forever. Tell the Bishops of the United States, my loyal sons, of my desires and how I wish them to be carried out. Through him who is head over you, make known the longings of my Immaculate Heart to establish the reign of my Divine Son in the hearts of men and thus save them from the scourge of heaven, both now and hereafter.



Archbishop Paul F. Leibold

Our Lady addressed Sister, speaking sadly but hopefully:

“My daughter, will my children in America listen to my pleadings and console my Immaculate Heart? Will my loyal sons carry out my desires and thus help me bring the peace of Christ once again to mankind? ... Do not forget your poor Mother, who weeps over the loss of so many of her children.”

February 3, 1957: Our Lady speaks on true peace and love.

Our Lady declares that peace must come from within, that to make our hearts more pleasing to her Son we must go to her, His Mother. She asks for a reform of life as proof of our love for her. She says, “The Holy Trinity looks down with infinite delight upon such souls and makes them Its heaven upon earth.”

March 1957: Our Lady pleads...

O my sweet child, when will my desires be realized? ... O my little one, daughter of my Pure Heart, you must pray with greater fervor and offer yourself with greater love to the Heart of my Son.

April 1957: Our Lady continues her warning.

My sweet child, unless my children reform their lives, they will suffer great persecution. If man himself will not take upon himself the penance necessary to atone for his sins and those of others, God in his justice will have to send upon him punishment necessary to atone for his transgressions.

May 8, 1957: Archangel Michael appears again.

Do not delay or the time of grace will pass and with it the peace you seek. ...My little sister, the message is a clear one, there is no doubt. Make it known, do not hesitate. I, Michael, have spoken.

The Our Lady of Nativity Cloister and the Call to Penance and the Interior Life

July 1, 1957: Our Lady of Nativity Cloister is established.

At the urging of Archbishop Karl J. Alter, the Precious Blood Sisters' Chapter of 1954 voted to establish a cloister within its active community, an effort Sister Mary Florecita Bidart had worked toward for 20 years. In December of 1954, Bishop George J. Rehring, Toledo diocese, gave permission for the cloister to be established in the Our Lady of

Nativity Convent in New Riegel, Ohio, likewise in the Toledo diocese. The cloister gate was closed in the ceremony presided over by Bishop Rehring on July 1, 1957, the feast of the Most Precious Blood, establishing it as a truly Benedictine papal enclosure. At that time the cloister consisted of Sr. Mary Florecita Bidart, Foundress, and Sister Mary Leo (Louise) Voisard. The cloister would become completely self-supporting, mainly with its printing press. By April 1, 1965, the sisters had obtained canonical approval for their Constitution, and by September of that year, the Holy See granted permission to erect a Novitiate within the Cloister, allowing women to enter from outside the active congregation in order to increase their membership.

August 5, 1957: Feast of Our Lady of Snows and the Divine Indwelling.



Our Lady spoke on the great gift of the Divine Indwelling, sanctification from within. This is what she means by reformation and renewal.

As Our Lady spoke this, she seemed at the time to be deeply occupied. Though the serenity of her countenance never left her, she spoke with a gravity that made her words all the more solemn. She seemed anxious to impress me with some idea of the greatness of this gift of God to us, namely, His Divine Presence within our souls through sanctifying grace.

(Editor's Note: The Catholic Church teaches that the fathomless mystery we call God has revealed Himself to humankind as a Trinity of Persons—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The mystery of the Trinity is the central doctrine of Catholic faith. Upon it are based all other teachings of the Church. (Pg. 19, HANDBOOK FOR TODAY'S CATHOLIC, quoting the CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH, paragraphs 238 – 267.)

August 22, 1957: Feast of the Immaculate Heart.

Our Lady intensifies her plea for a reform of life. **“What I ask, have asked, and will continue to ask is reformation of life. There must be sanctification from within”.** ...She tells Sister to “go to the Bishop. Tell him of the desires of my Heart. He will help you.”

September 16-27, 1957: Our Lady's admonition to priests to live lives of penance and self-denial, upholding the sanctity and dignity of their calling.

My dear daughter, sweet child, write my words carefully because they are of the utmost importance. I address them to my beloved sons, the priests, dedicated to the most intense and extraordinary imitation of my Son in the perfect carrying on of His Eternal Priesthood.

Beloved sons, so cherished and greatly blessed among the sons of men, be careful to uphold the sanctity and dignity of your calling. Let the faithful see in you the favored and especially loved imitators of the Son of God. Be modest in your dress and speech as becomes those of so exalted a vocation. The apparel and manners of a man of the world is not for you, who, though living in the world, must not take on its ways.

Dear sons, I ask you to practice self-denial and penance in a special manner, because it is you who must lead my children in the way of peace. Yet this peace will come only by way of the sword, the flaming sword of love. If, therefore, you love my Son and wish to honor me, heed my admonition and be the first to give the example of a life of penance and self-denial. ...

I am pleased, dearly beloved sons, by the honor and love you have until now accorded me. Will you now go further and honor me yet more by taking my words to your hearts and doing what I ask?

October 7, 1957: Feast of the Holy Rosary and special message to her children in America.

My beloved daughter, what I am about to tell you concerns in a particular way my children of America. Unless they do penance by mortification and self-denial and thus reform their lives, God will visit them with punishments hitherto unknown to them. My child, there will be peace, but not until my children are purified and cleansed from defilement and are made ready to receive this peace.

November 22-23, 1957: Mary appears as Our Lady, the Immaculate Tabernacle of the Indwelling God.

Our Lady appeared, standing on a globe, her right foot resting on a crescent moon, the left on the snout of a small fire-breathing dragon. She was dressed all in white and her hair could be seen through her transparent veil which was long enough to half envelope the globe. The veil was held about her head by a wreath of white roses, and a white rose rested on each foot. On her breast, **the Triangle and the Eye, the symbol of the Divine Indwelling**, could be visibly seen. A strong beam of light shown from the Divine Presence within Our Lady onto the globe at her feet. Then halfway around the figure of Our Lady above her head appeared a scroll on which were written in letters of gold the words: **“All the glory of the King’s daughter is within.”**

Though it did not appear that her lips moved, I heard these words quite plainly: **“I am Our Lady of the Divine Indwelling, handmaid of Him Who dwells within.”**

February 11, 1958: Our Lady renews the Fatima promise.

My Immaculate Heart will win in the end, and the Spirit of Christ will dwell in the hearts of men. Those in whom this Spirit is not found will be condemned to eternal hellfire.

Our Lady tells Sister that nothing is accomplished without pain and bids her prepare to suffer much because suffering completes the work of divine grace in the soul.

Our Lady also spoke of her particular interest in the youth of our nation and called on them to be leaders in this movement of renewal on the face of the earth, sharing with her army of chaste soldiers the title **“Torchbearers of the Queen.”** **“They must be prepared with the knowledge of the Divine Indwelling. It is to the youth of America that she is holding out this challenge.”** Our Lady promised that the statue in the National Basilica would be a special safeguard for our country, and that a picture or statue in the home would bring protection to that home. The medal with the image of Our Lady of America on the front and the Coat-of-Arms of the Christian Family on the back would be a shield against evil for those who wear it with devotion, and they would receive the grace of intense purity of heart and a great love for Mary and her Son. **“America, the United States in particular is being given the tremendous, yet privileged, opportunity to lead all nations in a spiritual renewal never before so necessary, so important, so vital.”**

[For details on the medal, see Appendix, pg. 47 of the Diary.]

The Appearance of St. Joseph and His Role in Redemption – Protector of the Pope, the Church, and the Family

March 18 and March 19, 1958: St. Joseph appears on his feast day and speaks on spiritual fatherhood.

St. Joseph spoke of his spiritual fatherhood, of his great privilege in being chosen to be the Virgin-Father of Jesus, and of his perfect obedience to the Divine Will. He spoke of his special protection of the Holy Father

and of the Church.

Fathers must come to me, small one, to learn obedience to authority: to the Church always, as the mouthpiece of God, and to the laws of the country in which they live, insofar as these do not go against God and their neighbors.

Mine was perfect obedience to the Divine Will, as it was shown and made known to me by the Jewish law and religion. To be careless in this is most displeasing to God and will be severely punished in the next world.

Fatherhood is from God, and *it* must take once again its rightful place among men.

My special protection of the Holy Father and the Church should be made known to him. God wishes to make this known to him that he may receive thereby renewed consolation and encouragement. During the war, little daughter, it was I who saved him from death at the hands of his enemies.

March 30, 1958: St. Joseph asks to be honored on the First Wednesday of each month, an old Tradition in the Church.

Jesus and Mary desire that my pure heart, so long hidden and unknown, be now honored in a special way. Let my children honor my most pure heart in a special manner on the First Wednesday of the month by reciting the *Joyful Mysteries* of the rosary in memory of my life with Jesus and Mary and the love I bore them, the sorrow I suffered with them. Let them receive Holy Communion in union with the love with which I received the Savior for the first time, and each time I held Him in my arms. Those who honor me in this way will be consoled by my presence at their death and I myself will conduct them safely into the presence of Jesus and Mary.

As St. Joseph had promised, Jesus and Mary also came on March 30: Jesus as a boy about fifteen or sixteen years old. He spoke of the sanctification of the family and other matters. St. Joseph and Our Lady also spoke to me concerning the same subject and also about the Divine Indwelling.

May 1958: Sister Mary Ephrem enters the Our Lady of Nativity Cloister to live a hidden life.

Several weeks after I had entered the Cloister in New Riegel, OH and was overwhelmed with a sense of frustration and heaviness of heart, Our Lady suddenly appeared to me and said: **“Do not be afraid. I will keep my promise. Everything will be all right. Do not fear.”**

These words consoled me very much, and I went to prayer with a

peaceful heart.

(Editor's Note: Bishop Leibold advised Sr. Mary Ephrem to enter the cloister and to live a hidden life.)

February 23, 1959: Place the message in the hands of the bishops.

Nine months before the National Shrine was finished, Our Lady admonished Sister "to work on the message as soon as possible so that it might be placed in the hands of the bishops who would be responsible for its fulfillment. In a very serious manner, Our Lady warned me that I must not delay any longer to do this as the time is *now*."

(Editor's Note: Sister worked closely with Bishop Leibold and the bishops of the Toledo and Cincinnati dioceses.)

July 18, 1959: Jesus laments over His priests and religious.

Oh, the pride of souls! How they resist My grace! O My priests, My religious, what would I not do for you if you would only let me! I come daily laden with graces which you daily refuse. What am I to say to you, my best beloved? How long will you resist My love? It is from you I expect everything, and you give Me but the husks of your affections. How long will I bear with you, O My chosen ones? How long will you spurn My approaches?

My little white dove, it was this ingratitude on the part of My priests and My religious that caused Me so much sorrow in My passion. Oh, how they resist My grace! How they fight against My love! So fearful are they that I will deprive them of their tawdry trinkets that they turn their backs lest they see the reproach in My eyes.

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