

Part VI – Promotion of the Devotion

1988: National Rosary Congress and the Our Lady of America statue at the National Basilica

Fr. Lionel Pare and Mr. John Downs had a statue of Our Lady of America carved for procession at the 1988 National Rosary Congress. Having been inspired by the 1982 article in *Fatima Findings*, authored by Fr. John Ryan, founder of the Reparation Society in Baltimore, MD, they visited Sister Mildred Marie Neuzil and Sister Joseph Therese in Fostoria, Ohio to learn more about Our Lady of America. Fr. Lionel Pare is the former director of Apostolatus Uniti, National Rosary Congress and currently spiritual director of Ermitage de Berniste in Malmedy, Belgium. The statue they had designed for this occasion was processed by United States Bishops and Priests into the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception for the 1988 and 1989 National Rosary Congresses. That statue is now archived at the Our Lady of America Center in Fostoria, Ohio.

1992: California woman sculpts a 5 foot statue of Our Lady of America and flames an endless promotion effort

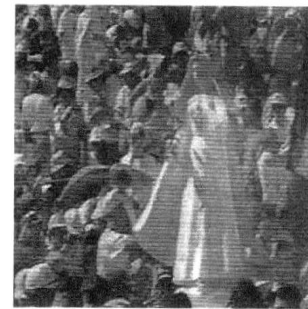
Mrs. Donna Mae Halsted of Meadow Vista, CA, sculpted a 300 lb. 5 foot statue of Our Lady of America, a 19 inch statue and a painting of Our Lady of America according to the specifications given her by Sr. Mary Ephrem which were then approved by Sr. Mary Ephrem herself. The statue was created for the youth of northern California to carry in World Youth Day 1993 in Denver, CO, and in other devotional processions and ceremonies throughout the country. In the early 1990s, committees to promote the devotion to Our Lady of America were set up in the West, the New England area, the East and Midwest and the South to promote the devotion slowly and deeply according to Archbishop Leibold's direction.

In addition to those people mentioned throughout this history, many other religious and lay people have taken part in this dedicated and continuous promotion of Our Lady's cause over the years. Some of these devoted individuals are Fr. Walter Abbott, S.J. editor of the Vatican II documents; Fr. William Carroll, a Mariologist from Boston; Fr. Jack Meade; Fr. Luke Zimmer; Fr. Hebert, S.M.; Fr. Kazimir Chwalek; Fr. Smolenski of St. Joseph's Place; Michael Brown of www.spiritdaily.com; both Sr. Benita and Sr. Mary Zita of the Marist Sisters; Marie Hunt; Helen

and Carl Fahrner, Theresa St. Germaine; Ellen and Bob Davis; John Downs; Darlene Claflin; Bill and Cecile Degan of Georgia; Marie and Bernard Hunt; Thomas Fahey and Hugh Owens of the John Paul II Institute in Jacksonville, FL; Ann Zamorski of New Jersey; Mr. Michelle Pawlowski, President of the National Polish American Congress; Maureen Flynn of *Signs and Wonders* magazine; Mother Angelica and EWTN; Fr. John Ryan and Ellis Maria Taylor of the Reparation Society in Baltimore; Marty Rotella of Life Foundation in New Jersey; Theresa Wukusick of Ohio; Elaine Bratrovsky, niece of Sr. Mary Ephrem, Colorado; Alma Aucoin of Canada; Trudy Selig of Ohio; the Pilgrims of St. Michael based in Canada, and so many more, too numerous to name. We apologize for those outstanding promoters who may not be named here and ask double blessings on them from heaven.

1993: California youth process the statue of Our Lady of America in World Youth Day in Denver, CO

The statue created in the previous year by Mrs. Halsted is processed in Denver's World Youth Day at the Papal Mass in Cherry Creek Park on August 15, 1993, and in many other Pro-Life and Eucharistic and Rosary Congresses in the California area.



Video snippet of statue in procession at World Youth Day 1993

July 1993: First Wednesday Mass with Fr. Siro Dal Degan and talks on Our Lady of America at St. Philomene's Church, Sacramento, CA

- **September, 1993: First Wednesday Mass in honor of St. Joseph at St. Mary's Church, Sacramento, CA**
- **1993 Sacred Heart Cenacle, Stockton, CA: Marian and Youth Conference where youth give their World Youth Day testimonies on Our Lady of America and place paper roses at the feet of her statue at the close of Mass**
- **October, 1993: Marian Conference in Minnesota to which promoters were invited after a youth gave the Diary he received at World Youth Day to his Third Order Carmelite mother**

This statue made by Ms. Halsted was carried in World Youth days and other processions both within and beyond the US.

- **October, 1993: Northwest Eucharistic Marian Conference, Lacey, Washington, with youth Torchbearers of the Queen from Colfax, CA**



- **December 5, 1993: Talks on Our Lady of America, Pleasanton, CA**
- **December 7, 1993: Our Lady of America statue is taken to the Magnificat Catholic Women's Luncheon in Aptos, CA**
- **1993 The Petition Drive to place Our Lady of America's statue in the National Shrine as a safeguard for our country begins**

October, 1994: Our Lady's smaller statue goes on the 101 Foundation's Peace Flight to underground China, Japan, the Philippines, Belgium, Fatima and elsewhere

Fr. Luke Zimmer and Darlene Claflin took the small pilgrim statue of Our Lady of America to Asia and Europe on The 101 Peace Flight. It was the only statue to come off the plane in China where devotionals and booklets were given to underground seminarians. Pictures and booklets were presented in each host country where the pilgrims visited. A special highlight was the stop at Fatima in Portugal.

January 1, 1994: Sister Mary Ephrem wills all her earthly possessions, all her copyrights and trademarks for the devotion to Our Lady of America to Sister Joseph Therese (Patricia Ann) Fuller

Along with willing her possessions and copyrights and trademarks to Sister Joseph Therese, Sister Mary Ephrem personally charged Sister with the protection of the messages, guarding them against additions, deletions and any form of contamination. That charge is greater than any legal document.

(see copy of Sister Mary Ephrem's will at the beginning of this "True Story")

1994: Cause of Our Lady of America sent to the St. Joseph's Foundation and to Pope John Paul II in Rome

Fr. Lionel Pare was the first person to bring the cause of Our Lady

of America and Sr. Mary Ephrem to the St. Joseph's Foundation in San Antonio, TX. Fr. Luke Zimmer and Audrey Frank of California also prepared material on Our Lady of America on January 10, 1994 which was delivered by Fr. Zimmer to Bishop Paul Hnilica, S.J., Auxiliary Bishop of Rome to be given to Pope John Paul II. The prayers to Our Lady of America and to the Blessed Trinity were translated into Polish for His Holiness.

January, 1994: The Icon of Our Lady of America

The Icon of Our Lady of America was shown being blessed and installed in the Cathedral of the Annunciation in the issue of SOPHIA, the Melkite Journal of the Eparchy of Newton, MA.

January 5, 1994:

Talks on Our Lady of America and Pro-Life issues are presented at the Poor Clares' St. Joseph Monastery.

1994 onward: Sr. Mary Ephrem's cross takes on new form

Sister Mildred led a life of hidden sufferings which she accepted with love and great patience. Given a haven of rest, but not from suffering as Our Lady said, she endured a broken hip in January 1994 which compounded her physical adversities. With crippling arthritis, a ruptured appendix and especially severe asthma, Sister's distresses were, at times, life threatening. Despite adversity Sister worked tirelessly for Our Lady of America and her cloistered family. With each step closer, and usually on the eve of each victory reported for Our Lady of America, Sister Mildred would suffer intense physical pains and many times battled spiritual attacks designed to discourage her from praying.

For example, just before World Youth Day 1993, one night she suffered from terrible abdominal pain and the "old Boy"(her name for Satan) suddenly appeared as his horrible real self, trying to entice her to "just say that you made it all up and I promise you will not suffer anymore pain." She stated, if God required her life or suffering, so be it." She reported on the "old Boy's" physical assaults and hateful *glares*. After World Youth Day her physical pain intensified with each victory; she was especially inflicted with the terrible crippling pain of osteoarthritis complicated by rheumatoid arthritis. Medical treatments to alleviate pain were negligible or made her suffering worse with the complications of side effects. She would hide her moans when people were near her. Certain points on her body radiated such excruciating pain that it was sometimes quietly wondered if she had the hidden stigmata.

Her deteriorating condition pained all who saw her gnarled hands and body

contorted into a near 45-degree angle before she died. Especially tortured by the sight of Sister Mary Ephrem's enduring pain was Sr. Joseph Therese, CIT, her long time companion, caregiver and cherished Sister, who broke down in tears several times, crying, "I can't watch you suffer like this anymore." They were bonded by love and endured all for love of Jesus. They even shared August 2nd birthdays – the feast of Our Lady, Queen of the Angels! Sister Mary Ephrem was often seen surrounded by angels and loved to send people from her presence with "May the angels go with you!"

June 19-26, 1994: National Rosary Congress and Year of the Family at the National Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC

Fr. Lionel Pare and the Fatima Blue Army invited the Torchbearers of the Queen Youth, St. Dominic's, California, to a Rosary procession of the 1993 World Youth Day 300 pound statue of Our Lady of America around the Basilica. It was then placed at the altar and remained there throughout the week-long ceremony. Father Pare remains a cherished friend and long time devotee to Our Lady of America. **This is Our Lady of America's SECOND PROCESSION at the National Shrine. (on video)**

1994: The devotion is promoted all around the country

- **January – February, 1994: Pilgrim statue visits/talks are hosted in the New England area by Fr. Smolenski at St. Martha's, Enfield, CT, and by New England Third Order Marist Laity, along with Fr. Jack Meade and Sr. Benita and Sr. Zita of the Marist Sisters.**
- **Visits and talks are hosted in Maryland and Washington, D.C. area by Mr. Michelle Pawlowski, President of National Polish American Congress.**
- **Statue visits and talks by Audrey Frank included Gaithersburg, MD; Mt. St. Mary's, Emmitsburg, MD, welcomed by Msgr. Hugh Phillips, Potomac, MD; Rosary Cenacle, GOSPA prayer meeting Holy Hour and blessing by Fr. Kazimer Chwalek held at the Convent Chapel of the Oblates of the Blessed Sacrament in Washington, D.C. (where a young cloistered sister said it was through Our Lady of America and Sister Mary Ephrem that she found her vocation, and that she prays daily for the fulfillment of Our Lady of America's desires).**
- **Presentation to St. Mary's youth group, Rockville, Maryland.**
- **Six weeks Pilgrimage with Our Lady of America small World Youth**

Day statue sponsored by 3rd Order Marist and Legion of Mary in Auburndale, MA.

- **Fr. William Carroll, Boston Mariologist met Sister Mildred in late 1980's; he daily prays the Indwelling of the Most Holy Trinity Prayer which, he says, is "the most perfect prayer to the Holy Trinity".**
- **Joseph's Hall, 3rd Order Marist Mass, Benediction, Rosary.**
- **Marist Convent, Newtown, MA - Mass & Rosary with Sr. Zita & Sr. Benita**
- **Little Audrey Santo Mass and Rosary, January 21, 1994, Feast of St. Agnes.**
- **Watertown, MA - Marian Rosary Group Framingham, MA.**
- **Marian prayer group - Enfield, CT**
- **St. Hedwig's Church, Pastor Fr. Brunislaw Wielgus, Elizabeth, New Jersey, Ass't: Fr. Christopher Bugno & Ann Zamorski begin Our Lady of America prayer group on Saturday mornings.**
- **Our Lady of America prayer translated into Polish for letter sent to the Pope**
- **March 25, 1994 Procession, crowning, consecration St. Dominic's, Colfax, CA**
- **May 1994 Small statue and Our Lady of America picture in Youth Rosary procession at Sacramento Diocese annual Mary's Hour, St. Rose Church.**
- **AUGUST 1994 Youth for Life NATIONAL YOUTH DAY REUNION CONFERENCE: American & Canadian Youth reunite after World Youth Day for a Marian Conference in Prayer, Adoration, and Torchbearers of the Queen process 300 pound statue of Our Lady of America with Youth for Life image of Our Lady of Guadalupe during the Pro Life 6 mile Rosary & Divine Mercy walk to Denver abortion clinic.**
- **October 1994 - Diocese Fresno, California, Marian Conference Newsletter article on Our Lady of America.**

1995: Promotion of the devotion continues

- **Torchbearers of the Queen youth group from Colfax, CA carry the**

small pilgrim statue of Our Lady of America and devotionals to World Youth Day in the Philippines

- **June 1995 - Holy Innocents Pro Life Mass/Rosary and talk**
- **St. Philomene's Church, Sacramento, CA - Youth Procession, rosary, Mass, and Pro Life & Our Lady of America talk.**
- **July 1995 - Fr. Orbis, Divine Word Missionary, Retreat & Mass at St. Charles Borromeo Church, Sacramento, CA (Large Pilgrim Statue) Youth gather signatures on petitions.**
- **October 13, 1995 - Holy Innocents, Pro Life Rosary & Mass celebrated by Bishop Weigand**
- **St. Philomene's Church - Youth process 300 lb. Statue of Our Lady of America, Rosary, Mass and Pro Life talk.**
- **November 27, 1995 - Mary's Peace Mass, St. Charles Borromeo, Sacramento, CA. Northern California youth groups process Our Lady of America and lead Rosary/Divine Mercy Chaplet, followed by Mass. Music by St. Rose's Life Teen Music Group, Roseville, California**

1996: Promotion of the devotion spreads still more

- **Sacred Heart Cenacle Rosary at the Sacramento Croatian Center. Large Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of America brought by CA Torchbearers of the Queen.**
- **August 1996 - Massachusetts Petition drives/Our Lady of America talks sponsored by New England Our Lady of America group with Life Foundation speakers on Our Lady of Guadalupe and Divine Mercy.**
- **Procession of small Pilgrim statue at Mass, Worcester, MA and Third Order Marist Laity in Auburndale, MA.**

1995 : World Youth Day in the Philippines

Youth "Torchbearers of the Queen" travel with the small pilgrim statue of Our Lady of America to World Youth Day in Manila, the Philippines, joining with Youth from many nations around the world to honor Our Lady.

November 11, 1997: Archbishop Leibold's appearance

At precisely 1:00 pm on Veteran's Day, Archbishop Paul Leibold

suddenly appears before Sister Mildred Marie, startling her, and he reassures Sister that he will finish from heaven what he started on earth. (Having Our Lady of America's Statue placed in the National Shrine.) Then, at exactly 1:01 pm, Archbishop Leibold is gone! He appears every day at 1:00 pm and leaves at 1:01 pm for a full year! Thereafter he remains at her side, along with her other constant companions, Our Lady of America, St. Michael, the angels, and now the Holy Spirit in the form of a white dove resting on her lap. They remain present to her until she dies.

1997: Promotion of the devotion continues with undying dedication

- Cecile and Bill Degan and a Bishop from Georgia work with the Iconography Committee at the National Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, DC to place Our Lady of America's statue in the Shrine. The North, East, West and South Our Lady of America groups of laity, religious, and priests send letters to Msgr. Bransfield and the Icon Committee with video, song cassette of Our Lady of America and history since World Youth Day.
- November 1997- Sacramento Diocese Pro Life Meeting with Bishop Weigand. Talk on Our Lady of America.
- August meeting with MA Our Lady of America group at Marist Convent, arranged by Sr. Benita and Sr. Zita. In attendance were Fr. Jack Meade, Fr. William Carroll, Fr. Walter Abbott and Audrey Frank from CA Torchbearers of the Queen Group to discuss petitions and ways to place Our Lady's statue in the National Shrine. Fr. Abbott, S.J. gives "Inside the Vatican" editorial in which Pope John Paul II would like to visit a US Marian shrine one more time before he dies. Recommended is a formal study of the messages of Our Lady of America and the unique graces bestowed upon St. Joseph.
- 1997- Youth 2000 Eucharistic 3 Day Retreat, St. Rose Church, Roseville, CA. Crowning of Our Lady of America by Youth.

1997: World Youth Day in Paris, France

1998: Promotion of Our Lady's cause is relentless

- Oakland, CA Holiness Conference. St. Joseph Communications, Mother Angelica, Our Lady of America and World Youth Day talks (video) were presented to youth of all ages at 3 day Youth

Conference. Focus on St. Joseph and 1st Wednesday devotion. The large Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of America is displayed at the Main Conference with Mass, Rosary, Divine Mercy, Mother Angelica.

- Sister Mary Benita, SMSM, traveled home to New Orleans to personally visit retired Archbishop Philip Hannan and the Archbishop of New Orleans concerning the importance of Our Lady of America and the message of sanctification from within. Sister had written her Provincial about possibly relocating Marists from Massachusetts to help at the Our Lady of America Center. Sister begged all from her deathbed to help Our Lady of America's cause. She united her black and white friends alike for Our Lady of America's cause until her death in 2001. At her wake tearful mourners told of how she could only speak of Our Lady of America until her last breath. She told Kenneth Ryan, Head Knight of Columbus for Marian Affairs (CN) to aid Our Lady of America in all ways.
- September 1998 - Sacramento Marian Conference. Memorial Auditorium. Torchbearers of the Queen bring the large Statue of Our Lady of America. Bishop Richard Garcia is the celebrant.
- September 1998 - Fresno Marian Conference, Radisson Hotel. Torchbearers bring the large Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of America.

July 1998: Sr. Mary Ephrem focuses on the importance of the Divine Indwelling of the Most Holy Trinity in our souls, the central doctrine of our Faith

Sr. Mary Ephrem relates that all the Church approved apparitions of Mary converge in this one to Our Lady of America because of its central focus on the awesome mystery and doctrine of the Divine Indwelling of the Most Holy Trinity in our souls, sanctifying grace, the source of all holiness, which must come from within! **The Catechism of the Catholic Church calls the mystery of the Trinity the central doctrine of the Catholic Faith.**

In August of 1998 Sister Joseph Therese finds Sister Mary Ephrem all aglow with a most radiant light emanating from her smiling face. Sister Joseph Therese falls to the ground on her knees, wondrously gazing at Sister Mary Ephrem's most beautiful countenance. When she asks Sister, "What is it? What's going on?" Sister answers delightedly, "There are angels everywhere, and light everywhere. Every bit of space is occupied

with angels!”

**October, 1999: St. Rose Church, Roseville, CA Youth
Eucharistic 3 day Retreat - Our Lady of America is
crowned by the youth**

**Our Lady is Crowned at the National Shrine -
Sister Mildred Goes Home to God**

**January 1, 2000: Our Lady is crowned at the National
Basilica on the first day of the New Millennium, the
First Saturday**

Members of the Reparation Society from Baltimore, MD and Fr. Kazimir Chwalek celebrate Mass in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel of the National Basilica on the first day of the New Millennium, which is the First Saturday of the month, and crown a statue of Mary, proclaiming: **“We crown you Our Lady of America, Queen of Americans!”**

**January 10, 2000: The death of Sr. Mary Ephrem Neuzil, the
little secretary of Jesus’ Heart, the “little white dove”**

On January 10, 2000, the first year of the New Millennium, this humble, holy soul, Sister Mary Ephrem (Mildred Mary) Neuzil, at age 83, was set free from the cross she had so willingly embraced for the cause of Our Lady of America. She was set free to receive her full communion with the Most Holy and Triune God that had dwelt so intimately within her while on earth. Her funeral Mass was celebrated at the Basilica of Our Lady of Consolation in Carey, OH by nephew Fr. Gregory Neuzil from Tennessee. Friends from around the country, including niece Elaine Bratrovsky of Colorado, traveled to Carey that snowy winter day to bid her farewell, knowing they, too, had lived with and known another saint. Fifty white roses were brought for Sister Mary Ephrem by Ellis Maria Taylor of the Reparation Society in Baltimore, MD. Eulogies were delivered by Theresa Wukusick from Ohio, Anita Marovich from New Jersey, and Audrey Frank from California. The song to Our Lady



*Sister Mildred Mary Neuzil
2 Aug 1916 - 10 Jan 2000*

of America, written by Sister Mary Ephrem and put to music by Richard Paul Rencher, was sung by Marty Rotella of the Divine Mercy and Life Foundation in New Jersey. Sister's body, laid to rest in a handmade wood casket with Our Lady of America's picture encased in the lid, is temporarily laid to rest in a vault at St. Wendolyn's Cemetery, Fostoria, OH.

Sister Mary Ephrem committed the completion of her work and the protection of the purity of the message of Our Lady of America to her only remaining companion in the Lord, Sister Joseph Therese (Patricia Ann) Fuller and trusted her to guard it against all contamination with her very life. She also warned her she would have to fight for the devotion, as "they" were coming "after her." We have seen this take place in a public defamation attempt to call Sister Joseph Therese a fraud and to discredit her with our bishops because she, too, is a little one, not wise to the ways of the world, filled with the simplicity and trust and generosity of a child, so easy to betray and manipulate. Our Lord says, "unless you become as little children, you shall not enter the kingdom." **The similarity to the attempt to call Bernadette of Lourdes feeble-minded because she was simple and not highly educated is striking here. We are constantly reminded by those chosen in apparitions, as throughout Scripture, that God chooses those the world would not choose for His work, precisely because they are simple and humble, and to show that it is, most importantly, His work and His choice.**

The Message is Placed in the Hands of the Bishops While Its Promotion Continues

April/May, 2000: The Message is put in the hands of America's Cardinals and Bishops and Pope John Paul II

Since Our Lady herself asked that her request to be honored in the National Basilica be put in the hands of her beloved sons, her bishops, nearly 300 packets of information on Our Lady of America were sent to Cardinals, Bishops and Auxiliary Bishops. Only ten acknowledged the requested receipt. Information was both mailed to and taken to Rome by New Jersey pilgrims and hand delivered to the Vatican for Pope John Paul II by a priest residing in Rome. Information has been sent to the Board of Directors and the Iconography Committee at the National Basilica of the Immaculate Conception where Our Lady has asked to be honored under

the title of “Our Lady of America, the Immaculate Virgin” since the time the Upper Church was under construction, but, as of 2008, her request has not yet been fulfilled. The Board and the Committee at the National Shrine cannot act until a bishop champions Our Lady of America’s cause with the Shrine Board. **It is now over 50 years since Our Lady requested that we honor her there, after which she would grant unprecedented grace to us in America especially, miracles of the soul, greater than those granted at Lourdes and Fatima.**

May, 2000: Michael Brown features many articles on Our Lady of America and Sister Mary Ephrem on his web site

When Our Lady’s messages were covered on Michael Brown’s web site, www.spiritdaily.com, calls came into the Our Lady of America Center in Fostoria, OH from all parts of the country and the world. A petition drive was started and 10,000+ signatures have been gathered requesting that our bishops place Our Lady’s statue in the National Shrine. They are still waiting to be presented to the bishop who will champion this cause.

2000: World Youth Day in Rome

California “Torchbearers of the Queen” go to Rome with the small pilgrim statue of Our Lady of America and spread the devotionals while there.

September 26, 2000: The plaque of Our Lady of America taken to the National Shrine by a Pro-Life group from New Riegel, OH is found

One of the plaques of Our Lady of America, commissioned by the late Archbishop Leibold, was processed by a St. Boniface Pro-Life group in the Pro-Life Mass at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC and was then presented to the Shrine. It had hung on a wall of the lower Church for some time but got lost after renovations. It was found by the shrine archivist and sent to Anita Marovich in New Jersey, a native of New Riegel, Ohio, and thereafter returned to the Our Lady of America Center in Fostoria, Ohio.

2000 – 2001: A Newsletter for Our Lady of America is begun

Newsletters Volume I and II outlining the information and messages of Our Lady of America were mailed to bishops and laity around the country. They were halted when scandal broke out in the Church, calling for a retreat into prayer for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Summer 2001: Our Lady of America is featured on the cover and in a special edition of *Signs and Wonders* magazine

Under last minute inspiration, Maureen Flynn, editor, changes plans for the Summer 2001 edition of the *Signs and Wonders* magazine and decides to feature Our Lady of America. The cover is done in red, white and blue and pictures Our Lady of America centered with the images of the National Capital, the seat of our American government, and the National Basilica, seat of the American Church. Lengthy articles explain the message. Ironically, and providentially, this edition was at the printers when the 9/11 tragedy hit. Our Lady of America has been warning her children in America of chastisements hitherto unknown in America if we do not embrace the necessary reform of life for which she pleads.

October 2 – December 22, 2001: The large pilgrim statue of Our Lady of America is taken on a 3 month tour around the country, stopping at the National Basilica for the Week of Prayer to end abortion, **the third time the statue is processed at the Basilica**

The 4 foot statue of Our Lady of America was taken on a 3 month tour throughout America by California resident Audrey Frank and her children. It was brought to the National Shrine for the Day of Prayer and Fasting to end abortion just a month after 9/11. Michael Brown spoke on Our Lady of America at this event and materials and petitions were made available to the public. This is the statue that has been carried in all World Youth Days since 1993 and many other Conferences and events. It was featured on the cover of the Richmond diocesan newspaper after the World Youth Day in Canada. Its travels on this tour include the following:

- Saint Paul's Church, Sandwich, IL.
- National Week of Prayer and Fasting at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, DC.
- Ground Zero - following 9/11/2001.
- Marist Sisters Convent, Newton, Massachusetts. Mass celebrated by Fr. Walter Abbott, S.J., Espousal Retreat Center, Waltham, MA.
- Fr. Tom Di Lorenzo - Charismatic Mass & a Radio Interview, St. Mary's Church Center, Piscataway, Maryland.

- **St. John Bosco TeleConference, Woodstock, Virginia.**
- **The pilgrim statue was taken to the John Paul II Conference of Christian Spirituality in Jacksonville, Florida.**
- **At Thanksgiving time, Mother Angelica brought Our Lady of America's statue into her private cloister chapel and Collin Donovan, EWTN Theologian, introduced Our Lady of America to the EWTN board.**
- **Archbishop Flores granted permission to Anna Jimenez to have the statue of Our Lady of America brought to St. Therese, the Little Flower's Mission Church, San Antonio, Texas. It was then taken to St. Dominic's Church in San Antonio. There was a living rosary and fiesta.**
- **The statue was invited to the Marian Conference by Mimi Kelly of the Mir Prayer Group in Louisiana.**
- **The Marian Helpers Radio Program featured Our Lady of America and Sr. Mary Ephrem on their program.**
- **Archbishop Phillip Hannan's Focus Television did a 60 Minute special on Sr. Mary Ephrem's life and the messages of Our Lady of America.**

2002: Lay theologian Hugh Owens helps promote the devotion

Hugh Owens, lay theologian associated with the John Paul II Institute in Jacksonville, Florida, began writing and speaking to promote the devotion to Our Lady of America.

2002: World Youth Day in Toronto, Canada

Youth from California, Maryland and other areas of the country carry the 300 pound Pilgrim statue of Our Lady of America in the World Youth Day in Canada. The Richmond diocesan newspaper carried a picture of these young people processing Our Lady on the cover of their paper.

2003: A request for a statue from the Philippines

Fr. Santiago from a poor parish in the Philippines requested a statue

The Catholic Virginian
Serving the People of the Diocese of Richmond August 5, 2002



Statue carried in WYD in Canada

for his parish. Donors in New Jersey covered the cost and shipped it to him. Lay people carried the message to Mexico. Requests for material come from Africa, elsewhere in the Philippines, England, Australia and other places around the world.

January, 2004: The Pilgrims of St. Michael distribute 34,000 copies of their article on Our Lady of America at the annual March for Life in Washington, DC



The Pilgrims of St. Michael, a lay group of evangelists based in Canada, had published an article on Our Lady of America in a 2003 edition of *The Michael Journal* which goes throughout the US, Canada and other world locations where they minister. In January of this year the Pilgrims distributed over 34,000 copies of that featured article on Our Lady of

America from their newsletter to participants at the 2004 March for Life in Washington, DC. The newsletters are being spread across the nation by other lay people as well. A large framed image of Our Lady of America was carried by New Jersey pilgrims at this March for Life.

October 2004: Pilgrims from various towns of the Trenton diocese carry a small statue of Our Lady of America to the National Basilica for a day of prayer for our military

Mrs. Jean Swenson of Pt. Pleasant, NJ, a devoted child of Mary, has conducted pilgrimages to the National Basilica each October for the past 29 years in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe and Our Lady of Fatima. This particular pilgrimage added a special tribute to Our Lady of America and prayers to place our military men and women in her protection. Our Lady of America's small statue and framed image were placed near the Crypt altar during the liturgy while pilgrims prayed for America and for our military men and women.



August, 2004: A new church in Tennessee honors Our Lady of America with a stained glass window

A beautiful stained glass window with the second image of Our Lady of America approved by Sister

Mary Ephrem in 1993 is placed in the new St. Mary's Church in Savannah, Tennessee. This Church is placed under the protection of Our Lady of America.

January, 2005: Our Lady of America is again promoted by the Pilgrims of St. Michael at the March for Life in Washington, DC

The Pilgrims of St. Michael again distribute over 30,000 copies of the newsletter with the message of Our Lady of America for her children in America at the annual March for Life in Washington, DC. Sr. Mary Ephrem believed most strongly that it is the sin of abortion that is calling down God's chastisements upon America and the world.

2005: World Youth Day in Cologne, Germany

2005: Our Lady's statue is processed in Wyoming

In February, Bishop David Ricken of Cheyenne, Wyoming, processed Our Lady of America's statue around his cathedral and held special services to honor the Patroness of America. This was done in anticipation of Our Lady's own request to be carried in solemn procession and then enthroned in a place of honor in our National Basilica.

April 27, 2005: Sr. Monica Schrott, OCD, dies

Sister Monica Schrott, OCD, a long time friend of Sr. Mary Ephrem's and an ardent advocate for the cause of the statue of Our Lady of America in the National Basilica dies at Carmel of the Assumption in Latrobe, PA. Surely Sr. Mary Ephrem and Our Lady of America have welcomed her home! The statue she so vigorously promoted was a joint effort with Sr. Mary Ephrem, Archbishop Leibold and the Bishop of Connare, PA. Like all other things that truly belonged to Sr. Mary Ephrem and this devotion, this statue done under Sister Mary Ephrem's guidance, was willed to Sr. Joseph Therese, the sole remaining contemplative sister charged by the visionary to guard the purity of the devotion. It was hand delivered to Sister Joseph Therese at the Fostoria, OH Our Lady of America Center accordingly, with all due respect for that ownership.

2008: World Youth Day in Sydney, Australia

Information on Our Lady of America and devotional items are available from Sr. Joseph Therese, Sisters of the Divine Indwelling,

P.O. Box 445, Fostoria, OH 44830.

The web address is www.ourladyofamerica.com

This history of the movement since 2005 will be covered in a later posting.

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