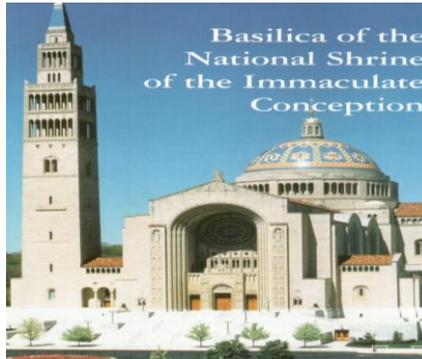


Our Lady Asks for No Shrine but the National Shrine



Today the Holy Virgin appeared to me as I was working in my room. Our Lady was very beautiful, and she was again smiling in her heavenly way. She was dressed in the same manner as when I first saw her, 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. She then began to speak. Her presence overwhelmed me with its holiness. I was compelled to stop my work, for it was impossible to go on. I 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.” (Sister Mildred (Mary Ephrem) Neuzil, Diary, OUR LADY OF AMERICA©, Fostoria, Ohio, Pg. 14.)

Theology teaches that God is simple, one with Himself, so there can be no deceit, error, contradiction, trickery, divisiveness or change in Him. God says exactly what He means and means exactly what He says, for He is Truth and speaks always in the Present, Eternal Now. Neither can Our Lady, being filled with grace, deceive us. She, too, says exactly what she means and means exactly what she says. Therefore, it is of the utmost importance that we read Sister Mildred (Mary Ephrem) Neuzil's Diary carefully and follow Our Lady's words exactly. This is why **Sister Mildred entrusted protecting the purity and integrity of the Message as revealed by Our Lady and recorded in her private Diary under the title OUR LADY OF AMERICA©, to her remaining religious sister, Sister Joseph Therese, nee Patricia Ann Fuller. To protect the integrity of the Message from error, addition, deletion or distortion of the facts is why Sister Mildred had her 48 page private Diary fully copyrighted,** for she knew from **“the ring of evil” she had encountered in Rome City, IN** that it was going to come under attack by the evil one through well meaning people unable to discern the spirits. Hence, anyone claiming things Our Lady did not ask for is not acting under God's influence but under the influence of the one who deceives, confuses,

divides, and distorts the truth. Neither God nor Our Lady can confuse or divide. They are in complete union with the Holy Spirit Who clarifies and unifies. We know Satan is relentless in his attacks upon Jesus and His Church and upon anything that is authentically from God, for these latter are mankind's protection against the limited power of evil that Satan has over the world, a power God permits in order to test us in the freedom He gave us to choose His love or to reject it. Love is only possible with freedom and freedom demands choice, the choice to obey or disobey, to do God's Will or to do our own.

What is different about the apparition of Our Lady of America® from other well known and approved Marian apparitions? And what is God's purpose for those differences? In other Marian apparitions, there was only one apparition site and Our Lady herself asked for the shrine to be built on the spot where she appeared. In Mexico Our Lady asked Juan Diego to tell the bishop to build a chapel on the hill where she appeared. In Lourdes The Lady told Bernadette to have a church built on the site of the healing waters where she appeared. In Fatima Our Lady asked to have a shrine built on the spot where she appeared to Jacinta, Francisco and Lucia. Unlike these previous apparitions of Our Lady, **the apparition of Our Lady of America® occurred at multiple apparition sites, multiple locations** during the locutions of Our Lord and Our Lady, and during the visions of Our Lady, St. Joseph, St. Michael, St. Gabriel and the Guardian Angels for America. Unlike these previous apparitions, **not once did Our Lady**, in the course of communication with Sister Mildred from shortly after her religious profession in 1933 until her death in 2000, **ever ask for a shrine on any of these apparition sites.**

We know God does everything for a purpose; there are no accidents with Him, for anything accidental would mean imperfection. **So what is God's purpose in having these multiple locations for Our Lady of America®'s appearance?** We have pondered on the multiple locations for this apparition and can only conclude that Sister Mildred was moved so frequently during the course of her locutions and visions so that no one place in America could claim superiority over another or claim that Our Lady of America® belonged to their area in a special way. **Archbishop Paul F. Leibold**, Sister's wise, humble and holy spiritual director for 32 years, **deliberately removed ALL MENTION OF ANY SITES** for these locutions and visions **EXCEPT THE NATIONAL SHRINE so that there would be no confusion regarding Our Lady's request to be honored there!** Note that **Sister Mildred's first assignment** on taking her vows with the Sisters of the Precious Blood of Jesus in Dayton, Ohio in 1933 was in Washington, D.C. where Our Lady wishes to be honored. **Sister's second assignment was at the Chancery in Cincinnati, Ohio where Father (later Archbishop) Paul F. Leibold, whom the Lord had ordained to be her spiritual director, was also assigned.** There are no accidents with God!

Where were these multiple locations for this apparition? After the first two assignments and until Sister Mildred entered Our Lady of Nativity Cloister within the active community of the Sisters of the Precious Blood in New Riegel, Ohio, in 1958, Sister was stationed in the following places: Rome City, IN in 1947; Missouri and Denver, CO in 1948; North Dakota in 1949; St. Mark's in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1950; Ottawa, Ohio in 1953; Arizona in 1954; Ligonier, Rome City and Collegeville, all three in Indiana and all three in the same year of 1956 –**hence, Sister was in Rome City very briefly**; the Cathedral in Cincinnati, Ohio again in 1957; and the cloister in New Riegel in 1958. The visions of Our Lady of America® and her message continued in the cloister and after Archbishop Leibold's death in 1972; therefore, he could not have given full canonical approval as some claim. While it is extraordinary to have had Father (Archbishop) Paul F. Leibold for her spiritual director for 32 years, **it is not uncommon for a visionary to have more than one spiritual director in the course of her visions, as did Sister Mildred in the years after Archbishop Leibold's death.**

In the mid-1970's the cloistered sisters were evaluated on the soundness and the holiness of their contemplative way of life by numerous priests and religious who suggested (in written documentation) that they separate from the active group if they wished to retain their Benedictine way of life. Following proper procedures, they then requested separation from the active community and forwarded that request to Rome, along with the request to retain their vows, and also presented Rome with their new Rule of Life as Contemplative Sisters of the Indwelling Trinity. Once exclaustated from the active community, necessary to form a new association, the sisters moved to a home in Fostoria, Ohio given to them for their use by a relative of Archbishop Leibold. **Fr. Edmund Morman, their chaplain during that period, had them again renew their religious vows and advised them to continue to live as contemplative sisters in a private association with the hope that one day a holy bishop would come along to help them.** For the last 20 years of her life Sister Mildred lived in the previous home owned by the Archbishop's relative and in another home in Fostoria, Ohio that became the **Our Lady of America Center, which is a legal entity registered with the state of Ohio and which is not a shrine but a center for distribution of the devotional materials, all copyrights, trademarks and ownership of which Sister Mildred transferred to Sister Joseph Therese, nee Patricia Ann Fuller by a fully executed legal will, making any reproduction of materials or infringement of these rights illegal and, therefore, also immoral.** Sister Mildred continued to see Our Lady until her death, though many of the later appearances were of a more private nature.

What must we discern about God's purpose for multiple locations for this apparition? We can only conclude that they are a confirmation of Our Lady's request to be honored under her appearance and title as Our Lady of America® *on a national scale* in the one and only shrine that is the church of ALL the American people, our Patronal Church, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. Our Lady of America® herself stated

that she thanks us for our devotion to her under her privilege of the Immaculate Conception and that is why she has chosen THIS Shrine for her great favor. Since the National Shrine also honors her under her images from apparitions around the world, it has an added international character that symbolizes the universal nature of the Catholic Church and the universal call to holiness as depicted on the mural in the Great Upper Church. We see Our Lady's choice for the National Shrine confirmed also by her first appearance on the eve of the feast of the North American martyrs, September 25, 1956, for their blood was the seed of the Faith in this country and the martyrs themselves were very devoted to her Immaculate Conception. The choice of the National Shrine as the center of this devotion is likewise confirmed by Our Lady's first appearance under the image of Our Lady of Lourdes where Mary had identified herself as the Immaculate Conception. **We have engraved our devotion to Mary's Purity, her Immaculate Conception, in stone with this National Shrine, the first church to honor her under this great privilege by making her our National Patroness under that title even before the dogma was defined. Barely two weeks after her first appearance Our Lady appeared holding in her hands a replica of the finished Shrine even though we were still building the Great Upper Church. Since this message is all about purity, what better place to honor Mary's Purity than in our Nation's Shrine dedicated to her Purity? What blessing Our Lady promises us if we will be **the country dedicated to her Purity!** Can Our Lady state her desire any clearer than all this?**

"I am pleased, my child, 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." (Diary, Pg. 10, September 25, 1956. The next day, September 26, 1956, Our Lady came as Our Lady of America®.)

"I am Our Lady of America®. I desire that my children honor me, especially by the purity of their lives." (Diary, Pg. 10)

"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."

Our Blessed Mother called herself Our Lady of America® in response to the love and desire that reached out for this special title in

the hearts of her children in America. This title was the sign of her pleasure at the confidence our land places in her and as a reward for its staunch and childlike devotion to her. Her children longed for this personal visit of Our Lady, whether consciously or otherwise, and in her kindness and mercy she responded far beyond all expectations.

Though she came in this manner as a token of her love for us, nevertheless, Our Lady of America® welcomes her children of all nations to her feet, for there will be found true peace. So she has given me to understand, and such are her desires as she revealed them to me.

Our Lady, moreover, often emphasized her desire that the Shrine in Washington, D.C., be made a place of special pilgrimage. She wishes to be honored there as Our Lady of America, the Immaculate Virgin.® (Diary, Pg. 11.)

“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.” (Diary, Pgs. 11-12.)

Another difference in this apparition is that Our Lady does NOT actually ask for a shrine because we were already building the Shrine she has chosen for this devotion. She asked only that we hurry to finish it and make it a place of special pilgrimage and she would make it a place of wonders. Our Lady’s exact request is that we honor her in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. with a statue of her under this new image, after being carried in solemn procession, under the title of our country and her singular privileges of the Immaculate Conception and her Perpetual Virginity that speak to her Purity, Our Lady of America, the Immaculate Virgin.® Mary’s October 13, 1956 appearance with the replica of the finished National Shrine in her hands is heaven’s clearest confirmation of her desire for the National Shrine that we could have. Her words are indisputable: “This is my shrine...finish it quickly and make it a place of pilgrimage. It will be a place of wonders.” (Diary, Pg. 14)

Why do we belabor the point of the National Shrine? There have been misguided attempts to build an *unrequested shrine* in other parts of the country that would divide this devotion and its purpose and meaning as given by Our Lady. Can we imagine the people of Portugal building a shrine somewhere other than where Our Lady

asked for it, or the people of France building one somewhere other than the site of the healing waters where Our Lady asked for it, or the people of Mexico building their shrine somewhere other than the hill where Our Lady asked for it? Can we imagine any of those nations building a second large shrine when Our Lady did not ask for a second shrine which would work against God's Will and hers for the unifying grace upon that nation and which would work against the favor attached to the place Our Lady herself chose? God pours out His grace upon those who are **obedient to HIS Will**? Our Lady lived the simple virtues of poverty and humility and obedience. Would she burden her children, already in the process of completing **this magnificent shrine, a hymn of praise to her carved in stone**, by asking them to fund the enormous cost of building a second shrine of such proportion? Would she divide her own cause? Absolutely not! The following is a handwritten note of Sister Mildred's on this subject:

2. - Our Lady could have asked for another shrine to be built which would have entailed much more trouble and inconvenience but all she asks is that a particular statue of her be placed in the shrine already being built. Is this being unreasonable for you to think? Besides in a shrine as large as the

Statues, images, stained glass windows, small chapels in churches around the country are not divisive or contrary to Our Lady's request, but another large shrine that would seek to divert people to its own site and away from the National Shrine, the Church of all the American people, with its promise of wonders, would be contrary to Our Lady's clearly stated desire to center this devotion in the National Shrine. **Can any effort contrary to Our Lady's wishes be pleasing to her or be blessed?**

While Sister Mildred was still alive, there was a movement on the west coast to build a large shrine to Our Lady of America® there, but Sister Mildred was adamant that such an effort was contrary to what Our Lady asked for and the effort ceased. These past years since Sister Mildred's death on January 10, 2000, a larger effort related to the property at **Rome City, Indiana** has been confusing and dividing the public. It has been rumored that those buying this large property intended to build a huge shrine to Our Lady of America® there in the center of the country, in effect changing the whole focus Our Lady gave to this devotion. What can possibly motivate such an effort?

We recall that this property in Rome City was sold by the Sisters of the Precious Blood and fell into the hands of a cult. We can only imagine what went on there during that time and whether some evil divisive influence still stems from that place since **Sister Mildred had such a dread of the place after her first assignment there and described her second assignment there as feeling like she was in a "ring of evil" and she wanted to jump out a window to escape it.** In a letter to Father Paul Leibold,

her spiritual director, Sister Mildred described the **attack from Satan she experienced in that place. We have yet to understand the full significance of that experience and about what “ring of evil” Sister Mildred may have been warning us.** Does the place need some kind of purification? What is clear is that in over 54 years of locutions and visions, the only place Our Lady of America® ever asked to be honored in is our National Shrine. If she had wanted anything else, as Sister Mildred herself stated, she would have asked for it.

What evil influences must we watch out for when working with authentic apparitions? One must always keep guard against certain things that come from the devil in an attempt to thwart God and Our Lady’s work for the salvation of souls. **Our Lady told Sister Mildred that this devotion, centered on the Divine Indwelling of the Most Holy Trinity, that central doctrine of our Faith, will be the final victory over Satan, so it is no surprise that he attacks it with a vengeance.** Our Lady also told Sister Mildred that all her previous apparitions were converging in this one because of that great mystery of the Divine Indwelling, source of all holiness. This is borne out by the fact that she appeared so often on her already established feast days honoring other approved apparitions. Those schooled in spiritual warfare warn us to watch out for division and confusion which come from the devil; for false apparitions, failing apostolates or self-ordained ambitious enterprises that attach themselves to a new and authentic apparition to revitalize themselves or give credence to their own causes; and especially to beware of big money which almost always comes with a hidden bribe or price tag that inevitably means a compromise of purity of heart and personal integrity. All of these attacks have been occurring in the public, confusing people, deceiving them, and delaying and harming Our Lady of America®’s cause. We also know that God does not choose as the world does, and that he chooses the lowly and the humble for his great works because they have no pride to attempt to claim the work as their own or for their own glory. The chosen soul will be one deeply configured to the Passion and Death of Jesus as Sister Mildred certainly was. False accusation, persecution and suffering are earmarks of God’s choice, because He wishes to see in the soul the image of His Son, the Suffering Servant of Yahweh who gives His life for the salvation of others.

We need say no more. **Our Lady has said it all, simply and clearly, what she wants of our bishops, her beloved sons, and of her children in America whom she mandates to lead the world in an urgently needed reform of life, sanctification from within, back to Faith and Purity, especially purity of heart, as a sign of our true devotion to her. Our Lady herself said that consecration to her is not enough; it is reform of life that she desires.** Any enthronement in our National Shrine without embracing the necessary reform of life is an empty gesture and a mockery of the grace and favor Our Lady of America® holds out to us if we do as she asks. **Our Lady 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. (Diary, Pg. 9.)

Can the Church approve the use of adulterated materials or impure methods to promote a devotion about purity, one that especially honors Our Lady's Purity? Is it not heresy to claim you can have a good end while using evil means? We must obey Our Lady's call to "reform of life" and rid ourselves of all that is false and impure as regards this devotion, especially versions of Sister Mildred's Diary and trademark protected devotionals made in violation of the civil and, therefore, the moral law. St. Joseph, in his appearance, admonishes us to uphold all civil law that is NOT CONTRARY to divine law. Every covenant, every prophetic word has both a blessing and a curse, a promise and a warning. These illegal copies have removed the warnings of Our Lady of America®'s message which outline the reform of life Our Lady says is so necessary to purify us, especially in America, if we are **to fulfill our Mandate to help her lead the world back to Faith and Purity.** How can we lead others to purity if we ourselves are impure? Let us go to Our Mother to learn that purity of heart that is so pleasing to her Son and which enables us to discern the spirits.

Let us move forward toward a new and more complete study and full canonical approval of this message. In the early 1990's Sister Mildred wrote the bishop of the Cincinnati diocese and asked if Archbishop Leibold, her spiritual director, had issued any formal document giving full canonical approval to this message; the response from the diocese was "No." While Archbishop Leibold stated he *personally approved it and would formally approve it if it were up to him*, and while his actions fulfilled two of the three steps toward official approval, we have *no evidence he actually issued formal approval before his death*, nor would have been led by the Spirit to do so as the Message was ongoing years after his death. Archbishop Leibold did not consider himself *alone* the proper authority over the devotion; Toledo, Ohio is the diocese of authority. This devotion has withstood the test of time and has been victorious over Satan's attacks for over 54 years. **What is of God cannot be stopped.** This is God's work and He will see it through in His time, on His terms, in His way. So let it be done.

But in the end all will come as I desire. Those who oppose you will receive light to understand. ...I will speak to them in their hearts and the Divine Spirit who makes all things clear will give them wisdom and understanding. In the end they will do as I wish. So, have patience, dear one, it will happen as I have said and those who have opposed me will become my most ardent and courageous supporters. (Diary, Pg. 37.)

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