

The 54th Anniversary of Our Lady of America® **A Favor and a Mandate -** **from Heaven to America!**

Last year's newsletter for the 53rd anniversary of Our Lady of America®'s appearance focused on the message in terms of understanding the visionary, Sister Mildred (Mary Ephrem) Neuzil and her mission in making Our Lady's message of favor and warning known to America, and to the world, especially as regards the sanctification of the family and the Divine Indwelling of the Most Holy Trinity as the source of peace and holiness and as the weapon against evil. **This newsletter will focus on the great favor Our Lady is giving us here in America by honoring us with her appearance under the title of our country, and on the great responsibility she is placing on us with her Mandate from Heaven for America, *in particular, TO LEAD* the world back to faith and purity, to peace, and to an urgently needed "reform of life" which she defines as sanctification from within through the Divine Indwelling Presence of the Most Holy Trinity, sanctifying grace.** From Scripture and theology we understand that God's dealings with His creatures are always carried out in terms of "**covenant,**" a mutual agreement that promises His favor and protection if we, in turn, promise to love Him and obey Him and keep His commandments, an action true to the nature of freedom and love. A covenant is always two-sided. When God's people turn away from Him and into sin, God, in His love for us, sends His prophets to speak for Him and to call us to repentance, back to our covenantal relationship of blessing and protection in exchange for our devotion and humble obedience of faith, constant conversion, lest we fall under any necessary judgment of His perfect justice. As Our Lady prepared the world for the first coming of our Savior, and constantly prepares our hearts to receive him inwardly in the spiritual life, so she prepares us again for His renewed coming into our hearts and for His second coming into our world at the preordained time. **She is THE prophetic voice dearest to God's Heart and the maternally prophetic voice of our times.** So we look at this message with that understanding.

On the eve of the feast of the North American Martyrs, September 25, 1956, as I was making the Holy Hour from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., I was conscious of the distinct and special feeling of the presence of Our Lady. She stood by my side and spoke to me. I felt, rather than saw her, though I did see a part of her white gown and a small portion of her blue sash. I was under the impression that she came as Our Lady of Lourdes, and she herself confirmed this. 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. These are the words she spoke to me at this time:

“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.*” (Sister Mildred (Mary Ephrem) Neuzil, Diary, OUR LADY OF AMERICA©, Fostoria, Ohio, Pg. 9.)

The visionary, Sister Mildred (Mary Ephrem) Neuzil, states that Our Lady was “**anxiously concerned about our inner life**” as she calls us back to favor with God.

“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. (Diary, Pg. 10.)

On the **morning** of the feast of the North American martyrs, September 26, 1956, Our Lady first appeared under the new image and identified herself as Our Lady of America©, that title that confirms her favor to America.



Sister Mildred Mary Neuzil
2 Aug 1916 - 10 Jan 2000

... suddenly Our Lady appeared before me, enveloped in a soft glow of light. I knew with unmistakable certainty that it was she, though she did not speak immediately. What I noticed was the smile on Our Lady’s beautiful countenance and the lily she held in her right hand. She wore a white veil reaching almost to the waist and a mantle and robe of pure white with not a single decoration of any kind. An oblong-shaped clasp or brooch held the ends of the mantle together at the top. It was all gold, as was the high and brilliant crown which she wore. Her hair and her eyes seemed of medium brown. Her feet were bare, but these I did not always see, as they were sometimes covered by the moving clouds on which Our Lady stood. She continued to smile. Then I saw her heart appear, encircled with red roses, the symbol of suffering as it was revealed to me, and sending forth flames of fire. With her left hand Our Lady seemed to be holding up slightly the upper part of her mantle, so that her Immaculate Heart could be seen.

Then solemnly and distinctly, in calm yet majestic tones, I heard these words: “I am Our Lady of America. I desire that my children honor me, especially by the purity of their lives.” (Diary, Pg. 10.)

At the **afternoon** Holy Hour on the feast of the martyrs, Our Lady again appeared and entrusted Sister with this message of favor and responsibility.

“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®.

After this date I saw Our Lady frequently. She seemed anxious to impress me with the truth and importance of her appearance. (Diary, Pgs. 11-12.)

Sister Mildred goes on to describe Our Lady’s visit on September 27, 1956, the very next day after her first appearance as Our Lady of America®. In this appearance, instead of the lily, Our Lady was holding the world in her hands and was weeping over it as if to cleanse it from its guilt. Our Lady expressed such sorrow over the ingratitude of sinful men [mankind] and stated that she came to America as a last resort and begged us to heed her voice and to assuage her sorrows by living with great purity of heart.

“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.

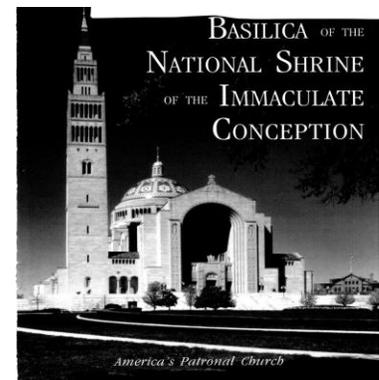
These are my words, O my daughter. Make them known to my children. I desire to make the whole of America my shrine by making every heart accessible to the love of my Son.” (Diary, Pg. 12.)

On October 13, 1956, barely more than two weeks after her first appearance, Our Lady of America® appeared again without the lily in her hand. Instead, she carried a finished replica of the National Shrine in both hands. Only the lower level of the Shrine, the Crypt Church, had been completed at that time. Nationwide fundraising after the Great Depression and World War II made it possible during the Marian Year of 1954 to resume work on the Great Upper Church, which was underway when Our Lady appeared on this date. This is what Our Lady says about our National Shrine. Note that, **unlike at Lourdes and at Fatima, she DOES NOT ask for a shrine at the place of her first appearance**, because we were already building **THIS NATIONAL SHRINE** that gives her so much pleasure in our devotion to her under the title of her unique privilege of the Immaculate Conception and serves as **our Patronal Church, the Church of all the American people**. She neither asked for any other *large shrine* nor expressed any desire for any other *large shrine in any other place*. **This is THE shrine that she herself has connected to this devotion** and any attempt to build any other *large shrine* and connect it to this devotion in any other place can only be the work of the evil one to divide the Nation’s devotion to her as the **United States** of America, a unified people, and to divide the efficacy of the grace Our Lady has attached to this National Shrine which she wishes to make **a place of wonders** and asks that we make it **a place of special pilgrimage!** It is significant to know that the National Shrine represents the gift of all the American people and not just the contributions of the wealthiest citizens of our land, and that it also represents her children from other nations of the world and their devotion to the Mother of God and Mother of us all as well.

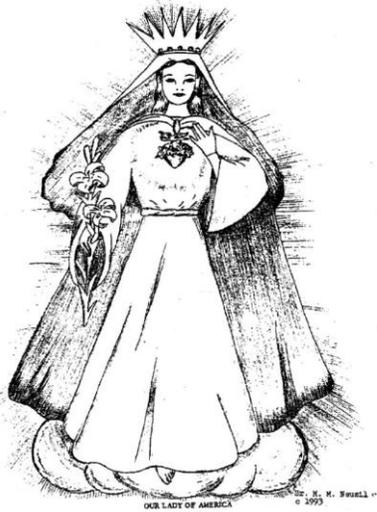
The Mary Memorial Altar in the Crypt Church expresses that idea of the importance of the little ones, of all the people, so well, for it was constructed with donations from over 30,000 women who held some kinship with the name “Mary.” Their names are sealed within the altar.

“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.” (Diary, Pg. 14.)



The following month, on November 15, 1956, Our Lady taught Sister that beautiful ejaculation, a prayer of protection for all of us and especially for this Nation which honors her under her unique privilege of the Immaculate Conception: **“By thy Holy and Immaculate Conception, O Mary, deliver us from evil.”** In that same visit Our Lady asked Sister to **draw her image exactly as She first appeared**. This is that image, drawn by Sister herself, exactly as she saw Our Lady, with a beautiful smiling countenance and simple straight lines, medium brown hair consistent with an American look, and these are Sister’s words about Our Lady’s



ultimate request as a further sign of our devotion to her and of our serious commitment to her message and to the **“reform of life”** for which She asks with such a sense of urgency!

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 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®.

To my spiritual director [Father Paul Leibold] 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.” [Our Lady spoke further, sadly but hopefully, begging us to heed her voice:]



“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?” (Diary, Pgs. 14-15.)

Again we see that covenant theme: if we do as Our Lady asks, reform our lives and then enthrone her statue in our National Shrine, after it is carried in solemn procession, that **“statue at the Shrine in Washington, D.C., [will be] a special safeguard for our country”** against **“the Forces of Evil [that] are enveloping the world. Their hatred, however, is now particularly focused on the United States because of the Divine Mandate given to it to lead the world to peace.”** (Diary, Pgs. 25, 39.)

By February and April of 1957, Our Lady’s tone takes on a sadder note as she pleads with us to hearken to God’s infinite mercy as promised in her message, lest His perfect justice be forced to address the sinfulness of our generation.

“Come to me, my children, come to me and learn. ... Do not disregard the voice of your Mother. It is the voice of love trying to save you from eternal ruin.” “O my sweet child, when will my desires be realized? ...How I have pleaded with my children to open their hearts to Him, but most are cold and indifferent. Has ever a mother shown more love and interest in her children’s welfare than I have done? ... 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 the punishments necessary to atone for his transgressions.” (Diary, Pgs. 16-17.)

As the message progresses we see this intermingling of the sense of favor to America, full of promise, hope and blessing, with that sense of Our Lady’s utter disappointment, sorrow and fear for the salvation of her children because of our ongoing refusal to heed her voice; because of our failure to take her message of both promise **and warning** seriously; because of our **failure to reform our lives.**

This is what Our Lady means when she speaks of reformation, renewal. It is this about which she is so concerned, namely, sanctification from within. ...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.

O my sweet child, time passes and with it wasted graces and constant refusals on the part of man to co-operate with me in the accomplishment of the Divine Will for his own sanctification and salvation. What am I to do, child of my heart, when my children turn from me? ... They think they have done enough in consecrating themselves to my Immaculate Heart. It is not enough. That which I ask for and is most important many have not given me. What I ask, have asked, and will continue to ask is reformation of life. There must be sanctification from within. (Diary, Pg. 18.)

My beloved daughter, what I am about to tell you concerns in a particular way my children in 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, as has been promised, but not until my children are purified and cleansed from defilement, and clothed thus with the white garment of grace, are made ready to receive this peace, so long promised and so long held back because of the sins of men. My dear children, either you will do as I desire and reform your lives, or God Himself will need to cleanse you in the fires of untold punishment. (Diary, Pg. 21.)

Human nature, since the fall of our first parents, is flawed. Free will leads many into the idolatries of our neo-pagan secular society and away from the worship of the one true God, the God of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the only Savior of the world. No one likes to be corrected, yet it is the role of the prophet to speak for God and to correct His people, calling them out of their sinful ways and back to Himself. The prophet speaks to that underlying Scriptural theme of “the covenant” God makes with His people throughout all salvation history. He will favor and protect His people if they, in turn, will love and obey Him. Our Lady is the greatest prophetic voice of our times and she is calling us out of our sinfulness and back to God and His Will and His Ways, to Faith and Purity, so that peace, the peace of Christ, might reign once again in our hearts and in our world. We need but turn on the television or open a newspaper to

hear and read about war and hatred, murder and corruption, deceit and greed and abuse of power, the reversal of the Natural and the Moral Law, blasphemy and sacrilege. Would we not condemn a parent as unloving if he or she would allow a child to continue uncorrected down a path of self-destruction, drug and alcohol addictions, hedonism, sexual perversions and promiscuity of all kinds, irresponsible and immoral behavior, murder and suicide? God is more loving than any parent. Scripture says He chastises those whom He loves for their own good and for their conversion so that they might enjoy eternal blessedness in their Father's house. Considering that God is the Lord of Nature, of the Natural and the Moral Law, of the universe and every person in it, and considering that nothing, absolutely nothing happens that He does not foreknow and will, either by His ordaining will, or by His permissive will--out of respect for the freedom He gave us so we might choose to love Him-- can we not understand natural disasters, floods, earthquakes, bombings, false religions that preach hatred, mass murders, war and terror, and even 9/11, brought about by sick human beings under evil influence, as His chastisements upon a sinful generation? How can we interpret anything in life apart from our Faith? Did Our Blessed Lady not warn at Fatima during World War I that if we did not reform our lives there would be World War II and even World War III? Did she not tell us war is a punishment for sin? Nothing happens unless God wills it. He knows everything before it happens. There are no accidents with Him, for that would make Him flawed like us instead of perfect as He is. The wonderful thing about God is that even when He allows us our freedom and we cause such ungodly things to happen, He can still draw good from our deadly actions, even for us if we allow Him to do so. No evil can come from God. It comes from the evil one, from the evil spirit of the world, and from the evil within our sinful selves, for God will never force our free will.

“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.” (Diary, Pg. 7.)

While Our Lady warns us, she also promises us victory in the end if we heed her warnings and reform our lives, if we live up to our part of the covenant. She is always faithful.

“My Immaculate Heart will win in the end, and the Spirit of Christ will dwell in the hearts of men. ... There is only one true way to the Father, my child, only one way to eternal union. It is the way of the divine humanity. It is through my Son, the Only-begotten of the Father, that souls attain perfect union with the Divinity, as perfect as human nature is capable of, aided by divine grace.”

“I am the Mother of the sacred humanity, and it is my special work as co-redemptrix of the human race to help souls reach the sanctity of the Father in eternal union by showing them how to put on Christ, to imbibe His Spirit, and thus become one with Him.” (Diary, Pgs. 23-24.)

“O my child, tell your spiritual father that I come again to warn and to plead. Oh, penance, penance! How little my children understand it! They give me many words, but sacrifice themselves they will not. It is

not me they love but themselves. Oh, what blindness, sweet child, what blindness! How it pierces my heart! See, I weep, but my children show me no compassion. They behold the sword in my heart but will make no move to withdraw it. I give them love; they give me only ingratitude. Weep, then, dear child, weep with your Mother over the sins of men. Intercede with me before the throne of mercy, for sin is overwhelming the world and punishment is not far away.” (Diary, Pg. 34.)

It was in April of 1960 that Our Lady asked Sister to tell His Grace that it would be through the medal that he would receive so many more signs than he had asked for, and that he was to have the medal struck and distributed. Our Lady spoke thus:

“My child, God works often through little and humble things and such instruments should never be despised but accepted and used with love and gratitude. It will be through the medal that God’s Will will be manifested and glorified and my desires carried out to the very end. I place my confidence in my faithful sons, the Bishops, who will not fail to take up my cause and make it bear much fruit for sanctification among so many and countless souls. ... My children must know my desires. If my desires are not fulfilled much suffering will come to this Land.”
(Diary, Pgs. 35-36.)

[When the Archbishop passed away, Bishop Paul F. Leibold, his successor, carried out Our Lady’s request concerning the medal on Sister’s behalf.]

“Beloved daughter, you are not being accepted because you are a small one. But in the end all will come as I desire. Those who oppose you will receive light to understand. These good people mean well and if they are in authority it is for you to listen respectfully and obey. 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. Until this comes to pass, wait in trust, knowing that I never fail those who place their confidence in me. My Son blesses you, be at peace.” (Diary, Pg. 37.)

In that same vein of smallness, Our Lady addresses this mission to **America, a small one among nations**, to lead the world in this urgently needed spiritual renewal in order to spare the world God’s perfect justice upon this sinful generation.

“Beloved daughter, the United States is a small one among nations, yet has it not been said that ‘a little child shall lead them’? It is the United States that is to lead the world to peace, the peace of Christ, the peace that He brought with Him from heaven in His birth as man in the little town of Bethlehem. The Savior did not come to enter this world in a big city but a small town, again, a little one among many. Dear child, unless the United States accepts and carries out faithfully the mandate given to it by heaven to lead the world to peace, there will come upon it and all nations a great havoc of war and incredible suffering. If, however, the United States is faithful to this mandate from heaven and yet fails in the pursuit of peace because the rest of the world will not

accept or co-operate then the United States will not be burdened with the punishment about to fall.”

I was afraid that the burden of leadership would be too great for the United States without some special help from heaven. Our Lady assured me that Michael and the whole army of Blessed Spirits will give their assistance at all times. As the Queen of Angels she has loving command over them and they accomplish whatever she wishes. This made me feel better and the fears that I had left me. (Diary, Pg. 38.)

“Dear child, the danger is imminent, there is no time to lose. Tell my faithful ones who are working so diligently for my cause that I am most grateful but urge them to do all in their power to continue even in the midst of sacrifice and suffering. They will not be alone in their struggle. Myself, with the holy angels, will be always with them to help, fight and encourage. Get this message to them quickly as the time is shorter than ever.”

What I detect most strongly in some of the messages, especially the latest ones, is the shortness of time allotted to us to pray and make the necessary sacrifices to bring about world peace. There is an urgency about Our Lady and when she speaks which leaves no doubt as to the closeness of the terrible purification that is about to fall upon all nations. ... God never fails those who put all their love and trust in Him. We have nothing to fear then if we do our part. But we must begin now because time is running out. (Diary, Pg. 39.)

These words were spoken on February 11, 1981, over 29 years ago! Have we listened to our dear Mother’s pleadings for a “reform of life,” for “sanctification from within” through a living out of that awesome mystery of the Divine Indwelling Presence of the Most Holy Trinity? Can we continue to ignore world events that confirm the hatred turned upon America, and upon Christianity, apart from this message understood as a covenant, calling on us to be faithful to our part in the covenant if we wish to enjoy God’s blessings on us and on America? On January 3, 1984, at the behest of many who feared a nuclear war with its utter devastation upon the whole world, a Third World War for sure, Sister asked Our Lady if there would be such a nuclear war. This is how Our Lady answered her:

“My faithful one, if my warnings are taken seriously and enough of my children strive constantly and faithfully to renew and reform themselves in their inward and outward lives, then there will be no nuclear war. What happens to the world depends upon those who live in it. There must be much more good than evil prevailing in order to prevent the holocaust that is so near approaching.

Yet I tell you, my daughter, even should such a destruction happen because there were not enough souls who took my warning seriously, there will remain a remnant—untouched by the chaos who, having been faithful in following me and spreading my warnings, will gradually inhabit the earth again with their dedicated and holy lives. These will renew the earth in the power and light of the Holy Spirit. These faithful

ones of my children will be under my protection and that of the Holy Angels, and they will partake of the life of the Divine Trinity in a most remarkable way.

Let my dear children know this, precious daughter, so that they will have no excuse if they fail to heed my warnings.” (Diary, Pg. 45.)

Every prophetic voice throughout salvation history has been delivered to God's people in the terms of a covenant, blessing for obedience and reform of life, and a curse, judgment, if one chose to ignore, disobey and refuse God's call for conversion. This message of Our Lady of America® is no different; it is such a prophetic voice and covenant call to and for America, in particular. Will we be among those who accept Our Lord and Our Lady's terms calling for obedience to Christ's Vicar on earth and the turning away from false teachers and false prophets; for humility and simplicity of life; for reverence for the sacraments and the priesthood; for the sanctification of the family; for a return to faith and purity, prayer and the interior life, living in the Divine Indwelling Presence of the Most Holy Trinity so that we may experience God's blessings and peace? Or will we continue to ignore the prophetic warnings of Our Lady of America®'s message with its call to conversion and transformation in the power of Jesus' Holy Spirit, lest we suffer the Father's just judgment upon our world and ourselves?

Whose voice will we listen to?

Act of Consecration to Our Blessed Mother

Most Holy Trinity: Our Father in Heaven, who chose Mary as the fairest of your daughters; Holy Spirit, who chose Mary as your spouse; God the Son, who chose Mary as your Mother; in union with Mary, we adore your majesty and acknowledge your supreme, eternal dominion and authority.

Most Holy Trinity, we put the United States of America into the hands of Mary Immaculate in order that she may present the country to you. Through her we wish to thank you for the great resources of this land and for the freedom which has been its heritage. Through the intercession of Mary, have mercy on the Catholic Church in America. Grant us peace. Have mercy on our President and on all the officers of our government. Grant us a fruitful economy born of justice and charity. Have mercy on capital and industry and labor. Protect the family life of the nation. Guard the innocence of our children. Grant the precious gift of many religious vocations. Through the intercession of our Mother, have mercy on the sick, the poor, the tempted, sinners – on all who are in need.

Mary, Immaculate Virgin, our Mother, Patroness of our land, we praise you and honor you and give ourselves to you. Protect us from every harm. Pray for us, that acting always according to your will and the Will of your Divine Son, we may live and die pleasing to God.

Imprimatur: Patrick A. O'Boyle, Archbishop of Washington

This beautiful Act of Consecration to Our Blessed Mother was written by Bishop Thomas Grady for the dedication ceremony of the National Shrine.

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