

# The 56<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Our Lady of America®

## Divinely Chosen Days and Images



JESUIT MARTYRS OF NORTH AMERICA  
1642 - 1649

September 25, 2012 marks the 56<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady of America® to Sister Mildred (Mary Ephrem) Neuzil. While Sister had locutions with Our Lord and Our Lady from the 1940's onward and visions of the Archangels Michael and Gabriel in the fall of 1954 and 1955 respectively, the visions of Our Lady herself did not begin until the eve of the North American martyrs, September 25, 1956, per the pre-Vatican II calendar of feasts. It is important that we reflect on divinely chosen dates and images under which Our Lady first appeared to Sister Mildred and ponder on their significance to this message and for our lives and that of the Church.

**Why did Our Lady choose the vigil of the feast of the North American martyrs for her first appearance?** We know that day is utterly important to the United States and all of North America because the blood of these 8 Jesuit martyrs watered the seed of the Faith in the United States and Canada. Isaac Jogues, a priest, and Jean de la Lande and Rene Goupil, laymen, missionaries to the Huron and Algonquin Indians, were the three who were martyred in upstate New York. **They saturated the soil of America with their blood and thereby rooted America in a Christian heritage that no contemporary mind dare deny to us.** Surely Our Lady knew how much we would need to defend our Christian heritage in these times. She reminds us that history has recorded our Christian heritage with martyrs' blood. A shrine to these martyrs and to Kateri Tekawitha, one of their converts, is located in Auriesville, NY. Collectively these martyrs are the patron saints of Canada. Since Kateri Tekawitha died in Canada and was the first Native American to be beatified in 1980, her upcoming canonization by Pope Benedict XVI on October 21, 2012 will bring great joy to Canada and to all Native Americans and the whole of America. In the museum on the grounds of the magnificent shrine of St. Anne de Beaupre in Quebec is a beautiful leather chasuble made by Native Americans; it is worn during Mass at the annual gathering of tribes there. It will be worn with exceedingly great joy at their next gathering to celebrate Kateri's canonization. To

read more about these martyrs and their importance to the United States and all of North America see our previous newsletter on the North American martyrs found on our web site: <http://www.ourladyofamerica.com/whatsnew/TheNorthAmericanMartyrs.pdf>

There are no accidents with God! **Why did Our Lady appear here in America on that first day as Our Lady of Lourdes?** It had been almost a century earlier in Lourdes, France, on March 24, 1858, vigil of the Annunciation, that Our Lady answered Bernadette Soubirous' question, "What is your name?" with "**I am the Immaculate Conception.**" We recall how the early Church was besieged with heresies regarding the full humanity of Jesus and His full divinity, heresies that necessitated understanding Mary's relationship to Jesus in God's plan of salvation. Hence, the first Council of Ephesus in 431 proclaimed Mary "Theotokos," God-bearer, Mother of Jesus Who is God, a divine person. She is mother of the person, therefore of God, the Son of God, not merely of His human or His divine nature. That definition implied some sense of the sinlessness of Mary for the Holy One of God could not take flesh in any vessel stained with even the slightest sin or impurity. Just how that sinlessness was to be defined was not yet clear considering the fact that all the descendants of Adam are subject to the effects of original sin and are in need of redemption, but God reveals all things in His own time.

The Eastern Church had long celebrated devotion to St. Anne as mother of the Theotokos, but it was Pope Clement XI, 1700-1721, who truly prepared the ground for the dogma by permitting the title "Immaculate Conception" to be used by churches and religious orders and by prescribing the feast of the Immaculate Conception for the whole Church. This doctrine concerning the Immaculate Conception dominated Catholic theology in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. **Pope Pius IX, Pope of the Immaculate Conception,** faced the rising tide of nationalism throughout Europe that led to the Italian revolution and effort to unify Italy. Eventually the Papal States were confiscated and the pope's influence in worldly affairs challenged. Pope Pius IX had to flee Rome in 1848 and was exiled in Gaeta in the Kingdom of Naples. In the midst of this turmoil, he had sent a letter to all the bishops asking their opinion on the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception. The bishops overwhelmingly wanted the dogma defined, so on December 8, 1854 **Pope Pius IX defined the dogma in his Apostolic Constitution *Ineffabilis Deus*.** It stated:

**"We declare, pronounce, and define that the doctrine which holds that the most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instance of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by Almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin, is a doctrine revealed by God and therefore to be believed firmly and constantly by all the faithful."<sup>[29]</sup>**

We see here that Mary was favored with an entirely unique holiness from all eternity, redeemed in a more exalted fashion, preserved from, not cleansed from, original sin in anticipation of Christ's death. (**Catechism of the Catholic Church, #492**)

It was just four years after the dogma was defined that Our Lady appeared to Bernadette Soubirous in Lourdes, France, February 11, 1858. Surely Lourdes was heaven's affirmation of the Pope's action and a sign of Mary's gratitude and her wish for greater public devotion to her under this privileged title. **Back in 1846, eight years before the dogma was defined and twelve years before the Lourdes apparitions, the US Bishops had obtained permission from Rome to declare the Immaculate Conception the Patroness of the United States of America.** Can the intimate connection between Our Lady of America® and Our Lady of Lourdes be any more obvious precisely because of this dogma? We see the connection again when Sister Mildred was mystically transported to Lourdes and encountered Bernadette as a young girl. Sister wanted to climb the ladder to heaven with Bernadette but Bernadette told Sister she still had work to do. Again the connection was made in the promise Our Lady made to Sister during that first appearance under the Lourdes image. Sister states:

**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.** [our emphasis]

[Our Lady expressed her gratitude for our devotion to her under the title revealed at Lourdes -- the Immaculate Conception.] ***"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. ...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. ... I desire, through my children in America, to further the cause of faith and purity among peoples and nations."***

**(Sister Mildred (Mary Ephrem) Neuzil, Diary, OUR LADY OF AMERICA®, Fostoria, OH, Pgs 9-11.)**

History has shown us how great the miracles granted at Lourdes and Fatima truly are! Our Lady does not minimize those miracles in any way. She does remind us, however, that miracles of the soul are always greater than those of the body and it is miracles of the soul that she promises to us in America in particular if we do as she asks, for we have been given a divine mandate no other nation has -- to lead! To lead the world back to Faith and Purity through the awesome mystery of the Divine Indwelling and sanctification from within! Thus we see that theological principle at work: first comes the favor, then the mission! Oh how we need such miracles of the soul in America today!

Pope Pius IX will always be connected with the message of Our Lady of America® not only because he proclaimed the **dogma of the Immaculate Conception**, but also because he convened the **first Vatican council** on December 8, 1869 (feast of the Immaculate Conception) which was adjourned in October of 1870 but was never officially closed until 1960, just prior to Vatican II. It was during that first Vatican Council that he proclaimed the **dogma of papal infallibility** to the consternation of many schismatics and Protestants and secular lords, an authority he had used to define the dogma of the Immaculate Conception. The Church was suffering great hostility against this second dogma amidst the errors of rationalism, liberalism and materialism, but the Pope reaffirmed the endurance and authority of the Catholic Church and the solidity of its doctrines as the only safe ark of refuge in the raging seas of error. Our Lady of America® is calling us likewise to uphold the authority of the church and the solidity of its doctrines against our own raging seas of false teaching and the culture of death with its overwhelming secularity and unbridled impulses of the flesh. There are many unnatural deeds mistakenly called rights, even erroneously being legalized, which attack all that is sacred: traditional marriage between one man and one woman; the right to life from conception to natural birth; and even God Himself, the Lord of all life and holiness, in an effort to deny His very existence and His supreme right to our worship in private and public and His supreme authority over every person and every nation. The smoke of Satan has even dared, as warned at Fatima, to invade the sanctuary in an effort to destroy the Catholic Church from within as well as from without.

**“Beloved daughter, sweet child, there are those in high places in the Church who disobey and refuse respect to my Son’s Vicar on earth. These betray the teachings inspired by the Divine Spirit sent by my Son to be with the Church ‘til the end of time. There are those who teach false doctrines, and those who repudiate the Holy Sacraments. They are filled with intellectual pride. And so refusing to follow my humble Son, they are being destroyed together with those who misguidedly follow them down the path of error and falsehood. Pray for those poor ones who do not realize the misery and wretchedness they are in and to which they have and are leading others.”**  
(Our Lady, Diary, Pg. 43.)

**“Many unnatural acts are being committed in the name of love. This evil is being disguised and tolerated as an intrinsic right like any other. Even some of My priests and consecrated virgins are being caught up into this web of evil, not realizing its terrible consequences. [our emphasis]**

**My dearest one, many false doctrines are being taught and for many the true Christ is never made known. The false prophets and self-proclaimed Messiahs are drawing many away from Me, the Way, the Truth and the Life. I am the true Messiah who was sent and the only one proclaimed as such by my Father. Seek Me for I only am truth, I only am the Christ.”** (Our Lord, July 13, 1981—Diary, Pg. 40.)

We move now to the second day of Our Lady’s appearance, the martyrs’ feast itself, when she came under a new image and identified herself: **“I am Our Lady of America.”** She honored us under the privileged title of our country because we as a country have honored her under her privileged title, too. She bids us as a

country to honor her with the purity of our lives, for that is what proclaiming her as the Immaculate Conception, our Patroness, demands of us. Our Lady told Sister she felt the longing in our hearts for her favor under the title of our country and she responded beyond all expectation as Our Lady of America®. Now it is our turn to respond to her favor by **fulfilling our mission to be THE country dedicated to her purity**. We must reverse this culture of the flesh and of death! We must return our country to God and to Our Lady! Then we must lead the world to do the same!

On the third day, September 27, 1956, Our Lady appeared to Sister holding the world in her hands as her tears flowed over it. She wept for the ingratitude of sinful mankind and begged us to cleanse our souls in the Precious Blood of Jesus, to live in His Heart and to welcome her into our hearts. Our Lady says **she comes to her children in America as a last resort. She rewards our devotion by entrusting us with a most urgent mission!**

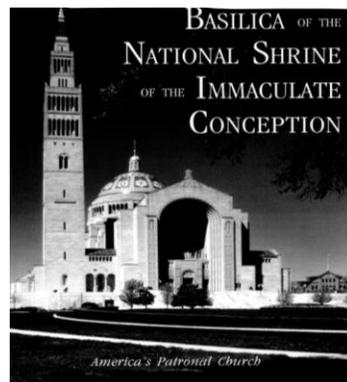
**“I come to you, O children of America, as a last resort.** [our emphasis]  
**I plead with you to listen to my voice. Cleanse your souls in the Precious Blood of My Son. Live in His Heart and take me in that I may teach you to live in great purity of heart which is so pleasing to God. Be my army of 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.”** [our emphasis]

**“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.** [our emphasis] **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 nation. 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.”** (Diary, Pgs. 11-12.)

The next significant date with this message is October 5, 1956 at which time Sister was inspired to write the beautiful prayer to the Immaculate Conception, Patroness of our land. That was followed by **an apparition on October 13, 1956** in which Our Lady of America® appeared and, instead of a lily in her right hand, held **in both hands a small replica of the finished Shrine of the Immaculate Conception** even though only the lower crypt church had been completed at this time. Interestingly, the date connects with that of **Fatima** for it was on **October 13, 1917**, that **Our Lady performed the great miracle of the sun so that people would believe**. Our Lady herself had referenced Lourdes and Fatima when she promised America greater

miracles than those granted there if we would do as she asks. **Can we even imagine what “miracles of her Son” Our Lady of America® desires to perform here in America and in our National Shrine which she promises to make a “place of wonders” if we make it a place of special pilgrimage? Our Lady wants to work miracles here so we, too, might believe! Had not Our Lord lamented to Sister Mildred in the 1940’s about the lack of Faith in the world? This is Mary’s desire for our National Shrine.**



**“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.)**

[Sister Mildred states that on November 15, 1956 Our Lady taught her a deliverance prayer through the power of her Immaculate Conception.] **“By thy Holy and Immaculate Conception, O Mary, deliver us from evil.”** [Sister states further:]



**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.® [our emphasis] (Diary, Pg. 14.)**

Although Mary honors us in America so specially, she does not exclude her children from any other nations. This appearance holding the replica of the finished National Shrine makes it clear beyond any doubt where Our Lady of America® wants this devotion centered. This is the Church of all the American people, with an international mission as well, and it belongs to all of us. No single place where Our Lady had appeared to Sister Mildred, not even the first place, can take any precedence over this clearly stated will of God. Our Lady has spoken! When will we comply?

In a May 5, 1957 letter to her spiritual director, Sister Mildred speaks of Our Lady’s appearance to her as **“Mother of Mercy,” acting so profoundly like our Patroness and Protector, giving us refuge from God’s justice beneath her mantle of mercy.**

**Our Lady showed herself to me today as the Mother of Mercy. With her arms extended, her blue mantle affording a safe refuge for the sinner, she said, “I am the Mother of Mercy. Under my mantle I will hide my children. The justice of God will not reach them if they seek refuge ‘neath the protection of**

my mercy. My Son gives to me all those souls who come to me with confidence, calling upon my aid. Their salvation is in my hands. I will obtain for them the necessary graces to save their souls.

Come to me, poor suffering and frightened ones. I am your Mother. Never will I forsake you. Only come to me with a wholehearted and loving trust. Place your souls into my keeping. I am that faithful Mother who never forsakes her children. Honor me by your confidence and love. This I desire and ask of you, my poor children. Do not deny the wishes of your Mother.”

On August 5, 1957, feast of **Our Lady of the Snow**, Our Lady spoke to Sister on the great gift of the Divine Indwelling, the Divine Presence in the soul through sanctifying grace, the very heart of this message that centers us on the central doctrine of our Faith, the Most Holy Trinity. On August 22, 1957, on the feast of **the Immaculate Heart of Mary**, Our Lady appeared to Sister Mildred and referenced her role as **Mediatrice of Grace**, a belief long revered within the Church even though it has not yet been declared a dogma of Faith. **“My heart, my Immaculate Heart, is the channel through which the graces of the Sacred Heart are given to men.”** (Diary, Pg. 18.)

Our Lady expressed her sorrow over those who turn away from her, lured by the false peace of the world. She warned that an enthronement of her statue and consecration of our land to her Immaculate Heart is not enough. Without a genuine reform of life, conversion, purification and a complete turning away from sin, it would be an empty gesture, little able to obtain those miracles of the soul she has promised.

**“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. I will work my miracles of grace only in those who ask for them and empty their souls of the love and attachment to sin and all that is displeasing to my Son. Souls who cling to sin cannot have their hands free to receive the treasures of grace that I hold out to them.”** (Diary, Pg. 18.)

By now the significance must be evident regarding how many of her feast days Our Lady chose for her appearances to Sister Mildred and how this apparition is deeply connected with the two greatest approved Marian apparitions of our time, Lourdes and Fatima. Our Lady had conveyed to Sister Mildred that all her other apparitions are converging in this one because of the great mystery of the Most Holy Trinity that is the center of our Faith. Therefore, it is no surprise that Our Lady of America® should appear again on her feast, October 7, 1957, **feast of the Most Holy Rosary**, her hands clasped in prayer as a blue rosary hung from her right hand, just as a rosary hung from her hand in the appearances at Lourdes and at Fatima. As at Lourdes and Fatima she reiterates the need to pray the rosary, especially as a family, and promises that no one found in the circle of her rosary will ever be lost. It was at this visit that Our Lady gave these grave words to Sister Mildred.

**“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. [Then she alludes to the peace promised at Fatima if we reform our lives.] 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.” (Diary, Pg. 10.)**

The prophets of old were sent to peoples steeped in sin to call them to repentance, and we know those who repented were spared the temporal punishments inherent to sin. Can any prophetic role of the past compare to the prophetic role of the Mother of God who begs us to come to her Immaculate Heart to learn great purity of heart so she may lead us to her Son, the only Savior of the world? Now is the age of the Spirit and of Mary. Has there ever been a prophetic voice as clear, as profound and as vast as Our Lady’s warnings given at Fatima for all the world, warnings against WWII and a possible WWIII if the world does not turn back to God? **Our Lady told the children of Fatima that more souls go to hell for sins against purity than any other sin.** In this message Jesus lamented that the world does not even listen to His Mother. Are we in America listening to her warnings about punishments hitherto unknown to us, even possible nuclear war which could be that WWIII warned of at Fatima and which could mean the devastation of the whole world? Are we ready to be THE nation dedicated to her purity, ready to lead our own country and the world back to a culture of life, faith and purity? On the eve of February 11, 1958, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first appearance at Lourdes, Our Lady renews the promise of **the triumph of her Immaculate Heart** declared so clearly at Fatima.

**“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.” (Diary, Pg. 23.)**

[That evening Our Lady states:] **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. (Diary, Pg. 25.)**

Our Lady had often expressed to Sister Mildred her anxious concern for our interior lives. Some months before the renewed promise of the triumph of her Immaculate Heart she gave us the way to achieve this inner renewal, the way to crush the ancient serpent who seeks to devour our souls and the soul of our nation. On **November 22-23, 1957, Our Lady appeared to Sister under another new image.** She wore a long white veil held in place with a wreath of white roses. **Her right foot rested on a crescent moon and the left on the snout of a small ugly looking dragon, so reminiscent of the appearance of Our Lady of Guadalupe.** On the second day of this appearance Our Lady bowed her head and on her breast was the symbol of the Divine Indwelling, the Triangle and the Eye. Dazzling light saturated her whole being; it streamed from the Divine Presence within her onto the globe at her feet.

Above her head was a scroll that read, **“All the glory of the King’s daughter is within.”** In this new image we see Our Lady as she truly was, **the Immaculate Tabernacle of the Indwelling God®.** She identified herself: **“I am Our Lady of the Divine Indwelling, handmaid of Him Who dwells within.”** (Diary, Pgs. 22-23.)

This is our secret. The way to renewal is through the interior life and living in that great mystery of the Divine Indwelling Presence of our Most Holy Triune God present within our souls through sanctifying grace. We, like Mary, must be saturated with the Light of Christ and soaked in His Divine Presence so we may emit that light and that grace to our dark and hungry, blind and stumbling world! Let us beg her to come into our hearts so she may take us into the Heart of her Son, Son of the living God! This is the same secret St. Joseph spoke of to Sister Mildred in his appearances to her. See our previous newsletter on **“The Secret of Secrets.”** [http://www.ourladyofamerica.com/whatsnew/The\\_Divine\\_Indwelling\\_The\\_Secret\\_of\\_Secrets.pdf](http://www.ourladyofamerica.com/whatsnew/The_Divine_Indwelling_The_Secret_of_Secrets.pdf)

Let us pray daily this second prayer that Our Lady of America® gave us in this message and let God take full control of our lives for His glory and the salvation of souls as He did of Mary’s. Let us grow from glory to glory in His Goodness and become, like Mary, living tabernacles for the Indwelling Triune God, handmaids of Him Who dwells within!

### **Prayer to the Indwelling Most Holy Trinity**

**O my Love, my only Good, Most Holy Trinity, I adore You, hidden in the depths of my soul. To You, to Your honor and glory, I dedicate my life. May every thought, word and deed of mine be an act of adoration and praise directed towards Your Divine Majesty enthroned in my heart.**

**O Father, Infinite Goodness, behold Your child clothed in the likeness of Your Son. Extend to me Your arms that I may belong to You forever.**

**O Son, Divine Lord, made man, crucify me with Yourself that I may become, in union with You, a sacrifice of praise for the glory of Your Father.**

**O Holy Spirit, Fire of Everlasting Love, consume me on the altar of Divine Charity, that at the end of my life, nothing may remain but that which bears the likeness of Christ.**

**O Blessed Trinity, worthy of all adoration, I wish to remain in spirit on my knees, to acknowledge forever your reign in me and over me, to Your everlasting glory.**

**Through the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the pure heart of St. Joseph, I consecrate my life to your adoration and glory.**

**At the moment of death, receive me, O my Triune Love, that I may continue my adoration of love through all eternity. Amen (200 days)**

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Fostoria, Ohio, 56<sup>th</sup> anniversary, September 25, 2012.  
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