



The Battle Between The Woman and the Ancient Serpent

After Adam and Eve fell prey to Satan's lies in the Garden of Eden and disobeyed God's command, the Lord God punished the serpent for leading them into sin.

“Because you have done this, you shall be banned from all the animals and from all the wild creatures; on your belly shall you crawl, and dirt shall you eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; He will strike at your head, while you strike at his heel.” (Genesis 3:14-16.)

The woman, of course, is Mary, the New Eve, whose offspring is Jesus, the Son of God-made-Man as the New Adam, whose perfect sacrifice of atonement on the cross would restore to the first Adam's posterity that sanctifying grace, the Indwelling Presence of the Most Holy Trinity in the soul, lost by that original sin. The New Adam would likewise restore to mankind sonship and inheritance into the Father's kingdom. With the cross Christ's Messianic victory over Satan was complete, but the heel of which this passage speaks is the Mystical Christ, His Church, also symbolized by The Woman as the Bride of Christ, against whom Satan, in a jealous rage against God, humanized as man, will wage war against the divinization of man from his inferior state, until the end of time. While redemption has been won for all mankind by Christ's sacrifice, each member of His Mystical Body must claim that great gift by personal choice, while being subject to the same lies that deceived Adam and Eve. Christ, however, has built His Church on solid rock and has promised that the gates of hell will not prevail against it, no matter how fierce the battle against its members may be. Christ is His Word and His Word is Truth.

As shown throughout biblical history, the king gives great power over his kingdom to his Queen-Mother. So great is the power God bestowed upon His Mother that no stain of sin, not even a moment of subjection to the power of Satan, was ever allowed to touch her soul; she was **preserved from** every stain of sin, original and personal, **in anticipation of** the redeeming grace of her own Son. St. Louis De Montfort tells us well what that means for Our Lady's role in our salvation and for the protection of her spiritual children, Christ's Church, redeemed at so great a cost by the Blood of her Divine Son.

“God has fashioned and shaped only one enmity, and that an irreconcilable one, which will endure and even increase until the end. It is that between the Virgin Mary and the Devil, between the children and servants of the Blessed Virgin and the children and accomplices of Satan; so that the most terrible of enemies of Satan created by God is Mary, His Blessed Mother.” [It behooves us to stay very close to her!]



As in every war there are opposing armies, so Our Lady, too, needs an army to defend the earthly kingdom of her Divine Son against Satan until it is brought into complete union with His heavenly kingdom, already secured for eternity. **Who is called to be in her army?** On September 27, 1956, Our Lady appeared to Sister Mildred (Mary Ephrem) Neuzil holding the world in her hands while her tears flowed over it, as if to cleanse it from its guilt. She spoke with such sorrow, especially to her children in America.

“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.” (Sister Mildred Mary Neuzil, *The Diary, OUR LADY OF AMERICA*, Tiffin, OH, Pg. 12.)



We, her beloved children, must be Mary’s army! She appeared to Sister Mildred Neuzil under the title of our nation to express her gratitude to her children in America for our devotion to her. Her army must be Torchbearers of the Queen, brave lovers of souls.

“I wish to gather about me, my tender child, soldier and valiant bearer of the torch, an army of brave lovers, who as my torchbearers will enkindle the fire of Divine Love in the souls of men. Only those who are strong in love can become my soldiers to bear aloft, not the sword of destruction, but the sword of fire, the flaming torch of Divine Charity.” (The Diary, Pg. 19.)

Oh that we would ponder these passages until the sense of Our Lady’s love for us soaks deep into our souls and impels us into a more complete imitation of the purity and chasteness of her life and a willingness to be ready to die to preserve the chastity of our lives, the purity of our souls. The purity of our souls--**cleansing our souls from sin and preserving our souls in the state of grace, sanctifying grace**, which unites us to the Most Holy Trinity and bids the Holy Trinity to come and dwell within us. God within us!

On the feast of the Immaculate Heart, August 22, 1957, Our Lady reminded us that Jesus has chosen to funnel His grace to us through her hands. She laments over the passage of time and the graces wasted by our constant refusals to co-operate with her in the accomplishment of the Divine Will for our sanctification and salvation.

“What am I to do, child of my heart, when my children turn from me? The false peace of this world lures them and in the end will destroy them. 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.



Behold, my small one, so tenderly loved by your Mother, behold then my Heart pierced by a cruel sword! Oh, what grief my children have caused me! My humble one, my small flower, we must have more souls who love, love unselfishly and without reserve. Who does anything who does not love? (The Diary, Pgs. 18-19.)

There has been a monumental struggle against the powers of darkness throughout our human history, but that darkness has become abysmal in today's culture of death with its blatantly bold and unrestrained opposition to God as evidenced in the effort to legitimize satanism and sacrilege against the sacredness of life and for sacred things. What diabolical spirit must possess one who beheads a statue of our most Blessed Mother! Our Lady of America has promised us miracles of the soul more than of the body. She has given us a medallion to wear for our protection against evil. Earlier, in 1830, Our Lady had appeared to St. Catherine Laboure and also presented a medal, the medal of the Immaculate Conception, though the image is more often referred to as Our Lady of Grace. It depicts Mary standing on the globe, our earth, her foot crushing the head of the ancient serpent. The Triumph of the Immaculate! Rays gleam from jewels on the rings on her fingers, representing the graces that she gives to all who ask for them. The back of the medal bears the cross for Christ's redeeming act, the M for Mary and her intimate role in our redemption, the two hearts for Jesus and Mary, and the 12 stars as in the crown of the woman clothed with the sun in Revelation. Because so many miracles were obtained by those who wore this medal with great devotion and asked Our Lady for them, it came to be called the Miraculous Medal. What a kindred devotion to that of Our Lady of America who promised that greater miracles than those granted at Lourdes and Fatima will be granted, especially here in America, if we heed Our Lady's call, not just to consecrate ourselves to her, but to reform our lives, to be sanctified from within through the Indwelling Presence of the Most Holy Trinity. Is there any miracle greater than that, to be filled with the very presence of the All-Holy Triune God, the Almighty One, Creator of Heaven and earth, Who humbly surrenders Himself into the poverty of our poor souls?



St. Bernard tells us the demons dread the name and patronage of Mary much more than our enemies fear a great army in battle array. Whenever they find her frequently invoked, they withdraw from their attack and disappear as the mist before the rising sun.

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