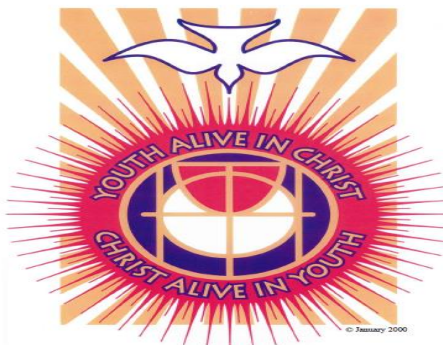


The Youth of America Must Set the World on Fire Not with Hate But with the Flame of Divine Love



“Torchbearers of the Queen”

Our Lady made known to me that she is particularly interested in the *youth* of our nation. It is they who are to be the leaders of this movement of renewal on the face of the earth. Their ranks will be swelled by the youths of other nations whom Our Lady also calls to help in the accomplishment of this great renewal.

But the youth must be prepared, and this must be done by instilling into them, not only the knowledge of the Divine Indwelling, but a serious study of It, a living It in such a way that the Divine Presence becomes, as it were, an intimate and necessary part of their life and daily living. From this will flow a great love, a conflagration that will envelop the world in the flames of Divine Charity. This is what Our Lady is working for, because this is the great desire of her Divine Son, and it is to the *youth* of America that she is holding out this challenge. A medal which Our Lady asked to be made is to be their shield against evil... 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.

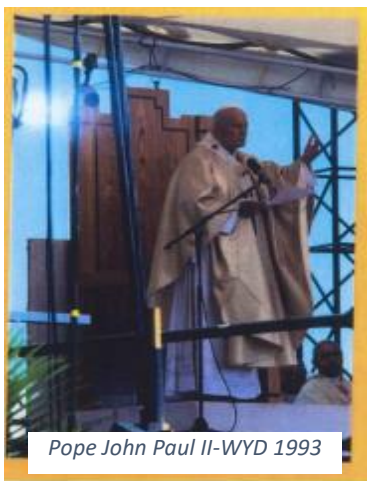
(Sr. Mildred (Mary Ephrem) Neuzil, *The Diary, OUR LADY OF AMERICA*, Pgs. 24-25.)

Shortly after Our Lady spoke these words to Sister Mildred Neuzil, St. Michael appeared to Sister holding an immense flaming torch and told her she must carry this torch throughout the world. The next day Sister was enlightened during Mass that those, particularly the youth, willing to follow Our Lady in her great battle against evil would bear the special title “**Torchbearers of the Queen.**” The torch is Divine Love, for only Love can conquer hate and all that hate brings with it. Every leader knows that the young are the future of the Church and the nation, and that they are first formed in the cradle of the home, the basic unit of every stable society. It is no wonder that the Prince of Darkness has been attacking with such vehemence the young, marriage and the home. Sr. Lucia, the Fatima visionary, said Satan’s final battle will be waged against marriage and the family. We see the enormity of that battle everywhere we look in our society today.

St. John Paul II had a great love for young people and they for him. He realized one is never too young to do God’s work. In 1984, at the close of the Holy Year of Redemption, he called for an International Jubilee of Youth for Palm Sunday in St. Peter’s Square. Over 300,000 youth from around the world attended. The Holy Father entrusted to them the World Youth Day cross to be carried throughout the world as a symbol of the love of Christ

for humanity. On Palm Sunday the following year, during the United Nations' International Year of the Youth, the Holy Father welcomed the young people of the world to Rome again, and on December 20, 1985, he announced the institution of World Youth Day with the first official WYD to be held in 1986. The second but first international WYD was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina in 1987. Every Palm Sunday since has been designated as WYD and is celebrated on the diocesan level when not on the international level. The last international WYD was in 2019 in Panama City, Panama, and the next will be in Lisbon, Portugal in 2023. The youth continue to answer the invitation of the Holy Father in staggering numbers and carry home the message received there to be Christ's light to the world. World Youth Days are the legacy of St. John Paul II. In Toronto, the last International WYD he attended, he spoke to the 800,000 gathered with him at the vigil, and said:

“When, back in 1985, I wanted to start the World Youth Days... I imagined a powerful moment in which the young people of the world could meet Christ, Who is eternally young, and could learn from Him how to be bearers of the Gospel to other young people. This evening, together with you, I praise God and give thanks to Him for the gift bestowed on the Church through the World Youth Days. Millions of young people have taken part, and as a result have become better and more committed Christian witnesses.”



Pope John Paul II-WYD 1993

World Youth Day became a special project of the youth of America after a young man from Roseville, CA came back from the 1991 WYD in Czestochowa, Poland and, after seeing flags and images of Our Lady from so many other countries around the world, asked his mother if Our Lady had ever appeared in America. His mother found a copy of Sister Mildred (Mary Ephrem) Neuzil's diary in a bookstore in Sacramento, CA. The young man decided to pray that the Pope would come to America for the next WYD even though it was scheduled to be in Russia. In 1992 EWTN learned WYD 1993 would indeed be in Denver, CO. Since there were no statues of Our Lady of America, the young man, his mother and devotees of Our Lady of America contacted Sister Mildred

Neuzil in Ohio to commission the sculpting of a large statue to be carried by the Youth in WYD in Denver that summer. They found a local artist, shown here working on the statue of Our Lady of America, who was approved by Sister Mildred. With almost miraculous speed, the artist sculpted this 300-pound statue, all in white per Sister Mildred's request, to symbolize the importance of purity to the youth. A Torchbearer of the Queen Youth Group was started in Colfax, CA, and the youth traveled with the Oblates of St. Joseph to Denver to carry Our Lady of America with honor, alongside youth of other nations bearing Our Lady's image from their own nations. Youth have been carrying this statue of Our Lady of America around the world to the various WYD's ever since, creating a culture of life and a civilization of love.



Putting the finishing touches on the statue



Papal Mass - World Youth Day – Denver 1993- First in America

**Important Points for Torchbearers To Ponder
from Sister Mildred Mary Neuzil’s Diary, OUR LADY OF AMERICA**

1. Our Lady emphasizes a serious study of the Indwelling of the Most Holy Trinity in all the baptized. (Diary, Pgs. 18, 25, 27.)
2. Our Lady extends a special invitation to all her children to become her Torchbearers. (Diary, Pgs. 19, 24-25.) She asks that we pray together the family rosary. (Diary, Pg. 39.)
3. Our Lady is anxiously concerned about our inner lives, about Purity and Faith. (Diary, Pgs. 10, 11, 26, 36, and 40.)
4. Our heavenly Mother wishes us to wear a blessed medal of Our Lady of America. (Diary, Pgs. 25-26.) It is through the medal that God’s Will will be manifested and glorified and Mary’s desires carried out. (Diary, Pg. 35.)
5. Our Lady desires that we honor an image of her as Our Lady of America, according to the likeness sketched by Sister Mildred Neuzil, in our homes. (Diary, Pgs. 10, 14, 25.)
6. In Our Lady’s messages special emphasis is given to devotion to St. Joseph as protector of the Holy Family, the Church and the home. (Diary, Pgs. 26-32.)

The family especially is under attack. And the sacred character of human life denied. Naturally, the weakest members of society are the most at risk: the unborn, children, the sick, the handicapped, the old, the poor and unemployed, the immigrant and refugee, the South of the world!

**Young pilgrims, Christ needs you to enlighten the world and to show it the "path to life" (Ps 16,11). The challenge is to make the Church’s "yes" to Life concrete and effective. The struggle will be long, and it needs each one of you. Place your intelligence, your talents, your enthusiasm, your compassion and your fortitude at the service of life!
(St. John Paul II to the Youth at WYD 1993 in Denver)**

Youth Alive in Christ – Christ Alive in Youth

**Copyright© Our Lady of America Devotion, Tiffin, OH, Trinity Sunday, 2020.
All rights reserved.**

*All images and photos are used with permission.