

## Devotion to the Three Persons of the Earthly Trinity



Pictured here is the back of the Our Lady of America® Medallion as given to Sister Mildred (Mary Ephrem) Neuzil. It bears the **coat of arms of the Christian family** which is called to live in union with the Indwelling Heavenly Trinity in imitation of the Holy Family, the earthly trinity. At the center is the **triangle with its three equal sides symbolizing the three distinct but co-eternal, co-equal and consubstantial persons in the one Godhead** Who is the source and end of all life. In the middle of the triangle is the **all-seeing eye of God** which represents **His eternal omniscience**, for nothing can be hidden from Him Who has known us in Himself from all eternity. Scripture says, “Even before we were knit in our mother’s womb, He knew us!” The triangle is placed on a **shield** which, if colored, would be **red, representing the Precious Blood of Jesus**, Son of God, Who died for us in order to bring us into the family of God through the forgiveness of sin and by way of adoption as children of God through His sanctifying grace. The flaming sword of Divine Love, the **sword with the cross and the flaming heart** centered behind the shield, represents the burning love of the **Sacred Heart of Jesus** for us as He offers us His redeeming grace. The **two lilies with hearts aflame** extending from the top corners of the shield represent the purity and love of the **Immaculate Heart of Mary and the pure heart of Joseph**, who with Jesus, make up the earthly trinity, God’s paradise on earth, that perfect model for us of living in union with the Divine Trinity in a life centered on Jesus, the second Person of the Most Holy Trinity, God made man and dwelling amongst us. The **rosary** around the shield is the **prayer of the family** that is like a chain binding us to Mary forever, for she has promised that those found in the circle of her rosary will never be lost and she herself will lead them at death to the throne of her Divine Son in the company of St. Joseph. The wording around the medal, **Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritu Sancto and Jesu, Maria, Joseph** give praise, in Latin, to the **heavenly Trinity** and to the **earthly trinity**, the Holy Family. The circle is the symbol of the eternity and the perfection of God Who is without beginning or end and is

the circle of life Itself from which all things come and to which all things must return for their completion.

In a locution on November 8, 1954, Our Lady of America® gave Sister Mildred the following message, calling on us to **imitate the life of the Holy Family**, so we, too, might be an earthly paradise where once again God might walk among men.

**“It is the wish of my Son that fathers and mothers strive to imitate me and my chaste spouse in our holy life at Nazareth. We practiced the simple virtues of family life, Jesus, our Son being the center of all our love and activity. The Holy Trinity dwelt with us in a manner far surpassing anything that can ever be imagined. For ours was the earthly paradise where once again God walked among men. ...**

**The Divine Trinity will dwell in your midst only if you are faithful in practicing the virtues of our life at Nazareth. Then, you also, my children, you also will become another paradise. God will then walk among you and you will have peace.”**

(Sister Mildred (Mary Ephrem) Neuzil, Diary, OUR LADY OF AMERICA®, Fostoria, Ohio, Pg. 8.)

In this same vein of thought we heed St. Joseph’s words to Sister Mildred in an apparition on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 1958:

**“Dear child, I was king in the little home of Nazareth, for I sheltered within it the Prince of Peace and the Queen of Heaven. To me they looked for protection and sustenance, and I did not fail them. I received from them the deepest love and reverence, for in me they saw Him Whose place I took over them. ... In honoring in a special way my fatherhood, you also honor Jesus and Mary. The Divine Trinity has placed into our keeping the peace of the world.**

**The imitation of the Holy Family, my child, of the virtues we practiced in our little home at Nazareth is the way for all souls to that peace which comes from God alone and which none other can give.” (Diary, Pg. 29.)**

Over the years God has given us **special devotions to honor these three persons of the earthly trinity**. The first was that given to St. Margaret Mary, the **First Friday** devotion in reparation for sins committed against Jesus’ Sacred Heart. The second was that given to Sr. Lucia at Fatima, the **First Saturday** devotion in reparation for sins committed against Mary’s Immaculate Heart, the same apparition where Our Lady also promised the triumph of her Immaculate Heart over Satan. The third is that given to Sister Mildred Neuzil, the **First Wednesday** devotion to honor St. Joseph, protector of the Church and the domestic church, the family. The message of Our Lady of America® reiterates the promise of the triumph of Mary’s Immaculate Heart through union with the Indwelling Trinity and imitation of the simple virtues of the Holy Family. Our Lady of America® stated to Sister Mildred that all her apparitions are converging in this one with its focus on that central mystery of Faith, the Divine Indwelling, source of all

holiness which must come from that sanctifying grace, the Divine Presence within us. Our Lady also stated that through the Divine Indwelling Satan's power would be crushed forever. Surely we must embrace this trilogy of devotions to Jesus, Mary and Joseph on the First Friday, First Saturday and First Wednesday of the month if we are to learn the secret of living in deepest communion with the Heavenly Three!

The first of these special devotions honors the **Sacred Heart of Jesus**, the first person in the hierarchy of the hypostatic order of grace in this earthly trinity. Devotion to Jesus' Heart was practiced from the earliest days of the Church, as is evident in the lives of many of the saints through the ages. This special devotion, however, was formalized very concretely with the three revelations of Jesus to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque between 1673 and 1675. In the first revelation on the feast of St. John the Evangelist, December 27, 1673, Jesus showed His Heart to St. Margaret Mary as she rested her head on His divine breast. He said:

**“My Divine Heart is so passionately in love with men that it can no longer contain within itself the flames of its ardent charity. It must pour them out by thy means, and manifest itself to them to enrich them with its precious treasures, which contain all the graces of which they have need to be saved from perdition. I have chosen thee as an abyss of unworthiness and ignorance to accomplish so great a design, so that all may be done by Me.”**

**(Rt. Rev. Emile Bougaud, THE LIFE OF SAINT MARGARET MARY ALACOQUE, Tan Books, Rockford, IL, Pgs. 160-166.)**

In that same apparition Jesus asked St. Margaret Mary if she desired to give Him her heart. When she supplicated Him to take it, He put her heart into His own Adorable Heart. She saw her heart as a little atom being consumed in the fiery furnace of His own. Jesus then drew it from His, like a burning flame in the shape of a heart, and put it back in the place from which He had taken it, saying:

**“Behold, My beloved, a precious proof of My love. I inclose in thy heart a little spark of the most ardent flame of My love, to serve thee as a heart and to consume thee till thy last moment. Until now thou hast taken only the name of My slave; henceforth thou shalt be called the well beloved disciple of My Sacred Heart.”** [Thereafter she was left with an invisible wound in her side which was renewed every First Friday of the month.] **(Bougaud, Pgs. 165-166.)**

In the second revelation in 1674, St. Margaret Mary saw Jesus brilliant with glory, his wounds like five suns, flames darting from His Sacred Humanity, and His Heart like a furnace of flames. While in the first revelation, Jesus appeared as a Friend, the Father seeking to save His children, in this revelation He appeared as an outraged Spouse, the unacknowledged King demanding reparation for our ingratitude. He asked her to make expiation for all the crimes of the world and to ask others to render Him consolation and homage for all whose hearts have grown cold. He wished to re-warm the hearts of the universal church. The Lord sent a flame so ardent into St. Margaret Mary's heart she

could barely endure it. **Then Jesus asked two things of her: to communicate every First Friday of the month to make amends to Him; and to prostrate herself, with her face to the ground in expiation for sin, every week on the night between Thursday and Friday from eleven in the evening to midnight.** Our Lord gave St. Margaret Mary these twelve promises:

1. "I will give them all the graces necessary for their state of life. 2. I will give peace in their families. 3. I will console them in all their troubles. 4. I will be their refuge in life and especially in death. 5. I will abundantly bless all their undertakings. 6. Sinners shall find in my Heart the source and infinite ocean of mercy. 7. Tepid souls shall become fervent. 8. Fervent souls shall rise speedily to great perfection. 9. I will bless those places wherein the image of my Sacred Heart shall be exposed and venerated. 10. I will give to priests the power to touch the most hardened hearts. 11. Persons who propagate this devotion shall have their names eternally written in my Heart. 12. In the excess of the mercy of my Heart I promise you that my all powerful love will grant to all those who receive Communion on the first Fridays, for nine consecutive months, the grace of final repentance; they will not die in my displeasure, nor without receiving the sacraments; and my Heart will be their secure refuge in that last hour." ([www.sacredheartdevotion.com/promises](http://www.sacredheartdevotion.com/promises))

The third revelation took place on June 16, 1675. Jesus stated:

"Behold this Heart which has so loved men that it has spared nothing, even to exhaustion and consuming itself, in order to testify its love. In return, I receive from the greater part only ingratitude, by their irreverence and sacrilege, and by the coldness and contempt they have for Me in this sacrament of love. And what is most painful to Me is that they are hearts consecrated to Me." [He asked that a feast in honor of His Sacred Heart be established in the Church on the First Friday after the octave of the Blessed Sacrament both to honor Him and to make reparation for the indignity His Heart has received.] ... And I promise that My Heart shall dilate to pour out abundantly the influences of its love on all that will render it this honor or procure its being rendered." (Bougaud, Pgs. 175-176.)

The second of these special devotions honors Mary who is second to Jesus in the hierarchy of the hypostatic order of grace in the earthly trinity. It is the First Saturday devotion given to Sister Lucia calling for reparation for the insults to **Mary's Immaculate Heart**. In 1917 while World War I raged on, Our Lady appeared for 6 consecutive months from May to October to the three children of Fatima, Lucia, Jacinta and Francisco. Our Lady showed them a vision of hell where the souls of poor sinners go because there is no one to pray for them. She told the children that to save such poor sinners God wished to establish devotion to her Immaculate Heart in the world. She identified herself as Our Lady of the Rosary and asked them to do penance and pray the rosary for the conversion of sinners and the salvation of souls and for peace in the world. She said World War I would end but if people did not stop offending God Who was

already too much offended, a worse war would begin in the reign of Pius XI and an unknown light in the sky would indicate the war was coming and that God was going to punish the world for its sins by means of war, hunger and persecution of the Church and the Holy Father. She gave the world the miracle of the sun so they would believe and repent. To prevent the worse world war Our Lady asked for the consecration of Russia to her Immaculate Heart and the communions of reparation on the first Saturdays of five consecutive months. If we did this, Russia would be converted. If we did not do this, Russia would spread her errors of atheism throughout the world. Our Lady warned that the good would be martyred, several nations would be annihilated, and the Pope would have much to suffer, but in the end, her Immaculate Heart would triumph! Time has shown us that the consecration of Russia as requested was too late to prevent World War II and the spread of atheism around the world, and even into high places within the Church as Pope Paul VI stated. When it was finally done per Our Lady's request in 1984 by Blessed John Paul II, Russia's conversion quickly followed, as did many other wonders, including an accident that destroyed much of Russia's nuclear program and ended its nuclear threat to the rest of the world.

It was on December 10, 1925, that Our Lady promised Sister Lucia she would

**...assist at the hour of death, with the graces necessary for salvation, all those who on the first Saturdays of five consecutive months confess, receive Holy Communion, pray a Rosary, and keep me company for a quarter of an hour meditating on the fifteen mysteries with the intention of offering me reparation.**

The intention we must have with this devotion is to offer reparation to Mary for the blasphemies against her Immaculate Heart and for the ingratitude of unrepentant sinners, and to pray for the salvation of souls and for true peace in the world. On May 29, 1930 Our Lord explained to Sister Lucia **why five** First Saturdays and **not nine** like the First Friday devotion. He said there are five kinds of offenses and blasphemies against the Immaculate Heart of Mary: those against Mary's Immaculate Conception; those against her virginity; those against her Divine Maternity; offenses committed by those who publicly attempt to instill indifference, scorn and even hatred for this Immaculate Mother in the hearts of children; and for those who directly insult her in her statues and images.

In the message of Our Lady of America® we are told that the Holy Trinity and Jesus and Mary have chosen **our time to exalt the pure heart of St. Joseph**, third in the hierarchy of the hypostatic order of grace in the earthly trinity and the greatest person next to Jesus and Mary, so long hidden and unknown. The early Church had a tradition of honoring St. Joseph and many saints sought his intercession in every need. The practice of honoring St. Joseph on the First Wednesday of the month is not new in the Church, but now **St. Joseph is asking that we exalt the First Wednesday devotion in a way that will put it alongside the First Friday and the First Saturday devotions to complete the honor we owe to the Holy Family as the trinity on earth, so necessary**

for our salvation, and who mirror most perfectly for us the inner life of the trinity in heaven. On March 30, 1958, in an appearance to Sister Mildred, St. Joseph states:

**“I am the protector of the Church and the home, as I was the protector of Christ and His Mother while I lived upon earth. Jesus and Mary desire that my pure heart, so long hidden and unknown, be now honored in a special way. Let my children honor my most pure heart in a special manner on the First Wednesday of the month by reciting the Joyful Mysteries of the rosary in memory of my life with Jesus and Mary and the love I bore them, the sorrow I suffered with them. Let them receive Holy Communion in union with the love with which I received the Savior for the first time and each time I held Him in my arms. Those who honor me in this way will be consoled by my presence at their death, and I myself will conduct them safely into the presence of Jesus and Mary.”** (Diary, Pgs. 31-32.)

**St. Joseph says all fatherhood is blest in him for fatherhood is from God and it must take once again its rightful place among men.** He calls on men to come to him to learn obedience to authority, to the Church as the mouthpiece of God, and to the laws of the country in so far as they do not go against God’s laws or the good of one’s neighbor. He bids us imitate his perfect obedience to the Divine Will as revealed in the laws of our religion, for to do otherwise is very displeasing to God and will be severely punished. Fathers must imitate his purity of life and deep respect of his Immaculate Spouse, being an example for their children and fellow men so as not to give scandal.

**“I desire souls to come to my heart that they may learn true union with the Divine Will. [On March 19, 1958 he said:] My child, I desire a day to be set aside to honor my fatherhood. The privilege of being chosen by God to be the Virgin-Father of His Son was mine alone, and no honor, excluding that bestowed upon my Holy Spouse, was ever, or will ever, be as sublime or as high as this. The Holy Trinity desires thus to honor me that in my unique fatherhood all fatherhood might be blessed....Thus should he be honored whom the King desires to honor.”** (Diary, Pgs. 26-32.)

**In accord with the manifest will of our Triune God, let us honor the earthly trinity of Jesus, Mary and Joseph with the First Friday, First Saturday and First Wednesday devotions. When God wills it, we must obey!**

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