

Archbishop Paul F. Leibold:

**A Champion for Our Lady of America and
for Sister Mildred Mary Ephrem Neuzil**

Archbishop Paul F. Leibold is important to this message as the spiritual director for visionary, Sister Mildred Mary Ephrem Neuzil. Sister and he met sometime in the late 1930's. We recall Paul Leibold was born and raised in the Dayton, Ohio area, went to school at the Marianist Chaminade High School and the University of Dayton, then entered the seminary in Cincinnati, Ohio. Both his life and Sister Mildred's are centered in Ohio. Sister Mildred, although born in Brooklyn, NY, moved with her family to Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish in Cleveland, Ohio shortly after birth. It is no accident that one of Sister Mildred's first assignments was to Washington, DC at the National Shrine, and another to the chancery in Cincinnati, Ohio where she would meet up with Father Leibold.



This man was destined by God, precisely because of his humility and his holiness, to guide God's other humble, lowly soul, Sister Mildred, in this powerful and urgent work for the salvation of our nation and our world in this time of human history. From 1940 until his sudden death in 1972, Father, later Archbishop Paul Leibold of the Cincinnati diocese, directed Sister Mildred in this work from heaven. Although he died before its fulfillment, he did appear to Sister in her final year on earth and assured her he would finish from heaven the work he had begun with her on earth. By God's ordination, neither would Sister Mildred finish her mission on earth. Its completion was handed on to her remaining religious sister, Sister Joseph Therese Patricia Ann Fuller, to be guarded against all contamination and impurity to the message, to promote an understanding of the message, and to bring to realization Our Lady's ultimate request-- to

have a statue of her under this new image as "Our Lady of America, the Immaculate Virgin" placed in a position of honor in our National Shrine, after being carried in a solemn procession, after which she has promised to be a safeguard for our Nation and to work miracles of the soul from this place of wonders and special pilgrimage. This is the part of Our Lady's request that is now in the hands of her beloved sons, our bishops, to complete, and Our Lady begs them not to delay as our Nation is increasingly becoming an abyss without God and without her loving maternal care.

It was Father Leibold who compiled the handwritten Diary with Sister Mary Ephrem and wrote the foreword. It was he himself who placed the imprimatur on Sister's sketch of the medal on August 1, 1961, just five years after the first apparition of Our Lady of America. It was he who put the imprimatur on the prayer to the Most Holy Trinity in 1963 and arranged the prayer leaflet with the prayer to Our Lady of America, the explanation of the medal, and the prayer to the Most Holy Trinity all included. It was Father Leibold, working with the Toledo diocese, who had the medal, as sketched by Sister Mildred, struck, and it was he who paid for all medals made prior to his death. It was he who had wood plaques of the image of Our Lady of America engraved with the Weberding Wood Carvers in Indiana and had several small statuettes made, one of which went to the papal nuncio. Every letter of Archbishop Leibold's indicates his complete approval of this message, though it was not in his authority to issue a formal public document saying so. He was well aware of the previous bishop's request for a sign from heaven to confirm the authenticity of this message; many more than requested were received. Had he had more time, he would have taken the necessary steps to complete the last stage of approval for this message with the bishop of Toledo. God's reasons for this delay have not yet been made known to us, but the hour is indeed late, as Our Lady herself repeatedly warned, as she begs us to embrace the necessary reform of life so necessary for the good of our souls and the soul of this Nation.

This awesome message, with its spiritual wealth, in such simple and so few words, is totally compatible with the doctrinal and sacramental life of the Church, and will forever connect this holy priest, Archbishop Paul Leibold, with this humble nun, Sister Mildred Mary Ephrem Neuzil. Their lives are a remarkable testimony to the

mystery of God at work in humble souls who surrender to the amazing grace of His love and do not count the cost to be identified with the passion and cross of Jesus, our Way, our Truth and our Life.

We pray one day both will be raised to the level of saints within the Church. We owe them our debt of gratitude for the example of their simple and holy lives. May God be forever praised in them and continue to work His wonders through them for all the world.