

# The Humble Instrument of Our Lady of America's Medal



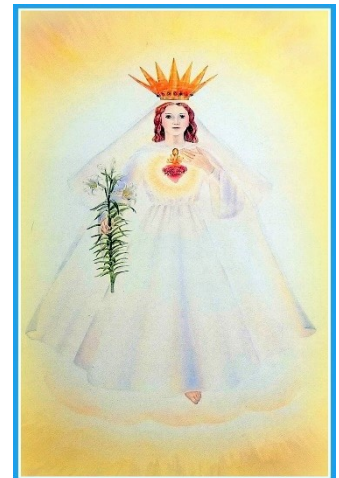
**“Tell His Grace, my beloved son, that it is through the medal that he will receive the sign for which he asks. I ask him to have the medal struck and distributed everywhere and he will receive not only the one sign for which he has asked but so many, so many that he will have cause to be greatly astonished. (our emphasis)**

**My child, God works often through little and humble things and such instruments should never be despised but accepted and used with love and gratitude. It will be through the medal that God's Will will be manifested and glorified and my desires carried out to the very end.**

**I place my confidence in my faithful sons, the Bishops, who will not fail to take up my cause and make it bear much fruit for sanctification among so many and countless souls.”**

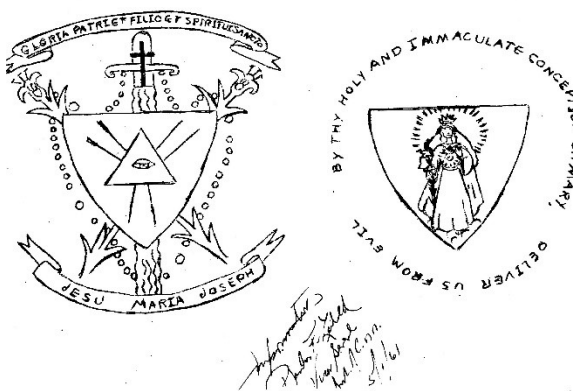
(Sister Mildred (Mary Ephrem) Neuzil, The Diary, OUR LADY OF AMERICA, Tiffin, Ohio, Pg. 35.)

Karl J. Alter was the archbishop of the Cincinnati archdiocese in which the motherhouse of the Sisters of the Precious Blood was located. At this time, Paul F. Leibold, Sister Mildred's spiritual director, was an auxiliary bishop there. It was April 4, 1960, when Sister was asked by Our Lady to give this message to His Grace. At this time, she had already entered the cloister within the active order of the Sisters of the Precious Blood which was located in New Riegel, Ohio in the Toledo diocese. There she was under the authority of Bishop George J. Rehring who worked closely with the Cincinnati archdiocese. When she hesitated for fear the bishop might not accept the message, Our Lady chided her for her delay and said, **“My children must know my desires.”** Sister described Our Lady's appearance at that time as contrary to her other appearances. She was surrounded with so brilliant a light that her garments seemed to be made of a gold texture rather than white, or of white



intermingled with a glitter of gold. It was a brilliance she could not describe. Just over a year later, April 24, 1961, Our Lady warned, **“If my desires are not fulfilled much suffering will come to this Land.”** Being the local ordinary for the cloister, it was Bishop Rehring who gave

*The Medal*





*Cloistered Sisters of the Precious Blood*  
Our Lady of the Nativity Convent  
NEW RIEGEL, OHIO

BRIEF SUMMARY OF BISHOP REHRING'S SUGGESTIONS ON

THE DIVINE INDWELLING

1. Make the study and practice of the Doctrine of the Divine Indwelling a Community Project. When the Sisters are imbued with a consciousness of the Divine Presence within them, they will be able to give to others the fruits of this beautiful devotion. It will then reach out to the children in our schools and pass on to the homes of these children.
2. Work out in simple form an outline, ~~which~~ theologically accurate, indicating exactly what the Divine Indwelling is and how this devotion is the most potent source for the progressive interiorizing of our spiritual life.
3. The means best calculated to develop an ever increasing awareness of God living in us are:
  - a. Frequent meditation on subjects directly or indirectly related to the Doctrine of the Divine Indwelling.
  - b. Fervent and persevering prayer, asking God for the grace of continual consciousness of His presence within us.
  - c. Taking the Divine Indwelling as a special point for the Particular Examen.
  - d. Earnest effort, through study and discussions, to obtain a more profound understanding of the Doctrine of the Divine Indwelling, thereby awakening within us a greater realization that God living in us is the very fountainhead of all grace and all holiness.
4. Compile a Bibliography of reference books on subjects treating of or relating to the Doctrine of the Divine Indwelling.
5. Incorporate the Doctrine of the Divine Indwelling with the regula instructions given to the children in our schools for a more intense and deeper spiritual formation.
6. Later on the medal as a symbol of the Divine Indwelling may be distributed.

May 1, 1961

approval to the medal and then bid Bishop Leibold to have the medal struck per Sister's design. Bishop Rehring issued the following letter to Sister Florecita, the superior at the cloister, suggesting serious study of the doctrine of the Divine Indwelling and reflection on it often so they would realize that **"it is God living within us that is the fountainhead of all grace and all holiness."** Then they would be able to teach and share this awesome doctrine! He wanted it to move slowly and deeply, without sensationalism. Bishop Leibold then put his imprimatur on Sister's sketch May 1, 1961 and

had the medal struck as Our Lady requested, paying for the first medals himself.

On August 31, 1961, Mother Mary Aquinas, Mother General of the Sisters of the Precious Blood, wrote to Sister Florecita at the cloister, **"I was very happy to hear that Bishop Leibold will go ahead with the medal himself. It is a great relief to me to know that it is being made, and we hope it eventually will be circulated. I have great confidence in the message of our Blessed Lady."** On August 25, 1961, a former Mother General, Sister Mary Anthonita, had written to Sister Mary Ephrem expressing how privileged she felt to have read Sister's manuscript of the messages.

**"I feel that I am most unworthy to be so privileged. I have not the slightest inclination to doubt any of this. Knowing you as I do in your simplicity, not given to high strung emotionalisms, I have no reason to doubt the authenticity or genuineness of your statements. The thoughts are most beautiful and I do feel also, that you have a message from our Blessed Mother. I am very happy that Bishop Leibold is also convinced of it."**

On page 25 of the Diary, Sister states that Our Lady said the medal could be any shape desired as long as it bore the form of a shield and had around the image of her 1956 appearance the words **"By thy Holy and Immaculate Conception, O Mary, deliver us from evil."** The back would bear the Coat of Arms of the Christian Family. When Our Lady gives us a medal, she attaches great promises to wearing it.

**“Those who wear the medal with great faith and fervent devotion to Our Lady will receive the grace of intense purity of heart and the particular love of the Holy Virgin and her Divine Son. Sinners will receive the grace of repentance and the spiritual strength to live as true children of Mary. As in life, so in death, this blessed medal will be as a shield to protect them against the evil spirits, and St. Michael himself will be at their side to allay their fears at the final hour.”** (The Diary, Pgs. 25-26.)

Years later, September 19, 1980, Our Lady spoke further regarding the medal.

**“Dear one, the medal itself will not work miracles, but the stronger the faith in what the medal signifies the greater the potential for the miracles that are being prayed for. If miracles do not happen, it is because a strong faith is lacking. Remember my promises. If there is failure it is not on my part. I am always faithful.** (Diary, Pg. 38.)

Let it be known that, since Archbishop Leibold chose to make the medal in the round, so will we, not just for that reason but because the circle is the symbol for eternity, for the Trinity, which has no beginning and no end. This message is all about that most fundamental doctrine of our Faith, the Holy Trinity, and the sanctifying grace of the Divine Indwelling won for us with the Incarnation, Passion and death of Jesus, made possible in God's plan for our salvation by the Hypostatic Order of grace. That order of grace includes only three persons, Jesus, Son of God; Mary His Ever-Virgin and Immaculate Mother; and Joseph, chosen by the Father Himself to stand over Jesus in the Father's place while Jesus spent nearly thirty years in a hidden life on earth.

Since Our Lady has given us this great gift and so many promises to go with it, can we ignore her wish and not wear this medal with faith and devotion? They are available in gold tone or silver tone on our website [www.ourladyofamerica.com](http://www.ourladyofamerica.com) under Devotionals. You can make the donation for them with PayPal or a credit card. Why not give them as gifts? Some people have asked about sterling silver, which will be much more costly. If you want them, we will pursue having them made. Normally, those who make medals demand we buy in large quantities, but we may have a local jeweler who will make them as they are ordered. We are also considering reducing the size slightly to make them more delicate looking and not so heavy in weight and appearance. Our women subscribers have been asking for that so we are investigating that also. If we are not wearing the medal Our Lady gave us in this great favor to our country, we need to ask ourselves why not. How long will we continue to ignore Our Lady's wishes? God gave us a command to honor our parents, and He, God Himself, never ceased to honor Mary and Joseph on earth, and as many Church Fathers believe, still does in heaven. Let us obey the wishes of our spiritual Mother without delay and plead for so many miracles of the soul which she has promised for those devoted to her. May she be our protection through all life's vicissitudes.

**“Will you do as I wish at last, my children?”** (Diary, Pg. 21.) **“Will my loyal sons carry out my desires and thus help me bring the peace of Christ once again to mankind?”** (Diary, Pg. 15.)

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