

Part II –

What Does Our Lady Want Us to Understand?

Since we are battling a wave of evil, a culture of death, we can only turn back that tide with an even greater torrent of holiness, a culture of life—a new civilization of divine love! In her own words, Our Lady calls us to understand deeply and live the following truths and principles of the spiritual life.

1. “ACCEPT AND LIVE THE MYSTERY OF GOD’S PRESENCE WITHIN”

The Presence of the Trinity within every human being is the focal point, the basis of interior holiness. You must try to make my people understand that the life of God within them is the source of their peace and happiness. There is no other way. ...

Unless this mystery of God’s Presence within is accepted and lived, peace will not come. It is the only way, believe me, my daughter.

(Sr. Mildred Mary Ephrem Neuzil, Complete Diary, “Our Lady of America®,” Fostoria, OH, pg. 37)

We see this mystery stated in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, #234:

The mystery of the Most Holy Trinity is the central mystery of Christian faith and life. It is the mystery of God in Himself. It is therefore the source of all the other mysteries of faith, the light that enlightens them. It is the most fundamental and essential teaching in the “hierarchy of the truths of the faith. The whole history of salvation is identical with the history of the way and the means by which the one true God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, reveals himself to men and “reconciles and unites with himself those who turn away from sin.”

God dwells in every living thing, every person, by His creative and sustaining power, but He dwells in a special, personal way in all who are baptized into the living Body of Christ and are filled with His life, His sanctifying grace, His Indwelling Presence. God’s Presence within depends on our living in the state of grace, sanctifying grace; that means avoiding sin, especially mortal sin which drives God out of his temple within. We are reminded of Our Lady’s words to the children of Fatima nearly a century ago on October 13, 1917: **“Do not offend the Lord our God anymore, because He is already so much offended.”** In the words of Scripture, when the accusers of the woman caught in adultery walked away, the Lord told her He would not condemn her either but she must **“Go and sin no more!”** In Our Lady’s message, our Lord speaks to Sr. Mildred of sin as thieves stealing His temples of prayer.

My children, every home and every soul is My Father's house, for He made them and they are His. But many of them are no longer sanctified by His Presence. Thieves have entered in and stolen from Him His temples of prayer. It is you, my children, who have let them in. If, My children, you will cleanse your temples, My Father will return and We will come and make our abode with you. (Diary, Pg. 7)

Our Lady speaks of **“cleansing your souls in the Precious Blood of my Son.”** That cleansing takes place in the **Sacrament of Reconciliation.** We must frequent this sacrament of cleansing and healing so that God will remain the Lord of our interior castle, our inner sanctuary, and have a home in our hearts at the inmost center of our beings, that sacred space that belongs to Him alone. Our Lady speaks of the necessity of teaching both the doctrine and the mystery of the Divine Indwelling to our children, but we cannot teach what we do not know, cannot share what we do not love. We must study and meditate on this mystery of the Divine Indwelling of the Holy Trinity, the central doctrine of our Faith. It is through Baptism that we share in the Divine Life and celebrate our union with the God Who created, redeemed and sanctifies us for Himself. In John 15:5 we hear Jesus' Word: **“I am the Vine; you are the branches. Whoever remains in Me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without Me you can do nothing!”** Grace is God's gift to us. It is our duty to nurture it and hold fast to it for our eternal salvation, and to share it and give witness to it by the way that we live and love and work and pray, and even play.

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. (Diary, Pg. 25)

Sr. Lucia of Fatima speaks of intimacy with the Most Holy Trinity in the book she herself wrote in response to so many people's questions to her. She says:

...God is love...to love is to possess the greatest gift of God, because it is to possess God Himself. It is to possess God and be ourselves immersed in God; it is the love of God in us, communicated by the three divine Persons, which will transport us to live immersed in the ocean of supernatural life, always following the path pointed out for us by the light of the word of God. ...Hence it is that love transforms us into living temples of the Most Holy Trinity, because God is love and communicates to us the life of His love, which is the life of God in us.....The materialistic world does not know God, does not understand the spiritual life of the indwelling of the Most Holy Trinity in us. And not only does it not understand it, it actually despises it and even persecutes it...The world seduces and deceives, and Christ cannot reveal Himself to those who allow themselves to be caught in the deceitful illusions of the world.

(Sr. Lucia, "CALLS" From the Message of Fatima, authorized by the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith, Rome, published by Secretariado dos Pastorinhos, Fatima, Portugal, 2000, pgs. 120-121)

Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity, a modern mystic often referred to as "the saint of the Divine Indwelling" may well have to share that title going forward with Sr. Mildred Mary Ephrem Neuzil who was born just 10 years after Elizabeth's death. Blessed Elizabeth died in 1906 and Sr. Mildred was born in 1916. Blessed Elizabeth defined her life as a constant "Praise of Glory" to the Trinity and described her prayer life as a collapsing into "my heavenly Three." She wrote to her superior, Mother Germaine (and thus counsels us):

Live in the depths of your soul! My Master makes me understand very clearly that He wants to create marvelous things there: you are called to render homage to the simplicity of the Divine Being and to magnify the power of His Love. Believe His "voice" and read these lines as if coming from him. "Let yourself be loved." All God wants of us is that we let Him love us and let His love rouse us to love Him in return. As Elizabeth was fond of saying, "It's so simple."

(Jennifer Moorcroft, HE IS MY HEAVEN, The Life of Elizabeth of the Trinity, IBS Publications, 2001, pg. 185)

Blessed Elizabeth's life and spirituality is completely echoed in the life of Sr. Mildred Mary Neuzil who declared to Mary Ziegman, relative of Archbishop Leibold, these words from Our Lady.

From the beginning of time every prophecy, every vision, throughout the centuries, will have its fulfillment in Our Lady of America and her message of the Indwelling Trinity living in every soul, which will renew the whole world and destroy Lucifer and all the evil spirits in the fight he is making against the Indwelling Trinity. This will eventually destroy him.

(Letter, Mary Ziegman to Sister Joseph Therese, August 30, 1995, regarding phone conversation with Sister Mildred.)

As Our Lady states so forcefully here, the Divine Indwelling is the focal point of all holiness which is a movement of grace from within, what God does as Sanctifier, not what we do, and is our final triumph over Satan and all evil spirits and will renew the whole world. Is there any wonder, then, that Satan has made such a huge attack upon this devotion and the remaining Sister entrusted with the completion of Sister Mildred's mission? We see the splendor of this Truth when Our Lady appears and calls herself "**Our Lady of the Divine Indwelling, handmaid of Him Who dwells within.**" Letters in gold appeared on a scroll above her head, declaring: "**All the glory of the King's daughter is within.**"

We are also reminded here of Bishop Sheen's term regarding God's initiative towards us. He refers to it as a "divine invasion" of grace, much like Francis Thompson spoke of in his famed poem, "The Hound of Heaven." It is God Who seeks us more than we who seek Him. He is always knocking at our door, but He always honors our free will. The knob is on the inside. God does not force the door; He waits for us to open to Him. But He waits, and knocks, and waits, and knocks. He will NOT go away; He loves us too much! Please, please, let Him in!

To help us do that, let us meditate again on those awesome words on the Divine Indwelling given to Sister Mildred by St. Joseph as recorded in her letter to Father Paul Leibold.

Words Straight from Heaven!

Sister Mildred Mary Ephrem Neuzil's Letter to Father Leibold

April 12, 1958

Dear Father:

Here are some things I feel you should know, for not only will they be of great benefit for you but also for those whom your great love for God will reach.

Like His Holy Spouse, St. Joseph also never ceases to remind me of my first duty, the first duty of every soul, especially for the chosen, of living with God in the interior castle of our hearts. So on March 30th, before voicing his own requests, St. Joseph spoke of this first duty which comes before all others.

"It is time. Kneel my beloved daughter, for God is about to reveal to you a secret of the interior life. Few there are who learn it, and fewer they who live it in its fullness. This **SECRET**, dear child, is living with Him Who is within you and has made of your soul His Kingdom. There are many who know this Doctrine, but few to whom God reveals its secret operation. Few souls there are who empty themselves of all things that they may possess this **SECRET OF SECRETS**, this ultimate glory of all living, this union with the Divine, ending in Eternal Vision.

This Secret cannot be written, lovely child. Its deepest meaning will be made known to you in the interior depths of your child-like soul, in your humble heart, where LOVE has found Its resting place, Its palace beautiful. They who would possess for themselves this mysterious workings of the Divine Secret must strive to cultivate in *silence* and *humility* this love for the Eternal Being within them. We lived this life, beloved child, so to attain it, souls must imitate as far as possible the fullness of our union with The Indwelling God."

Let us now pray with the whole Church the Prayer to the Indwelling Most Holy Trinity which Satan, in his hatred for the Trinity, has seduced powerful men caught in his

“ring of evil” to remove from Sister Mildred’s fully copyrighted Diary. This prayer, approved by Archbishop Leibold already in 1963 and considered a summation of the doctrine and mystery of the Indwelling Trinity at the heart of the message and of our Faith, is missing in the contaminated version of Sister’s Diary which these men are pushing on the public in violation of copyright law and the moral law, and in violation of the integrity of the message which the Church must protect.

Prayer to the Indwelling Most Holy Trinity

O my Love, my only Good, Most Holy Trinity, I adore You, hidden in the depths of my soul. To You, to Your honor and glory, I dedicate my life. May every thought, word and deed of mine be an act of adoration and praise directed towards your Divine Majesty enthroned in my heart.

O Father, Infinite Goodness, behold your child, clothed in the likeness of Your Son. Extend to me Your arms that I may belong to You forever.

O Son, Divine Lord, made man, crucify me with Yourself that I may become, in union with You, a sacrifice of praise for the glory of Your Father.

O Holy Spirit, Fire of Everlasting Love, consume me on the altar of Divine Charity, that at the end of life, nothing may remain but that which bears the likeness of Christ.

O Blessed Trinity, worthy of all adoration, I wish to remain in spirit on my knees, to acknowledge forever Your reign in me and over me, to Your everlasting glory.

Through the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the pure heart of St. Joseph, I consecrate my life to Your adoration and glory.

At the moment of death, receive me, O my Triune Love, that I may continue my adoration of love through all eternity. Amen. (200 days)

Nihil Obstat: --- Daniel Pilarczyk, S.T.D.

Imprimatur: --- Paul F. Leibold, V.G.

Cincinnati, Jan. 25, 1963

2. “THE WILL OF THE FATHER MUST BE DEARER TO YOU THAN ALL ELSE”

The Will of the Father must be dearer to you than all else. This is the lesson every soul desiring intimate union with my Son must strive to learn.”
(Diary, Pg. 19)

We recall God’s Covenant with His People of old in Leviticus and Deuteronomy, the rewards of obedience and the punishments for disobedience and idolatry. Likewise in the New Covenant Jesus upholds those same promises and punishments and calls us to an “obedience of faith.” The laws and commandments of God and the teachings of the Church and of Christ’s Vicar on earth defined for us under the power of the Holy Spirit is

God's Will for us. When we obey them, we fulfill God's Holy Will and merit His blessing. "If you love Me, keep My commandments," says the Lord. On March 11, 1958, St. Joseph appeared to Sr. Mildred and spoke these words:

Mine was perfect obedience to the Divine Will, as it was shown and made known to me by the Jewish law and religion. To be careless in this is most displeasing to God and will be severely punished in the next world. (Pg. 27)

Between the years 1982 and 1983, Our Lady addressed very specifically the issues of false doctrines, false spirits, false Messiahs, intellectual pride, disobedience within the Church, unnatural deeds being called intrinsic rights, nuclear war, and more. While we might not like to hear these things, Our Lady does not speak what is not true. If she speaks out against these things, it is because they are a real and present danger to our souls and our eternal salvation. She seeks to awaken and correct our conscience, and leads us to moral integrity and a purification of our hearts and minds regarding Divine Truth, God's Will and God's ways, so contrary to man's. Chastisement is necessary to effect the much needed 'reform of life' she warns must happen if the world is to be spared God's just wrath upon it for its utter sinfulness. His mercy is here for the asking, but demands a sincere purpose of amendment with a genuine reform of life.

Beloved daughter, sweet child, there are those in high places in the Church who disobey and refuse respect to my Son's Vicar on earth. These betray the teachings inspired by the Divine Spirit sent by my Son to be with the Church 'til the end of time. (Pg. 43)

To Sr. Mildred herself, our dear Lady said thus about obedience.

Beloved daughter, you are not being accepted because you are a small one. But in the end all will come as I desire. Those who oppose you will receive light to understand. These good people mean well and if they are in authority it is for you to listen respectfully and obey. I will speak to them in their hearts and the Divine Spirit who makes all things clear will give them wisdom and understanding. In the end they will do as I wish. (Pg. 37)

Obedience is absolutely essential in fulfilling the Will of God; it reverses the effects of the disobedience of Adam. Surrender to the Will of God must be the attitude of every prayer. Those of the older generation will remember when every prayer ended with "if it be God's will." Those in religious life, before the days of representation and requesting assignments, will remember the importance of understanding the Will of God as expressed through their superiors and the Rule of Life to which they were committed. The evangelical vow of obedience seems to have lost some of its purifying power in our day.

Words on the importance of obedience raise the question of civil disobedience. Jesus says to give to Caesar what is Caesar's and give to God what is God's. We are obligated to obey civil law, generally made for the common good, AS LONG AS IT IS NOT

CONTRARY TO DIVINE LAW. If civil law violates Divine Law, we not only *have a right* to civil disobedience *but a moral duty* to stand up against it in defense of our Faith and Divine Truth. Why are so few people willing to stand up against so many of our laws that violate Divine Law, especially in our current government? Why do so many vote and act contrary to Church teaching? St. Joseph tells us:

Fathers must come to me, small one, to learn obedience to authority; to the Church always, as the mouthpiece of God, to the laws of the country in which they live, insofar as these do not go against God and their neighbor.
(Pg. 27)

Jesus reminds us in the Scriptures that His food is to do the Will of His Father in heaven. He speaks only what the Father reveals and does only what the Father bids Him do. Would that we might imitate our Master's obedience to His Father as we are commanded to do! Let us pray Sister Mildred's magnificent *Aspirations to the Divine Will* written for Trinity Sunday in 1947.

Will of God, I adore You.

Will of God, I love You.

Will of God, I dedicate myself to You.

Will of God, let me lose myself in You.

Will of God, rule my life.

Will of God, teach me.

Will of God, sanctify me.

Will of God, be my peace.

Will of God, be the light of my life.

Will of God, be my refuge in trouble.

Will of God, may You always be accomplished in me.

Will of God, uphold my frailty.

Will of God, transform me.

Will of God, be my joy in life and my consolation in death.

Will of God, I offer myself as Your victim.

Will of God, bear me to heaven.

Will of God, I embrace You as Jesus did in the Garden and in union with Him I offer my life for souls.

3. "REFORM OF LIFE" IS REQUIRED TO MAKE THE ENTHRONEMENT IN THE NATIONAL SHRINE A PROOF OF OUR LOVE

Over and over Our Lady begs us to reform our lives and to seek sanctification from within to show proof of our love for her. Hear her words again cry out to us to be heard and heeded.

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. (Diary, Pgs. 18-19- 1957)

Reform of life is what I ask as the sign and proof of my children's love for me. (Pgs. 16- 1957)

If I ask for reform of life, it is first from the chosen that I look for it. (Pg. 24- 1958)

My child, I come again for men have not changed their lives. Their sins cry to heaven for punishment. (Pg. 36 – 1967)

Sweet child, beloved of my Son and cherished by me, my message has not been heeded nor have I yet found one to further the cause of renewal within. (Pg. 37 – 1980)

Sister Mildred Mary Neuzil wrote how Our Lady expressed her pleasure in the honor her children in America give her through her glorious and unique privilege of the Immaculate Conception, and how Our Lady promised miracles of grace, miracles of the soul. Our Lady promised that the statue at the Shrine in Washington, DC would be a special safeguard for our country. She spoke of the tremendous and privileged opportunity America, the United States in particular, was being given to lead all nations in a spiritual renewal never before so necessary, so important, so vital. (Pg. 25) **“Our Lady emphasized this very much. She is anxiously concerned about our inner life.” (Pg. 10)**

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #1430, calls the “reform of life” Our Lady is asking for “interior penance.” A more scriptural image is that of the “circumcision of the heart.”

Jesus' call to conversion and penance, like that of the prophets before him, does not aim first at outward works, “sackcloth and ashes,” fasting and mortification, but at the conversion of the heart, interior conversion. Without this, such penances remain sterile and false; however, interior conversion urges expression in visible signs, gestures and works of penance. Interior repentance is a radical reorientation of our whole life, a return, a conversion to God with all our heart, and end of sin, a turning away from evil, with repugnance toward the evil actions we have committed. At the same time it entails the desire and resolution to change one's life, with hope in God's mercy and trust in the help of his grace.

Create in me a clean heart, O God!

4. HEAVEN HAS MANDATED THE UNITED STATES TO LEAD THE WORLD TO THE PEACE OF CHRIST

In 1980 Our Lady speaks to Sister Mildred about the United States's role in this work of renewal.

Beloved daughter, the United States is a small one among nations, yet has it not been said that “a little child shall lead them”? It is the United States that is to lead the world to peace, the peace of Christ, the peace that He brought with Him from heaven in His birth as man in the little town of Bethlehem. The Savior did not come to enter this world in a big city but a small town, again, a little one among many. Dear child, unless the United States accepts and carries out faithfully the mandate given to it by heaven to lead the world to peace, there will come upon it and all nations a great havoc of war and incredible suffering. If, however, the United States is faithful to this mandate from heaven and yet fails in the pursuit of peace because the rest of the world will not accept or co-operate then the United States will not be burdened with the punishment about to fall. (Complete Diary, pg. 38)

A few months later, February 11, 1981, Our Lady speaks:

It is evident that the Forces of Evil are enveloping the world. Their hatred, however, is now particularly focused on the United States because of the Divine Mandate given to it to lead the world to peace. (Pg. 39)

This mandate is an echo of Our Lady's words to Sister Mildred when she first identified herself as “Our Lady of America®” on the feast of the North American martyrs, September 26, 1956, at the time when she asked Sister to make her message known to her children in America that she wished it to be the country dedicated to her purity. She stated that it would be through her children in America that she would further the cause of faith and purity among peoples and nations. She gave a special warning, a kind of “tough love message” to us, her children in America, to which some of the historically sad events that have occurred in our Nation in recent years give testimony.

My beloved daughter, what I am about to tell you concerns in a particular way my children in America. Unless they do penance by mortification and self-denial and thus reform their lives, God will visit them with punishments hitherto unknown to them.

My child, there will be peace, as has been promised, but not until my children are purified and cleansed from defilement...

My dear children, either you will do as I desire and reform your lives, or God Himself will need to cleanse you in the fires of untold punishment. You must be prepared to receive His great gift of peace. (Pg. 21)

In 1981 Sister Mildred speaks of the later messages and the shortness of time allotted to us to pray and make the necessary sacrifices to bring about world peace. She reminds us God never fails those who put all their love and trust in Him and that we have nothing to fear if we do our part to fulfill God's will to save us.

Will you do as I wish at last, my children? (Pg. 21)

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