

Red Roses Encircle Our Lady of America's Immaculate Heart!



The next morning, the feast of the North American Martyrs, Mass had just been concluded and the Community thanksgiving was almost over. ...suddenly Our Lady appeared before me, enveloped in a soft glow of light. I knew with unmistakable certainty that it was she, though she did not speak immediately. What I noticed was the smile on Our Lady's beautiful countenance and the lily she held in her right hand. She wore a white veil reaching almost to the waist and a mantle and robe of pure white with not a single decoration of any kind. An oblong-shaped clasp or brooch held the ends of the mantle together at the top. It was all gold, as was the high and brilliant crown which she wore. Her hair and her eyes seemed of medium brown. Her feet were bare, but these I did not always see, as they were sometimes covered by the moving clouds on which Our Lady stood. ...Then I saw her heart

appear, encircled with red roses, the symbol of suffering as it was revealed to me, and sending forth flames of fire. With her left hand Our Lady seemed to be holding up slightly the upper part of her mantle, so that her Immaculate Heart could be seen. (Our emphasis.) (Sister Mildred (Mary Ephrem) Neuzil, The Diary, OUR LADY OF AMERICA, Page 10.)

The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary, a sure weapon to defeat Satan in the battle for the preservation and purification of our Church and for the salvation of souls. We are reminded again of Sr. Lucia of Fatima's statement that the rosary is Our Lady's special weapon against Satan in every situation, no matter how dark that situation may be.

"The Most Holy Virgin, in these last times in which we live, has given a new efficacy to the recitation of the Rosary to such an extent that there is no problem, no matter how difficult it is, whether temporal or above all spiritual, in the personal life of each one of us, of our families...that cannot be solved by the Rosary. There is no problem, I tell you, no matter how difficult it is, that we cannot resolve by the prayer of the Holy Rosary."

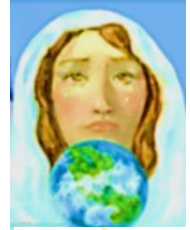
October is also Respect Life month when we focus heavily on prayer as we bravely battle the horrendous and intrinsic evil of abortion, averaging 1,000,000 babies per year murdered in the womb. (<https://firstchoiceprc.com/pro-life-movement>) Science, Natural Law and the Catholic Church teach that human life begins at conception and must be protected until natural death. In Sacred Scripture God commands us to choose life and instructs us that we shall not kill. To do so is serious sin, mortal sin. Many understand abortion as child sacrifice of the most innocent among us to Satan in mockery of the Sacrifice of the All Holy and Innocent Son of God, *seemingly* sacrificed on the cross to the powers of evil and darkness. **But Jesus rose from the dead, for God always wins in the end.**

October 19 is likewise the feast of the eight North American Martyrs, previously celebrated on September 25, the day of Our Lady of America's first appearance as Our Lady of Lourdes. It is the celebration of the martyrs' blood as the seed of Faith in America. So let us unite their blood and the blood of the millions of babies aborted throughout the world with **the Most Precious Blood of Jesus, the Most Innocent of all Victims**, made present on every altar consecrated



to God every day throughout the world. Let us plead for the Father's mercy upon our very sick and sinful world. *Most Precious Blood of Jesus, save us and save the whole world! May His Blood not be in vain for even one more soul!*

Life is in the blood. Our life is in His Blood. Blood speaks to us about suffering, martyrdom, whether red in the shedding of our own blood, or white, the martyrdom of love that willingly expiates for the sins of others. **That is why red roses around the Immaculate Heart of Our Lady of America are so important to understand, both in symbol and in reality. We have seen statues of Our Lady of America with white roses around her Heart.** That sounds reasonable as the message is about purity, but it is not true to Our Lady's appearance with **red roses encircling her heart, the symbol for suffering**, the suffering she would endure as Co-Redemptrix with Christ in God's plan of salvation for all mankind. Our Lady spoke about the necessity of suffering in our lives in order to complete the work of grace within our souls and to identify us with Jesus, our Redeemer and our God. On September 27, 1956, two days after her first appearance, Our Lady appeared holding the world in her hands as she wept over it, longing to cleanse it from its guilt.



“Behold, my small one, so tenderly loved by your Mother, behold then my Heart pierced by a cruel sword. Oh, what grief my children have caused me!” (Diary, Page 19.) **“My child, nothing is accomplished without pain. Prepare to suffer much. You see the sword in the Heart of your Mother. Suffering completed the work of divine grace in my soul. He who refuses to suffer will never abide in the Spirit of Christ, will never be formed into His image.”** (Diary, Page 23.)

The message of Our Lady of America is about redemptive love, redemptive suffering, sharing in the Paschal Mystery of Christ into which we were baptized. It means **participating** in the sufferings of Jesus by compassion and by uniting all the suffering of our own lives with His on every Eucharistic table where Jesus offers Himself to the Father for us and bids us offer ourselves, in union with Him, for the salvation of souls. We are all **called to be co-redeemers with Christ**. Our Lady asks us to help her save those who will not save themselves. This is how we do it. Dying with Christ that we may rise with Him and dwell in God's Holy Presence for all eternity.

“I am the Mother of the sacred humanity, and it is my special work as co-redemptrix of the human race to help souls reach the sanctity of the Father in eternal union by showing them how to put on Christ, to imbibe His Spirit, and thus become one with Him.”(Diary, Pg. 24.)

Jesus tells us in Sacred Scriptures that anyone who wishes to be His disciple must pick up his own cross and follow Him, to Calvary! Our Lady of America's message is about union with the Divine Indwelling Trinity through union with the passion of Jesus, a passion Holy Mary and St. Joseph, the earthly trinity, knew so well, even before Jesus' death on the cross. We must walk our own Way of the Cross, learning to live in the Will of God and to treasure every suffering that comes our way because it unites us more intimately with Jesus on the cross. He is our pledge of resurrection into glory. St. Padre Pio reiterates the lesson Our Lady of America is teaching us, that every suffering God allows us to endure is a blessing and not a curse, precisely because each one is but a splinter from the wood of Christ's cross.

Padre Pio points out that suffering is a sign of God's favor, and the Christian, instead of complaining of trials and temptations, should "follow the Divine Master up the steep slope of Calvary, loaded with our cross, and when it pleases Him to place us on the cross by confining us to a bed of sickness, let us thank him and consider ourselves lucky to be honored in this way, aware that to be on the cross with Jesus is infinitely more perfect than merely contemplating [Him] on the cross."

(C. Bernard Ruffin, Padre Pio: The True Story.)

Saint Faustina, whose feast we celebrated recently, attests to the same view of suffering, that it is blessing and grace which unite us more dearly to Christ on His cross.

"Physical weakness was for me a school of patience. Only Jesus knows how many efforts of the will I had to make to fulfill my duty. In order to purify a soul, Jesus uses whatever instruments He likes. I have experienced an increasing devotion to the Mother of God. She taught me how to love God and also how to carry out His Will. I often felt the Passion of the Lord in my body, and I rejoice in it because I knew our Lord wanted it so. Suffering is for me a great grace. It helps crystalize love. Life can be so monotonous but buried in it are many treasures. When I look at everything through the eyes of faith, no two hours are alike and the dullness and monotony disappear.

Sister Mildred described her March 11, 1958 vision of St. Joseph in regard to his suffering. His heart was lying on a cross of brown color and flames burst forth from the top of his heart. In the midst of the flames was a pure white lily.

"The cross, my little one, upon which my heart rests is the cross of the passion, which was ever present before me, causing me intense suffering. I desire souls to come to my heart that they may learn true union with the Divine Will." (Diary, Page 28.)

"My heart suffered with the Hearts of Jesus and Mary. Mine was a silent suffering, for it was my special vocation to hide and shield, as long as God willed, the Virgin Mother and Son from the malice and hatred of men. The most painful of my sorrows was that I knew beforehand of their passion, yet would not be there to console them. Their future suffering was ever present to me and became my daily cross. I became in union with my holy spouse, co-redemptor of the human race. Through compassion for the *sufferings of Jesus and Mary* I co-operated, *as no other*, in the salvation of the world." (Diary, Page 13.)

Suffering is inevitable in life because of original sin, and personal sin. From Jesus, Mary and Joseph we learn how to live in the Will of God and how to make all suffering redemptive for the salvation of souls, especially our own. Venerable Bishop Fulton J. Sheen suggested that when we come before the judgement seat of Jesus, His wounds all glorious with heavenly light, He will ask us to show Him our hands and our feet, and then He will ask: **"Where are your scars?" Will we have any to show Him?**

Please read again the Contemplative Sisters' 2009 newsletter on the priesthood of the North American Martyrs written for the 2009 Year of the Priest. Let us pray for all our priests and bishops, Our Lady's beloved sons, who make Jesus present on our altars and impart to us His infinite mercy.

<https://www.ourladyofamerica.com/whatsnew/TheNorthAmericanMartyrs.pdf>

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