

The Youth Must Bear the Torch of Our Queen!

St. Michael came to me one evening shortly after Our Lady's visit, holding an immense flaming torch. He held it towards me saying: "My little sister, you must carry this torch through the world." He came again the next night in the same manner.

The next day I was interiorly enlightened during Mass. It was made known to me that those, particularly the youth, who are willing wholeheartedly to follow Our Lady in her great battle against evil would bear the special title of "Torchbearers of the Queen." This torch, of course, is Divine Love, for it is Love alone that will conquer hate and all that hate brings with it.

[In the previous two paragraphs, Sister had stated:] ...and it is to the youth of America that she is holding out this challenge. ...It is they who are to be the leaders of this movement of renewal on the face of the earth....[In the same paragraph, Sister states] America, the United States in particular, is being given the tremendous, yet privileged, opportunity to lead all nations in a spiritual renewal never before so necessary, so important, so vital.

(Sister Mildred (Mary Ephrem) Neuzil, Diary, OUR LADY OF AMERICA®, Fostoria, Ohio, Pg. 25.)

We are all familiar with Greek mythology and the ancient Olympic games supposedly started by Hercules, the son of Zeus. Legend says that fire, symbol of the divine, was stolen from Zeus by Prometheus and given to mankind. This fire, also symbolizing the purity and perfection of form exacted of the athletes, would be kept burning throughout the games to honor the Greek gods. Around 393 AD the Roman emperor abolished the games because of their pagan influence; however, in the late 1800's the first International Olympic Committee was formed and revived the games in Athens, Greece. The flame first appeared in modern games at the Olympics in Amsterdam in 1928. The Olympic Torch relay began with the Berlin games in 1936. The flame is lit at the ancient site in Greece using a **curved mirror to light the torch from the sun**. The torch is then passed from runner to runner until it reaches the city hosting the games where it is kept lit until the end of the games.

The Olympic Torch comes to mind when reading that Our Lady of America® chose the title, "**Torchbearers of the Queen**" for those who would join in her battle against evil. The athletes of old ran in honor of the false god Zeus and his wife, Hera. We are asked to run the **race for our salvation** in the name of Jesus, Son of the one true God, and Mary, Mother of God and our Queen- Mother. If fire symbolized the divine

for pagans, fire symbolizes the divine even more so for Christians. Is not our God's love depicted as a flaming Heart leaping out to set fire to our own? Has not the **Heart of Jesus** been described as a "**flaming furnace of divine love**"? Our God is the **Eternal Flame** through Whose Son all light and life come. Our God appeared to Moses as fire in the **burning bush**, a fire that burns but does not consume. Our God goes before His people in the desert night as a **pillar of fire** to lead their way. Metals are purified in the **refining fire** and **sacrifices** are **consumed with fire** which sends the **sweet odor of incense** to heaven in praise of God. Jesus proclaims Himself the "**Light of the world**" and says He has come to set the world on fire. The Holy Spirit is sent to us in **tongues of fire!** And St. Paul describes our pilgrim journey on earth as running a race which we must be determined to win, so we must have a "**torch,**" **a fire within, a passion to burn inside us, and a fire without, a light to lead us** on to victory. That fire is Divine Love, God Himself, the all Pure and Holy One Who is Love, who **dwells both within us and without.** What symbol could be more appropriate for Our Lady to use to call us to do battle against evil, to run the race for salvation beneath her banner of Purity and with the guiding light, the torch of Christ's Truth and Love, to lead us on to victory and to the triumph of her Immaculate Heart?

Why does Our Lady focus **particularly on youth** to lead the world in this movement of renewal, and **give them especially, though not exclusively, the title "Torchbearers of the Queen"**? Quite simply, in the natural order they are the future, the next generation of leaders. The battle against evil, like any grueling competition or race, demands training, vigor, passion, idealism and time, and they have it. But the young in age are not the only ones called to lead and carry the torch. St. Michael handed Sr. Mildred the torch in 1958 when she was almost 42 years old, certainly not a youth in any chronological sense, yet he called her **my little sister**, a youthful term. In the same passage Our Lady made known to Sister Mildred that "**America, the United States in particular, is being given the tremendous, yet privileged, opportunity to lead all nations in a spiritual renewal never before so necessary, so important, so vital.**" (Diary, Pg. 25.) Later, in 1980, Our Lady spoke of this heavenly mandate to America to lead all nations in renewal and toward peace and referred to America as "**a small one among nations.**" (Diary, Pg. 38.) Clearly, it is not just to youth in the natural order that Our Lady gives her challenge to lead and to bear her torch, but to all who are young in the spiritual order as well, those with humble and childlike hearts who recognize their smallness before the throne of the Almighty. Did not Jesus Himself state: "**...Unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven**"? Mt 18:3.) One must wonder a bit delightfully if there are any adults in heaven. Are we not all **children in the Father's House**? God is eternally young as He does not age; He is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. While the young in age are the hope of the future on earth and are particularly called to spiritual leadership in Our Lady's cause, every one of us is called to be a child of God through Baptism, young in the Spirit, and likewise to bear the Torch of our Queen. **It is the**

Spirit of God Who forms, reforms and transforms us into God's beloved children, constantly *reborn like a newborn, always a child* in the mystery of God's creative, redeeming, and sanctifying grace. Hence, America, by divine mandate and favor and as a young nation, a small one, must share also in the mission of our youth to bring the world back to Faith and Purity and into the peace of Christ that is the fruit of Divine Love. Like metal in the refining fire, America must be purified before it can understand and carry out this urgent mandate from heaven to further God's kingdom on earth.

When Our Lady challenged youth to lead, she said they must be properly taught, especially about the Indwelling Trinity. So we turn again to the powerful teachings of the "Pope of the Young," John Paul II, who had the gift of the Divine Indwelling and shared it so well with the youth of America and of the world. If the 20th century has been the most evil in the history of mankind as His Holiness has stated, then the adult community has miserably failed generations of its children. While youth are the future of the Church and of the world, they must be guided by mature and childlike souls enlightened, not with human wisdom but with the very wisdom of God. Pope John Paul II, such a holy and childlike man filled with divine wisdom, addressed the youth at his October 22, 1978 Inauguration ceremonies. **"You are the future of the world, you are the hope of the Church, you are my hope."** During the Holy Year of the Redemption from 1983-1984 His Holiness had a large cross, 3.8 meters high (slightly over 12 feet), the symbol of our faith, placed near the main altar in St. Peter's Basilica, visible to all. As the year ended, the Pope closed the Holy Door and presented that cross to the youth of the world. It is now known as the "Holy Year Cross", the "Jubilee Cross", the "WYD [World Youth Day] Cross", the "Pilgrim Cross," or simply the "Youth Cross," as it was given to young people to carry around the world, so much like the "Torch" Our Lady of America® is asking them to carry around the world, too!

"My dear young people, at the conclusion of the Holy Year, I entrust to you the sign of this Jubilee Year: the Cross of Christ! Carry it throughout the world as a symbol of Christ's love for humanity, and announce to everyone that only in the death and resurrection of Christ can we find salvation and redemption". (Rome, 22nd April 1984).

At the 2000 World Youth Day in Rome, the Jubilee Year at the beginning of the third millennium dedicated to Mary as "Fairest Love," the same year that Sister Mildred (Mary Ephrem) Neuzil died (January 10, 2000), His Holiness described the gathering as "the Jubilee of the Young Church" and again directed the youth to the Cross of Jesus as their source of life and happiness and salvation.

Yet again, the young have shown themselves to be for Rome and for the Church a special gift of the Spirit of God. Sometimes when we look at the young, with the problems and weaknesses that characterize them in contemporary society, we tend to be pessimistic. The Jubilee of

Young People however changed that, telling us that young people, whatever their possible ambiguities, have a profound longing for those genuine values which find their fullness in Christ. ... For this reason, in response to their enthusiasm, I did not hesitate to ask them to make a radical choice of faith and life and present them with a stupendous task: to become "morning watchmen" (cf. *Is* 21:11-12) at the dawn of the new millennium.

In preparing for World Youth Day in Cologne, Germany in 2005, His Holiness warned the youth regarding false teachings and urged them again, as he did at **WYD 1993 in Denver, Colorado, to build a "civilization of love,"** resisting the world's preaching of instant success, fast career, sexuality without responsibility, self affirmation at the expense of respect for others. He urged them to seek the splendor of Truth in Jesus, the Holy One of God Who alone is the Truth.

"Dear young people, you know that Christianity is not an opinion nor does it consist of empty words. Christianity is Christ! It is a Person, a Living Person! To meet Jesus, to love him and make him loved: this is the Christian vocation. Mary was given to you to help you enter into a more authentic and more personal relationship with Jesus. Through her example, Mary teaches you to gaze on him with love, for He has loved us first. Through her intercession, she forms in you a disciple's heart able to listen to her Son, who reveals the face of his Father and the true dignity of the human person.

Be worshippers of the only true God, giving Him pride of place in your lives! ... Worship Christ: He is the Rock on which to build your future and a world of greater justice and solidarity. Jesus is the Prince of peace: the source of forgiveness and reconciliation, who can make brothers and sisters of all the members of the human family."

So much of Pope John Paul II's exhortation to the youth to remain steadfast in the worship of the true God applies to all of us who must transcend the limitations of physical aging by remaining young in heart and mind and soul through grace. Our Lord spoke these words in locution to Sister Mildred in 1954.

"My little white dove, if the world is dying, it is because it will not let me give it life. I am the resurrection and the life, and unless souls seek their life in Me, they will find only death and destruction. ...

God is light, man is darkness, and unless he comes into the light, he will be forever darkness. ... My little white dove, do you know what I find most lacking in the world today? It is FAITH. There are so few souls that believe in Me and My love. They profess their belief and their love, but they do not live this belief. Their hearts are cold, for without faith there can be no love.

My daughter, I am not loved in the homes of men. And because I am not loved, the Divine Trinity refuses to dwell therein. Children are not taught to love Me, because those who have charge over them have no time or patience to do so. My heart grieves over My children in the world. Their hearts are being drawn farther and farther away from Me. They will not even listen to My Mother, because they have never been taught to listen. (Diary, Pgs. 4-5.)

Blessed are the homes that honor My Name and the Name of My Father. Blessed are the homes where I am loved, for there the Holy Trinity dwells. Blessed are the parents and children who have made a home for God in their hearts.” (Diary, Pg. 6.)

On June 29, 1999, feast of the martyrs Peter and Paul, Pope John Paul II reminded the youth of the cross he had previously given them to carry around the world.

“Young people of every continent do not be afraid to be the saints of the new millennium! Be contemplative, love prayer; be coherent with your faith and generous in the service of your brothers and sisters, be active members of the Church and builders of peace. To succeed in this demanding project of life, continue to listen to His Word, draw strength from the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist and Penance. The Lord wants you to be intrepid apostles of his Gospel and builders of a new humanity. In fact, how could you say you believe in God made man without taking a firm position against all that destroys the human person and the family? If you believe that Christ has revealed the Father’s love for every person, you cannot fail to strive to contribute to the building of a new world, founded on the power of love and forgiveness, on the struggle against injustice and all physical, moral and spiritual distress, on the orientation of politics, economy, culture and technology to the service of man and his integral development.”

Having addressed the **particular challenge** Our Lady of America® has given to **the youth of America** and which Mary’s Pope has laid upon the shoulders of **the world’s youth**, we must also speak to **those young in the Spirit**, to that “spiritual childhood” so necessary for adults if they, too, are to be “Torchbearers of the Queen.” Sister Mildred is a perfect example. Our Lord referred to her as His “little white dove, a bird that symbolizes purity and humility, the sacrifice of the “*anawim*,” the little ones of God. Our Lady called her “my child,” “my beloved daughter,” “child of my Pure Heart.” **St. Joseph addressed her as a “small one” when he revealed to her the secret of the interior life.** Spiritual childhood is the necessary disposition for the great gift of the Indwelling Trinity to take root in the depths of one’s soul. It is that Indwelling Presence which saturates us with God’s eternal youth and strength, enabling us to bear the Torch of our Queen in her fierce battle against evil. In 1995 Our Lady told Sister Mildred that the youth would spread The Divine Indwelling all over the world and it would defeat Lucifer. If we are reborn in the Spirit, we are Mary’s children, offspring of the new Eve spoken of in Genesis when the triumph of Mary’s Immaculate Heart was first foretold

with God's condemnation of the ancient serpent. **"I will put enmities between thee and the woman, and thy seed and her seed; she shall crush thy head, and thou shalt lie in wait for her heal."** (Gen 3:15, Douay-Rheims Bible.) Those young in age and those young in the Spirit are Mary's instruments in her final victory over Satan that will end his power over us and over all the world. Our weapon in this battle is the **"Secret of Secrets,"** the gift of the Divine Indwelling which St. Joseph revealed to Sister Mildred. We must pray to have it revealed to us, too.

"Kneel down, my daughter, for what you will hear and what you will write will bring countless souls to a new way of life. Through you, small one, the Trinity desires to make known to souls Its desire to be adored, honored, and loved within the kingdom, the interior kingdom of their hearts." (Diary, Pg. 27.) [He reveals to her the "Secret of Secrets."]

"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 working of the Divine Secret must strive to cultivate in *silence and humility* this love for the Eternal Being within them. We [Holy Family] 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."

(Sr. Mildred (Mary Ephrem) Neuzil, letter to spiritual director, Fr. Paul F. Leibold, April 12, 1958.)

On the feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, August 22, 1957, Our Lady spoke to Sister Mildred about the ***sword of fire, the flaming torch of God's Love that is at the heart of this secret of the interior life.***

I wish to gather about me, my tender child, soldier and valiant bearer of the torch, an army of brave lovers, who as my torchbearers will enkindle the fire of Divine Love in the souls of men. Only those who are strong in love can become my soldiers to bear aloft, not the sword of destruction, but the sword of fire, the flaming torch of Divine Charity.
(Diary, Pg. 19.)

In 1980 Our Lady warned America that if it does not accept and carry out faithfully its mandate from heaven to lead the world to renewal and peace, it will experience a havoc of war and incredible suffering that would come upon it and all

nations, but **if America is faithful, it will not be burdened with this suffering.** (Diary, Pg. 38.) It was also in 1980 that Our Lady told Sister Mildred that **“you are not being accepted because you are a small one.”** (Diary, Pg. 36.) Our Lady lamented that **Her message** has not been heeded nor has anyone championed **the cause of renewal within.**

“My message has not been heeded nor have I yet found one to further the cause of renewal within. The presence of the Trinity within every human being is the focal point, the basis of interior holiness. From this will spring a deep life of prayer and a love for penance as the discipline needed to convert all peoples to a serious preparation for the coming of my Son and His Kingdom”....[To Sister Mildred] **“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. This is what my Son came to teach and bring and it was for this He lived and died. 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.”**

(Diary, Pg. 37)

It is time to fulfill that mandate from heaven! Let us *mirror the Son* to set *our hearts on fire*, not to carry a torch but to be a torch for our Queen!

"If you are what you should be, you will set the whole world ablaze!"

(Words of St. Catherine of Siena.)

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