

Part VI – Promotion of the Devotion Was Never Dead

1988: A statue of Our Lady of America is commissioned for the National Rosary Congresses to be held at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

Fr. Lionel Pare and Mr. John Downs of Apostolatus Uniti in Catonsville, Maryland commissioned a statue of Our Lady of America to be made for the National Rosary Congresses. Having been inspired by the 1982 article in *Fatima Findings*, authored by Fr. John Ryan, founder of the Reparation Society in Baltimore, Maryland, they visited Sister Mildred Mary Neuzil and Sister Joseph Therese in Fostoria, Ohio, to learn more



about Our Lady of America. Fr. Lionel Pare was the former director of Apostolatus Uniti, the National Rosary Congress, and was currently the spiritual director of Ermitage de Berniste in Malmedy, Belgium. The statue was sculpted by Robert Kieckhefer of Silver Springs, Maryland. **It is shown here being processed at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. at the 1991 Rosary Congress, the first procession of a statue of Our Lady of America in our Patronal Church.**

1992: A California woman sculpts a 4-foot statue of Our Lady of America and flames a continuous promotion effort.

Mrs. Donna Mae Halsted of Meadow Vista, CA, sculpted a 300 lb. 4-foot statue of Our Lady of America, a 19-inch statue and a painting of Our Lady of America according to the specifications given her by Sister Mildred Neuzil, which were then approved by Sister Mildred herself. The statue was created for the youth of northern California to be carried in World Youth Day 1993 in Denver, Colorado, and in other devotional processions and ceremonies throughout the country. In the early 1990s, committees to promote the devotion to Our Lady of America were set up in the West, the New England area, the East, the Midwest and the South to promote the devotion slowly and deeply, according to Archbishop Leibold's prior direction.

In addition to the people already noted, many other religious and lay

people have assisted in this continuous promotion of Our Lady's cause over the years. Some of these devoted individuals are Fr. Walter Abbott, S.J. editor of the Vatican II documents; Fr. William Carroll, a Mariologist from Boston; Fr. Jack Meade; Fr. Luke Zimmer; Fr. Hebert, S.M.; Fr. Kazimir Chwalek; Fr. Stanley Smolenski of St. Joseph's Place; Michael Brown of www.spiritdaily.com; both Sr. Benita and Sr. Mary Zita of the Marist Sisters; Marie Hunt; Helen and Carl Fahrner, Theresa St. Germaine; Ellen and Bob Davis; John Downs; Darlene Clafin; Bill and Cecile Degan of Georgia; Marie and Bernard Hunt; Thomas Fahey and Hugh Owens of the John Paul II Institute in Jacksonville, FL; Ann Zamorski of New Jersey; Mr. Michelle Pawlowski, President of the National Polish American Congress; Maureen Flynn of *Signs and Wonders* magazine; Mother Angelica and EWTN; Fr. John Ryan and Ellis Maria Taylor of the Reparation Society in Baltimore, MD; Marty Rotella of Life Foundation in New Jersey; Theresa Wukusick of Ohio; Elaine (Bratrovsky) Chase, niece of Sister Mildred Neuzil, from Colorado; Alma Aucoin of Canada; Trudy Selig of Ohio; the Pilgrims of St. Michael based in Canada, and so many more, too numerous to name. We apologize for those outstanding promoters who may not be named here and ask double blessings on them from heaven. After this testimony, one can hardly say this devotion was ever "dead" and would go nowhere under the quiet and unostentatious efforts of the Contemplative Sisters.

1993: California youth process the statue of Our Lady of America in World Youth Day in Denver, CO.

The statue created in the previous year by Donna Halsted is processed in Denver's World Youth Day at the Papal Mass in Cherry Creek Park on August 15, 1993, and in many other Pro-Life and Eucharistic and Rosary Congresses in the California area.

- **July 1993: First Wednesday Mass with Fr. Siro Dal Degan and talks on Our Lady of America at St. Philomene's Church, Sacramento, CA.**
- **September 1993: First Wednesday Mass in honor of St. Joseph at St. Mary's Church, Sacramento, CA.**



Video snippet of statue in procession at World Youth Day 1993

This statue made by Mrs. Halsted was carried in World Youth days and other processions both within and beyond the US.

- **1993 Sacred Heart Cenacle, Stockton, CA: Marian and Youth Conference** where youth gave their World Youth Day testimonies on Our Lady of America and place paper roses at the feet of her statue at the close of Mass.



- **October 1993: Marian Conference in Minnesota** to which promoters were invited after a youth gave the Diary he received at World Youth Day to his Third Order Carmelite mother.
- **October 1993: Northwest Eucharistic Marian Conference, Lacey, Washington,** with youth Torchbearers of the Queen from Colfax, CA.
- **December 5, 1993: Talks on Our Lady of America, Pleasanton, CA.**
- **December 7, 1993: Our Lady of America statue is taken to the Magnificat Catholic Women's Luncheon in Aptos, CA.**
- **1993 The Petition Drive to place Our Lady of America's statue in the National Shrine as a safeguard for our country begins.**

October 1994: Our Lady's smaller statue goes on the 101 Foundation's Peace Flight to Europe and Asia.

Fr. Luke Zimmer and Darlene Claflin took the small pilgrim statue and a framed image of Our Lady of America to Asia and Europe on the 101 Peace Flight. It was the only statue to come off the plane in China where devotionals and booklets were given out. Pictures and booklets were presented in each host country where the pilgrims visited: the Philippines, Russia, the Holy Land, Belgium, Fatima and elsewhere.



101 Foundation Peace Flight, Fatima, Portugal October 13

January 1, 1994: Sister Mildred Neuzil wills all her earthly possessions, copyrights, and trademarks for the devotion to Our Lady of America to Sister Joseph Therese (Patricia Ann) Fuller.

Along with willing her possessions to Sister Joseph Therese, Sister Mildred

personally charged her with the protection of the messages, guarding them against additions, deletions, changes and any form of contamination. Sister Joseph Therese took that charge very seriously.

1994: Cause of Our Lady of America sent to the St. Joseph's Foundation and to Pope John Paul II in Rome.

Fr. Lionel Pare was the first person to bring the cause of Our Lady of America and Sister Mildred to the St. Joseph's Foundation in San Antonio, TX. Fr. Luke Zimmer and Audrey Frank of California also prepared material on Our Lady of America on January 10, 1994, which was delivered by Fr. Zimmer to Bishop Paul Hnilica, S.J., to be given to Pope John Paul II. *The prayers to Our Lady of America and to the Blessed Trinity were translated into Polish for His Holiness.* (copies available)

January 1994: The Icon of Our Lady of America.

The Icon of Our Lady of America was shown being blessed and installed in the Cathedral of the Annunciation in the issue of SOPHIA, the Melkite Journal of the Eparchy of Newton, MA.

January 5, 1994:

Talks on Our Lady of America and Pro-Life issues are presented at the Poor Clares' St. Joseph Monastery.

1994 onward: Sister Mildred's cross takes on a new form.

Sister Mildred led a life of hidden sufferings which she accepted with love and great patience. Given *a haven of rest, but not from suffering* as Our Lady said, she endured a broken hip in January 1994, which compounded her physical adversities. With crippling arthritis, a ruptured appendix and especially severe asthma, Sister's distresses were, at times, life threatening. Despite adversity, Sister worked tirelessly for Our Lady of America. With each step closer, and usually on the eve of a victory reported for Our Lady of America, Sister Mildred would suffer intense physical pains and many times battled spiritual attacks designed to discourage her from praying.

For example, just before World Youth Day 1993, one night she suffered from terrible abdominal pain and the "old Boy"(her name for Satan) suddenly appeared as his horrible real self, trying to entice her to "just say that you made it all up and I promise you will not suffer any more pain." She stated, if God required her life or suffering, so be it." She reported on the "old Boy's" physical assaults and hateful *glares*. After World Youth Day her physical pain intensified with each victory; she was especially inflicted with the terrible crippling pain of

osteoarthritis, complicated by rheumatoid arthritis. Medical treatments to alleviate pain were negligible or made her suffering worse with the complications of side effects. She would hide her moans when people were near her. Certain points on her body radiated such excruciating pain when touched by those who cared for her that it was sometimes quietly wondered if she had the hidden stigmata. Perhaps that is what Jesus meant when He said to her, “Thou thyself will be the sign I give to the world.”

Her deteriorating condition pained all who saw her gnarled hands and body contorted into a near 45-degree angle before she died. Especially grieved by the sight of Sister Mildred’s enduring pain was Sister Joseph Therese, her longtime contemplative companion and caregiver during those final years of suffering. The two were bonded by love and endured all for love of Jesus. They even shared August 2nd birthdays – the feast of Our Lady, Queen of the Angels! Sister Mildred was often seen surrounded by angels and loved to send people from her presence with “May the angels go with you!”

June 19-26, 1994: National Rosary Congress and Year of the Family at the National Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

Fr. Lionel Pare and the Fatima Blue Army invited the Torchbearers of the Queen Youth, St. Dominic’s, California, to a Rosary procession of the 1993 World Youth Day 300-pound statue of Our Lady of America around the Basilica. It was then placed at the altar and remained there throughout the week-long ceremony. **This is Our Lady of America’s SECOND PROCESSION at the National Shrine. (on video)**

1994: The devotion is promoted all around the country as a statue travels to these events.

- **January – February 1994: Pilgrim statue visits/talks are hosted in the New England area by Fr. Stanley Smolenski at St. Martha’s, Enfield, CT, and by New England Third Order Marist Laity, along with Fr. Jack Meade and Sisters Benita and Zita of the Marist Sisters.**
- **Visits and talks are hosted in Maryland and Washington, D.C. area by Mr. Michelle Pawlowski, President of National Polish American Congress.**
- **Statue visits and talks by Audrey Frank included Gaithersburg, MD; Mt. St. Mary’s, Emmitsburg, MD, welcomed by Msgr. Hugh Phillips, Potomac, MD; Rosary Cenacle, GOSPA prayer meeting Holy Hour and blessing by Fr. Kazimer Chwalek held at the Convent Chapel of the Oblates of the Blessed Sacrament in Washington, D.C.**

(where a young, cloistered sister said it was through Our Lady of America and Sister Mildred that she found her vocation, and that she prays daily for the fulfillment of Our Lady of America's desires).

- **Presentation to St. Mary's youth group, Rockville, Maryland.**
- **Six weeks Pilgrimage with Our Lady of America small World Youth Day statue sponsored by 3rd Order Marist and Legion of Mary in Auburndale, MA.**
- **Fr. William Carroll, Boston Mariologist, met Sister Mildred in late 1980's; he daily prays the Indwelling of the Most Holy Trinity Prayer which, he says, is "the most perfect prayer to the Holy Trinity".**
- **Joseph's Hall, 3rd Order Marist Mass, Benediction, Rosary.**
- **Marist Convent, Newtown, MA - Mass & Rosary with Sisters Zita and Benita.**
- **Little Audrey Santo Mass and Rosary, January 21, 1994, Feast of St. Agnes.**
- **Watertown, MA - Marian Rosary Group, Framingham, MA.**
- **Marian prayer group - Enfield, CT.**
- **St. Hedwig's Church, Pastor Fr. Brunislaw Wielgus, Elizabeth, New Jersey. Fr. Christopher Bugno and Ann Zamorski begin an Our Lady of America prayer group on Saturday mornings.**
- **Our Lady of America prayer was translated into Polish for a letter sent to Pope John Paul II. (copies available)**
- **March 25,1994 - Procession, crowning and consecration at St. Dominic's, Colfax, CA.**
- **May 1994 - Small statue and Our Lady of America picture in Youth Rosary procession at Sacramento Diocese's annual Mary's Hour, St. Rose Church.**
- **August 1994 - Youth for Life NATIONAL YOUTH DAY REUNION CONFERENCE: American and Canadian Youth reunite after World Youth Day for a Marian Conference in Prayer and Adoration. Torchbearers of the Queen process the 300-pound statue of Our Lady of America and the Youth for Life image of Our Lady of**

Guadalupe during the Pro-Life 6-mile Rosary and Divine Mercy walk to a Denver abortion clinic.

- **October 1994 - The Diocese of Fresno, California's Marian Conference posts a Newsletter article on Our Lady of America.**

1995: Promotion of the devotion continues.

- **Torchbearers of the Queen youth group from Colfax, CA carry the small pilgrim statue of Our Lady of America and devotionals to World Youth Day in the Philippines.**
- **June 1995 - Holy Innocents Pro-Life Mass, Rosary and talk.**
- **St. Philomene's Church, Sacramento, CA - Youth Procession, rosary, Mass, and Pro-Life and Our Lady of America talk.**
- **July 1995 - Fr. Orbis, Divine Word Missionary, Retreat and Mass at St. Charles Borromeo Church, Sacramento, CA, with the large pilgrim statue present. The youth gather signatures on petitions.**
- **October 13, 1995 - Holy Innocents, Pro-Life Rosary and Mass celebrated by Most Rev. William K. Weigand .**
- **St. Philomene's Church - Youth process 300-pound Statue of Our Lady of America, followed by Rosary, Mass and Pro-Life talk.**
- **November 27, 1995 - Mary's Peace Mass, St. Charles Borromeo, Sacramento, CA. Northern California youth groups process Our Lady of America and lead the Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet, followed by Mass. Music by St. Rose's Life Teen Music Group, Roseville, California**

1996: Promotion of the devotion spreads still more.

- **Sacred Heart Cenacle Rosary at the Sacramento Croatian Center. Large Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of America brought by CA Torchbearers of the Queen.**
- **August 1996 - Massachusetts Petition drives and Our Lady of America talks sponsored by the New England Our Lady of America group, followed by Life Foundation speakers on Our Lady of Guadalupe and Divine Mercy.**
- **Procession of small Pilgrim statue at Mass, Worcester, MA and Third Order Marist Laity in Auburndale, MA.**

1995 : World Youth Day in the Philippines.

Youth “Torchbearers of the Queen” travel with the small pilgrim statue of Our Lady of America to World Youth Day in Manila, the Philippines, joining with Youth from many nations around the world to honor Our Lady.

1997: Promotion of the devotion continued with undying dedication.

- Cecile and Bill Degan and a Bishop from Georgia worked with the Iconography Committee at the National Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C. to place Our Lady of America’s statue in the Shrine. Our Lady of America groups of laity from the North, the East, the West and the Southern parts of America sent letters to Msgr. Michael J. Bransfield and the Icon Committee with video, the cassette of the Our Lady of America song, and history on the movement since the first World Youth Day in 1993.
- November 1997- Most Rev. William K. Weigand gave a talk on Our Lady of America at the Sacramento Diocese Pro-Life Meeting.
- An August meeting was held at the Massachusetts Our Lady of America group at Marist Convent, arranged by Sr. Benita and Sr. Zita. In attendance were Fr. Jack Meade, Fr. William Carroll, Fr. Walter Abbott and Audrey Frank from the California Torchbearers of the Queen Group to discuss petitions and ways to place Our Lady’s statue in the National Shrine. Fr. Abbott, S.J. presented the “Inside the Vatican” editorial in which Pope John Paul II stated that he would like to visit a US Marian shrine one more time before he dies. Recommended was a formal study of the messages of Our Lady of America and the unique graces bestowed upon St. Joseph.
- 1997- The Youth 2000 Eucharistic 3-Day Retreat was held at St. Rose Church, Roseville, CA at which Youth crowned the statue of Our Lady.

1997: World Youth Day in Paris, France.

1998: Promotion of Our Lady’s cause is relentless.

- Oakland, CA Holiness Conference. St. Joseph Communications, Mother Angelica, Our Lady of America and World Youth Day talks (video) were presented to youth of all ages at a 3-day Youth

Conference. The focus was on St. Joseph and 1st Wednesday devotion. The large Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of America was displayed throughout the Conference.

- Sister Mary Benita, SMSM, traveled home to New Orleans to personally visit retired Archbishop Philip Hannan and the Archbishop of New Orleans concerning the importance of Our Lady of America and the message of sanctification from within. Sister had written her Provincial about possibly relocating Marists from Massachusetts to help at the Our Lady of America Center. Sister begged all from her deathbed to help Our Lady of America's cause. She died in 2001. At her wake tearful mourners told of how she could only speak of Our Lady of America until her last breath. She told Kenneth Ryan, Head Knight of Knights of Columbus for Marian Affairs (CN) to aid Our Lady of America in all ways.
- September 1998 - Sacramento Marian Conference. Memorial Auditorium. Torchbearers of the Queen bring the large Statue of Our Lady of America. Bishop Richard Garcia is the celebrant.
- September 1998 - Fresno Marian Conference, Radisson Hotel. Torchbearers bring the large Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of America.

July 1998: Sr. Mildred focuses on the importance of the Divine Indwelling of the Most Holy Trinity in our souls, the central doctrine of our Faith.

Sr. Mildred Neuzil relates that all the Church approved apparitions of Mary converge in this one to Our Lady of America because of its central focus on the awesome mystery and doctrine of the Divine Indwelling of the Most Holy Trinity in our souls, sanctifying grace, the source of all holiness, which must come from within! **The Catechism of the Catholic Church calls the mystery of the Trinity the central doctrine of the Catholic Faith.**

In August of 1998 Sister Joseph Therese found Sister Mildred in her room, all aglow with a most radiant light emanating from her smiling face. When she asked Sister, "What is it? What's going on?" Sister answered delightedly, "There are angels everywhere, and light everywhere. Every bit of space is occupied with angels!"

October 1999: St. Rose Church, Roseville, CA Youth Eucharistic 3-day Retreat - Our Lady of America is crowned by the youth.

Our Lady is Crowned at the National Shrine - Sister Mildred Goes Home to God

January 1, 2000: Our Lady is crowned at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on the First Saturday of the New Millennium.

Members of the Reparation Society from Baltimore, MD and Fr. Kazimir Chwalek celebrate Mass in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel of the Basilica on the first day of the New Millennium, which is the First Saturday of the month, and place a crown of white roses on a statue of Mary, proclaiming: **“We crown you Our Lady of America, Queen of Americans!” One of the members of the Society immediately called Sister Mildred to tell her what they had done; she was overjoyed to hear it.**

January 10, 2000: The death of Sr. Mildred Mary Neuzil, the ‘Little Secretary of Jesus’ Heart,” the “Little White Dove.”

On January 10, 2000, the first year of the New Millennium, this humble, holy soul, Sister Mildred Mary Neuzil, at age 83, was set free from the cross she had so willingly embraced for the cause of Our Lady of America and for the eternal salvation of souls. She was set free to receive the eternal glory of full communion with the Most Holy and Triune God that had dwelt so intimately within her while on earth. Her funeral Mass was celebrated at the Basilica of Our Lady of Consolation in Carey, OH by nephew Fr. Gregory Neuzil from Tennessee. Friends from around the country, including niece Elaine Bratrovsky of Colorado, traveled to Carey that snowy winter day to bid her farewell, knowing they, too, had lived with and known another saint. Fifty white roses were brought for Sister Mildred by Ellis Maria Taylor of the Reparation Society in Baltimore, MD. Eulogies were delivered by friends from Ohio, New Jersey and California. The song to Our Lady of America, written by Sister Mildred and put to music by Richard Paul Rencher, was sung by Marty Rotella of the Divine Mercy and Life Foundation in New Jersey. Sister’s body, laid to rest in a handmade wood casket with Our Lady of America’s picture encased in the lid, was placed in a vault at the St. Wendelin Cemetery, Fostoria, OH, near the two places where she spent the last eighteen and a half years of her life, the places Our Lady had said would be her “haven of rest, but not from suffering.”



*Sister Mildred Mary Neuzil
2 Aug 1916 - 10 Jan 2000*

Sister Mildred Mary Neuzil committed the completion of her mission and the protection of the purity of the messages of Our Lady of America to her remaining sister in the Lord, Sister Joseph Therese (Patricia Ann) Fuller and trusted her to guard it against all contamination with her very life. Our Lord says, “unless you become as little children, you shall not enter the kingdom.” The similarity to the attempt to call Bernadette of Lourdes feeble-minded because she was simple and not highly educated is striking here. We are constantly reminded by those chosen in apparitions, as throughout Scripture, that God chooses those the world would not choose for His work, precisely because they are simple and humble, and to show that it is, most importantly, His work and His choice.

The Message is Placed in the Hands of the Bishops While Its Promotion Continues.

April/May 2000: The Message is put in the hands of America’s Cardinals and Bishops and Pope John Paul II.

Since Our Lady herself asked that her request to be honored in *her own Shrine*, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., be placed in the hands of her beloved sons, our bishops, nearly 300 packets of information on Our Lady of America were sent to Cardinals, Bishops and Auxiliary Bishops in the United States. This was done in the year of Sister Mildred’s death. Only ten acknowledged the requested receipt. Information was both mailed to and taken to Rome by New Jersey pilgrims and hand delivered to the Vatican for Pope John Paul II by a priest residing in Rome. Information had been sent to the Board of Trustees and the Iconography Committee at the National Basilica of the Immaculate Conception where Our Lady has asked to be honored under the title of “Our Lady of America, the Immaculate Virgin,” but, as of 2008, (nor still in 2023) has Our Lady’s request been fulfilled. The Board and the Committee at the National Shrine cannot act until a bishop champions Our Lady of America’s cause with the Shrine Board. **It is now over 67 years since Our Lady requested that we honor her there, after which she would grant unprecedented grace to us in America, especially *miracles of the soul, miracles greater than those granted at Lourdes and Fatima.*** Who can doubt today how badly we need miracles of the soul?

May 2000: Michael Brown features many articles about Our Lady of America and Sister Mildred on his web site, Spirit

Daily.

When Our Lady's messages were covered on Michael Brown's web site, www.spiritdaily.com, calls came into the Our Lady of America Center in Fostoria, OH from all parts of the country and the world. A petition drive was started and 10,000+ signatures had been gathered requesting that our bishops place Our Lady's statue in the National Shrine. Where have those petitions gone?

2000: World Youth Day in Rome

California "Torchbearers of the Queen" go to Rome with the small pilgrim statue of Our Lady of America and spread the devotionals while there.

September 26, 2000: The plaque of Our Lady of America taken to the National Shrine by a Pro-Life group from New Riegel, OH is found and returned to Ohio.

One of the plaques of Our Lady of America, commissioned by the late Archbishop Paul F. Leibold, was processed by a St. Boniface Pro-Life group in the Pro-Life Mass at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. some years past and was then presented to the Shrine. It had hung on a wall of the lower Church for some time but got lost after renovations. It was found by the shrine archivist in their archives and returned to a lady from New Jersey who entrusted it to Sister Joseph Therese at the Our Lady of America Center in Fostoria, Ohio.

2000 – 2001: A Newsletter for Our Lady of America is begun.

Newsletters Volume I and II outlining the information and messages of Our Lady of America were mailed to bishops and laity around the country. They were halted when the scandal involving our priests broke out in the Church in 2002, calling for a retreat into prayer for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Summer 2001: Our Lady of America is featured on the cover and in a special edition of *Signs and Wonders* magazine.

Under last minute inspiration, Maureen Flynn, editor, changed plans for the Summer 2001 edition of the *Signs and Wonders* magazine and decided to feature Our Lady of America. The cover is done in red, white, and blue and pictures Our Lady of America centered with the images of the National Capital, the seat of our American government, and

the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, seat of governance for the American Church. Lengthy articles explain the message. Ironically, and providentially, this edition was at the printers when the 9/11 tragedy hit. Our Lady of America has been warning her children in America of chastisements hitherto unknown in America if we do not embrace the necessary reform of life for which she pleads.

October 2 – December 22, 2001: The large pilgrim statue of Our Lady of America is taken on a 3-month tour around the country, stopping at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. for the Week of Prayer to end abortion, the third time a statue of Our Lady of America is processed at the Basilica.



*Statue at National Shrine in D.C.
for Week of Prayer 2001*

The 4-foot statue of Our Lady of America was taken on a 3-month tour throughout America by California resident Audrey Frank and her children. It was brought to our Patronal Church for the Day of Prayer and Fasting to end abortion just a month after 9/11. Michael Brown spoke on Our Lady of America at this event and materials and petitions were made available to the public. This is the statue that has been carried in several World Youth Days since 1993 and many other Conferences and events. It was featured on the cover of the Richmond diocesan newspaper after the World Youth Day in Canada. Its travels on this tour around America included the following:

- Saint Paul's Church, Sandwich, IL.
- National Week of Prayer and Fasting at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C.
- Ground Zero - following 9/11/2001.
- Marist Sisters' Convent, Newton, Massachusetts. Mass celebrated by Fr. Walter Abbott, S.J., Espousal Retreat Center, Waltham, MA.
- Fr. Tom Di Lorenzo - Charismatic Mass and a Radio Interview, St. Mary's Church Center, Piscataway, Maryland.
- St. John Bosco Teleconference, Woodstock, Virginia.
- The pilgrim statue was taken to the John Paul II Conference of Christian Spirituality in Jacksonville, Florida.

- At Thanksgiving time, Mother Angelica brought Our Lady of America's statue into her private cloister chapel and Collin Donovan, EWTN Theologian, introduced Our Lady of America to the EWTN board.
- Archbishop Patrick Flores granted permission to Anna Jimenez to have the statue of Our Lady of America brought to St. Therese, the Little Flower Mission Church in San Antonio, Texas. It was then taken to St. Dominic's Church in San Antonio for a living rosary celebration, followed by a fiesta.
- The statue was invited to a Marian Conference by Mimi Kelly of the Mir Prayer Group in Louisiana.
- The Marian Helpers Radio Program featured a discussion on Our Lady of America and Sr. Mildred on their program.
- Archbishop Phillip Hannan's Focus Television did a 60 Minute special on Sister Mildred Neuzil's life and the messages of Our Lady of America.

2002: Lay theologian Hugh Owens helps promote the devotion.

Hugh Owens, a lay theologian associated with the John Paul II Institute in Jacksonville, Florida, began writing and speaking to promote the devotion to Our Lady of America.

2002: World Youth Day in Toronto, Canada

Youth from California, Maryland and other areas of the country carry the 300-pound Pilgrim statue of Our Lady of America in the World Youth Day in Canada. The Richmond diocesan newspaper carried a picture of these young people processing Our Lady on the cover of their paper.

2003: A request for a statue from the Philippines.

Fr. Santiago from a poor parish in the Philippines requested a statue for his parish. Donors in New Jersey covered the cost and shipped it to him. Lay people carried the message to Mexico. Requests for material come from Africa, elsewhere in the Philippines, England, Australia and other places around the world.

The Catholic Virginian

Serving the People of the Diocese of Richmond August 5, 2002



Statue carried in WYD in Canada

January 2004: The Pilgrims of St. Michael distribute 34,000 copies of their article on Our Lady of America at the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C.



The Pilgrims of St. Michael, a lay group of evangelists based in Canada, had published an article on Our Lady of America in a 2003 edition of *The Michael Journal* which goes throughout the US, Canada, and other world locations where they minister. In January of this year the Pilgrims distributed over 34,000 copies of that featured article on Our Lady of America from their newsletter to participants

at the 2004 March for Life in Washington, D.C. The newsletters are being spread across the nation by other lay people as well. Framed images of Our Lady of America were carried by New Jersey pilgrims at this March for Life as well.

October 2004: Pilgrims from various towns of the Trenton diocese carry a small statue of Our Lady of America to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. for a day of prayer for our military.

Mrs. Jean Swenson of Pt. Pleasant, NJ, a devoted child of Mary, has conducted pilgrimages to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception each October for the past 29 years in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe and Our Lady of Fatima. This particular pilgrimage added a special tribute to Our Lady of America and prayers to place our military men and women under her protection. Our Lady of America's small statue and framed image were placed near the Crypt altar during the liturgy while pilgrims prayed for America and for our military men and women.

August 2004: A new church in Tennessee honors Our Lady of America with a beautiful stained-glass window.



This beautiful stained-glass window with the image of Our Lady of America that had been approved by Sister Mildred Neuzil in 1993 is placed in the new St. Mary's Church built in Savannah, Tennessee by

Mons. Thomas Kirk. This Church and its people are placed under the protection of Our Lady of America.

January 2005: Our Lady of America is again promoted by the Pilgrims of St. Michael at the March for Life in Washington, D.C.

The Pilgrims of St. Michael again distribute over 30,000 copies of the newsletter with the message of Our Lady of America for her children in America, and beyond, at the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. **Sister Mildred believed most strongly that it is the sin of abortion that is calling down God's chastisements upon America and the world.**

2005: World Youth Day in Cologne, Germany.

2005: Our Lady's statue is processed in Wyoming.

In February, Bishop David Ricken of Cheyenne, Wyoming, processed the "Latrobe archival statue" of Our Lady of America, paid for with Sister Monica Schrott's inheritance, around his cathedral and held special services to honor the Patroness of America. This was done in anticipation of Our Lady's own request to be carried in solemn procession and then enthroned in a place of honor in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

April 27, 2005: Sister Monica Schrott, OCD, dies.

Sister Monica Schrott, OCD, a long-time friend of Sister Mildred Neuzil's and an ardent advocate for the cause of the statue of Our Lady of America in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. dies at Carmel of the Assumption in Latrobe, PA. Surely, Sister Mildred and Our Lady have welcomed her home! The statue she so vigorously promoted was a joint effort with Sister Mildred, Archbishop Leibold and the Bishop of Connare, PA.

The Sisters of the Carmel of the Assumption are nuns in perpetual solemn vows. Sister Monica, however, as the Extern Sister who handled external affairs, referred to as the "Guardian of the Cloister," was a religious sister with perpetual simple vows and, therefore, could own her inheritance but would need permission of the Prioress to use it. She used her inheritance to pay for the statue she had commissioned of Our Lady of America, for Sister Mildred Neuzil, the statue often referred to as "the Latrobe statue."

Like all things that truly belonged to Sister Mildred, this statue was willed to Sister Joseph Therese, the sole remaining contemplative sister charged by the visionary to guard the purity of the messages. It was hand delivered to Sister Joseph Therese at the Our Lady of America Center in Fostoria,

Ohio at the request of the Prioress of the Carmelite Monastery at Latrobe, with all due respect for Sister's ownership. Sister Mildred and Sister Joseph Therese were no longer sisters in the canonical sense of their prior papal congregation. A canonical organization requires a minimum of three members. When Sister Florecita died, there were only Sister Mildred and Sister Joseph Therese left. According to a document from a canon lawyer in Rome, Alan Kershaw, when their cloister ceased to exist with this decrease in numbers, the two remaining sisters became members of the lay faithful living in a religious association. Another letter from Rome states, once they had separated, they would be free to make private vows. Father Edmund Morman, their spiritual director at the time of the separation of the cloister from the active order, had the two sisters make private vows before the Blessed Sacrament and urged them to continue to live their contemplative life. Such religious associations are free to refer to themselves as sisters, though not in a canonical sense, as they are bound together in a common religious purpose.

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