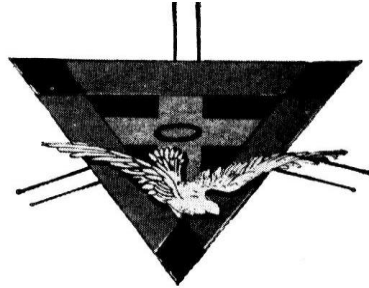


Pentecost, A Baptism of Fire

The Searing Fire of God's Truth



(Design drawn by Sr. Mildred (Mary Ephrem) Neuzil)

The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. (1Tim 4:1)

But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them--bringing swift destruction on themselves. (2Peter 2:1)

We see similar references to false teachers in the message of Our Lady of America®. The early messages focus on the call to reform of life and sanctification from within through imitation of the simple virtues of the Holy Family, God's trinity on earth, and through communion with the Divine Indwelling of the Trinity in heaven. A special call is given to the youth of America, "Torchbearers of the Queen," and to America in particular to lead the world in a spiritual renewal of Faith and Purity in order to know the true and lasting peace Christ brought from heaven. It carries a promise of great blessing, miracles of the soul, especially for America if we would reform our lives and enthrone Our Lady's statue under this new image as Our Lady of America® in our National Shrine, after being carried in solemn procession, as a safeguard for our country against the evil she says is turned on our nation because of this mandate from heaven. The message, like any covenant, carries blessing for obedience and curse or consequence for disobedience. While we owe God obedience He respects the freedom He gave us to choose or reject Him, with consequences in accord with our choices. By the 1980's, the message is marked by a more pressing urgency and greater warning and sorrow over our failure to heed Our Lady's call for conversion. It addressed the sins of our generation flowing from false teaching and disobedience to Christ's Vicar on earth and the teachings of the Church. Jesus mentioned specifically that the evil of unnatural acts committed in the name of love are being disguised and mistakenly tolerated as intrinsic rights. Instead of a Christian culture of faith and life we have a

culture of secular humanism, distorted sexuality and neo-pagan, atheistic socialism-- a "culture of death" built on a cult of the flesh and the idolatry of self-worship.

The apparitions of Our Lady of America occurred in the 20th century. As the century progressed, we saw an increasing dehumanization of the person as a mere cog in the wheels of fortune; a growing profanity and disregard for virtue; a mockery of God and all that is sacred, especially in the arts; and a terrible assault on the sacredness of life itself. Evil plagued the world with two world wars and two atomic bombs that killed thousands of innocent people and further instigated the scientific madness of nuclear proliferation with the potential to destroy most of our earth. Terrorism, human rights violations, economic injustice, impurity and sexual perversions of every kind smeared the splendor of God's image on humankind's face with the mud of Satan. In the early 20th century, during World War I, Our Lady warned at Fatima that the smoke of Satan would enter even into high places within the Church, as it already had in our world governments, but she offered us a plan for world peace and an end to the spread of communistic atheism throughout the world in the form of the consecration of the world to her Immaculate Heart. She warned that World War II would follow if we did not repent and do as she had asked. Obviously we did not, for World War II followed, leaving the threat of World War III looming on the horizon.

While the cold war with Russia seems to have ended and the Berlin Wall came down, new walls have been raised to separate man from God and man from himself and his neighbor. We saw the horror of the Vietnam War; the impurities of the anti-authority hippy generation with its drug culture; the civil rights protests and the assassinations of Martin Luther King, Jr., President Kennedy and Robert Kennedy, and even the attempts on the life of Pope John Paul II. Sadly, a people born for community now live in deepening alienation without God's Spirit of unity, love and peace. A people made for heaven now live in a hell they have created for themselves in the lust for power and wealth at any price. But God never abandons His creatures, His adopted children, to the futility of their idolatrous and adulterous ways. Pentecost is a constant happening in the life of the Church for its purification, its endurance and its sanctification. The Spirit comes in varied ways to breathe life anew into our dead bones, whether by mighty winds and tongues of fire or by gentle breezes barely noticeable to those unfamiliar with His ways. He is always at work.

In spite of these evils, the 20th century was underwritten with the wonders of Fatima and the power of the rosary to save souls and obtain world peace; with the pledge of Divine Mercy to all who would ask for it; and with the message of Our Lady of America® urging us toward sanctification from within through intimate communion with our Indwelling Triune God. The Second Vatican Council from 1962-1965 called down God's Holy Spirit for a new Pentecost and a new springtime in Christ's Church. The revitalizing of charisms within the Church and new forms of lay ministry and

evangelization ensued with the fuller understanding of the priesthood of the laity and the universal call to holiness.

By the end of the century, however, we were overwhelmed with the “culture of death” and its anti-God, anti-Church, anti-family, anti-marriage and anti-life stance. Apostasy within the Church was far too common. Instead of intrigue with the imitation of Christ and victory in His cross we were easily infatuated with the latest spiritual guru, political demigod or Hollywood idol. Instead of seeking healing through an intoxication with grace many sought it in the hallucinations of drugs in an attempt to numb the agony of life without meaning and without God. Even some priests and religious, the powerhouse of prayer and formation for the Church, lost their identity and fell prey to the foolishness of the world. The divorce rate rose and families became increasingly dysfunctional with the pressures to achieve the American dream. Misinterpretations of those splendid Vatican II documents by some left many in a state of confusion and error because they did not know the Faith, nor love it enough to defend it. Religious education shifted from solid doctrine to warm fuzzy experience as Jesus was taken from His cross lest we feel compelled to climb up on it with Him in true discipleship. The Paschal Mystery and its sacrifice that is the center of our Faith was lost to many who preferred the “politically correct” to the Lamb of God. Ironically, many Catholics don’t even know they have actually excommunicated themselves from communion with the Church by refusing to obey its doctrinal teachings in whole or in part. We live in that terrible state where what is good is called evil and what is evil is called good.

The obvious truth, though, is this: It takes the Holy Spirit to live the Christian life and without Him we cannot know Jesus as our Lord and Savior, Son of the living God, sent from heaven to save us from our sins, the only One who can define our purpose and fulfill our destiny. Where is Christ’s Holy Spirit if so much evil is overwhelming us? Have no doubt, the Spirit is here in Christ’s Church where Jesus sent Him to be until the end of time as His abiding and purifying presence and the guarantor of His authority and His Truth in all matters of Faith and morals. He is the Wisdom of God and protector of Christ’s Church against the gates of hell which shall never prevail against it. Having the fullness of Christ’s Spirit, Christ’s Church is the only bulwark of truth that has stood unwavering and steadfast against every heresy throughout the ages, the only Church built upon the rock of Peter and the 12 pillars of the Faith, the 12 apostles, as its foundation, and whose law is carved in stone and written in the very hearts of mankind, immutable and unchanging with the fickleness of time.

Regarding false teaching, Our Lord spoke thus to Sister Mildred in the message of Our Lady of America®, July 13, 1981.

“My dearest one, many false doctrines are being taught and for many the true Christ is never made known. The false prophets and self-proclaimed Messiahs are drawing many away from Me, the Way, the Truth and the Life. I am the true Messiah who was sent and the only one proclaimed as such by My Father. Seek Me for I only am truth, I only am the Christ.”

“Many unnatural acts are being committed in the name of love. [Our emphasis!] This evil is being disguised and tolerated as an intrinsic right like any other. Even some of My priests and consecrated virgins are being caught up into this web of evil, not realizing its terrible consequences.”

(Sister Mildred (Mary Ephrem) Neuzil, Diary, OUR LADY OF AMERICA©, Fostoria, Ohio, Pg. 40.)

During 1982 and 1983 Our Lady addressed these issues of error.

“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.

There are those who teach false doctrines, and those who repudiate the Holy Sacraments. They are filled with intellectual pride. And so refusing to follow my humble Son, they are being destroyed together with those who misguidedly follow them down the path of error and falsehood. Pray for those poor ones who do not realize the misery and wretchedness they are in and to which they have and are leading others. ... Beloved daughter, there is so much untruth in the truth that is sought. Truth comes from Him who has been sent by my Son, the Spirit who is Truth. Pray continuously to be guided by this Spirit who is the true enlightenment.

Many are those who seek truth from spirits who are false and lead only to a greater ignorance and a worse destruction. The Divine Spirit abides in my Son Jesus and is sent by Him. All other spirits are only true in Him, the Third Person of the Holy Trinity. Beware of any spirit which does not abide in the Holy Spirit and does not receive power and light from Him. Meditate on this often, dear child, so that only the Spirit of Truth may abide in you and be the light of your journey to the Father....

O my children, you still aren’t listening. I see the destruction coming but you do not believe me. You can stem this tide of suffering if you at last do as I’ve been asking of you for so long. Renew your hearts, your spirits, by seeking and following the light of the Holy Spirit within yourselves and in the teachings of Holy Church.

The Divine Spirit is there but you are continuing in your blindness and so blotting out the Divine Light and closing your ears to eternal truth. I beg you to heed my voice or there will be no more time for you to turn back the Divine Wrath. I weep for you because I love you and wish, my dear children, to spare you this terrible suffering. Listen and pity your Mother.”
(Diary, Pgs. 43-45.)

On July 28, 2006, Sandro Magister published an article entitled “The Church in Spain is Sick, but It’s not Zapatero’s Fault.” It refers to a document written by the bishops of Spain, “Theology and Secularization in Spain,” which addressed the sickness in the Church of Spain, the loss of faith among the people and the poor instruction from those they termed progressive theologians. Written as a “pastoral instruction” it has become a working model for bishops of other countries. The document exposes those reductive theologies that fail to present the fullness of the mystery of God revealed in Christ, theologies based on a **“rationalist conception of the faith and of revelation; an immanentist humanism applied to Jesus Christ; a merely sociological interpretation of the Church; and secularized subjectivism-relativism in Catholic morality.”** It states that these reductive theologies fail to present **“the very distinct essence of Christianity”** which sets it apart from and above all other religions and they fail to show the definitive and universal value of Christ in his revelation as Son of the living God, in his real presence in the Church, and in offering his life as the paradigm of moral conduct. Revelation is not merely subjective awareness of God within nor is it simply the development of peoples, nor are all religions “revealed” or equal.

“To presume that the “revelations” of other religions are equivalent or complementary to the revelation of Jesus Christ means denying the very truth of the incarnation and redemption.” (quoting Magister’s article.)

These documents expose the following Christological errors in these reductive theologies: the denial of the pre-existence of Christ and His divine filiation; “the suspicion that the humanity of Jesus Christ is threatened if his divinity is affirmed;” the separation of the historical Christ from the Christ of faith; the denial of the real, historical, and transcendent character of the resurrection of Christ which they view as a subjective experience of the apostles; the denial that Jesus experienced his passion and death as a redemptive mission and not as a failure; the denial of Jesus’ knowledge of his identity, mission, death, resurrection, ascension and glorification. They deny that Christ in his human nature was capable of giving a complete and definitive revelation of God, thereby claiming other “revelations” of God which reduce Christ to just another world religious leader on the side of the oppressed and Christianity to just another religion in their false pluralistic view that all religions are equal. The Catholic Church defines 2 sources of divine revelation, Scripture and Tradition, but these reductive theologies deny Tradition as a valid source from which to interpret Scripture. They

separate the institutional Church from the lived experience of Christianity and claim Christ never meant to establish a Church or a religion but came to free us from the structures of religion. They arouse dissent and disaffection within the church as they pit the hierarchical structure of the Church and its ministerial priesthood as established by Jesus against the priesthood of the laity, a community of people with charisms, as indicated in the Gospels. They raise doubts about the Church's teachings on the parousia, the resurrection of the body, particular and final judgment, purgatory and heaven and hell and paint the Church as "the problem." They would like to transform the Church according to their own views or the opinions of the world. Their errors about Christ lead into errors about Mary, especially the virginal conception of Jesus. Marked by exaggerated pan-sexuality, they easily contradict the Church's teachings on sexuality and the procreation of life. They would favor women's ordinations, communal absolution and homosexual unions. They see themselves as the necessary dissent within the Church to bring about a future unstructured evangelical church. This article should be studied and can be accessed on the following web site: www.chiesa.espressonline.it

(On the Homepage click on "English" in the upper left column, then on the year 2006 in the column on the right side of the home page. Look for the title "The Church in Spain is Sick, but It's not Zapatero's Fault," dated 28.7.2006.)

These errors are not exclusive to the Church in Spain. They are here in America and in the Church around the world. As we accept Our Lady's call to join her army of chaste soldiers ready to purify our lives and fight to the death to preserve the purity of our souls against all evil and errors of our day, let us find strength and hope in Our Lady's words of assurance to Sister Mildred on November 22, 1980.

I was afraid that the burden of leadership would be too great for the United States without some special help from heaven. Our Lady assured me that Michael and the whole army of Blessed Spirits will give their assistance at all times. As the Queen of Angels she has loving command over them and they accomplish whatever she wishes. This made me feel better and the fears that I had left me. (Diary, Pg. 38.)

[When Sister Mildred asked Our Lady about a possible nuclear war on January 3, 1984, Our Lady answered:] **"Yet I tell you, my daughter, even should such destruction happen because there were not enough souls who took my warning seriously, there will remain a remnant—untouched by the chaos who, having been faithful in following me and spreading my warnings, will gradually inhabit the earth again with their dedicated and holy lives.**

These will renew the earth in the power and light of the Holy Spirit. These faithful ones of my children will be under my protection and that of the Holy Angels, and they will partake of the life of the Divine Trinity in a most remarkable way." (Diary, Pg. 45.)

Oh to partake of the life of the Divine Trinity in a most remarkable way! Let it be our desire! Let us pray then for that power and light of the Holy Spirit, for that new Pentecost that will shake us out of our spiritual lethargy and blindness and make us as bold as Peter in proclaiming the truth about Jesus on that first Pentecost day, and as ready as Peter, the rock, in accepting the cross in imitation of the Master. Let us pray and pray some more that Pentecost's fire might fall on us and consume us in divine Truth and Love! Let this be our prayer.

O Thou Who art the Spirit of the Father and of the Son, O Thou Who art the Love of the Father and of the Son, O Thou Who baptizes with Fire and dost shed abroad the Love of God in our hearts, shed abroad Thy Love in my heart.

One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek after: not wealth, rank, power, worldly home, worldly happiness, or any worldly good, but one Drop of that Holy Flame, one Drop of that Heavenly Fire to kindle me, and set me all on Fire with the Love of God. Let that Holy Flame burn up and consume in me every spot and soil of the flesh and of the spirit. Purify me sevenfold with the Fire of Thy LOVE. Consume me as a living sacrifice acceptable to Thee. Kindle me with zeal, melt me with sorrow, that I may live the life and die the death of a fervent penitent.

O Holy Spirit, when You descended upon the Apostles, self disappeared, their souls were renewed, and sacrifices became easy for them. They knew Jesus better than when He was among them.

O Source of Peace and Light, come and give me light. I am hungry, come feed me. I am thirsty; come, quench my thirst. I am blind; come, give me Thy light. I am poor; come enrich me. Holy Ghost, inspire me! Love of God, consume me. Whoever will invoke the Holy Spirit will seek and FIND JESUS.

It is You, O dear Holy Spirit, Who dost enable us to know Jesus. O, come,--our consolation, our joy, our peace, our strength, our life. Come; enlighten us where we must turn to quench our thirst. One Drop from You, O Holy Spirit, is enough for us to show us JESUS as He is. We do not ask You for other knowledge, or other wisdom,--but only to know how to find Jesus and to have the wisdom to keep, and never lose JESUS. Amen.

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