

**Part IV –
The National Shrine -- *The Only Church*
Our Lady Mentions in this Devotion –
and the Compilation of the Diary by Bishop Leibold**

**November 20, 1959: Dedication of the completed Shrine of the
Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC**

(Editor's Note: This Shrine is truly the Church of the American people and is under the authority of all the US Bishops. It is the largest Catholic Church in the US, the largest in all of North and South America, and the 8th largest Catholic Church in the world. Its many chapels depict the rich cultural heritage of our Nation. In recent years the Hall of American Saints, honoring St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, St. Rose Philippine Duchesne, and Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, has been added, attesting to the fruitfulness of the seed of Faith planted by our North American martyrs. The Shrine, with its splendid dome, is the spiritual capital of the Church in America and complements the dome of the National Capitol, the seat of our American government.)

(Also see notes on the National Shrine at the beginning of this piece.)

**September, 1959: Pope John XXIII's letter, given from Rome to
the American Faithful on the dedication of the National
Shrine**

It was an extremely gratifying and enduring joy that filled our hearts on receipt of news...that a shrine is to be dedicated to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God. There now rises up to heaven a shrine, high and massive, wondrously bright within...The Virgin Mother of God is our Mother, our Queen, the sure way by which we approach most speedily to Jesus Christ, Who was given to us by her. But a temple built of stones is of little significance unless there arises a temple mystically erected within our minds. Therefore...let an altar of the Most Blessed Virgin be set up in the heart of each one of the faithful; let families, held together by the sanctity of marriage, by mutual love, by moral integrity and a common spiritual life, reproduce her virtues and be fortified by her protection.

December 20, 1959: Our Lady laments our ingratitude (A)

O my child, tell your spiritual father [Bishop Leibold] that I come again to warn and to plead.

See I weep, but my children show me no compassion. They behold the sword in my heart but will make no move to withdraw it. I give them love; they give me only ingratitude. Weep, then, dear child, weep with your Mother over the sins of men. Intercede with me before the throne of mercy, for sin is overwhelming the world and punishment is not far away.

(Editors Note: Except on a few occasions, as when she showed herself as Our Lady of the Divine Indwelling, Our Lady always came to Sr. Mary Ephrem in the manner in which she appeared on September 26, 1956, namely, as Our Lady of America.)

February 2, 1960: Bishop Leibold compiles the messages (handwritten/later typed), “not for official publication, but only as a private diary”* (*words of Bishop Leibold)

(Note: The Archbishop to whom the messages were first given passed away and Bishop Leibold succeeded him.)

Bishop Paul F. Leibold, V.G. of the Cincinnati Archdiocese where the Sisters of the Precious Blood’s motherhouse is located, personally compiled the handwritten Diary “without direct references” to specific places in which apparitions or spiritual messages had occurred, the only focus of place being the National Shrine. He wrote the foreword and had Sister “type” the handwritten messages as a “private diary,” printed, not published, author anonymous. To protect Sister Mary Ephrem’s identity and hidden life, she remained unnamed. In the Diary Sister is referred to as “a religious Sister,” the “Little White Dove,” or “this Sister.” **This Diary existed in handwritten and/or typewritten form *only* at this time and was given only to the necessary religious superiors and Church officials and several sisters within the cloister, not to the unrestricted general public. It was not “published” in the legal sense of the word to the “unrestricted public” as required by pre-1978 copyright law and is, therefore not bound by the pre-1978 requirements and is not in public domain.** It shows created for publication and registered at the Library of Congress in 1984, after the new 1978 law and therefore automatically protected, fully copyrighted in 1989 with the *complete* Diary including messages after Archbishop Leibold’s death which he, therefore, could not have approved as mistakenly put into the public by others, re-copyrighted in 1993 with a new image and copyright notice posted to protect against infringement well before the current infringements of copyright and false claims the Diary is in public domain. The Diary must be kept whole and entire, free from all contamination, additions and deletions. The current infringements have deleted the messages after Archbishop Leibold’s death

and have deleted the Prayer to the Indwelling Most Holy Trinity, material absolutely essential to full Church approval and to the purity of the message to be promulgated as given to Sister Mildred Mary Neuzil.

Sister Monica Schrott, OCD, and the Latrobe Statue of Our Lady of America

1960's: Sister Monica Schrott's effort with the National Basilica extends over two decades

Sister Monica Schrott, OCD, a cloistered Carmelite nun in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, met Sister Mary Ephrem Neuzil in the 1960s and they became dear friends. In her own personal handwriting, Sister Monica kept a copy of Sister Mary Ephrem's writings on Our Lady of America.

From her cloister, Sister Monica assisted Sister Mary Ephrem's mission by personally launching a 20 year mission of correspondence with the National Shrine directors to place there a white statue of Our Lady of America that she had made by Archangelo Cascieri of Boston, MA. Sister Monica also worked closely with Bishop Leibold, Sister Mary Ephrem, Bishop Connare of Pittsburgh, PA, and Msgr. Michael McDonough, the director of the National Shrine in Washington. DC, on the enthronement of a statue of Our Lady of America in the National Basilica as Our Lady had requested in 1956.



(Editor's Note: The "Latrobe" statue made with the help of Sr. Monica and several bishops, done *for and with Sr. Mildred Mary Neuzil*, resided with the Carmelites of the Assumption in Latrobe, PA until the Mother Prioress personally drove the statue and Sister Monica's writings to Fostoria, Ohio to be kept with the Archives at the Our Lady of America Center there. This was in 2005 shortly before Sister Monica's death. Thereafter this "Latrobe statue" was allowed to reside with Mother Angelica's sisters for a period of time and continued promotion. **Since it belonged to Sister Mildred Mary Neuzil, its ownership was willed to Sister Joseph Therese/Patricia Ann Fuller, and a copy of that Will is registered with the Library of Congress. Without permission and with no authority to do so, gentlemen who had falsely represented themselves to Sister Joseph Therese**

Latrobe statue done with the help of Sr. Monica Schrott

for months as volunteers working under the bishops, confiscated the “Latrobe statue” and are attempting to claim ownership. They never had permission or authority and were mere volunteers with no “contract for hire,” and therefore cannot make such a claim. They initiated a frivolous lawsuit over these false claims which is currently going on in court.

The Medal, Prayer Leaflets and Archbishop Leibold’s Death

April 4, 1960: Our Lady’s message to the Archbishop regarding the medal (A)

Tell His Grace, my beloved son, that it is through the medal that he will receive the sign for which he asks. I ask him to have the medal struck and distributed everywhere and he will receive not only the one sign for which he has asked but so many, so many that he will have cause to be greatly astonished.

My child, God works often through little and humble things and such instruments should never be despised but accepted and used with love and gratitude. It will be through the medal that God’s Will will be manifested and glorified and my desires carried out to the very end.

I place my confidence in my faithful sons, the Bishops, who will not fail to take up my cause and make it bear much fruit for sanctification among so many and countless souls.

Send this word then to my beloved son, the Archbishop, and have no fear sweet child for I will keep my promise for I am the ever faithful Virgin.

As Sister Mary Ephrem hesitated because of certain doubts and fears concerning the reception of this message, Our Lady appeared in the early morning hours of April 6, 1960 to gently reproach her for her lack of confidence. Our Lady told her not to delay in sending the bishop the words she had written. **Our Lady said, “My children must know my desires. If my desires are not fulfilled much suffering will come to this Land.”**

(Editors Note: The prior Archbishop passed away and Bishop Leibold succeeded him and carried out Our Lady’s request).

May 1, 1961: Bishop Leibold puts his imprimatur on Sister Mary Ephrem’s sketch of the medal

(Editor’s Note: In response to “May Day” celebrations for workers by the Communists, Pope Pius XII had instituted the feast of St. Joseph, the Worker, on May 1,

1955. Surely it was his expression of gratitude for St. Joseph's protection during the War! Bishop Leibold chose this day to approve the medal, our shield against evil.)



Bishop Leibold then had the medal struck and personally paid for all medals until his death in 1972. He designed the prayer pamphlet to go with the medal. It contained the Prayer to the Immaculate Conception and the Prayer to the Indwelling Most Holy Trinity, as well as the magnificent explanation of the medal itself.

(See Pgs. 47-48 of the Diary for this pamphlet information.)

May 22, 1962: Bishop George Rehring of the Toledo diocese favors distribution of the medal by Bishop Leibold

Sister Mary Florecita Bidart, foundress of the Our Lady of Nativity Cloister, wrote to Mother Aquinas of the Sisters of the Precious Blood informing her that Bishop Rehring (Toledo diocese), under whose authority Bishop Leibold worked in this regard, was in favor of distributing the medal that symbolized so well the doctrine of the Divine Indwelling of the Most Holy Trinity, lived out so perfectly in the Holy Family, model for every family on earth and source of all true holiness. He gave suggestions for the promotion of the devotion.

Mother Mary Aquinas wrote Sister Florecita on August 31, 1961:

I was very happy to hear that Bishop Leibold will go ahead with the medal himself. It is a great relief to me to know that it is being made, and we hope it eventually will be circulated. I have great confidence in the message of our Blessed Lady.

January 25, 1963: Imprimatur on the Prayer to the Indwelling Trinity

Paul F. Leibold, V.G. of Cincinnati, OH gave his Imprimatur and Daniel Palarczyk, S.T.D., his Nihil Obstat to the Prayer to the Indwelling Most Holy Trinity.

July 1, 1963: Archbishop Leibold writes regarding the devotion

First I received the leaflets on our Lady of America. I will gradually drop them around places as the opportunity presents itself. I still think of it as a private devotion and await our Lady's action to make the seeds you are planting grow and, as it were, cause a spontaneous demand for the object of devotion, rather than engaging in any high pressure pushing of it.

(Note: Archbishop Leibold was never in favor of sensationalism, but wanted this devotion to grow slowly and deeply and without a huge marketing effort. His emphasis was on "understanding" and "living" the message.)

June 18, 1970: Archbishop Leibold writes Msgr. McDonough at the National Shrine

The Archbishop wrote Msgr. McDonough regarding Sr. Monica Schrott's request to place a statue of Our Lady of America in the National Shrine in Washington, D.C. Instead of the statue at that time, a small plaque was placed outside offices at the Shrine the following year. At this time Msgr. McDonough traveled to New Riegel, OH to meet with Sr. Mary Ephrem personally.

September 3, 1971: Archbishop Leibold makes wooden plaques

Archbishop Leibold made a series of wooden plaques of Our Lady of America. One hung in the Our Lady of the Nativity Convent in New Riegel and was used in processions at the convent. Another hung in his Chancery office in the Cincinnati, OH diocese. Later one was presented to the National Shrine by pilgrims from New Riegel, OH.

In a letter to William Weberding of Weberding Woodworking Shop, the Archbishop made a proposal for the construction of a wooden or marble statue for an outdoor Shrine to Our Lady of America at the New Riegel Convent. He had a patron's offer of \$2000 for the statue which would aid in serving public devotions to Our Lady of America at the Convent where they were regularly celebrated.

He also had 3 petite ivory statues made in India. Just before his death, Archbishop Leibold arranged a meeting with Luigi Riamondi, the Apostolic Delegate from Washington, DC, Msgr. Boffa, and his personal secretary, Fr. Francis Lammeier, to present a small ivory statuette to the Holy See and the Catholic Church. Posthumously, this statuette was presented to the Apostolic Delegate in August 1972 and is presumed to be in

the Vatican Museum.

November 9, 1971: The Diary is again copied on mimeograph as typed pages, *still not for official publication or distribution, but only for internal use*

February 22, 1972: Our Lady's image in the home

When a picture or statue of myself as Our Lady of America is placed in the home and honored there, then will my Son bless His people with peace. Believe in me, dear child, believe in me, my love will never fail you.

June 1, 1972: Archbishop Paul F. Leibold dies suddenly

Before his death, Archbishop Leibold of Cincinnati, OH had determined to build a large outdoor Shrine to Our Lady of America at the New Riegel, OH cloister property. **His letters indicate he would have officially approved this message, working in conjunction with the Toledo bishop as always, had he lived long enough to do so.** Archbishop Joseph A. Bernardin succeeded him. For whatever reason and by Divine Providence,



Archbishop Leibold had chosen to keep all correspondence with Sister Mildred removed from the diocesan archives and had advised his secretary, that upon his death, all documents were to be sent immediately to Sister Mildred Mary Neuzil at the **Our Lady of America®** Center in Fostoria, Ohio for safe keeping. **Archbishop Bernardin had nothing to do with the devotion to Our Lady of America®.** In 1982, Archbishop Daniel Pilarczyk, who had given the nihil obstat to the Prayer to the Indwelling Most Holy Trinity on January 25, 1963, along with Archbishop Leibold's imprimatur, became the new archbishop of the Cincinnati, Ohio archdiocese.

**Thousands Mourn Beloved
Archbishop Leibold at
Cincinnati Cathedral Mass**

Paul F. Leibold was born on December 22, 1914 in Dayton, OH. He was educated at the Marianists' Chaminade High School and the University of Dayton. On May 18, 1940 he was ordained at St. Peter's in Chains Cathedral in Cincinnati, OH. He was made

Auxiliary Bishop in Cincinnati on April 10, 1958, Titular Bishop of Trebenna on June 17, 1958, Bishop of Evansville, IN on April 4, 1966 and Archbishop of Cincinnati on July 23, 1969 where he served his people well until his sudden, untimely death on June 1, 1972. The Archbishop was greatly loved and revered by his flock as evidenced by the overflowing crowd that attended his funeral. He is buried in Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Cincinnati.

The Archbishop's personal secretary, Father Francis G. Lammeier, wrote Sister Mary Ephrem on August 13, 1972:

With things as busy as they are, I still do not have time to think. I still am not fully aware that the Archbishop died. I am no dreamer; I know he is dead and is enjoying his reward, but I just cannot realize it or be aware of it. I still think often, he will come in the office or I will see him and he will give me that quiet and peaceful smile. I think of him so often. I said many times, I was privileged to be associated with him. He kept a tremendous schedule. If I had been Secretary and Master of Ceremonies with any other Bishop with this schedule, I would have been out of my tree. But with him, it was indeed a pleasure. Often I got tired and certainly he did, but there was no pressure of any kind. **He was the kindly, understanding and humble priest. He did not stand on dignity or position but was just himself. He was the Archbishop and I most assuredly respected him for his position, but he was also a dear friend.**

In August Father Lammeier sent the plaque of Our Lady of America that hung in the Cincinnati Chancery and a large collection of letters/personal spiritual writings of the Archbishop's to Sister Mary Ephrem for safe keeping and to be organized for future investigation and publication. He confirmed how deeply the Archbishop believed in this message and expressed his willingness to speak to any bishop in this regard. No bishop to date that we know of (2009) has ever gone to this living source of information or to the remaining Sister who has all the original documentation and personal history of Sister Mary Ephrem. **Some of the secondary sources bishops have relied on and that are in the public media have often been misleading and deceptive, as the messages after 1980 were deliberately omitted because *copyright notice* on that later section is indisputable. The prayer to the Indwelling Trinity, so essential to the message that revolves around the Divine Indwelling of the Trinity as the source of all holiness, was also deliberately removed to deny the connection with the Sisters of the Indwelling Trinity, the name the new group chose for themselves.**