

Our Lady Rewards America's Devotion to Her Immaculate Conception!

On the eve of the feast of the North American martyrs, September 25, 1956, [pre-Vatican II] as I was making the Holy Hour from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., I was conscious of the distinct and special feeling of the presence of Our Lady. She stood by my side and spoke to me. I felt, rather than saw her, though I did see a part of her white gown and a small portion of her blue sash. I was under the impression that she came as Our Lady of Lourdes, and she herself confirmed this. Our Lady promised that greater miracles than those granted at Lourdes and Fatima would be granted here in America, the United States in particular, if we would do as she desires.

These are the words she spoke to me at this time: "I am pleased, my child, with the love and honor my children in America give to me, especially through my glorious and unique privilege of the Immaculate Conception. I promise to reward their love by working through the power of my Son's Heart and my Immaculate Heart miracles of grace among them. *I do not promise miracles of the body, but of the soul.*"

Our Lady emphasized this very much. She is anxiously concerned about our inner life. She continued: "For it is mainly through these miracles of grace that the Holy Trinity is glorified among men and nations. Let America continue and grow in its love for me, and I in return, in union with the Heart of my Son, promise to work wonders in her. *My child, I desire that this be known.*"

(Sister Mildred (Mary Ephrem) Neuzil, Diary, OUR LADY OF AMERICA®, Fostoria, Ohio, Pgs. 9-10.)

The next morning, the feast of the North American Martyrs itself, Our Lady appeared to Sister Mildred (Mary Ephrem) Neuzil for the first time under this new image and identified herself as "Our Lady of America®." Sister described Our Lady's appearance in her Diary and ends with the focus on Mary's Immaculate Heart.

Then I saw her heart appear, encircled with red roses, the symbol of suffering as it was revealed to me, and sending forth flames of fire. With her left hand Our Lady seemed to be holding up slightly the upper part of her mantle, so that her Immaculate Heart could be seen.

Then solemnly and distinctly, in calm yet majestic tones, I heard these words: "I am Our Lady of America. I desire that my children honor me, especially by the purity of their lives." ...

“My child, I entrust you with this message that you must make known to my children in America. I wish it to be the country dedicated to my purity. The wonders I will work will be the wonders of the soul. They must have faith and believe firmly in my love for them. I desire that they be the children of my Pure Heart. I desire, through my children of America, to further the cause of faith and purity among peoples and nations. Let them come to me with confidence and simplicity, and I, their Mother, will teach them to become pure like to my Heart that their own hearts may be more pleasing to the Heart of my Son.”

Our Blessed Mother called herself Our Lady of America in response to the love and desire that reached out for this special title in the hearts of her children in America. This title was the sign of her pleasure at the confidence our land places in her and as a reward for its staunch and childlike devotion to her. Her children longed for this personal visit of Our Lady, whether consciously or otherwise, and in her kindness and mercy she responded far beyond all expectations. (Diary, Pgs. 10-11.)

But Our Lady never excludes anyone. Sister goes on to say:

Though she came in this manner as a token of her love for us, nevertheless Our Lady of America® welcomes her children of all nations to her feet, for there will be found true peace. So she has given me to understand, and such are her desires as she revealed them to me.

Our Lady, moreover, often emphasized her desire that the Shrine in Washington, D.C., be made a place of special pilgrimage. She wishes to be honored there as “Our Lady of America, the Immaculate Virgin®.” (Diary, Pg. 12.)

Our Lady’s great singular privilege of the Immaculate Conception was God’s preparation of a chosen and highly favored one for His first coming, His Advent into our world and history as the Incarnate Word, His preparation of a new living Ark of the Covenant, a new tabernacle in flesh, a most pure and fitting dwelling place for the living God who desires passionately to walk among us and live within us. The miracles of the soul which Our Lady promises us are God’s preparation of the ground of our souls, our interior lives, for the daily Advent of God into our hearts and everyday lives through imitation of those most pure and Holy Ones sent to teach us God’s ways, God’s Mother and God’s Son, so we can await with joy and without fear the day of Jesus’ Second Coming in power and glory to rule over the whole world.

We already know the significance of Our Lady’s appearance on the eve of the feast of the North America Martyrs as Our Lady of Lourdes, for it was at Lourdes on March 25, **1858** that Our Lady confirmed this great privilege when she identified herself to Bernadette Soubirous as “I am the Immaculate Conception,” a dogma of faith Pope

Pius IX had defined just four years earlier in **1854**. What a beautiful thank you from Mary! We also know that Pius IX, on February 7, **1847**, seven years before he officially defined the dogma of the Immaculate Conception, had given approval to the Sixth Provincial Council of Baltimore to proclaim Our Lady under her title of the Immaculate Conception as Patroness of the United States, the first nation to honor Mary under this title. Our devotion to Mary under this title was concretized in stone when construction on the present **Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., the patronal church of the American people that is the central focus of the message of Our Lady of America®**, began in 1920. In 1959 the Shrine opened with only the lower crypt church being completed; World War II and the Depression had delayed completion of the upper level. So honored was Our Lady by our devotion to her under this title that she appeared to Sister Mildred on October 13, 1956 holding a replica of the finished shrine, though we had not yet completed the Great Upper Church, and urged us to hasten to finish it so she could make it a place of wonders. Sister describes this appearance in the following words:

Today the Holy Virgin appeared to me as I was working in my room. Our Lady was very beautiful, and she was again smiling in her heavenly way. She was dressed in the same manner as when I first saw her, except that her Immaculate Heart did not appear. Instead of the lily, she held with both hands a small replica of the finished Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. She then began to speak. Her presence overwhelmed me with its holiness. I was compelled to stop my work, for it was impossible to go on. I then knelt down and wrote Our Lady's words as she desired:

"This is my shrine, my daughter. I am very pleased with it. Tell my children I thank them. Let them finish it quickly and make it a place of pilgrimage. It will be a place of wonders. I promise this. I will bless all those who, either by prayers, labor, or material aid, help to erect this shrine.

On the morning of November 15, 1956, Our Lady taught me this little prayer: "By thy Holy and Immaculate Conception, O Mary, deliver us from evil." Our Lady then asked me to draw a picture of her first appearance. She also requested a statue made according to this likeness and placed, after being solemnly carried in procession, in the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. She wishes to be honored there in a special way as "Our Lady of America, the Immaculate Virgin. ®" (Diary, Pg. 14.)

Earlier in 1956 Our Lady had stated: **"I desire to make the whole of America my shrine by making every heart accessible to the love of my Son."** (Diary, Pg. 12.) It is no wonder then, that in January of 1957, Our Lady warns of this darkest hour in

which we live, this culture of death, and instructs us to come to her Immaculate Heart to seek the divine mercy and peace of her Son.

Suffering and anguish, such as never before experienced, is about to overtake mankind. It is the darkest hour. But if men will come to me, my Immaculate Heart will make it bright again with the mercy which my Son will rain down through my hands. Help me save those who will not save themselves. Help me bring once again the sunshine of God's peace upon the world. ...

"Tell the Bishops of the United States, my loyal sons, of my desires and how I wish them to be carried out. Through him who is head over you, make known the longings of my Immaculate Heart to establish the reign of my Divine Son in the hearts of men and thus save them from the scourge of heaven, both now and hereafter." (Diary, Pg. 15.)

... "God looks at the heart, and if it resembles the Heart of His Divine Son, it is with the greatest pleasure He regards it. But to make your hearts grow more and more like to the Heart of the Son, you must go to the Mother, whose heart is most like His. From this Pure and Immaculate Heart you will learn all that will make you more pleasing to the Divine Heart of the Son of God. The Holy Trinity looks down with infinite delight upon such souls and makes them Its heaven upon earth. Come to me, my children, come to me and learn. There is much I would teach you." (Diary, Pg. 16.)

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

"My heart, my Immaculate Heart, is the channel through which the graces of the Sacred Heart are given to men." (Diary, Pg. 18.)

My Immaculate Heart will win in the end, and the Spirit of Christ will dwell in the hearts of men. Those in whom this Spirit is not found will be condemned to eternal hellfire." (Diary, Pg. 23.)

Great privilege brings with it great responsibility. America has been mandated by heaven to assist Our Lady and all the angels and saints in bringing the world to true peace, the peace Christ brought with Him from heaven, and to bring the world back to Faith and Purity. November 22, 1980, Our Lady spoke thus to Sister Mildred.

"Beloved daughter, the United States is a small one among nations, yet has it not been said that 'a little child shall lead them'? It is the United States that is to lead the world to peace, the peace of Christ, the peace that He brought with Him from heaven in His birth as man in

the little town of Bethlehem. The Savior did not come to enter this world in a big city but a small town, again, a little one among many. Dear child, unless the United States accepts and carries out faithfully the mandate given to it by heaven to lead the world to peace, there will come upon it and all nations a great havoc of war and incredible suffering. If, however, the United States is faithful to this mandate from heaven and yet fails in the pursuit of peace because the rest of the world will not accept or co-operate then the United States will not be burdened with the punishment about to fall.”

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.)

On February 11, 1981, Sister Mildred stated that it is evident that the **Forces of Evil** are enveloping the world. Their hatred, however, is now particularly focused on the United States because of the **Divine Mandate** given to it to lead the world to peace. (Diary, Pg. 39.)

We see that promise of assistance from the angels on August 22, 1981, with the appearance of **Angel Sultra** – Power of God, the Guardian and **Protector of the United States of America**. He speaks in recognition of our devotion to the **Immaculate Virgin** and makes us this promise:

“I am the **Angel Sultra**, sent by the **Almighty** whose faithful servant I am, to help the people of God in their hour of need. I have been appointed guardian, protector and defender of the **United States of America** whose people honor and love the **Immaculate Virgin**, the **Queen of Angels** and have dedicated their land to Her.

If the people of this Land carry out faithfully the instructions and pleadings of the **Lord Jesus** and the **Virgin Mother** then they will be following me to the hour of peace. With this sword of the **Divine white flame of Love** and the **lightning bolts of His infinite Justice** God will strike down his enemies and heal the repentant sinner. This Nation and all who follow in the pursuit of peace will know the protection of God and the destruction of those who fight and seek to destroy them through the evil powers of the **infernal spirits of darkness and hate**. Follow me, people of God, brothers and sisters, as our **Queen** paves the way and the peace of the **Lord** will reign once more upon the earth. (Diary, Pg. 41.)

On that same day Sister saw a second Vision of Light with the appearance of the **Archangel Sardus**—Strength of God, Guardian and **Protector of America** who spoke

of our land being saturated with the blood of martyrs and of our honor for the Queen of heaven.

“I am the Archangel Sardus, Protector, Guardian and Defender of America whose soil is saturated with martyrs’ blood and honors so highly the Queen of Heaven and Her holy Spouse who work only to further the Kingdom of Jesus. ...Listen to the words and warnings of the Queen of Heaven and you will experience my protection and I will fight in your defense that with the people of all Nations you can at last come to the peace of the Kingdom which is within you.” (Diary, Pg. 42.)

This great privilege of the Immaculate Conception was bestowed upon Mary because of her divine predilection to be the Mother of God, Mother of the Messiah. Only one untouched by any stain of sin or its effects could be a fitting dwelling place for the All Holy, Infinitely Pure God. Being a daughter of Adam, Mary needed redemption like all of us, but her redemption was achieved in a totally different way than ours. Pope Pius IX in his encyclical *Ineffabilis Deus* proclaiming the Immaculate Conception a dogma of faith refers to it as the “**splendor of an entirely unique holiness**” by which Mary is “**enriched from the first instant of her conception,**” “**redeemed in a more exalted fashion, by reason of the merits of her Son.**” **Mary was chosen by the Father “in Christ before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless before him in love.”** (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #492.) We are cleansed from sin in Baptism; Mary was preserved from all sin from all eternity in anticipation of Jesus’ saving act on the cross in time. Mary is God’s necessary instrument for His Incarnation into our human history and lives, for God chose that salvation should come to us by way of the family and that Jesus should come among us in that terribly humble and nonfrightening form of a little Baby, and a baby comes forth from the giver of life, a mother, the new Eve in the plan of redemption!

As a creature of flesh and spirit Mary is lower than the angels, pure spirits in the order of nature; however, having been so exalted by God in the order of grace, she is raised above the angels and becomes Queen of Angels as well as of men. Theologians speak of God’s creation of angels and men to be like unto Himself, capable of love, which demands freedom to choose, and choice means there must be a choice required, a test. Since angels have no bodies, their test would have to do with the powers of the mind and the will. Bishop Fulton J. Sheen spoke of the brilliance of the angelic intellect, so great that they could see in advance the consequences of their choices; hence, once they made a choice, it would be irrevocable. So what kind of test could be put to them? There are those who believe the test was the presentation of the Incarnation of Jesus. Lucifer’s pride in his own brilliance and exalted self led him to rebel against the very idea that he should worship a God Who would stoop so low as to assume such an inferior nature as that of a man, and he chose “Non Servio!” He would not adore nor obey such a God. Some also believe that the Immaculate Conception of Mary so

intimately bound up with the Incarnation of Jesus was also presented to the angels. (They note that Mary's identity and time of birth on earth was hidden from Satan.) Can we imagine how Lucifer, now called Satan after his fall from grace, would despise such a creature, this humble Woman who has been so exalted beyond any favor he had ever known?

God created man and woman and also put them to the test to give them their freedom and choice. Is it any wonder that Satan sought first to seduce Eve, testing if she might be this glorious Woman of the Promise, Mother of all the living, who would bring forth an endless line of descendants to enjoy the grace he had lost, and more? **There is something splendid and awesome about that role, giver of life, so like unto God's nature!** But Eve fell for Satan's lie and seduced her husband to also choose self over God, thereby inflicting the consequences of their sin upon all their posterity. The Immaculate Conception of Mary was God's response to Eve's failure; this new Eve, new Mother of all the living in the order of grace, would not fail her posterity entrusted to her maternal love at the foot of the cross. The good angels are God's instruments in this marvelous work of salvation and are under the authority of This Woman, foretold in the Garden of Eden as the Woman who would crush forever the ugly head of Satan, This Woman, confirmed in the Book of Revelation as the Woman whom the dragon could not touch. This Woman is one and the same as Our Lady of America, the Immaculate Tabernacle of the Indwelling God®.

We see the role of angels in the message of Our Lady of America® with the two guardian angels over America and the United States, and we see their role in excerpts from two of the Church's great mystics describing Mary's conception to Joachim and the presentation of the Immaculate Conception to the angels in heaven. **These private revelations are given to flame one's devotion and love for God; they can never equal nor substitute for divine revelation itself.**

Mary's holy parents, Anna and Joachim, barren for over twenty years, which was considered a curse from God in their culture, often suffered ridicule for this reason. Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich describes the visit of an angel to Joachim as he prayed in the temple; the angel announced to him the birth of Mary, the child of blessing.

The angel spoke to Joachim, and gave him a scroll on which I recognized, written in shining letters, the three names of Helia, Hanna, Miriam [Mary]. Beside the last of these names I saw the picture of a little Ark of the Covenant or tabernacle. Joachim fastened this scroll to his breast under his garment. The angel told him that his unfruitfulness was no disgrace for him, but on the contrary, an honour, for the child his wife was to conceive was to be the immaculate fruit of God's blessing upon him and the crowning point of the blessing of Abraham. [Joachim was then led behind the veil of the Holy of Holies.] I saw the angel approach

the Ark of the Covenant, and it seemed to me as if he took something out of it, for I saw him hold towards Joachim a shining globe or circle of light, bidding him breathe upon it and look into it. ... His breath had in no way dimmed the circle of light, and the angel told him that the conception of Anna's child would be as untarnished as this globe, which had remained shining in spite of his having breathed on it. Thereupon I saw as if the angel lifted the globe until it stood like an encircling halo in the air, in which I saw, as through an opening in it, a series of pictures starting with the Fall and ending with the Redemption of mankind. The whole course of the world passed before my eyes as one picture merged into another. ... Above, at the very summit, I saw the Blessed Trinity, and below and on one side of the Trinity I saw the Garden of Eden, with Adam and Eve, the Fall, the promise of Redemption and all its prototypes—Noah, the Flood, the Ark, the receiving of the blessing through Abraham, its handing on to his first-born Isaac, from Isaac to Jacob, how it was taken from Jacob by the angel with whom he struggled, how the blessing came to Joseph in Egypt and increased in glory in him and in his wife. I saw how the sacred presence of the blessing was removed by Moses from Egypt with relics of Joseph and his wife Aseneth, and became the Holy of Holies of the Ark of the Covenant, the presence of the living God among His people. Then I saw ... the relationships and marriages which formed the sacred genealogy of Our Lady's ancestry, as well as all the prototypes and symbols of her and of our Savior. [Blessed Anne describes pictures of cities, towers and gardens, woven together.] These pictures all signified how Our Blessed Lady's ancestral family, from which God was to take Flesh and be made Man, had been led, like all that is holy, by God's grace through many assaults and struggles. ...I saw many pictures of this kind, relating to the history of the ancestry of Our Lady; and the bridges and passages which joined all together signified the victory over all attempts to disturb, hinder, or interrupt the work of salvation. It was as if by God's compassion there had been poured into mankind, as into a muddy stream, a pure flesh and a pure blood, and as if this had with great toil and difficulty to reconstitute itself out of its scattered elements, the whole stream striving the while to draw it into its troubled waters; and then as if by the countless mercies of God and the faithful co-operation of mankind, it had at last issued forth, after many pollutions and many cleansings, in an unfailling stream out of which rose the Blessed Virgin, from whom the Word was made Flesh and dwelt among us. [She then describes Joachim receiving the blessing as it was given to Abraham, but not as though from the angel, but as though taken directly from the Holy of Holies.]

(Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich, THE LIFE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, Templegate, Springfield, IL, Pgs. 34 – 38.)

Blessed Mary of Agreda speaks of the presentation of the Immaculate Conception to the angels.

On earth the Word shall have a Mother without a father, as in heaven He has a Father without a mother. And in order that there may be the proper correspondence, proportion and consonance in calling God his Father and this Woman his Mother, We desire that the highest correspondence and approach possible between a creature and its God be established. Therefore at no time shall the dragon boast of being superior to the Woman, whom God will obey as his true Mother. This dignity of being free from sin is due and corresponds to that of being Mother of the Word, and it is in itself even more estimable and useful. It is a greater good to be holy than to be only mother; but all sanctity and perfection is nevertheless due to the motherhood of God. The human flesh, from which He is to assume form, must be free from sin. Since He is to redeem in it the sinners, he must not be under the necessity of redeeming his own flesh, like that of sinners. Being united to the Divinity his humanity is to be the price of Redemption, wherefore it must before all be preserved from sin, and We have already foreseen and accepted the merits of the Word in this very flesh and human nature. We wish that for all eternities the Word should be glorified through this tabernacle and habitation of the human nature.

She [Mary] is to be a daughter of the first man; but in the order of grace She is to be singularly free and exempt from fault; and in the order of nature She is to be the most perfect, and to be formed according to a special providence. And since the incarnate Word is to be the Teacher of humility and holiness and for this end is to endure labors, confounding the vanity and deceitful fallacies of mortals by choosing for Himself sufferings as the treasure most estimable in our eyes, We wish that She, who is to be his Mother, experience the same labors and difficulties, that She be singularly distinguished in patience, admirable in sufferings, and that She, in union with the Onlybegotten, offer the acceptable sacrifices of sorrow to Us for her greater glory. This was the decree which the three divine Persons made known to the holy angels....

(Blessed Mary of Agreda, THE MYSTICAL CITY OF GOD, Tan Books and Publishers, Rockford, IL, Pgs. 164-165.)

**How awesome are the ways of our God!
Let us ponder and imitate them!**

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