

Sister Mildred Mary Neuzil, Her Life and Her Mission

The 19th Anniversary of Her Death

The soul of modern man, deafened by the clatter of steel and instruments, chased along the turnpikes of superficiality and pragmatism, the man of the age of automation, the man of ready-made programs on radio and television, the man of the age of canned thought, canned milk, and canned potatoes, the man who no longer has time to cook for himself, and think for himself, is in grave danger of never coming to himself, as he cannot come to God. More than his forefathers is he in need of the advice of the "Ancren Riwle": Sit ye with Mary, stone-still at God's feet, and listen to Him alone." Fr. van Noenen, O.P.

On August 2, 1916, Mildred Neuzil was born to Austrian parents, John and Anna (Smerda) Neuzil, in Brooklyn, New York, and was baptized at Most Holy Trinity Church. Shortly after, the family moved to Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish in Cleveland, Ohio. Her father, a gardener to Johann Strauss in Austria, became a homebuilder here in America. Mildred's life would be one of sitting at the feet of Jesus, with Mary, fully alive, in contradiction to the emptiness in the busyness of life in society today. Her life and her mission were all about contemplation, intimacy with God in the kingdom within the soul.

Mildred had a natural propensity toward spiritual things. At age 14, on September 11, 1930, feast of the Holy Name of Mary, she entered the Congregation of the Sisters of the Precious Blood in Dayton, Ohio, a papal religious community. Three years later, on August 15, 1933, at age 17, Mildred took first vows and was given the name Sister Mary Ephrem. Being a humble and simple person, she was usually assigned to domestic work or teaching small children. Her first obedience took her to Washington, D.C., the place where her mission would be centered. Her second was in Cincinnati, Ohio, where she would meet the priest God had chosen to be her spiritual director, Fr. Paul F. Leibold. Six years later, August 15, 1939, she made her final vows in religious life. At this time she began to have mystical experiences which she thought were common to all religious. As they intensified, she took them to her confessor and began to write them down. Her birth had occurred around the time of Fatima and the rise of communism in Russia. Hence, in the early 1940's, she was given a clear indication, in locutions with Jesus and Mary, that her mission was for the sanctification of the family whose stability was being threatened by modernism in society and the errors of atheism spreading throughout the world.

God's will took Sister to many different locations. In 1947 she helped at the sanitarium at Kneipp Springs, Rome City, IN and later at Denver, CO before going to North Dakota in 1948. In 1949 she was sent back to Cincinnati until 1953 when she was assigned to Ottawa, Ohio. In the Fall of 1954 she was visited by St. Michael, the Angel of Peace, to prepare her for battle with Satan who would do everything possible to keep her from fulfilling her mission, but St. Michael would be watching over her. In November of 1955, Archangel Gabriel, the Angel of Purity, would encourage her to go to Mary to learn great purity of heart by which to discern the spirits, the good from the bad. Then, on September 25, 1956, the eve of the North American Martyrs at that time, she received the first visit from Our Lady while stationed a second time in Rome City, IN, the place where she was engaged in a fierce battle with Satan. Our Lady first appeared under the image of Our Lady of Lourdes where she had identified herself as "I am the Immaculate

Conception,” the title chosen for Mary as Patroness of the United States. On September 26, the next day, Our Lady gave America the great favor of her appearance under the title of our country, “**Our Lady of America**,” and thanked us for choosing her as our Patroness. She gave America a mission to be the nation dedicated to her purity and to lead the world in a reform of life, sanctification from within, and a return to Faith and Purity through union with the Divine Indwelling of the Most Holy Trinity which is the source of love that drives out hate, and the source of peace that knows no end. The Holy Family is to be our model of heaven on earth. She called on the youth of America and the world to aid in this urgent need for renewal and gave them the title of “**Torchbearers of the Queen**.” To emphasize the importance of the interior life Our Lady appeared in 1957 as “**Our Lady of the Divine Indwelling, handmaid of Him Who dwells within**.” In May of 1958 Sister entered the newly established Our Lady of Nativity Cloister in New Riegel, OH, within her own community. In her own words, Sister Mildred stated that her mission on earth was to do all she could to spread devotion to the Divine Indwelling Presence of the Most Holy Trinity in our souls, and to urge Christian families to live this doctrine in imitation of the Holy Family at Nazareth. In a June 5, 1957 letter, Sister records Our Lady’s words to her:

“Your mission is vast, my child. It reaches to the ends of the earth. It will continue until time is no more, because there will always be the need for the sanctification of the family and of souls. Fear not, small one, for it is through the most unlikely of instruments that God works His wonders. He chooses where the world would not. He makes that possible what the world deems impossible. He stops, where the world would pass on. God has no need of anyone yet He chooses the smallest of the small for His glory.

Sweet child, let your humble heart be filled with a great confidence for my Son is in love with your lowliness and simplicity of heart. Make known to souls the preference my Son has for humility. Behold, I, His humble Mother, always looked upon myself as His lowly Handmaid, ready, at all times, to do His bidding. The humble, so greatly loved by Him, are also, in deed and in truth, my children.”

Imitation of the Holy Family’s life in union with the Blessed Trinity is the source of all love and peace and sanctifies the person and the family and society as well. This is the reform of life, renewal from within, that Our Lady is calling us to in this great favor to our Nation. Sister fulfilled Our Lady’s request to spread the messages with her Diary and to have the Medallion struck after Bishop Paul F. Leibold put his imprimatur on her sketch of it on May 1, 1961. Leaflets with the two prayers essential to the message and explaining the medal were printed for distribution. Other images and small statues were made and used in public devotions. In 1972, the year that Archbishop Leibold died, a statue was sent to the Holy Father through the papal nuncio. A larger statue was carried in recent World Youth Days and other devotional processions. Our Lady’s ultimate request is for a statue made in this image to be carried in solemn procession and then enthroned in a place of honor in our Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. We are to honor her there as “**Our Lady of America, the Immaculate Virgin**,” the title of her purity and her patronage. Sister has fulfilled her mission; it is now up to our bishops to fulfill Our Lady’s ultimate request regarding the enthronement, a request that carries a promise of miracles with it, especially miracles of the soul, and protection for our land. In those early years Sister presented her manuscripts containing the messages for approval to Bishop Paul F. Leibold and Archbishop Karl J. Altar of Cincinnati, OH; Most Reverend George J.

Rehring of Toledo, OH; Bishop Clarence G. Issenmann of Columbus, OH; Most Rev. Joseph M. Marling of Jefferson City, MO; and the Rev. Monsignor William F. McDonough, director of the National Shrine, who came to the cloister in New Riegel, OH to speak with Sister. Other bishops became familiar with the message over the years as well. In 2000 packages with the Diary and the Medallion and leaflet were sent to nearly 300 bishops and auxiliary bishops. We must continue to spread the messages while we pray for the bishops to act.

In February of 1978, Sister's contemplative group requested separation from the active community in order to preserve their way of life. Rejection and abandonment followed. Not only did Jesus favor Sister with a divine espousal, but He invited her to a life of victimhood, a deep share in His own rejection, abandonment, and Passion for the salvation of souls. We have recounted before how Our Lord appeared to her, offering her His crown of thorns and asking if she would suffer for souls; how He came with His cross and asked if she would allow Him to nail her to it. He then told her He had placed her on the altar of sacrifice, so much like He had been. Since all sin must be atoned for, God often invites willing souls to make atonement for those who will not in order to save them, for in His infinite love and mercy He always comes, not to condemn but to save. But, God also respects our freedom; hence, if people are condemned, it is they who condemn themselves. <https://www.ourladyofamerica.com/whatsnew/WillYouAcceptMyCrossandCrownofThorns.pdf>

On January 10, 2000, in the New Millennium, Sister Mildred Mary Neuzil, age 83, was born into heaven. Her funeral Mass was celebrated at the Basilica of Our Lady of Consolation in Carey, OH, by nephew, Fr. Gregory Neuzil, from Tennessee. Friends and family came from around the country that snowy day to say their farewells. January 10, 2019 marks the 19th anniversary of Sister Mildred's death. Having suffered so much in life, we are assured she is in eternal rest with God, with Jesus, Mary and Joseph and all the angels and saints. Thank you, Sister, for a mission accomplished for our sanctification.

“My little, white dove, the evil spirits have been let loose upon the earth because love has grown cold in the hearts of men. Only sacrificial souls will be able to cast them forth into the infernal abyss from which they have come forth.

Bride of My Heart, let love be the sacrificial altar of your holocaust. Behold the Furnace of Love, the Heart of your Divine Spouse. Lead to this Eternal Fire, oh My Spouse, which burns incessantly in My Adorable Heart, all those who are willing to sacrifice themselves to that Everlasting Love, Who first sacrificed Himself for them.” (Our Lord to Sister, June 5, 1957 letter.)

A nun, having seen the devastation and desolation the devil caused upon the earth, asked Our Lady why hell had been loosed upon it. Our Lady replied that it was time to pray to her as **Queen of Angels** for the assistance of the Heavenly Legions to fight against these deadly foes of God and of all humanity. The nun asked Our Lady why she didn't just send them without being asked. Our Lady answered that **prayer is one of the conditions required by God to obtain favors**; then Our Lady taught the nun this miraculous prayer:

August Queen of Heaven, Sovereign Mistress of the Angels, thou who from the beginning hast received from God the power and mission to crush the head of Satan, we humbly beseech thee to send thy holy Legions, that under thy command and by thy power, they may pursue the evil spirits, encounter them on every side, resist their bold attacks, and drive them hence into the abyss of everlasting woe. Amen.

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