

# The 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Our Lady of America® and the Three Hearts

## The Sanctification of the Family, the Divine Indwelling and Peace in the World

**“It is the wish of my Son that fathers and mothers strive to imitate me and my chaste spouse in our holy life at Nazareth. We practiced the simple virtues of family life, Jesus our Son being the center of all our love and activity. The Holy Trinity dwelt with us in a manner far surpassing anything that can ever be imagined, for ours was the earthly paradise where once again God walked among men.**

**As in our little home no sin was to be found, so it is the wish of the Heart of my Son and my Immaculate Heart that sin should, as far as possible, be unheard of in the homes of our children. The Divine Trinity will dwell in your midst only if you are faithful in practicing the virtues of our life at Nazareth. Then, you also, my children, you also will become another paradise. God will then walk among you and you will have peace. I need your help to bring peace into the world. Do not disappoint me. “**

**(Sister Mildred Mary Neuzil, Diary, OUR LADY OF AMERICA®, Fostoria, Ohio, Pg. 8, spoken by Our Lady in locution to Sister Mildred on November 8, 1954.)**

Our Blessed Lady first appeared to Sister Mildred Mary Neuzil sixty years ago on the eve of the feast of the North American martyrs, September 25, 1956. Almost two years earlier, Sister had the above locution making known to her interiorly that her mission was **“to converge towards the sanctification of the family.”** (Diary, Pg. 4.) In these words Our Lady states that the secret of holiness for every person and family on earth is to imitate the simple virtues of the Holy Family, the three hearts of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in their love for one another and for all others, and to live in union with the Most Holy Trinity in the depths of their souls and at the center of their lives. Jesus must be at the heart of every family on earth as He is the heart of the Family of the Trinity. This understanding that God is family and mirrored Himself in the Holy Family as a model for us to be holy in our own families confirms God’s design that all life is created to be Trinitarian, made in His image. Jesus, Mary and Joseph understood that their peace and happiness could only be found in a humble obedience to the Divine Will. Our peace and happiness lies in doing God’s will, too, for no one wills our good more than He. When we live in His Will we always stand right with Him, with ourselves and with others in a sweet harmony of grace. In such harmony we become truly His paradise on earth where He again walks among us. God lives in all creation and every person. Recognizing God in every soul is the way to peace, for we have been adopted as brothers and sisters to Jesus and to one another, children of the same God Who is Father to all.

**“If souls would place themselves into my keeping, I would teach them the way of true love. If men truly loved my Son, they would not quarrel with each other and they would have peace in their own hearts. Peace is from within, not from without. If mankind were at peace with itself, there would be peace in the world. Man will only have peace if he has in his heart that true love of neighbor**

**that springs from a whole-hearted love for my Son. ... O child of my Pure Heart, tell my children to come to me and learn this true love of my Son, which is so necessary for their peace of soul.” (Diary, Pg. 16.) [**

On August 5, 1957, Our Lady explained to Sister Mildred that the Divine Indwelling was her whole life and she lived it perfectly. She had carried the Holy One of God into the world in the tabernacle of her womb, and she brought Him forth into the world in His enduring Presence within her soul and in His Sacred Humanity. She was deeply aware of God’s Presence within her and knew that all her greatness came from Him Who dwelt within, living and loving through her. It is this deep seated consciousness of God within us to which Our Lady refers when she speaks of reformation and renewal. **“It is this about which she is so concerned, namely, sanctification from within.” ... “She seemed anxious to impress me with some idea of the greatness of this gift of God to us, namely, His Divine Presence within our souls through sanctifying grace.”** (Diary, Pg. 18.)

Throughout the message of Our Lady of America® is this intermingling experience of life and love as seen in the imitation of the Holy Family, living in union with the Divine Presence within and without, and the surrender of our will to the Divine Will that brings us the peace of Christ which the world cannot give. It was the sacrifice of Christ’s will to the Father’s Will that wrought our salvation in the Eternal and Perfect Sacrifice of the unblemished Lamb of God. Our reverence for His Sacrifice must lead us to the altar of God, likewise as priest and victim, to lay our own lives on the table before Him, confident that His blood will be life for us in the mystery of redemption. Nothing impure can enter into the Presence of God; so must we be purified and made worthy to enter His Presence.

**[Sept. 26-27 of 1957:] “My child, there will be peace, as has been promised, but not until my children are purified and cleansed from defilement, and clothed thus with the white garment of grace, are made ready to receive this peace, so long promised and so long held back because of the sins of men.”** (Diary, Pg. 21.)

Three hearts, not two, were part of God’s plan for the restoration of the human family after Adam’s sin. In theological circles we refer to that trinity on earth as the hypostatic order of grace, Jesus, the Sacred Humanity; Mary, His Mother and Mother of God; and Joseph, Jesus’ legal father standing in the place of God the Father over Him on earth, for it is the Father’s Will that every child in the human family should have both a father and a mother. God designed it so. Joseph is often referred to as the “shadow of the Father.” Our Lady’s message goes on to say that God has placed the peace of the world in the hands of the Holy Family who can best show us how to live in the Presence of God, for God was always in their midst. On the eve of his feast in 1958 St. Joseph said he would make known God’s desire to honor him and his important role in the work of our redemption and sanctification with Jesus and Mary by establishing a day to honor his fatherhood, and through it, all fatherhood.

**“Dear Child, I was king in the little home of Nazareth, for I sheltered within it the Prince of Peace and the Queen of Heaven. To me they looked for protection and sustenance, and I did not fail them....In honoring in a special way my fatherhood, you also honor Jesus and Mary. The Divine Trinity has**

placed into our keeping the peace of the world. The imitation of the Holy Family, my child, of the virtues we practiced in our little home at Nazareth is the way for all souls to that peace which comes from God alone and which none other can give." (Diary, Pg. 29.)

On March 30, 1958, St. Joseph appeared and requested that we honor him on the First Wednesday of each month as we honor Our Lady on the First Saturday and the Sacred Heart on the First Friday, thus completing this Trinitarian devotion to the three hearts of the Holy Family to whom the peace of the world is entrusted.

"I am the protector of the Church and the home, as I was the protector of Christ and His Mother while I lived upon earth. Jesus and Mary desire that my pure heart, so long hidden and unknown, be now honored in a special way. Let my children honor my most pure heart in a special manner on the First Wednesday of the month by reciting the *Joyful Mysteries* of the rosary in memory of my life with Jesus and Mary and the love I bore them, the sorrow I suffered with them. Let them receive Holy Communion in union with the love with which I received the Savior for the first time and each time I held Him in my arms." (Diary, Pg. 31.)

Saint John Paul II, in his apostolic letter, **Familiaris Consortio** said this:

Since the Creator of all things has established the conjugal partnership as the beginning and basis of human society," the family is "the first and vital cell of society." ... Consequently, faced with a society that is running the risk of becoming more and more depersonalized and standardized and therefore inhuman and dehumanizing, with the negative results of many forms of escapism--such as alcoholism, drugs and even terrorism--the family possesses and continues still to release formidable energies capable of taking man out of his anonymity, keeping him conscious of his personal dignity, enriching him with deep humanity and actively placing him, in his uniqueness and unrepeatability, within the fabric of society. (Paragraphs 42 and 43.)

In Sister Mildred's 1957 letter to her spiritual director of 32 years, Father (later Archbishop) Paul F. Leibold, she records Our Lady's words regarding her mission and the role of humility in the sanctification of souls and the family.

"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 which the world deems impossible...He chooses the smallest of the small for His glory. Sweet child, let your humble heart be filled with 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."

In his encyclical letter **Redemptoris Custos**, St. John Paul II declares

**“We see that at the beginning of the New Testament, as at the beginning of the Old, there is a married couple. But whereas Adam and Eve were the source of evil which was unleashed on the world, Joseph and Mary are the summit from which holiness spreads all over the earth. The Savior began the work of salvation by this virginal and holy union, wherein is manifested his all-powerful will to purify and sanctify the family—that sanctuary of love and cradle of life.” (Paragraph 17.)**

In the **Mystical City of God**, Venerable Mary of Agreda relates Our Lady’s words regarding St. Joseph.

**“My daughter, although thou hast described my spouse, Saint Joseph, as the most noble among the princes and saints of the heavenly Jerusalem; yet neither canst thou properly manifest his eminent sanctity, nor can any of the mortals know it fully before they arrive at the vision of Divinity. Then all of them will be filled with wonder and praise as the Lord will make them capable of understanding this sacrament. On the last day, when all men shall be judged, the damned will bitterly bewail their sins, which prevented them from appreciating this powerful means of their salvation, and availing themselves, as they easily could have, of this intercessor to gain the friendship of the just Judge. The whole human race has much undervalued the privileges and prerogatives conceded to my blessed spouse and they know not what his intercession with God is able to do. I assure thee, my dearest, that he is one of the greatly favored personages in the divine presence and has immense power to stay the arms of divine vengeance. ... From now on, during the rest of thy mortal life, see that thou advance in devotion and in hearty love toward my spouse, and that thou bless the Lord for thus having favored him with such high privileges and for having rejoiced me so much in the knowledge of all his excellences. In all thy necessities thou must avail thyself of his intercession. ... That which my spouse asks of the Lord in heaven is granted upon the earth and on his intercession depend many and extraordinary favors for men, if they do not make themselves unworthy of receiving them.” (Venerable Mary of Agreda, THE MYSTICAL CITY of God.)**

St. Thomas Aquinas noted that some saints extend their intercession to us in certain needs but not in others; **“but our holy patron, St. Joseph, has the power to assist us in all cases, in every necessity, in every undertaking.”** St. Teresa of Avila claims: **“Our Lord would have us to understand that as He was subject to St. Joseph on earth—for St. Joseph, bearing the title of father and being His guardian, could command Him—so now in Heaven Our Lord grants all his petitions.”**

Armed with this knowledge of the powerful intercession of St. Joseph before the throne of God, let us entrust to him the cause of Our Lady of America®. Daily let us beg him to intercede for our bishops to fulfill Our Lady’s request for the enthronement of her statue in our National Shrine without further delay, for she has promised it would be a safeguard for our country, especially now when war threatens us from around the globe. Let us entrust our families to him, our children, our labors, our sick and elderly, our Church and our schools, our whole culture. Let us ask him to bring us that law that will define the personhood of the child in

the womb and thus end abortion. Ask him to bring an end to ISIS and terror, to sex traffickers, to Planned Parenthood and corruption in our governments and corporations, and an end to all unnatural acts that parade themselves as intrinsic rights. Let us beg him for every need of the human family to stand with dignity before God and with the freedom of the children of God, free to speak and to pray, at home and in the marketplace. Let us ask Joseph for everything we can possibly need, for we have been given the greatest confidence by both Our Lady and the saints that there is nothing he cannot obtain for us. Let us ask him to make Our Lady of America ® known and loved throughout the world, and to protect our country and our Church and our homes from the enemies of God.

St. Joseph, we place all our trust in you. Bid Mary kiss your prayers of intercession on our behalf and bid Jesus lay His hand of blessing upon these prayers and answer us. Amen

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