

The Will of the Father Must Be Dearer Than All Else

Behold the Handmaid of the Lord!

...total surrender to the Divine Will is the door which opens into the House of Peace, the life of union.

Those of us old enough to have been taught the fundamental doctrines of our Catholic Faith with the Baltimore Catechism remember the question, “Why did God make you?” And the answer was: to know Him, to love Him, to serve Him in this world and to be happy with Him in the next. The Catechism of the Catholic Church puts it this way: **It pleased God, in his goodness and wisdom, to reveal himself and to make known the mystery of his will. His will was that men should have access to the Father, through Christ, the Word made flesh, in the Holy Spirit, and thus become sharers in the divine nature.** (Catechism of the Catholic Church, Article 1.)



In a nutshell, that gives us the heart of the message of Our Lady of America, the Immaculate Virgin which is the Indwelling Presence of the Most Holy Trinity. Mary is at the heart of this work of revelation and salvation, alongside her Son, for it was she who gave God a human body and a human Face when she said “yes” to God’s Will calling her to the exalted vocation of the Divine Maternity of the Son of God, the Sacred Humanity. Her “fiat” allowed God’s Word to take flesh within her so He might dwell amongst us, making us other sons and daughters by adoption, through the power of His Holy Spirit. In the Old Covenant no one dared see God and live. In this New Covenant it is imperative that we see God in the Face of Jesus and His brothers and sisters born of divine grace or we will surely die. Sin came into the world when Lucifer and his cohorts said “non serviam, I will not serve” a God Who stoops so low as to cast aside His glorious nature in order to assume one so unworthy of Him, the lowliness of our own. What kind of love can stir such humility in one Who is Lord over all, Mighty God and Ruler of Heaven and earth?

Mary, a humble woman with this “inferior” nature, responded to the angel’s message that God willed her to be the Mother of His Beloved Son who would assume our human nature in order to redeem us by saying: **“Behold the handmaid of the Lord; Be it done to me according to thy word.” I will serve!** What a contrast to Satan’s “no”! On February 11, 1958, Our Lady declared:

“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.” [The goal of redemption is twofold: to wash away sin and to unite us to God.]

(Sister Mildred (Mary Ephrem) Neuzil, The Diary, OUR LADY OF AMERICA, Tiffin, OH, Pg. 24.)

On November 22-23, 1957, Our Lady revealed herself to Sister Mildred, not in the image of Our Lady of America, but in a new image that showed her as she really and truly was, the Immaculate Tabernacle of the Indwelling God! With her “fiat” she became the Ark of the New Covenant, a living tabernacle in the flesh for the living God to dwell within



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her and in our very nature so we can live above it in the realm of the supernatural. We, too, are called to become living tabernacles for the Most Holy Trinity Who longs to make of our souls His dwelling place in the temple of our very being. Sister Mildred Neuzil was given the mission of making this doctrine of the Divine Indwelling known so as to sanctify every heart and home with the Divine Presence where the Will of God is done on earth as it is in heaven, where all life gives praise and glory to God as a mirror of His own infinite Purity and goodness and love! **“The Holy Trinity looks down with infinite delight upon such souls and makes them Its heaven upon earth.”** (The Diary, Pg. 16.)

Often Our Lady’s message to Sister was not well received. Once Sister was called “a crazy woman.” On August 22, 1957, Our Lady said to Sister: **“Patience, sweet child! The Will of the Father must be dearer to you than all else. This is the lesson every soul desiring intimate union with my Son must strive to learn.”** (The Diary, Pg. 19.) On August 14, 1980 Our Lady promised that in the end all will come as she desires:

“Beloved daughter, you are not being accepted because you are a small one. But in the end all will come as I desire. Those who oppose you will receive light to understand. These good people mean well and if they are in authority it is for you to listen respectfully and obey. I will speak to them in their hearts and the Divine Spirit who makes all things clear will give them wisdom and understanding. In the end they will do as I wish. So, have patience, dear one, it will happen as I have said and those who have opposed me will become my most ardent and courageous supporters. Until this comes to pass, wait in trust, knowing that I never fail those who place their confidence in me. My Son blesses you, be at peace.” (The Diary, Pg. 37.)

On March 18, 1958, St. Joseph urged perfect obedience to the Divine Will.

“Mine was perfect obedience to the Divine Will, as it was shown and made known to me by the Jewish law and religion. To be careless in this is most displeasing to God and will be severely punished in the next world.” (The Diary, Pg. 27.)

Sister Mildred was taught by the two greatest models of surrender to the Divine Will in the world--Our Lady and St. Joseph. She wrote Father Paul Leibold these words:

The Holy Virgin has since told me of the pleasure you have given her in striving to carry out at least some of her requests, those you feel you are able to at this time. She does not expect the impossible. When the time comes, she will take care of it herself, in her own way. It will come, that is sure. It may well be this small one will not live to see it. But that doesn’t matter. She must increase, and I must decrease. There is need of Our Lady but not of me, that is certain. It is so nice, Father, to be a nothing. I cannot imagine being anything better. I love the hidden corners. The smaller I become, the easier do I fit into them....

You know, Father, that God’s Will is everything to me. If there is any turmoil it is only on the surface. It is quickly gone, leaving no ill effects behind. I love Him too much ever to wish for something that would be in any way contrary to His Will and Good Pleasure. I am all His so why can’t He do with me what He wants to. So that is why my heart is always at peace even though there are minor earthquakes on top.

In her September 12, 1958 letter to Bishop Leibold Sister wrote regarding her assignment to instruct the new ones coming into the cloister:

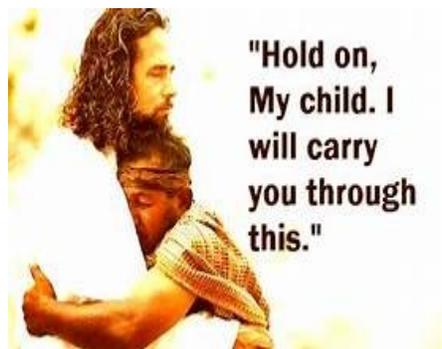
Naturally our goal is Divine Union...in which perfect peace reigns. The first instruction was an explanation of the true meaning of complete poverty of spirit, utter detachment, in other words. The content of subsequent topics will be the means through which this poverty of spirit can be attained. All will center around this complete detachment, especially of the interior. This utter emptying of ourselves, this total surrender to the Divine Will is the door which opens into the House of Peace, the life of union.

The great doctrine of the Most Holy Trinity dwelling within the soul through sanctifying grace and the deep awareness that it is only in doing the Will of God that one finds peace is expressed in the entirety of the message of Our Lady of America. For Sister, it was her life, as these aspirations, written in 1947, portray so well.

O Holy Trinity, one God, I beseech You, deprive me of all things if it be your will, but deprive me not of Yourself. For You are my life, and if You are lost to me, death will be my portion. For without You, O Divine Presence, there can be no life, only death, for You are the true life of the soul. How can there be any life without You, the Author of life? When You make known, in a special manner, Your Divine Presence within me, I become so enraptured as to forget all things of earth, being completely carried away by the sweetness and strength of Your love. Continue then to live in me, O Trinity Divine, as You lived in the burning heart of Christ Your Son, the God-Man, that my heart, too, like His, may be consumed in the Fires of Eternal Charity. Amen.

ASPIRATIONS TO THE DIVINE WILL

Will of God, I adore You.
Will of God, I love You.
Will of God, I dedicate myself to You.
Will of God, let me lose myself in You.
Will of God, rule my life.
Will of God, teach me.
Will of God, sanctify me.
Will of God, be my peace.
Will of God, be the light of my life.
Will of God, be my refuge in trouble.
Will of God, may You be always accomplished in me.
Will of God, uphold my frailty.
Will of God, transform me.
Will of God, be my joy in life and my consolation in death.
Will of God, I offer myself as your victim.
Will of God, bear me to heaven.
Will of God, I embrace You as Jesus did in the garden, and in union with Him I offer my life for souls.



**"Hold on,
My child. I
will carry
you through
this."**



I was told years back that I would have much to suffer and I was asked if I would be willing and would accept all this suffering to give Him, Our Lord, to souls. My answer was "Yes" as proof of my love for Him. Dear Sister, never did I realize what would be asked of me or what I would have to face. But I do not regret any of it as I love Him so much. (Letter to Sister Zita, August 1981.)

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