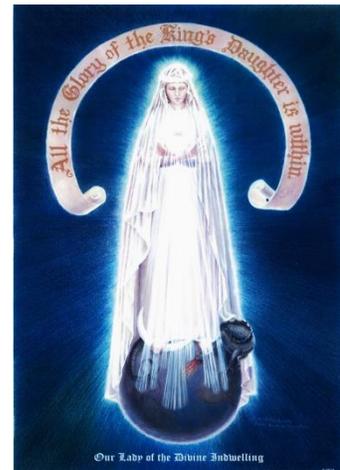


The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin-Mary, Patroness of our beloved Land!



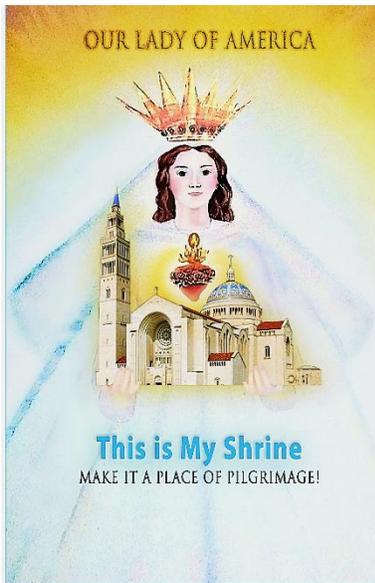
Our last newsletter honored the parents of Mary and Joseph, the grandparents of Jesus, and Maria Bambina, the infant Mary, in a devotion deeply related to that of her Immaculate Conception when she was conceived **in the womb of her mother, Anne**, without the stain of original sin. God favored this child with a fullness of grace fitting to one ordained to be the Mother of His Divine Son who would take flesh in **her womb** and become man. The Immaculate Conception of Mary marks the beginning of the fullness of time and the unfolding of God's plan of salvation in human history. In the Incarnation, God wed His divinity to our humanity in the person of the Sacred Humanity of Jesus, becoming Emmanuel, God with us and dwelling amongst us.

Sacred Scripture speaks of God marrying His people. This is the Marriage-Covenant God made of old with His Chosen People. In the message of Our Lady of America, Our Lady appeared to Sister Mildred (Mary Ephrem) Neuzil as she truly was, the Immaculate Tabernacle of the Indwelling God, the only creature in whom there is no sin, the only vessel worthy to bear God into our world. The Ark of the Covenant in the Old Testament carried the rod of Aaron's priesthood, the manna from heaven and the tablets of God's laws, but Mary, as the Ark of the New Covenant, carried in her womb the Eternal High Priest Himself, the Bread of everlasting Life, and the New Moses who rephrased the Ten Commandments in the Two Great Commandments of Love: love God with all your heart and mind and soul, and love your neighbor as yourself. On November 23, 1957, Our Lady declared: **"I am Our Lady of the Divine Indwelling, handmaid of Him Who dwells within."**



(Sister Mildred (Mary Ephrem) Neuzil, Diary, OUR LADY OF AMERICA, Tiffin, OH, Pages 22-23.)

On May 17, 1846, the Sixth Provincial Council of the Church in America proclaimed Mary, under the title of her Immaculate Conception, the patroness of America. It wasn't until December 8, 1854, that Pope Blessed Pius IX issued the encyclical **INEFFABILIS DEUS** that officially defined the dogma of the Immaculate Conception as an obligation of Catholic belief. In 1858, heaven smiled upon these actions of the Church with Our Lady's appearance at Lourdes, France, where she identified herself as **"I am the Immaculate Conception,"** confirming the Church's action. The fact that Our Lady appeared to Sister Mildred first as Our Lady of Lourdes where this identification occurred, then identified herself as **"I am Our Lady of America,"** and later asked to be enthroned in our patronal church of the Immaculate Conception, roots this doctrine in the depths of our American religious heritage. Our Lady desires to be honored both under the title of our country and



under the title of her utter sinlessness, obligating the US Bishops to enthrone a statue of her as **Our Lady of America, the Immaculate Virgin** in her Shrine, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. The experience of Fatima has taught us that we must obey Our Lady completely and exactly to avoid dire consequences. There must be no other title or derivative of this one. This is the only shrine that she asks to be made a pilgrimage site and that a solemn procession precede her enthronement. She asks for no procession nor enthronement at any other shrine, church, chapel, or oratory. This is the only place for which she asks for our support with prayer, labor and funds. Our Lady appeared on October 13, 1956, holding in her hands, not the lily but a replica of this finished national shrine, and declared: **“This is my shrine...make it a place of**

pilgrimage. It will be a place of wonders.” (Diary, Page 14.) ***By these actions and words, Our Lady has made the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D. C. her Shrine and the one true center of this devotion. It is the only place identified in the entire Diary of Sister Mildred.***

“Will my loyal sons carry out my desires and thus help me bring the peace of Christ once again to mankind?”

“Will my children in America listen to my pleadings and console my Immaculate Heart?” (Diary, Page 15.)

What must we in America do to console the Immaculate Heart?

Based on the messages of Our Lady of America, we must pray the rosary daily as a family and recite frequently ***“The Prayer to the Immaculate Conception”*** and the ***“Prayer to the Indwelling Most Holy Trinity,”*** the two prayers essential to this devotion. We must make the First Wednesday devotion to St. Joseph a vital part of our spiritual lives, reflecting on the Joyful Mysteries of the rosary that honor his time on earth with Jesus and Mary. Fatherhood **“must take once again its rightful place among men.”** We must pray and fast for all our bishops and trust Our Lady’s promise regarding them.

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 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. (Diary, Page 37, August 14, 1980.)

Most of all, we must enthrone a photo or statue of Our Lady of America in a place of honor in our homes for the promised protection of our families and homes. The special reduced price for the statue of \$60 will be extended to January 15, 2023.

Two practices not part of the message of Our Lady of America per se, but inherent in it are this simple Consecration to Mary that can be prayed daily, and this once-a-year Hour of Grace that is special to the solemnity of the feast of the Immaculate Conception. **The Consecration for every day!**

O Mary, my Queen, my Mother, I give myself entirely to you, and to show my devotion to you, I consecrate to you this day, my eyes, my ears, my mouth, my heart, my whole being without reserve. Wherefore, good Mother, as I am thine, keep me, guard me as thy property and possession. Amen.

Request of our Blessed Mother for The Hour of Grace for the World

This special Hour of Grace is to be offered on the feast of the Immaculate Conception from 12 noon to 1:00 p.m. Remove oneself from all distractions and concentrate on prayer. Begin by reciting Psalm 51 three times. The rest of the hour can be spent on the rosary, meditation, other prayers, silence, but praying especially for one's country and that all souls will be drawn to God and Jesus will be loved in every heart.

Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness; in your abundant compassion blot out my offense. Wash away all my guilt; from my sin cleanse me. For I know my offense; my sin is before me always. Against You alone have I sinned; I have done such evil in your sight that you are just in your sentence, blameless when you condemn. True, I was born guilty, a sinner even as my mother conceived me. Still, you insist on sincerity of heart; in my inmost being teach me wisdom. Cleanse me with hyssop, that I may be pure; wash me, that I may be whiter than snow. Let me hear sounds of joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. Turn away your face from my sins; blot out all my guilt. A clean heart create for me, O God, and a steadfast spirit renew within me. Do not drive me from your presence, nor take me from your holy spirit. Restore my joy in your salvation; sustain in me a willing spirit. I will teach the wicked your ways, that sinners may return to you. Rescue me from death, O God, my saving God, that my tongue may praise your healing power. Lord, open my lips; my mouth will proclaim your praise. For you do not desire sacrifice; a burnt offering you would not accept. My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit. God, do not spurn a broken, humbled heart. Make Zion prosper in your good pleasure; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Then you will be pleased with proper sacrifice, burnt offerings and holocausts; then bullocks will be offered on your altars.

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