

# **OUR LADY OF AMERICA**

## ***The Immaculate Virgin***

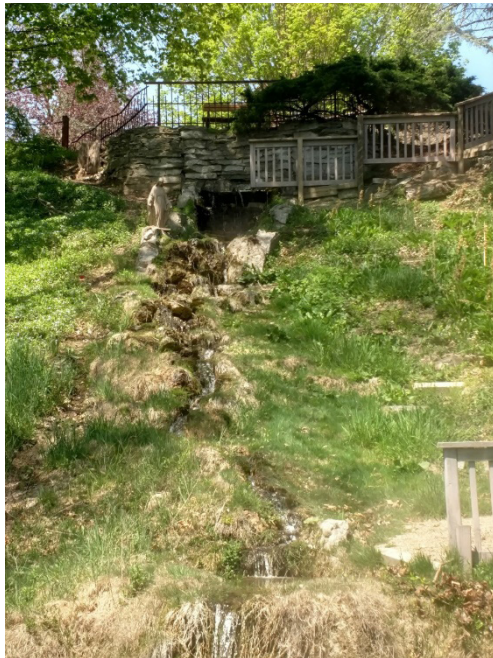


**A brief overview of the history of the property  
where Our Lady first Appeared, September 25-27, 1956,  
and the significance of the Apparitions and messages**

**For diary of messages, medals and prayer cards go to:**  
<https://www.ourladyofamerica.org/wordpress/>



**Historical photo of the Kneipp Springs Sanitarium  
- convent of the Sisters of the Precious Blood**



**The Springs today**



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***“By Thy Holy and Immaculate Conception  
O Mary,  
deliver us from evil.”***



# OUR LADY OF AMERICA

## The Immaculate Virgin

It was on the eve of the Feast of the North American Martyrs, September 25, 1956, that the Our Lady first Appeared to Sister Mary Ephrem. Our Lady Appeared multiple times and in multiple Ways, mainly as Our Lady of America, the Immaculate Virgin. Our Lady made specific Requests, and Promised Heavenly Blessings. The effort of this booklet is to offer to the children of the Mother of God an overview of the history of the property where Our Lady first Appeared, the relevance of the property itself, as well as the significance of the Apparitions and Messages.

From a letter of Sister Mary Ephrem to her confessor, +Archbishop Paul Frances Leibold, the following are the Words of Our Lady and the full description of the initial Apparitions.

“In the fall of 1956, I (Sister Mary Ephrem) was sent to help out at Kneipp Springs, Rome City, Indiana. It was at this place that the official Visits of Our Lady began and the special mission Revealed. This is the account as it was written at that time:

On the eve of the Feast of the North American Martyrs, as I was making the Holy Hour from 7:00 to 8:00, 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 gown which was white 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 in 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 men. 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 continues) It was the morning of September 26<sup>th</sup> of the same year, Feast of the American Martyrs. Mass had just been concluded and thanksgiving over, that is in Community form. There were a few minutes left when suddenly Our Lady Appeared before me, Enveloped in a Soft Glow of Light. I knew with unmistakable certainty that it was She, though She did not Speak immediately. What I noticed was the Smile on Our Lady’s Beautiful Countenance and the Lily She held in Her right hand. She wore a white Veil, which reached almost to the waist, also a Mantle and Robe which were of a pure white, not one single decoration of any kind. She wore a High and Brilliant Crown of Gold. Her hair seemed of medium brown, also the eyes. Her feet were bare. I did not always see them as Our Lady stood on Clouds that moved and so sometimes covered Her Blessed feet. She continued to Smile, 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 the Mantle, so that Her Immaculate Heart could be seen. Then Solemnly and Distinctly, in calm yet Majestic Tones I heard the Words:

***“I am Our Lady of America. I desire that My children honor Me especially, by the purity of their lives.”***

She was so Beautiful and Her Smile held me. But I became conscious of the fact that the Community was leaving the Chapel and I, too, had to go as Obedience directed me. I said to Our Lady, “Please forgive me, Mother, but I do have to go now, else my work will not get finished.” Our Lady understood, but did not leave me. When I entered my room, Our Lady was there waiting for me. Then I noticed the green color of the Lily stem, also that Our Lady wore a white sash or belt around Her waist. It seemed to be made of the same material as the Robe. There were no ends of it to be seen at all and it was narrow, very narrow. As I had to hurry about my tasks, I could not give Our Lady all the attention I longed to, but every now and then I would direct a glance of love towards Her. Our Lady stood there Smiling as I had seen Her in the Chapel. All that day I was conscious of Our Lady’s Presence in a Very Special Manner, in a Way that was distinctly new to me. I also saw Her



frequently. Our Lady seemed Anxious to impress me with the Truth and Importance of Her Appearance.

During the last half of the Holy Hour, four to five in the afternoon, the Immaculate Virgin Spoke to me at length in these Words:

***“My child, I entrust you with the 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.”***

On September 27<sup>th</sup> Our Lady again Appeared to me while I was at prayer. She held the world in Her hands. From Her eyes Tears were Flowing upon it as though She Longed to Cleanse it from its guilt. It was then I heard these Words filled with Sorrow and Longing:

***“Behold, oh My children, the Tears of your Mother. Shall I Weep in vain? Assuage the Sorrow of My Heart over the ingratitude of sinful men by the love and chasteness of your lives. Will you do this for Me, beloved children, or will you allow your Mother to Weep in vain? I Come to you, oh children of America, as a last resort. I Plead with [you] to listen to My Voice. Cleanse your souls in the Precious Blood of My Son. Live in His Heart, and take Me in that I may Teach you to live in great purity of heart which is so pleasing to God. Be My army of chaste soldiers, ready to fight to the death to preserve the purity of your souls. I am the Immaculate One, Patroness of your Land. Be My faithful children as I have been your Faithful Mother. These are My Words, oh My daughter. Make them known to My children. I Desire to make the whole of America My Shrine by making every heart accessible to the Love of My Son.”*** (letter of Sister Mary Ephrem to her confessor +Archbishop Paul Frances Leibold dated 2/20/60)

Our Lady confirms Her Identity to Sister Mary Ephrem as that which the U.S. Bishops declared in 1846 by proclaiming Our Lady “The Immaculate Conception, Patroness of the United States of America”. This title was ratified the following year, 1847, by the Holy See.

Our Lady gave us prayers through the visionary (see prayers at the end of this booklet) including:

***“By Thy Holy and Immaculate Conception O Mary,  
deliver us from evil.”***

To honor Our Lady of America, we repeat this prayer that She taught Sister Mary Ephrem, with the certain hope that we may be Our Lady of America's little, faithful children. Furthermore, we pray in the Will of God that Holy Mother Church soon recognize Sister Mildred Mary Ephrem Neuzil as Servant of God. For it is to this chosen soul and of her confessor, +Archbishop Paul Leibold, that Our Lord spoke thus:

***“...through you a great work will be accomplished.”***

***I AM the Great Sculptor of souls. With hammer and chisel I form  
them that they may glorify My Father  
by their beauty and perfection.***

***Be pliant in My Hands, oh My two lowly ones,  
My priest and My little white dove,  
and then will you be formed into My likeness and through you,  
I will be formed in souls.”***

***(Letter from Sr. Mary Ephrem to her confessor Archbishop +Paul Leibold 2/20/54)***



***Sister Mary Ephrem***

***Born Mildred Marie Neuzil***

***on August 2, 1916 -***

***Feast of Our Lady, Queen of the Angels***

***Died January 10, 2000***

As souls visit, either in person or in spirit, the Apparition site of Our Lady of America, may we honor Her there, giving ourselves to Her as Her little children. With the Power and Love of God's Grace, may we, in Our Lady's Hands, become all that God Wants. May Our Lady of America Bless this and all efforts to honor Her and aid the great work of the Divine Mandate given to the children of the United States of America, that is, to lead the world to Peace. May all be for the Glory of God and the good of Holy Mother Church, of all souls, and for Peace throughout the world.

***“By Thy Holy and Immaculate Conception O Mary,  
deliver us from evil.”***

## HISTORY OF THE APPARITION SITE PROPERTY

*“Our Lady’s first Visit was at Rome City, Indiana. She Appeared in the Sister’s Chapel on the right, by the steps that lead from there to the public Chapel. Our Lady Appeared saying, “I am Our Lady of America, I desire that My children honor Me especially by the purity of their lives.”* (Letter from Sister Mary Ephrem to Sister Charmaine Grilliot, C.P.P.S – Superior General dated 2/17/75)

Our Lady Chose this little soul and this special place to begin what may be known as one of the most important Apparitions, not only for the United States, but for the Church and the world.

The natural springs on the property have a long history of being used for physical health, dating back as early as the Native American inhabitants who were said to have used them for healing and rejuvenation. The earliest recorded accounts of people who visited the springs for their rejuvenating effects came shortly after the establishment of the railroad through Rome City in 1871. A large excursion of people came by the railroad from Fort Wayne on a Sunday in June, 1876 to enjoy amenities Sylvan Lake offered (along the southern edge) including fresh air and fishing, and to visit the mineral springs. An analysis of the mineral qualities of the springs were made in 1876 which revealed levels of iron bicarbonate, calcium carbonate, magnesium, sodium chloride, calcium phosphate and sulphate, sulphur, hydrogen, oxygen, and carbonic gas. <sup>1</sup>

A Catholic priest by the name of Reverend Dominick Duehmig, a native of Germany, was placed in charge of the parish in nearby Avilla in 1867 where he made substantial improvements during the 1870s and further established churches from Angola westward to Bremen in northern Indiana. These included a church in Rome City where he had been visiting parishioners as early as about 1871. Recognizing the potential for a health resort centered on the springs north of Rome City, he first sought to bring refugee sisters of the order of St. Francis of the Sacred Heart to the area to establish a sanitarium. But, being few in number and with limited resources, the sisters instead were established at Avilla. Father Duehmig did not abandon the idea of creating the resort and in 1894, he met Dr. W. G. Geierman, a young physician from St. Joseph, Michigan. Fr. Duehmig convinced Dr. Geierman to purchase the land then owned by E. M. Buker (Buker had celery gardens and a trout hatchery, but found no money in it). The Doctor had been trained by Fr. Sebastian Kneipp in Vienna using water cures for medicinal purposes.

Dr. Geierman developed the Rome City Sanitarium, also called Silver Springs Sanitarium, which opened in 1895 using the Kneipp Water-Cure method of physical healing.



### **Pictured among many is Dr. Geierman, dated 1911**

After some struggling, in 1901 Fr. Duehmig assisted in the purchase of the Rome City Sanitarium by the Sisters of the Precious Blood, who were based out of Ohio. Mother Mary Emma Nunlist, Superior General of the Sisters of the Precious Blood in Ohio, was a patient in 1901 and upon her return to Ohio, she and her council obtained permission from Archbishop William Elder (1819–1904) to purchase the land and facility for \$25,000. By 1902, the sisters began to make substantial improvements which included an addition to the sanitarium building and a physician's house. They renamed the facility Kneipp Springs Sanitarium, in honor of Monsignor Kneipp. Fr. Duehmig himself found the need for rest and became a patient of the sanitarium in 1905, but died at the facility in the same year.

To accommodate the spiritual needs of the sisters, staff, patients and visitors, a chapel was constructed in 1916 (the year Sister Mary Ephrem was born) with a wing to accommodate more guests between the chapel and sanitarium building.



The chapel, named **‘Our Lady, Mother of Mercy’**, soon took the place of the small Catholic church located in Rome City. This served the needs of parishioners, offering the Sacrifice of the Mass and administering the Sacraments to all, and to those in the

surrounding area. A convent was also constructed in 1916 on the north side of the chapel to house the increasing number of sisters located in Rome City that helped run the sanitarium.

Between 1901 and 1951, the sanitarium administered Kneipp treatments to a yearly average of two thousand guests. The treatments included cold, warm, and hot mineral baths directed toward several chronic diseases as well as functional disorders of major organs. The sisters developed an impressive agricultural complex to support their activities. These buildings and grounds helped in the processing of foodstuffs for the sisters and for patients; a fairly specific diet of fresh products was part of treatment at Kneipp Springs. Additionally, the sisters augmented the terrain with landscape elements to create a restful, meditative environment both for the administration of Kneipp treatments and for general use. The sanitarium buildings and grounds represent the movement of the late 19th and early 20th century to have a place for respite where both spiritual and physical healing could occur.

In 1942, Kneipp Springs affiliated with the Catholic Hospital Association, Indiana Hospital Association, and American Hospital Association, becoming a 125-bed sanitarium. The last significant change to the building occurred in 1964 when the entry area was moved from the east end of the building to the south and was expanded with a new foyer, entry, and enlarged dining hall. Declining interest in the facility led the sisters to close the sanitarium and sell the property to another religious-based organization from Ohio in 1976.

# MONSIGNOR SEBASTIAN KNEIPP

## AND HIS APPROVED METHODS FOR HEALINGS



THE POPE'S SECRETARY. HIS HOLINESS, THE POPE. REV. SEB. KNEIPP.

His Holiness, Pope Leo XIII., receiving in audience Rev. Seb. Kneipp, and conferring upon him the distinction of Secret Chamberlain.

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### His Holiness, Pope Leo XIII receiving in audience Reverend Sebastian Kneipp, conferring upon him the distinction of Secret Chamberlain

Sabastian Kneipp, born in 1821 in Bavaria (1821-1897), was a Catholic priest who contracted tuberculosis and claimed to be healed from it by a cold water cure he experimented on himself. He read books from Vincenz Priessnitz (1799–1851), a famous Austrian nature cure proponent of the 19th century, who is often referred to as the 'Father of Hydrotherapy'. Kneipp's approach to health and healing was also more complex than that of Priessnitz'. He found that the old use of water treatments was entirely too violent. He added another four elements to his refined hydrotherapeutic treatments: the complementary use of



medicinal herbs, physical exercises and different forms of massage, healthy and balanced nutrition, and regulative therapy to seek inner balance.

When Kneipp was nearly thirty, he entered the Georgianum, a seminary for theological students at Munich. Here he continued his hydrotherapeutic exercises and induced a fellow student to practice them. He was ordained a priest in 1852 and became chaplain successively in Biberach, Boos, and St. George in Augsburg. In 1855 he was made confessor to the nuns at the convent of Wörishofen and assistant in the parish; in 1880 he became the parish priest.

While still a curate he practiced hydrotherapy for the benefit of the poor, and his success in curing their ailments attracted wide attention. People from neighboring parishes began to flock to him; the rich as well as the poor came to be treated, and his fame spread throughout Germany. His little book, *“My Water Cure”*, went through many editions and was translated into many languages, while people from all over Europe began to flock to him. Many of them were greatly benefited. <sup>2</sup>

Fr. Kneipp practiced his methods, including cold water therapy baths, botanical treatments, and regimented diet and exercise, with the inhabitants of the German village of Wörishofen where he lived at the monastery. The community became known as a center for spiritual and physical healing.

*“Being a priest, the salvation of immortal souls is the first object for which I wish to live and to die. During the last thirty or forty years, however, the care for mortal bodies has absorbed a considerable portion of my time and strength. This work I have never sought after; on the contrary every patient coming to me is (naturally speaking) a burden to me. Only the thought of Him who came down from Heaven to heal all our infirmities, and the remembrance of His Promise: ‘Blessed are the merciful; for they will obtain Mercy,’ and: ‘Even a cup of cold water given in My Name shall not be unrewarded,’ was able to detain me from refusing all petitions, no matter who the petitioner might be...I have had a peculiar affection and care for the poorer classes, the sick farmers who are so often neglected and forsaken, and to them especially I dedicate my little book; therefore the language is plain and clear.”* ‘MY WATER CURE’ By Sebastian Kneipp, Secret Chamberlain of the Pope, Parish Priest of Wörishofen. <sup>3</sup>



People who visited the community returned to their own countries and carried the practices with them, including America, where Kneipp Societies were founded and later called the Naturopathic Society of America. It was this therapeutic treatment system that Dr. Geierman, a graduate of Toledo Medical College, and other subsequent doctors and sisters who administered at the sanitarium, would use to treat patients, residents, and vacationers. A diet of less meats, and simple, pure foods was part of the treatment patients received. At the Kneipp Springs Sanitarium, having a farm as part of the complex was both economically and philosophically a sound idea. Groups elsewhere still promote Kneipp's ideas and treatments today. <sup>4</sup>

Since Father Kneipp lived to be what was then the ripe old age of 76, these frequent immersions would seem to have contributed to his longevity. Later promoted to monsignor by Pope Leo XIII, he went on to devise a number of other forms of therapy - some based on water, others not. As defined in his little book, the Kneipp treatment was 'to overcome causes of disease by wholesome diet, hygienic clothing, and systematic regular exercise,' and by the use of 'baths, packs and compresses and the internal use of teas made from native herbs, grown on sanitarium grounds.' <sup>5</sup>

In the lowlands of the now known Kneipp Springs Sanitarium, were 'twelve magnetic springs ... where the institution claimed 'a great many invalids were annually cured of chronic ailments by drinking waters from these springs.'

In a list of allowed expenses for those partaking of sanitarium services, it was noted, 'Incurable and objectionable cases are not admitted.'

Monsignor Kneipp's treatment was essentially summarized as 'the principals of hydrotherapy - treatment of disease or disability by external application of water - united with simple living, wholesome exercise and regulated rest.'

***"Oh, if the poor, agonized, ailing humanity would only come to understand that only in the return to nature, a change of life for the better is possible!" - Monsignor Sebastian Kneipp***

***Nihil Obstat (Remy Lafort S.T.D. Censor) and the Imprimatur (+John Cardinal Farley, Archbishop of New York) both on October 1, 1910) refer back to the Catholic Encyclopedia Vol.8 New York: Robert Appleton Company 1910***

## PRECIOUS BLOOD SISTERS AT ROME CITY, INDIANA

Established in 1834 in Switzerland by Mother Maria Anna Brunner, a small group of women were inspired by their foundress's devotion. The Sisters of the Precious Blood congregation is now based in Dayton, Ohio. Sisters currently serve in several states in the United States, in Chile and Guatemala. The first Precious Blood Sisters came to the United States in 1844, at the invitation of Bishop John Baptist Purcell of Cincinnati, Ohio to minister to German immigrants.

**“Mother Brunner’s example of prayer in front of  
the Blessed Sacrament, service to the poor and the needy  
continue to be our inspiration.” <sup>6</sup>**

In 1901, Mother Mary Emma Nunlist, Superior General of the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood in Ohio, was a patient at the Rome City Sanitarium.



Upon Mother Nunlist's return to Ohio, she and her council obtained permission from Archbishop William Elder (1819–1904) of Cincinnati, to purchase the land and facility. After many improvements, they renamed the facility 'Kneipp Springs Sanitarium'.

Leading up to the Heavenly events soon to be realized, some very notable happenings took place at this extraordinary place, all involving the Sisters of Precious Blood.

The first occurred in 1912. Bishop Herman Joseph Alerding, 4th Bishop of Fort Wayne, signed his Imprimatur on a mystical writing pertaining to the Mother of God in the very convent of the Sisters of the Precious Blood, at the Kneipp Springs Sanitarium.

***The Mystical City of God: Life of the Virgin Mother of God,  
manifested to Sister Mary of Jesus of Agreda, 1602-1666 Imprimatur  
H. J. Alerding, Bishop of Fort Wayne. Rome City, Ind., Aug. 24, 1912***

This signing occurred 44 years before Our Lady of America's first Apparition to Sister Mary Ephrem. Six months prior, Bishop Alerding sent a letter to the Sisters of the Precious Blood, dated February 26, 1912, acknowledges the prospering of the Sanitarium and that those in favor of enlarging the building, namely Fr. John Frances Noll, were correct in their estimate of the future usefulness of the building. The Bishop gave his blessing, that the usefulness may extend further.

Archbishop John Francis Noll, 5th Bishop of Fort Wayne, held summer residence in the building of the Kneipp Springs Sanitarium, having died 56 days before first Apparition.

Archbishop Noll was given the title 'Apostle of the Shrine', that is, the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington DC. He chaired the bishops' committee to raise \$7 million to complete the great church. It was completed in 1959, thanks to his efforts. (Archbishop John Francis Noll - born Jan 25, 1875, died Jul 31, 1956)<sup>7</sup>

The second astonishing event is discovered through a letter written by Sister Mary Ephrem to her confessor, Archbishop Paul Leibold, June 29, 1954. No other facts can be found, with the possible exception of Fort Wayne Diocesan archives, if reported. It pertains to Sister Reporata who joined the Sisters of Precious Blood Cloister (a later branch). She was cured by Our Lady when at Rome City, in the building of the Kneipp Springs Sanitarium before Sister Mary Ephrem arrived.

***“Have you ever heard of Sister Reporata, Father? She was an active Dominican who entered the Cloister later on. She was cured by Our Lady when she was at Rome City, Ind. Her life was written by her Spiritual Director, Father Pax or Max C.P.P.S. I don't know if that is his first or last name. He is in eternity now, so I don't guess he'll mind what we call him. I was just able to read a short account of her life. She was a mystic, so it seems. Anyway, when I was stationed at Rome City, I had a rather extraordinary experience which concerned her. I wrote it down on a piece of paper just as it happened. I did this at the request of an older Sister who was deeply interested in me and my spiritual life. This was before I realized that what happened to me did not happen to everyone and so I should have kept still about it...”***  
(Sister to +PF Leibold 06/29/54)

As Sister clearly states, *“She was cured by Our Lady”*. This is not the same statement as that of the Sisters of Precious Blood who served countless souls over the years at the Sanitarium. *“She was cured by Our*

*Lady*” is a miracle, drawing attention early on to the place where Our Lady of America Promises more miracles than Lourdes and Fatima.

The third point of interest regards Sister Mary Ephrem herself. After her earliest years with the Sisters of Precious Blood (she entered the congregation at age 14), she was moved many times around the country to the congregation’s different convents. One “stop” was in 1947 at the Kneipp Springs Sanitarium. This was 100 years after Pope Pius IX proclaimed Our Lady as ‘Patroness of the United States’, under the title of Her Immaculate Conception’. This was also the very year of an Approved Apparition in Rome, Italy, Our Lady of Revelation, Who Appeared to Bruno Cornacchiola stating:

***“I am the One that is of the Divine Trinity.”***

***“I am the Virgin of the Revelation.***

***I am Daughter of the Father, Mother of the Son***

***And Spouse and Temple of the Holy Spirit.”<sup>8</sup>***

The similarities between the messages of Our Lady of Revelation and those of Our Lady of America are profound. Both not only stress conversions but include messages for priests: they were to have a deeper faith in the revealed truths of the Faith, greater obedience to the Teaching Authority of the Church, a vigilant prudence in dealing with people, and a pure and dignified life style.

Often Our Lady combines the spiritual with the natural. True to Mary’s Promise, the dirt from the Grotto of Tre Fontane, Rome, Italy (Our Lady of Revelation) has proven to be miraculous. Like the miraculous waters at Lourdes (when Our Lady first Appeared to Sister Mary Ephrem, Sister’s impression was that She was Our Lady of Lourdes), it continues to work wonders for the welfare of both bodies and souls. It was the miracle of the sun at Fatima that caused many witnesses to experience both the spiritual and the natural, physical healings as well as those of the soul.

Our Lady most assuredly was disposing the visionary, Sister Mary Ephrem, for Her nearing Heavenly Visit to her. As always, Heaven has everything Planned, and one can recognize the Help of Her Hand in the preparations for this select property at Rome City, Indiana, in these times.

After moving to and serving at additional convents, Sister Mary Ephrem returned to the Kneipp Springs Sanitarium shortly before the Apparitions in 1956.

***“By Thy Holy and Immaculate Conception O Mary,  
deliver us from evil.”***

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## **SISTER MARY EPHREM AND ARCHBISHOP LEIBOLD**



Sister Mary Ephrem Neuzil  
(1916-2000)



Archbishop +Paul Francis Leibold  
(1914-1972)

Our Lord and Our Lady have been preparing the Church and the world for souls to recognize and possess the Divine Indwelling. It was to these two chosen souls, Sister Mary Ephrem (Mildred Marie Neuzil) and Archbishop Paul Leibold, that the Messages and Mission of Our Lady of America have been entrusted. The significance of Sister Mary Ephrem, plus the hardships she bore, should be examined to give light into the sublime teachings of the Our Lady of America devotion. For Our Lord Jesus Himself said to Sister Mary Ephrem:

***“I ask of him (then Rev. Leibold) what I continue to ask of you, oh bride of My Heart – prayer and penance. As a priest after My Own Heart, I will be with him in all his trials and sorrows. Tell him not to become discouraged at the crosses awaiting him for I, the Great***

***High-Priest go before him carrying the heaviest part of his cross. I seek always the humble and lowly of heart and since I have found two such, so I have entrusted to them a great Mission, but become not vain, for I have chosen him and you only because of your unworthiness and lack of virtue. Let this thought be with you always, that you may remember that it is I working through you, Who sanctify you for His Glory and the salvation of souls. You are poor instruments in My Hands, but through you a Great Work will be accomplished. I AM the Great Sculptor of souls. With hammer and chisel I form them that they may glorify My Father by their beauty and perfection. Be pliant in My Hands, oh My two lowly ones, My priest and My little white dove, and then will you be formed into My likeness and through you, I will be formed in souls.”*** (Letter from Sr. Mary Ephrem to her confessor Archbishop +Paul Leibold 2/20/54).

A deeper reveal of Sister’s experiences shows the ongoing union with Our Lord Jesus, even before the Apparitions at Kneipp Springs:

***“Bride of My Heart, do you still wish to suffer all things to give me to souls?” I answered, “Yes, yes, dear Lord, I am poor and wretched and unworthy but you know what is in my heart.” Then He said, “My little, white dove, will you then continue to wear the crown of thorns and permit yourself to be nailed to the Cross?” I told Him in the best way I could how much I desired Him to do with me just as He desired. So in this way are my desires wholly united to His.”*** (Sister to Rev. Leibold 8/16/56 – just one month before the Apparition of Our Lady of America)

The Roman Catholic Church and all the world are clearly under attack, as scripture states, ***“For our wrestling is not against flesh and blood; but against principalities and powers, against the rulers of the world of this darkness, against the spirits of wickedness in the high places”*** (Ephesians 6:12).

Mildred Marie Neuzil was born on the Feast of Our Lady, Queen of the Angels August 2, 1916. She was born of Austrian parents, John and Anna Neuzil, in Brooklyn, NY, baptized at Most Holy Trinity, and shortly after moved to Cleveland Ohio. At the age of 14, Mildred entered the active religious congregation of the Sisters of the Precious Blood, a Papal Community, in Dayton Ohio. Three years later Mildred made her first vows as a professed religious. She received the name Sister Mary Ephrem, a name that means “doubly fruitful”. She carried out her duties mostly in domestic work and as a kindergarten teacher.



In 1937, when she was sent to the Chancery in Cincinnati, Ohio, it was there that God gave her a holy priest and later Archbishop to guide her, Rev. Paul Francis Leibold.<sup>9</sup>

The character of Sister Mary Ephrem is well confirmed in this letter to her confessor, written before the Apparitions:

***“...My whole longing was to live a life of complete adoration in union with Christ. That which seems to take on the appearances of petition, is simply a desire to put on Christ, that my life of adoration may be the more perfect and thus give greater glory to the Most Holy Trinity”***  
(Letter to her confessor 11/25/54).

With the weight of being the vessel through whom the Mother of God Speaks, Sister attests:

***“Your Excellency, often, so often I feel my inadequacy, my wretched unworthiness. More than once I suggested to Our Lady that She choose someone else, someone better fitted for so great a Work. After one of Her visits I said to Her with deep compunction: “Oh Mother, I am not worthy.” She replied, “I do not come to the worthy, My child, but to the lowly and humble of heart.” So in the knowledge of my own nothingness, I am trying to do what I can. You may be sure that the more hidden I can be, the happier it will make me. For if ever I long to remain lost in the shadows it is now. I have not the slightest desire to put myself forward in any way whatsoever. Such a procedure is most abhorrent to me. There is nothing I desire less.”*** (letter of Sister’s to Archbishop +Karl J. Alter (1885-1997) written March 30, 1960)

Our Lady:

***“O My sweet child, when will My Desires be realized? My Immaculate Heart Desires with Great Desire to see the Kingdom of Jesus My Son established in all hearts. Now I have Pleaded with My children to open their hearts to Him, but most are cold and indifferent. Has ever a mother shown more love and interest in her children’s welfare than I have done? O My little one, daughter of My Pure Heart, you must pray with greater fervor and offer yourself with greater love to the Heart of My Son. My Heart, My Immaculate Heart, is the Channel through which the Graces of the Sacred Heart are given to men”***  
(Our Lady on the morning of Feb. 3, 1957).

Additionally, Our Lord Jesus spoke to Sister: ***“...Let My Love, surrounding you and filling you, draw souls to Me in great multitudes.***

***Such is My Will, oh My beloved one. Open then your heart that I may pour into it without ceasing, the Sweet Waters of My Undying and Saving Charity. For it is from this Fountain of Life, which Springs forth from My Divine Heart that men will receive Eternal Life. It was to Obtain this for them that I Lived, Suffered and Died.***” (March 6, 1957)

Our Lord Speaks of pouring into hearts without ceasing, *the Sweet Waters of His Undying and Saving Charity - the Fountain of Life which Springs forth from His Divine Heart*. This is a reference Our Lord is making to the natural springs on the property where Our Lady of America Appeared just six months before. Again, Our Lady often makes use of the natural with the supernatural.

Sister Mary Ephrem’s confessor became the Archbishop of Cincinnati, Archbishop +Paul F. Leibold, V.G. (1914-1972). Archbishop Leibold maintained a necessary and heartfelt relationship with Sr. Mary Ephrem up to his death. He directed her, supported her, advised and befriended her. He believed wholeheartedly in the Apparitions of Our Lady of America, fulfilling all that Our Lady asked of him as he could. Behind a saint is always a great confessor. Such was the case with Sister Mary Ephrem and her confessor Archbishop Leibold.

He would remain her spiritual director for 32 years, from 1937-1972, when he died. Our Lady, in very clear words to Sister, spoke about Archbishop Leibold:

***“Child of My Immaculate Heart, tell My beloved son, your spiritual Father, that My hands are tied. Only he can lose them by making known My Desires and working to carry them out. I am at the mercy of My favored son. See, oh son of My Pure Heart, how I plead with you for release? Will you free Me from My bonds that I may accomplish My Wonders among My beloved children for the Glory of God? What will you do, My son? Your Mother waits.”*** (Letter of Sister Mary Ephrem to the Most Rev. Paul F. Leibold; April 25, 1957)

Sister Ephrem was in complete obedience to Archbishop Leibold who directed her concerning sanctity in the following manner, as recorded in his letter to Sister on November 8, 1963:

***“The basic principle is: perfection is in doing God’s Will; God’s Will is clearly expressed with no doubt in the ordinary things of daily life; when it comes to choosing the extraordinary one is always faced with the doubt, is this God’s or my will acting.***



***Forget the hair shirts and keep the rule, forget the sensational and do the ordinary sensorially well, stop looking for the extraordinary and accept the ordinary – this is God’s plan of sanctity.”***

In another correspondence the Archbishop writes, on Dec. 6, 1956:

***‘Doing the Will of God is the key to sanctity “Be ye perfect, as Your Heavenly Father is Perfect” – a command of Christ to be perfect. An object is perfect in so far as it measures up to the ideal of its maker and performs the job for which it was made. We are made to the image and likeness of God, for God’s glory and our eternal sanctification. “This is the Will of God, your sanctification” – it is God’s Will that we be saints; we become saints by doing the Will of God. Doing God’s Will is loving Him – for love seeks union with its object; our union with God cannot be in body nor emotion (He is pure Spirit), it is in that in which we are His image, mind and heart, intellect and will. Therefore, our objective is TO LOVE GOD, which is accomplished by DOING HIS WILL – to reach this objective we must:***

***(1) Seek to KNOW God’s Will***

***(2) accept God’s Will***

***(3) conform to God’s Will – love Him***

On January 25, 1963 Archbishop Leibold gave his Imprimatur on the Prayer to the Indwelling Most Holy Trinity as well as the Prayer to Our Lady of America, Patroness of our Land. Daniel Palarczyk, S.T.D. gave his Nihil Obstat, to both Prayers. Archbishop Leibold also arranged giving a gift of a small ivory statuette of Our Lady of America to Archbishop Luigi Riamondi, the Apostolic Delegate from Washington, DC, with Msgr. Boffa, a personal friend of both, and his own personal secretary, Fr. Francis Lammeier. The statuette was presented about two months after Archbishop Leibold’s death. (Letter from Rev. Lammeier to Sister Mary Ephrem dated 8/13/72)



**Original plaque commissioned  
by Archbishop Leibold**

Archbishop Leibold had decided to build a large, outdoor Shrine to Our Lady of America at the New Riegel, Ohio Cloister where Sister lived (and from where the Apparitions continued). That didn't happen due to his sudden, untimely death on June 1, 1972. The Archbishop was greatly loved and revered by his flock as evidenced by the overflowing crowd that attended his funeral. He is buried in *Gate of Heaven* Cemetery in Cincinnati. We recall here words of Sister's to Archbishop Leibold in 1958:

***“Is not Our Lady the Path that leads to Jesus? Is She not the Gate of Heaven? Oh how our Mother Loves us. How much She Desires our Salvation and Sanctification, and how Ardently She Works for it.”***

And on December 2, 1957 Sister wrote:

***“The Appearance of Our Lady of the Divine Indwelling is of course a Call to every soul to become pure, living temples of God. Her life was very simple like ours yet in what depths of Holiness She lived. Our Mother spent Her life in Him, the Divine Presence Within Her. It is Her desire that we imitate Her above all in this. For He alone is our sanctification.”***

How commonly the faithful recognize a saint before they are acknowledged as such by the Church. In the case of Sister Mary Ephrem and that of her confessor, Archbishop +Paul F. Leibold, we find two souls committed to the Mission entrusted to them. They demonstrated their loyalty in making known to the Church in the United States the Heavenly Mandate of Our Lady of America, the Immaculate Virgin.



***“This is the Will of God, your Sanctification.”*** (1 Thessalonians 4:3)

## 12 WAYS OUR LADY APPEARED

***“And it had a Wall Great and High, having Twelve Gates, and in the Gates Twelve Angels, and Names written thereon, which are the Names of the Twelve Tribes of the children of Israel. And the Wall of the City had Twelve Foundations, and in them, the Twelve Names of the Twelve Apostles of the Lamb.” Rev 21:12,15***

Sister to Rev. Leibold, in a letter dated 11/28/56:

***“It seems that the dear Mother of God had quite a big task on Her mind. She has been revealing it to me bit by bit. As it is, the very scope of it and its tremendous importance tends to frighten me in such a way that I’ve been tempted more than once to tear everything up, destroy every bit of writing. I’ve tried to convince myself that the whole thing is an illusion, the effects of my imagination and emotions. Yet Father, it is very strange. Whenever I’m about to tear up, destroy what has been written, something deep inside of me tells me I may not, I must not. Something or maybe it is Someone, prevents it every time. Because of all this I have suffered intensely and yet, never have I had such peace, never have I felt Our Lady so close to me and never have I loved her so much as I do now”***

According to the letters of Sister Mary Ephrem to her confessor, Rev. Leibold, between 1956 and 1958 Our Lady Appeared 12 different Ways. This is not to say She Appeared 12 times, but 12 different Ways, most of Who the Church already invokes:

(images are depictions)

### **1. Our Lady of America, the Immaculate Virgin –**

September 25, 1956 in Rome City, Indiana - ***“...I don’t believe this was written into the manuscript, but Our Lady’s first Visit was at Rome City, Ind. She Appeared in the Sister’s Chapel on the right, by the steps that lead from there to the public Chapel. Our Lady Appeared saying, “I am Our Lady of America, I desire that My children honor Me especially by the purity of their lives.”*** (from a later, more detailed description of how Our Lady Appeared by Sister, to Sister Charmaine Grilliot, C.PP. S – Superior General dated 2/17/75)



## **2. Our Lady of Precious Blood –**

***“On another day She Appeared as Our Lady of Precious Blood in a red Cope like Cloak...”*** (Sister to Rev. Leibold dated 12/6/56)



## **3. Our Lady of Perpetual Help –**

***“I am Our Lady of Perpetual Help. I will Help you Always.”*** (Sister to Rev. Leibold dated 3/57)

## **4. Our Lady Surrounded by Legions of Angels –**

***“Yesterday morning, Father, after Mass, I saw Our Lady Surrounded by Legions of Angels, at their Head, St. Michael...”*** (Sister to Rev. Leibold dated 4/25/57)







### 5. *Mother of Sorrows –*

*“I am indeed the Mother of Sorrows, and it is My children who pierce My Heart. Their lives are filled with vanity and selfishness. They love My Son with their lips but not in their hearts...Oh My children, give Me your hearts, emptied of all self-seeking and sinful pleasures, and I will fill it with Divine Love. I will give you Jesus, to hold in your hearts. He will fill it and then, Jesus will Live in you and Work through you for the Glory of His Father...”* (Sister to Rev. Leibold dated 4/25/57)

### 6. *Our Lady of Grace –*

*“I saw Her in the likeness in which She is pictured at times, as Our Lady of Grace. Only She wore a Crown, and in Her right hand She held out a rosary, in Her left a scapular. From these, the rosary and scapular, there came forth, as it were, Darts of Light, like Streaks of Lightning...”* (Sister to Rev. Leibold 4/25/57)



### 7. *Our Lady of Mount Carmel –*

*“Shortly after this I saw Her as Our Lady of Mount Carmel. She was holding the Divine Child and both He and His Mother were wearing a Crown. She was Aiding the souls in Purgatory, especially those who had been faithful in the wearing of Her scapular. At another time, Father, Our Lady presented me with the Lily She was holding, and said to me, “Take it and cherish it. It is the Sign with which I Mark My children.”* (Sister to Rev. Leibold 4/25/57)

## 8. Mother of Mercy –

*“Our Lady showed Herself to me today as the Mother of Mercy. With Her Arms extended, Her Blue Mantle affording a Safe Refuge for the sinner, She said, “I am the Mother of Mercy. Under My Mantle I will hide My children. The Justice of God will not reach them if they seek Refuge ‘neath the Protection of My Mercy...I am that Faithful Mother who never forsakes Her children. Honor Me by your confidence and love. This I Desire and ask of you My poor children. Do not deny the Wishes of your Mother.” (2nd Sunday after Easter - Sister to Rev. Leibold 5/5/57)*



## 9. The Queen of Heaven –

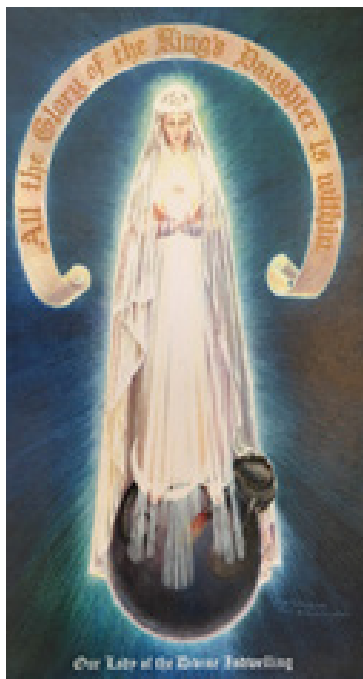


*“The Heavenly Queen was dressed in a very long Veil, Mantle and Robe. The latter was gathered at the waist by a wide sash, the ends hanging down towards the right side. The bright blue of Her Garments made it look as though She were Clothed with the sky itself. A small Gold Crown encircled Her Head. A large Gold Star held the Mantle in place. Scattered, rather far apart over the Mantle and Dress, also the Veil, were tiny Gold Stars. On Her feet Our Lady wore Gold Sandals. Etched around the whole Figure were Rays of Brilliant Streaks of Light. Within this Light and surrounding Her was a rosary. The small beads were white, the large ones, gold. The Cross of the rosary, which was also of gold, hung suspended over Her Head. At Our Lady’s left stood St. Michael, holding a Golden Globe, and on Her right, St. Gabriel, holding a Gold Scepter. Both Angels were*

*Robed in Cloth of Gold. Our Lady held in both hands a Gold Casket which seem to be Overflowing with Sparkling Gems of every sort. Her whole Bearing was Most Queenly and Regal. Yet Her Smile was that of a Loving Queen-Mother, Most Eager and Anxious to Bestow Her Treasures upon Her children. Then, She spoke: "I am the Queen of Heaven. These Jewels are the Graces with which I Adorn My subjects. My Son Wills that all Grace should come through Me as through a Living Channel. Come to Me, loyal subjects, loving children, that I may clothe you with the Graces which will enable you to appear more fittingly before My King-Son. Come and receive the Gems of Eternal Life..."* (Feast of the Queenship of Mary, 5/31/57 – Sister to Rev. Leibold)

# **10. Our Lady, the Immaculate Tabernacle of the Indwelling God –**

*"Our Lady Appeared, standing on a globe, Her right foot resting on a crescent moon, the left on the snout of a small fire breathing dragon. She was Dressed all in White and Her hair could be seen through Her transparent Veil which was long enough to half envelope the globe. The Veil was held about Her Head by a Wreath of White Roses, and a White Rose rested on each foot. On Her Breast, the Triangle and the Eye, the Symbol of the Divine Indwelling, could be visibly seen. A strong Beam of Light shown from the Divine Presence within Our Lady onto the globe at Her feet. Then halfway around the figure of Our Lady above Her Head Appeared a Scroll on which were written in letters of Gold the Words: "All the Glory of the King's Daughter is Within" (Psalm 44) Though it did not appear that Her Lips moved, I heard these words quite plainly: 'I am Our Lady of the Divine Indwelling, Handmaid of Him Who Dwells Within.'* (Sister to Rev. Leibold 11/23/57)





## 11. “Our Lady of Lourdes” (the Immaculate Conception) –

*“I had another of those “experiences” of which you have already heard, Father, many times. Though I had not at that time been thinking of Her, She suddenly appeared at my side. This person was none other than St. Bernadette. She did not come as a Sister but as the little peasant girl who saw “The Lady”. I was transported, somehow, with her, to the Lourdes Grotto in France. We stood a short distance away from it looking up into the niche which was filled with Light. In the midst of this brilliant Light I saw “The Lady” (the Immaculate*

*Conception), so Beautiful, so Glowing, as it were, in Light that I could scarcely see the outline of Her figure. It was Brighter than any light I have ever seen. It was a Light All-Heavenly and Full of Glory. I was transfixed. Then suddenly the figure of Our Lady seemed to dissolve in the Light but the Brilliant Light itself remained. Then I saw a path, at times it seemed to take the form of steps, leading upwards from the niche where “The Lady” had been standing. Every so often as I gazed at this Luminous Pathway, I caught a glimpse of Angels. I was anxious to follow the Path of Light and as I eagerly endeavored to do so, Bernadette held me back. Then I exclaimed, “But I want to go there.” The Saint answered, “No, my sister, it is not yet time for you, but it will be soon.” (Sister to Rev. Leibold 4/12/58)*

## 12. The Holy Family –

*“As St. Joseph promised, Jesus and Mary also came, Jesus had the Appearance of a boy of about fifteen or sixteen years old. It was about the Sanctification of the family and some other matters...” (Sister to Rev. Leibold 4/15/58)*







***“Our Lady came to me in a Special Way in the afternoon of Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>. She encouraged me and again assured me that She would Keep Her Promise. Almost always when Our Lady comes now, it is as She Appeared Sept. 26, 1956 (Our Lady of America, the Immaculate Virgin). I feel Her Presence with me all the time of course, but on these Special occasions it is more Manifest and the Special Vision accompanies it.”*** (Sr. Mary Ephrem’s letter to Archbishop +Leibold 9/12/58)

These twelve Apparitions of our Lady, bring to mind the powerful number twelve in Sacred Scripture. Not only does 12 represent the Twelve Tribes of Israel, the Twelve Apostles, the Twelve Gates of the New Jerusalem; the twelve Apparitions of Our Lady represent the culmination of all Our Lady’s Apparitions throughout the centuries. Now She says that, as Our Lady of America, this is her last resort for mankind, Her last hope for the world to embrace Peace and not be subject to Chastisements.

***“By Thy Holy and Immaculate Conception O Mary, deliver us from evil.”***

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## **SUPPORT FOR OUR LADY OF AMERICA AND HER PROMISES**

***“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.”*** - Our Lady to Sister Mary Ephrem January 1957

On May 31, 2007, the Archbishop of St. Louis, now His Eminence Cardinal Raymond Leo Burke, distributed letters to all Bishops of the United States promoting and defending the authenticity of the Apparitions and messages of Our Lady of America:

***“Having reviewed the correspondence between Sister Mary Ephrem and her spiritual director of many years, Monsignor Paul F. Leibold, Vicar General of the archdiocese of Cincinnati, who later became the Bishop of Evansville and, then, Archbishop of Cincinnati, it is clear that the devotion, as proposed by Sister Mary Ephrem, received his approbation...What can be concluded canonically is that the devotion was both approved by Archbishop Leibold and, what is more, was actively promoted by him. In addition, over the years, other Bishops have approved the devotion and have participated in public devotion to the Mother of God, under the title of Our Lady of America”<sup>10</sup>***

A statement made by the Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki, Bishop of Springfield, Illinois:

***“Pious devotion to the Mother of God under the title of Our Lady of America may continue as approved by the late Archbishop Paul F. Leibold, former Archbishop of Cincinnati. Your prayers in this regard are much appreciated.”***

***“God is ‘HE WHO IS’, from Everlasting to Everlasting, and as such remains Ever Faithful to Himself and to His Promises.”***  
- CCC <sup>26</sup>

Our Lady of America Promised greater miracles than those granted in Lourdes and Fatima will be granted here in America, the United States in particular, if we do as She Desires. (Sister Mary Ephrem’s letter and notes to Archbishop Leibold dated 2/2/60) Amazingly, at the site of the initial Apparitions, the Precious Blood Sisters Convent in Rome City, natural, mineral springs run beneath the building and down a small, cascading waterfall to a nearby stream and lake. The sisters at the convent used the waters to treat many of their guests seeking a refuge from the challenges of life based on the methods of Monsignor Kneipp. The Church, through the power of the priesthood and these healing waters, as Our Lady says, will be the instrument of more healings than Lourdes and Fatima. With the daunting challenges of these times, Our Lady has the Remedy, and with clear Words, She is Calling Her children to conversion and healing through Her waters.

Our Lady of America on True Love to Sister Mary Ephrem on 2/3/57:

***“My Son, Jesus, asks of souls love, that True Love willing to sacrifice itself for the One loved. Man fears to sacrifice himself because he is selfish. 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.”*

*“On April 4, 1960, a few minutes before one o’clock in the afternoon, Our Lady came to me with the Request that I write down the following words as the expression of Her further Desires and send them to Your Grace as quickly as possible:*



*“Tell His Grace, My beloved son, that it is through the medal that he will receive the Sign for which he asks. I ask him to have the medal struck and distributed everywhere, and he will receive not only the one Sign for which he has asked, but many; so many that he will have cause to be greatly astonished...”*

*“My child, God works often through little and humble things, and such instruments should never be despised but accepted and used with love and gratitude. It will be through the medal that God’s Will shall be Manifested and Glorified and My Desires carried out even to the very end...I place My Confidence in My faithful sons, the Bishops, who will not fail to take up My Cause and make it bear much fruit for sanctification among so many and countless souls...Send this Word to My beloved son, the Archbishop, and have no fear, sweet child, for I will Keep My Promise, for I am the Ever Faithful Virgin” (Letter of Sr. Mary Ephrem to Archbishop +Alter - 4/13/60).*



In the above quoted letter of Sister to Archbishop +Alter:

*“Our Lady has asked that a statue be made as she Appeared on the Sept. 26th, 1956 (Pictured on cover – Our Lady of America). After being solemnly carried in procession in the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Wash. D.C., She desires that there it be enshrined in the place of honor and to be venerated there, in a special way as ‘Our Lady of America, the Immaculate*

***Virgin’. It is at this Shrine She has Promised to Work Wonders. She Desires also that a small statue or picture of this same likeness be honored in every home.”***

Again, and most significantly, from Cardinal Burke’s 2007 letter:

***“AspecialrequestofOur LadyofAmerica wasthat Her statue be placed in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. There is a Providential connection between Sister Mary Ephrem and the late Archbishop John Francis Noll of the Diocese of Fort Wayne, who is celebrated as the Apostle of the National Shrine. The principal Apparitions of Our Lady of America to Sister Mary Ephrem took place in the chapel of the Precious Blood Sisters Convent in Kneipp Springs Sanitarium, near Rome City, Indiana. Archbishop Noll, who died 1956, maintained a summer residence at the Sanitarium, within a few hundred feet of the place of the Apparitions. While the National Shrine is the largest Shrine in the world at which there was not a previous Apparition, the private revelation to Sister Mary Ephrem very much confirms the Mission of the National Shrine.”***

During his last summer, Archbishop Noll was at the Rome City Sanitarium operated by the Precious Blood Sisters. The property borders Sylvan Lake. This lake is where Archbishop Noll and his extended family would gather year after year. Our Lady Appearing there acknowledges not only the holiness of Archbishop Noll, but also the fruitfulness of this prelate’s work.

The bishops who have a great love of the Blessed Virgin Mary have been warning the people of the United States of the peril of pornography and other immoralities and alternative lifestyles. The antidote to the evils of immorality is the life of purity:

***“I am Our Lady of America. I desire that my children honor me, especially by the purity of their lives”*** - the first words spoken by Our Lady of America, September 26, 1956<sup>11</sup>

***“Our Lady came to me in a Special Way in the afternoon of September 12th. She encouraged me and again assured me that She would Keep Her Promise.”*** (of more miracles here than Lourdes and Fatima)  
(letter to Archbishop +Leibold 9/12/58)

Another Promise to Sister Mary Ephrem from Our Lady was given, February 22, 1972:

***“When a picture or statue of Myself as Our Lady of America is placed in the home and honored there, then will My Son Bless His people***

*with Peace. Believe in Me, dear child, believe in Me, My Love will never fail you."*

While Sister Mary Ephrem and Archbishop Paul Leibold are continuing their Mission from Heaven, we the faithful on earth want to complete Our Lady's Wishes. We benefit from the holiness and wisdom of Sister Mary Ephrem. She wrote to Archbishop Leibold of the necessity of interior prayer. Let's put into practice what she wrote to Archbishop Leibold:

*'The need for meditation, contemplation, interior prayer is so great that it cannot be stressed enough. We are a surface-minded people for the most part, so it is imperative at last, in this late hour, to seriously look into ourselves and recognize the Glory living within, drawing us to Itself, that Divine Presence, so mysterious, yet so infinitely real, the only Reality into Which and out of Which all others flow and have their birth.*

*We partake of the Divine Life and this is our sanctity. The Holy Spirit leads each person according to their needs and lights at the moment, but all spirituality has its basis in the Divine Trinity living within us.*

*Because my body is the temple of God it deserves my profound respect and from this stems my attitude towards others. Body and spirit are so close that what you do to one you do to the other. The spirit must be the stronger as this is where control and discipline have their roots.*

*Interior prayer, praying, is very simple. We speak to and with God, we listen to whatever He may have to say to us and at other times we just sit, etc., quietly in His Presence and enjoy His Company. To co-operate with Him in His Work in and through us we should get into the habit of consecrating each day to His Honor and Glory.*

*We must give Him a free hand so that every thought is filled with His Wisdom, every word speaks it and every action is sanctified by it.*

*As the family is formed by individuals, the result of each member striving to live in the Divine Presence, in this way the family itself will be sanctified. The Father sent His Son to be a member of a family as an example to all families. The life of Jesus, Mary and Joseph was not an easy one. There were no miracles to make their living more bearable. They were no different than the families around them except in the depth of their love for the Divine Presence within them.*

*It is holy families that will save the Nation, save the world and bring about the peace so long desired. It is indeed late – but there is still*



*time to save our world. Believe that God loves you, believe with all your heart and see what He will do for you – and what you will be able to do for Him and those about you. This is a Divine partnership and nothing save our lack of faith can ever break it. Believe in Him Who lives in you and nothing will be impossible of attainment. What you cannot do He will do, only believe.'*

The fulfillment of the Divine Wishes of Our Lord and Our Lady made known to us through Sister Mary Ephrem will be the remedy for Holy Mother Church in these difficult times, and peace in the world, as Our Lady Promised.

Words of Our Lady to the priests - as recorded under the dates of 9/26-27/57:

*“My dear daughter, sweet child, write My Words carefully, because they are of the Utmost Importance. I address them to My beloved sons, the priests, dedicated to the most intense and extraordinary imitation of My Son in the perfect carrying on of His Eternal Priesthood. Beloved sons, so cherished and greatly blessed among the sons of men, be careful to uphold the sanctity and dignity of your calling. Let the faithful see in you the favored and especially loved imitators of the Son of God. Be modest in your dress and speech as becomes those of so exalted a vocation. The apparel and manners of a man of the world is not for you, who, though living in the world, must not take on its ways. It is through you that the Grace of the Sacraments is given to souls. Strive then to make yourselves more worthy receptacles to receive these Graces and transmit them in turn to the souls under your care.”*

Words of Our Lord to the Priests – 2/22/54:

*“Where are your prayers, oh My priests and religious, where are your sacrifices? Do you not know that sinners will not be converted unless prayer and penance call down the Grace of God upon them?*

*“My Chosen Ones, you in particular are responsible for the souls of poor sinners. It is to you I have entrusted them. As their spiritual fathers and mothers, you must care for them and by your unceasing prayers in their behalf, lead them safely to My Father’s House.*

*“Oh My Well-beloved ones, you have become selfish and thoughtless. You have forgotten the greatness of your responsibilities. Unless you become saints, there will be no hope for poor sinners, for it is My*



***Wish that through your sacrificial lives, the souls of poor sinners will be saved.”***

From John 16:13:

***“But when He Comes, the Spirit of Truth, He will Guide you to All Truth. He shall not Speak on His Own, but He shall Speak what He Hears, and shall Declare to you the things that are coming.”***

At the Canonization of St. Annibale Maria di Francia, May 16, 2004, Pope Saint John Paul II addressed the Rogationists (congregation St. Annibale founded) of a ***“New and Divine Holiness.”*** ***“Saint Annibale Maria di Francia insisted tirelessly on persevering union with God and union among his brothers: unity, in fact, “is a symbol of the Coming of Christ (John 13:35; 17:21) and is a source of great apostolic power” ...to bring about that “New and Divine” Holiness with which the Holy Spirit wishes to enrich Christians at the dawn of the Third Millennium, in order to “make Christ the Heart of the world”...we must also pray unceasingly to the Lord of the Harvest, that he shall send workers to His Church in order to meet the needs of the New Evangelization” ...May every spiritual child of St. Annibale deepen his knowledge of the gift he has received and enliven it, becoming an increasingly worthy laborer of the Gospel and a shepherd after the Heart of Christ.*** (Vatican, 16 May 1997. IOANNES PAULUS PP. II)

Our Lady is Preparing the Way supernaturally, as Monsignor Kneipp did naturally, to have Her priests heal Her little children in the New Era.

This “life” that we share with God is a supernatural Divine life, not only a natural, biological life. This is the “life” that Jesus referred to when He said, ***“I Came so that they might have Life and have it more Abundantly.”*** (John 10:10)

***“The Church commonly teaches distinguishing between God’s Presence and His Indwelling. The Indwelling, unlike the Omnipresence, is not natural but super – beyond natural. The Indwelling is not universal but particular, very particular. The Indwelling is not merely the Presence of God in the world but it is the Special Way in which the Holy Trinity Dwells in the souls of those who are in Sanctifying Grace.”*** Servant of God, Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J.<sup>12</sup>

***“Our Lady spoke to me about the Divine Indwelling. It was Her Life and She Lived it Perfectly always conscious of His Presence, never forgetting that all Her Greatness came from within, from Him Who Dwelt there, Working, Loving, and doing Good through Her. This is what Our Lady means when She Speaks of reformation, 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.”*** (Sister August 5, 1957)

The Messages of Our Lady of America through Sister Mary Ephrem are Her final Plea. We must perceive that the world is in a most precarious state. Can we appreciate the desperate Pleas of a Mother to save Her children, as She said to Sister Mary Ephrem:

***“Has ever a mother shown more love and interest in her children’s welfare than I have done?”***

***“Our Blessed Mother has done her best to alter the course of a sinful world, but Her Message has to a large extent miscarried. During the past 43 years since Her Call to penance was heard at Fatima, the Catholic world has not changed for the better. Those Catholics who live Her Message are few and timid, and Mary knows that the Wrath of God is near.”*** (Letter of Fr John Thilges S.V.D. to whom he calls Venerable Sister Mary Ephrem, March 30, 1960)

It has now been 102 years since Our Lady of Fatima’s Call to penance. Our Lady of America’s Request of 62 years ago remains, to have Her Bishops process Her statue into Her Basilica in Washington D.C. and give Her a place of honor there.

***“I come to you, O children of America, as a last resort. I Plead with you to listen to My Voice.”*** (Sister to Rev. Leibold 11/15/56)

The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and the property at Rome City, Indiana, and other places Our Lady Appeared will be places of pilgrimage for the United States and all the people of the world, so that the miracles already begun with the springs may flourish.

In these times of great spiritual suffering and human tragedy, Our Lord and Our Lady are Calling Their little children to a life of purity. We long for this Divine Indwelling of the purity of Jesus and Mary within

our souls, allowing God to Reign within, so that True Sanctity may be accomplished for the greatest benefit for the Church and the world.

***“The Divine Indwelling should motivate us to respond to the constant illuminations of mind and inspirations of the will which the Holy Trinity, or if you wish, the Holy Spirit Dwelling in our souls is, every moment and the day and night, Giving us. We have a heavy obligation resting on our supernatural shoulders because of God’s Mysterious Indwelling in our souls.”*** Servant of God, Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J.

We have the heroic examples of so many before us, particularly Sister Mary Ephrem, Archbishop Paul Leibold, Archbishop Noll, Monsignor Sebastian Kneipp, the Sisters and so many others administering to the health of mind, body and soul. This is the time for the little children of Our Lady to respond to Her Great Call - priests, religious, lay persons. With this “YES” to Our Lady of America, may our “FIAT” bring about the conversions, healings and miracles through the Love and Efforts of Our Lady of America. May She Triumph in Her Church and in all the world for the Glory of Her Most Beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Quoting Pope Saint John Paul II:

***“After my election as Pope, as I became more involved in the problems of the Universal Church, I came to have a similar conviction: On this universal level, if victory comes it will be brought by the Blessed Virgin Mary. Christ will Conquer through Her, because He wants the Church’s victories now, and in the future, to be Linked to Her.”***  
(Crossing the Threshold of Hope, pp. 220-221)

Our Lady of America Pleads with us:

***“I Plead with you to listen to My Voice. Cleanse your souls in the Precious Blood of My Son. Live in His Heart, and take Me in that I may Teach you to live in great purity of heart which is so Pleasing to God. Be My army of chaste soldiers, ready to fight to the death, to preserve the purity of your souls. I am the Immaculate One, Patroness of your land. Be My faithful children as I have been your Faithful Mother.”***

(Sister Mary Ephrem to Rev. Leibold 11/15/56)

***“By Thy Holy and Immaculate Conception  
O Mary,  
deliver us from evil.”***

# **Prayer to Our Lady of America,**

## **Patroness of our Land**

**Oh Immaculate Mother, Queen of our country, open our hearts, our homes, and our land to the coming of Jesus, Your Divine Son. With Him, Reign over us, O Heavenly Lady, so Pure and so Bright with the Radiance of God's Light Shining in and about you. Be our Leader against the powers of evil set upon wresting the world of souls, Redeemed at such a Great Cost by the Sufferings of Your Son and of Yourself, in Union with Him, from that same Savior, Who Loves us with Infinite Charity.**

**We gather about You, O Chaste and Holy Mother, Virgin Immaculate, Patroness of our beloved land, determined to fight under Your Banner of holy purity against the wickedness that would make all the world an abyss of evil, without God and without Your Loving Maternal Care.**

**We consecrate our hearts, our homes, our land to Your Most Pure Heart, O Great Queen, that the Kingdom of Your Son, our Redeemer and our God, may be firmly established in us.**

**We ask no Special Sign of You, Sweet Mother, for we believe in Your Great Love for us, and we place in You our entire confidence. We promise to honor You by faith, love, and the purity of our lives according to Your Desire.**

**Reign over us, then, O Virgin Immaculate, with Your Son Jesus Christ. May His Divine Heart and Your Most Chaste Heart be ever Enthroned and Glorified among us. Use us, Your children of America, as Your instruments of peace among men and nations. Work Your Miracles of Grace in us, so that we may be a glory to the Blessed Trinity, Who Created, Redeemed, and Sanctifies us.**

**May Your Valiant Spouse, St. Joseph, with the Holy Angels and Saints, assist you and us in "Renewing the face of the earth." Then when our work is over, Come, Holy Immaculate Mother, and as our Victorious Queen, Lead us to the Eternal Kingdom, where Your Son Reigns Forever as King. Amen (200 days)**

**Written at the Behest of Our Lady, October 5, 1956**

**by Sister Mary Ephrem**

**Nihil Obstat: Daniel Pilarczyk, S.T.D.**

**Imprimatur: +Paul F. Leibold, V.G.**

**Cincinnati, January 25, 1963**

**Prayer to the  
Indwelling Most Holy Trinity**

**O my Love, my only Good, Most Holy Trinity, I adore You, hidden in the depths of my soul. To You, to Your Honor and Glory, I dedicate my life. May every thought, word and deed of mine be an act of adoration and praise directed towards Your Divine Majesty Enthroned in my heart.**

**O Father, Infinite Goodness, behold Your child, clothed in the likeness of Your Son. Extend to me Your Arms that I may belong to You forever.**

**O Son, Divine Lord, made man, crucify me with Yourself that I may become, in union with You, a sacrifice of praise for the Glory of Your Father.**

**O Holy Spirit, Fire of Everlasting Love, Consume me on the Altar of Divine Charity, that at the end of life, nothing may remain but that which bears the likeness of Christ.**

**O Blessed Trinity, Worthy of all adoration, I wish to remain in spirit on my knees, to acknowledge forever Your Reign in me and over me, to Your Everlasting Glory.**

**Through the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Pure Heart of Saint Joseph, I consecrate my life to Your Adoration and Glory.**

**At the moment of death, receive me, O my Triune Love, that I may continue my adoration of love through all Eternity.**

**Amen. (200 days)**

**Sr. Mildred Mary Neuzil  
www.ourladyofamerica.org  
Nihil Obstat: Daniel Pilarczyk, S.T.D.  
Imprimatur: +Paul F. Leibold, V.G.  
Cincinnati, January 25, 1963**



## Prayer to the Mother of Mercy

Oh Holy Virgin, Mother of Mercy,

Look down in Compassion upon your poor, frightened, children. We come to you, with fullest confidence, oh Refuge of the afflicted and distressed. Where shall we fly, or to whom shall we go but to You, oh Mother of Mercy? Our cause is in Your Hands. Cover us then, we beseech You, with the Saving Mantle of Your Tender Compassion. Hide us, under Your Cloak of Loving Care and Pity, from the Just Punishments of an Angry God. Shield us from the chastisements, which we, by our many sins and transgressions, have justly drawn upon ourselves. Be to us, oh Comforter of the lonely and the sorrowful, a Mother of Mercy, never leaving us either in life or in death. Under the Mantle of Your Protecting Mercy, oh Loving Mother, Lead us to the Feet of Your All-Merciful Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, to remain there Forever. Amen.

(with ecclesiastical approval) May 15, 1957

*“By Thy Holy and Immaculate Conception  
O Mary,  
deliver us from evil.”*



## Endnotes

- 1 <https://www.in.gov/dnr/historic/files/hp-kneipp-springs-historic-district.pdf>
- 2 <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/08669b.htm>
- 3 [https://archive.org/stream/39002086176469.med.yale.edu/39002086176469.med.yale.edu\\_djvu.txt](https://archive.org/stream/39002086176469.med.yale.edu/39002086176469.med.yale.edu_djvu.txt)
- 4 <https://www.in.gov/dnr/historic/files/hp-kneipp-springs-historic-district.pdf>
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- 6 <https://www.preciousbloodsistersdayton.org/about-us/our-foundress/>
- 7 <https://www.ourladyofamerica.org/wordpress/2015/04/18/479/>
- 8 <http://catholictradition.org/Mary/revelation.htm>
- 9 <http://www.mysticsofthechurch.com>
- 10 <https://www.romancatholicman.com/cardinal-burkes-letter-to-the-usccb-on-our-lady-of-america/>
- 11 <https://www.ourladyofamerica.org/wordpress/2015/04/18/479/>
- 12 <https://bookofheaven.org/2016/03/17/divine-attriutes-of-god-indwelling-of-the-holy-trinity/>



