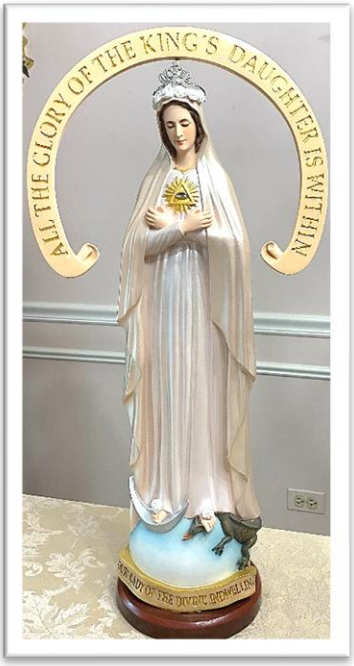
OUR LADY OF THE DIVINE INDWELLING



Our Lady of the Divine Indwelling Appeared to Sister Mary Ephrem at the Maria Stein Shrine in Maria Stein, Ohio, on November 22 and 23, 1957. This is a privately approved Appearance of Our Lady by Bishop Kevin Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana, and five additional US Bishops connected with the alleged Apparitions to Sister Mary Ephrem between 1956 and 1958.

The Oratory of the Holy Family Center in Rome City, Indiana, where Our Lady first allegedly Appeared as Our Lady of America, has been blessed by Bishop Rhoades, who has allowed, by decree, the celebration of public Liturgies at the Center in Rome City, as well as the distribution of the diary, medals, and prayer cards for private devotion.

The letters between Sister Mary Ephrem and her confessor, Archbishop Paul F. Leibold of Cincinnati, developed into a diary of Sister's spiritual experiences. It was Archbishop Leibold who asked Sister to write her experiences. Archbishop Leibold authorized the first (1960) and second printing of Sister's diary, had the Medal of Our Lady of America struck and commissioned images of Our Lady of America.

Our Lady of America full-story booklet: **https://luisapiccarreta.me/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/1OLA-Book-2022-Print.pdf**

Our Lady of Divine Indwelling booklet: **https://luisapiccarreta.me/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Our-Lady-of-the-Divine-Indwelling-6.pdf**

Our Lady of America and the Little White Dove video: **https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sNmslFGISL0**

In the communications of Sister Mary Ephrem with her confessor, Archbishop Leibold, it becomes apparent that the spirituality of Sister Mary Ephrem was that of the Divine Indwelling.

Letter from Archbishop Leibold to Sister Mary Ephrem - July 22, 1953:

"…**Your attraction to the "Divine In Dwelling"** is most attractive to me also. I have used it often in exhortations; as the basis of an appeal for purity, as with St. Paul, we consider the body as the vessel of the Holy Spirit. It impels the very Angels to kneel before the man in the state of Sanctifying Grace. **A special devotion to this mystery since childhood** (of Sister Mary Ephrem) **and the definite determination for seven years not to actually do something about it --- surely all adds up to something more than a passing fancy or a temporary emotional attraction. I even checked all the orders of Sisters I could to see if there wasn't surely one of them dedicated to this mystery; and could find none."**

Letter from Sister Mary Ephrem to Archbishop Leibold, November 25, 1954:

"Rev. & dear Father, the prayer to the Trinity I wrote, (***"Prayer to the Indwelling Most Holy Trinity" with Nihil Obstat of Daniel Pilarczyk, S.T.D.; Imprimatur of Paul F. Leibold, V.G. Cin. January 25, 1963)*** kneeling by the kitchen table. I was getting some things ready for the following morning. In the midst of it I was seized with an indescribable impulse. Thoughts of the Trinity and being conformed to the likeness of Christ filled my mind and my heart. It has become an obsession with me now.

So I snatched a piece of old paper and wrote. **My whole desire tended to adoration and praise.** The prayer, as you can see repeats this theme over and over again. I was not thinking of myself or my needs, of petition or reparation. **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.**

I was suffering a great deal for I was inconsolable at the thought of my own ingratitude and of the crimes which sinners commit against God. I was in my room at the time. I couldn't keep back the tears, though I am not

one to give in emotionally. This was something different and impossible to explain. In the midst of it our Lord said to me:

"Thou art the daughter of My Heart. In thee My Heart is well Pleased."

But these words, far from consoling me, made the tears flow more than ever. I feel my ingratitude all the more when He lavishes upon me His Goodness and Mercy.

We are each one, His paradise, Father, and He takes so much delight in dwelling in us. How sad, Father, that so few souls know this. And of those who know, what a small number make use of it. What a mission is ours Father - **to make souls conscious of God dwelling in them and live a life of continual adoration**.

There is so much to be done, and time is so short. Yet, what a consolation to know that even in Eternity we can continue this glorious work of love. God bless you, Father. Pray always for a little, white dove."

Our Lady of the Divine Indwelling Appeared to Sister Mary Ephrem while on retreat at Maria Stein on November 22 and 23, 1957

One of the Appearances to Sister Mary Ephrem, seemingly hidden at this time, is that of Our Lady of the Divine Indwelling. According to Sister's letters to her confessor, Archbishop Paul F. Leibold of Cincinnati, while Sister was assigned to the Cincinnati Cathedral, Sister anticipated something great from Our Lady while on retreat at Maria Stein:

> *"I'm on my way to make the Retreat at Maria Stein, [November] 18th to 24th [1957]... It will be a time of great Grace, I know, so pray, dear Father, that my soul may always be wide open* ***to receive the Heavenly Visitations****." ...* ***"I know that during this Retreat Our Lady will be preparing me for something again****, so please pray very much for Your very small daughter, "His little, white dove"* (Sister Mary Ephrem to Rev. Leibold, letter dated November 17, 1957)

Indeed, Our Lady had something very great, as Sister described:

> *"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 Mary Ephrem to Rev. Leibold, letter dated November 23, 1957)

Letter dated June 4, 1982, from Sister Mary Ephrem to a Precious Blood Sister, 25 years after:

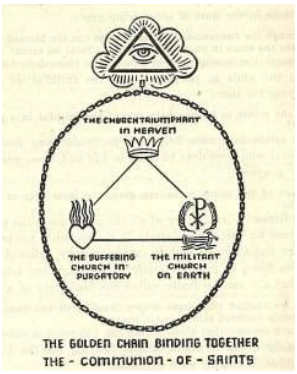
"I am getting older so I can't expect many more years to my life. But until I go, I will spend myself in fighting for and defending the Contemplative Way of Life and Contemplative Prayer. And Contemplative Prayer, as you know, Sister, is for everyone. **I will not live to see it but there will be born a Contemplative Community dedicated to the direct adoration of the Divine Indwelling Presence."**

Triangle and the Eye - The Eye of God

The Eye of God is a symbol of the Triune God and is representative of Divine watchfulness, of the Supreme Being taking care of the entire universe. It is shown as a single human eye enclosed in a triangle and often surrounded by clouds or bursts of light. Also known as the 'All-Seeing Eye' and 'Eye of Providence', the symbol has been used since the ancient times to signify the omniscience and omnipresence of God and His Powerful, Preserving and Guarding character. By the "Eye of God," through the intercession of the Holy Angels and Saints, souls receive a clear vision to the Kingdom of God. It is one of the oldest Catholic understandings and symbols of the Paternity of God watching over all His children. This symbol has been captured by secret

organizations opposed to God, but it remains a true sign of God in the Holy Church. This Eye sees and knows all things, accepts and gathers home all things into the most Wise and most Merciful God.

Baltimore Catechism on 'Communion of Saints'



The image to the right and the following is from the Baltimore Catechism: "The Communion of Saints — *Sanctorum Communionem* — as explained by Father Connell's 'The New Baltimore Catechism No.3, published by Benzinger Brothers, Inc. in 1943: *...we shall study the doctrine of the Communion of Saints, which tells us that all who are united to Jesus Christ by Sanctifying Grace form one great society, with its members on earth, in Heaven and in Purgatory."*

History of the Maria Stein Shrine

It seems from the following information that OUR LADY OF THE DIVINE INDWELLING Chose a very Holy place to Appear to Sister Mary Ephrem. While Sister did not note the actual spot of the Apparition, it likely occurred in the former Motherhouse of the Order of Sisters of Precious Blood.



The Sisters of the Precious Blood of Dayton, Ohio, owe their spiritual roots to Mother Maria Anna Brunner, founder of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood and spiritual daughter of St. Gaspar del Bufalo. The Congregation originated at Castle Loewnberg in Switzerland. Mother Brunner's son, Fr. Francis de Sales Brunner, a Missionary of the Precious Blood, was instrumental in bringing the first of these Sisters to America in 1844.[1]

On June 26, 1958, Mother Brunner Appeared to Sister Mary Ephrem, saying the following:

"You are their crown* (first Sisters of the Order). *In you they will be glorified."

"Mother Brunner suddenly Appeared… then I saw many Sisters in black surrounding her… they smiled upon me, and oh, the happiness I saw on their faces. It filled me with great joy. I knew, too, at that moment how greatly they loved me… Then Mother Brunner spoke to me: *"You are my beloved daughter, my glory and my crown. It is not necessary that I be glorified on earth. It is enough that I am glorified in you, my daughter… Long have I prayed both on earth and in Heaven that God would Mark the Community, that through me, so humble an instrument He brought into being, with a very special mission and Grace. My desires have been realized in you, cherished daughter. Truly you are after my own heart. These, my daughters, who dwell with me in the Bosom of God, rejoice with me and give praise to the Most High for the Glory that will come to the Most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ through you, beloved and privileged daughter… The mother is honored in the daughter…* ***I place the Mantle of my spirit upon you****. Spread it over the Community… it must prepare itself for the abundance of Graces God is about to Shower upon it…"* (Sister Mary Ephrem notes to Reverend Leibold February 2, 1960)

[1] https://www.mariasteinshrine.org/the-maria-stein-shrine

1Kings 19:19 - *So Elijah departed from there and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, while he was plowing with twelve pairs of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth. And Elijah passed over to him and threw his mantle on him.*

Today, next to the *Oratory of the Holy Family Center* in Rome City, Indiana, where Our Lady of America first Appeared to Sister Mary Ephrem is the Parish Church of St. Gaspar del Bufalo, in honor of Mother Maria Anna Brunner, founder of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood and spiritual daughter of St. Gaspar del Bufalo.

The Maria Stein Shrine was started by Fr. Brunner, who brought his own collection of relics - the start to a growing collection, which drew many pilgrims for veneration.



Brief history of the Maria Stein Shrine of the Holy Relics and Retreat Center

The cornerstone for the convent at Maria Stein was laid on November 16, 1845. In the fall of 1846, Father Brunner dedicated the Chapel under the title of Mary Help of Christians and called the convent Maria Stein in memory of the Swiss Benedictine convent of that name where he was ordained. On September 24, 1846, eight Sisters came from the New Riegel convent to Maria Stein and, entering the house built for them as their first convent, began perpetual adoration that very night. (Note: The New Riegel convent is the last convent where Sister Mary Ephrem lived, in which she and other cloistered Sisters of the Precious Blood practiced the spirituality of the Divine Indwelling.)

Remarkably, in the choir loft of the All Saints Catholic Church in New Riegel, is a beautiful stained-glass window of the "Eye of God":





All Saints Catholic Church, 39 N Perry St, New Riegel, OH 44853 – and choir loft window – former cloister convent of Sister Mary Ephrem – the convent has since burned down.

Life changed again for those in the Maria Stein Convent (former Motherhouse of the Order of the Sister of the Precious Blood) in the 1950s. A new wing was built at the [new] Motherhouse in Dayton where Sisters could live out their retirement, leaving few Sisters at the Shrine.

This new development could have brought about an end to the Eucharistic Adoration which had been happening on site for over a century. But the local people, knowing how important those prayers had been to their success, began coming to the Adoration Chapel at Maria Stein for hours of adoration. This group, formally called the Adoration Guild, celebrated its 67th anniversary (started same year Our Lady of the Divine Indwelling Appeared 1957).

By the late 1960s and early 1970s, the former Motherhouse and its chapels along with the retreat house became known as the Maria Stein Center. By the 1990's the Sisters realized they could not continue the outreach of the Maria Stein Center; it was simply too large for them to manage with diminishing numbers of Sisters. The new millennium saw the Maria Stein Center become two separate institutions, as it is today. The retreat house was sold and is now the Spiritual Center of Maria Stein and governed by a lay board.

While Sister Mary Ephrem's letters do not specify where exactly Our Lady of Divine Indwelling Appeared, with the above historical information, and with the date of the Appearance of 1957, it is more than likely that it took place in the original Motherhouse convent. Today, this holy place, chosen by Our Lady, is the Maria Stein Shrine of the Holy Relics.

Our Lady of the Divine Indwelling and the Holy Divine Will

The Appearance of Our Lady of the Divine Indwelling, first ever bearing the "Eye of God", is truly extraordinary and of highest importance. Little was spoken to Sister Mary Ephrem in this Apparition, yet indeed, the purpose was of highest spirituality, pointing to greater things to come. Sister herself, while promoting the messages of Our Lady of America, together with the Sisters in the cloister, practiced the Divine Indwelling spirituality. Sister sought conformity with God's Will, as many Saints throughout Church history, while focusing more on adoring the Indwelling Trinity within her soul.

From the late 1800's unto the 1947 death of the Servant of God Luisa Piccarreta, Our Lord and Our Lady Spoke extensively about the Divine Indwelling, even more so, about the Gift of Living in the Most Holy Divine Will, as They Lived. Luisa is the first soul to be given this Great Gift, and ten years after Luisa's entrance into Heaven, Our Lady condescended to Sister Mary Ephrem with this spirituality for her and for those who wish to embrace what Our Lady came to give.







With the Appearances of Our Lady throughout the centuries, She is Preparing Her children for the Triumph of Her Immaculate Heart, that is, for Her children to be like Her Son, Jesus Christ, with Him Reigning in their souls, the Divine Indwelling. This is already accomplished in the soul of the Servant of God Luisa Piccarreta as the first soul, born of original sin, to possess this Divine Gift, the Sanctity of sanctities. Perhaps this is why soon after Luisa's death, Our Lord and Our Lady came to Sister Mary Ephrem – to begin to dispose souls for the Divine Indwelling, and ultimately Living in the Divine Will. As souls embrace the Mission of Our Lady of America, so too shall they embrace the spirituality of the Divine Indwelling and the Most Holy Divine Will. Many hope to witness Holy Mother Church proclaiming the Living in the Divine Will as the Crowning of all spiritualities - deification of the soul in God, on earth as in Heaven – fulfillment of the Lord's Prayer.

2 Peter 1:2-4 *"Grace to you and peace be accomplished in the knowledge of God and of Christ Jesus our Lord: As all things of His Divine Power which appertain to life and Godliness, are given us, through the knowledge of Him Who hath Called us by His Own Proper Glory and Virtue. By Whom He hath given us Most Great and Precious Promises: that by these you may be made partakers of the Divine Nature: flying the corruption of that concupiscence which is in the world."*

CCC #1999 – *"The Grace of Christ is the Gratuitous Gift that God makes to us of His Own Life, Infused by the Holy Spirit into our soul to heal it of sin and to sanctify it. It is the sanctifying or deifying Grace received in Baptism. It is in us the Source of the Work of Sanctification."*

Eph. 2:21-22 – *"Through Him the whole structure is held together and grows into a Temple Sacred in the Lord; in Him you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in the Spirit."*

Our Lady of America allegedly announced through Sister Mary Ephrem the "last resort" for Her children, in particular, Her children of the United States of America, to assist Her in bringing peace and purity to the world. Our Lady is the New Ark of the New Jerusalem, Queen and Mother of the Kingdom of the Divine Will. The Servant of God Luisa Piccarreta is the firstborn in this Divine Kingdom. Less than ten years after Luisa's entrance into Heaven, Our Lady began to Appear to Sister Mary Ephrem. These assumed Apparitions to Sister Announce this Coming New Jerusalem. Sister is the "little white dove" of this New Ark of Our Lady, the ***sign*** of the coming New Jerusalem, the Reign of Peace in the world in which Our Lady's children are called to Live in the Most Holy Divine Will.



Our Lord Jesus said to Sister Mary Ephrem, the little white dove, on the Feast of the Precious Blood, July 1, 1955:

"Thou thyself shall be the Sign, the Sign I will give to the world.
A little, white dove, a Sign of Peace, yes, the Reign of Peace in the world."

Sister Mary Ephrem to Reverend Leibold, letter dated April 25, 1957 - "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."

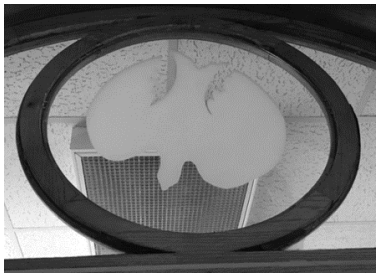
From the writings of the Servant of God Luisa Piccarreta - Volume 33 – June 6, 1935 – Luisa wrote: "To better convince me, my Dear Jesus Showed me the Queen of Heaven. With Unspeakable Majesty and Maternal Tenderness, **She Descended from Heaven, Traveled through all nations, and Marked with a Particular Sign all those who should not be touched by chastisement.** My Sweet Jesus was Giving to His Mother the Privilege of Saving whomever She Pleased, and **everyone Marked by Her remained immune**."

The Divine Indwelling devotion given to and practiced by Sister Mary Ephrem was to be propagated as early as the 1960's, and seemingly to prepare Our Lord's and Our Lady's faithful children for the great Gift of Living in the Most Holy Divine Will.

Many are hoping for more information to come forward on the life of Sister Mary Ephrem and are praying through her intercession, hoping too for a Cause to begin in the Church for her Beatification.



Unmarked tomb of Sister Mary Ephrem and Window of a white dove formerly in the Rome City chapel.



Sister Mary Ephrem suffered immensely in promoting this spiritual life and Mission, of which she stated, ***"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…"*** (Letter dated November 28, 1956)

Someday the Holy Church will recognize more fully Our Lady of the Divine Indwelling. Holy Mother Church has the final say in all matters! Our Lady is Preparing Her children for the New and Divine Holiness that She Possesses Within Herself, She Wishes that Her children become like Herself and Her Divine Son. Pope St. John Paul II prophesied of the New and Divine Holiness at the canonization of St. Annibale Maria di Francia, Extraordinary Confessor and Ecclesiastical Censor of Luisa's writings. The Church and Her faithful are entering into the New Era of Sanctification, the seven thousandth year, the Third Fiat. In Descending from Heaven to Sister Mary Ephrem, Our Lady of the Divine Indwelling alluded to the very beginning of Life in the Divine Will, the Divine Indwelling for humanity as already accomplished in the Servant of God Luisa Piccarreta.

1 John 4:16 - *"God is Love and he who lives in Love, lives in God and God in him."*

CCC #845 – "To reunite all His children, scattered and led astray by sin, the Father Willed to Call the whole of humanity together into His Son's Church. The Church is the place where humanity must rediscover its Unity and Salvation. The Church is "the world reconciled." She is the bark which "in the full sail of the Lord's Cross, by the Breath of the Holy Spirit, navigates safely in this world." According to another image dear to the Church Fathers, she is prefigured by Noah's ark, which alone saves from the flood."

With the ongoing flood of evils in the world, Our Lady is Preparing Her children, Marking them with the Great Gift of Living In the Most Holy Divine Will. Luisa is the first to Possess this Gift, and with the Sign of Sister Mary Ephrem and the Divine Indwelling, souls will begin to embrace what God has Planned from the Beginning. This is the Triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

For STATUES of OUR LADY OF THE DIVINE INDWELLING (without or with halo) and SISTER MARY EPHREM contact Gina of Fiat Religious Statues at 828-777-4517 for ordering, prices and sizes:



When the loveliest place in a dwelling belongs to God, no devil can long endure. Under the wings of the Holy Angels is where the fidelity dwells of the fear of God. Under the wings of the Holy Angels is the broad and dynamic protection of the children of God. Such is our protection beneath the Divine Fidelity in all times and all places, like little birds under the wings of their mother, and men under the wings of their Guardian Angels. In faith as in love, in wisdom as in truth, the fear of God must *always* be present.

Prayer: *O God, the hosts of Angels stand about You like pillars, and You have made Your Dwelling with us; in the midst of our wretchedness, You have stationed Your Holy Angels around You and around us. When You dry our tears, O Lord, then speak Your "Let it be!" over our souls, that we may finally become what You want us to be before Your Face. Amen.*

As little souls come to the realization that the Apparitions of Our Lady of the Divine Indwelling to Sister Mary Ephrem, privately approved, took place at the Maria Stein Shrine in 1957, just as they are coming to know Our Lady of America in the Oratory in Rome City, Graces will abound. We pray for the sanctification of souls, that all be for the Glory of our Triune God, Whose Plan is to Dwell in the souls of His children through the Intercession of OUR LADY OF THE DIVINE INDWELLING.

Fiat!