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CARMELITE MONASTERY
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LATROBE, PENNSYLVANIA 15650
October 26, 1969

Most Reverend Paul F. Leibold
Archbishop of Cincinnati
29 East Eighth Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

Most Reverend and dear Archbishop:

Recently you received a letter from Reverend Father Melvin Rupprecht, O.S.B., relating to the devotion of Our Lady of America. I am the Carmelite Sister who had discussed this matter with him.

Your Excellency must wonder why I am so concerned about this devotion. It is not that I am basing my interest and opinion solely on what the Precious Blood Sister has revealed to me. I was enlightened interiorly before I ever met Sister that something tremendous was going to happen and that I was somehow involved in it. I knew that it concerned Our Lady's visiting America with a special message and that she wanted a shrine in her honor. God had prepared me interiorly so that when Sister finally told me the secret I knew that this was what I had been waiting for.

Does Your Excellency know that the miracles of grace will not occur until after the statue is placed in the National Shrine? This is only implied in the account; but I asked Sister specifically about it, and she confirmed my own thought that this is so. Therefore, the proof of the authenticity of the visions will be received after the statue is carried in solemn procession and placed in the National Shrine for then the miracles of grace will occur both through the use of the medal and at the Shrine itself.

I have a very simple plan to suggest for having Our Lady's wishes carried out without actually making it a new public devotion. When Our Lady was first made Patroness of our country, she really was Our Lady of America in the true and exact sense of the title. There can be no wrong in honoring Our Lady, and we do not wish to make Sister's account known at this time so we are not asking the people to believe in any visions. Therefore, would it not be possible to simply ask at the Shrine if they would be willing to put a special statue of Our Lady there that was being donated, without actually creating a new devotion? I do not think it is necessary to emphasize her title when inquiring. The woman who is donating the statue in memory of her dear departed mother wants to remain anonymous so it would seem that it could be done in a very quiet, simple manner. I thought the matter would be given more attention if Your Excellency made the inquiry at the Shrine under your title as Archbishop of Cincinnati.

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If the permission were granted at the National Shrine, I would see to it that the money to pay for the statue was in Your Excellency's hands before it was ordered so long as we could ascertain the exact cost in advance. The price could not exceed \$2,000.00, and I could get it on about a week's notice. I thought that a life-sized wood-carved statue would be fitting and easily carried in a procession because of its light weight, but the details about the statue could be worked out later. If there were any difficulty about having the procession at the National Shrine, do you think one could be held in your Archdiocese? It would not seem singular if, on some big Feast of Our Lady, a solemn procession were held "in honor of Our Lady". It would not seem to be necessary to mention her title if there were any question about it. As to Our Lady's request that she be honored at the Shrine as "Our Lady of America, the Immaculate Virgin", I thought these words could appear on the base of the statue, either carved on or attached on a metal plate. Thus, this part of her request would be carried out.

My superior was in favor of my writing Your Excellency about this matter; but she requests of you that my name be not mentioned. This is, also, my own desire. You probably know that the Precious Blood Sister does not want her identity ever revealed, and I agree with her that this is important to the success of the cause. However, you may contact her about anything in this letter if Your Excellency wishes.

I hope Your Excellency will forgive my taking the liberty to write you my simple plan for having Our Lady's wishes fulfilled. I am certain that she would not have made these requests if it were not possible to satisfy them. There are so many souls today in our country that need special graces to become pleasing to God that it makes me eager to see Our Lady's wishes carried out as soon as possible. Her words, "Will my loyal sons (Bishops) carry out my desires and thus help me bring the peace of Christ once again to mankind?", have shown me that it is the Bishops who can see that her requests are fulfilled and that is why I am having recourse to Your Excellency. Her special blessing will most certainly be granted you as she promised.

Would Your Excellency please let me know if the above suggestions could be used, and whether you would be willing to make the inquiry at the Shrine? Thank you very much for your patience in reading this long letter. I wish to cooperate in whatever way that I am able to get the statue put into the Shrine.

Asking Your Excellency's Blessing, I am

Yours respectfully in Christ;

Sister Monica, O.C.D.