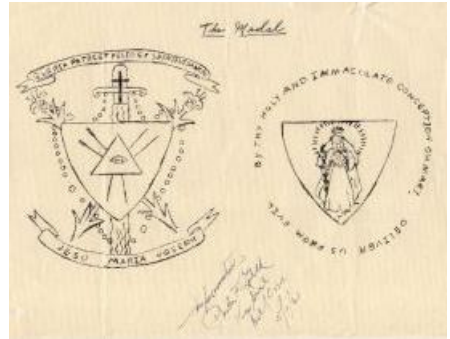


## Bishops connected with Apparitions to Sister Mary Ephrem



Pictured is the statue of Our Lady of America, The Immaculate Virgin, Patroness of our land, Blessed on November 15th, 2006 by His Excellency Raymond L. Burke, on display at the USCCB Conference in Baltimore. The canonical status and history of the Our Lady of America devotion started with **Archbishop Paul F. Leibold of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Ohio**. He was the first Bishop to recognize the private devotion to Our Lady of America in the early 1960's. He gave his Imprimatur to prayers, had the medal struck, and facilitated the distribution of Sr. Mary Ephrem's diary.

Original sketch by Sr. Mary Ephrem:



In May of 2020, the six Roman Catholic Bishops with jurisdiction over this devotion, as the alleged Apparitions occurred in their dioceses, released a joint Decree discussing the supernaturality of what Sister Mary Ephrem experienced as the basis for this devotion. **This group of Bishops was led by Bishop Kevin Rhoades of the Fort Wayne – South Bend Diocese, Indiana**. We must rely upon our shepherds for discernment. At this time, it has been stated, “*non constat de supernaturalitate*”, expressing a decision based on the insufficiency of facts and elements of proof to either affirm or negate (at this time) the supernatural character of the presumed private revelation. The possibility remains that the Apparitions may be supernatural. The faithful may practice the private devotion. The Bishops have also placed Sr. Mary Ephrem and the Rome City site of the alleged first apparitions, plus the fruits of the devotion in a favorable light. These are extremely positive findings and provide a solid foundation for moving forward in faith. Before this decree there was only one Bishop, Archbishop Paul F. Leibold (of happy memory) that had approved the private devotion. Today there are 7! This includes all the current Ordinaries of the places where Apparitions allegedly occurred. They have cleared the way for God's Mercy and Love to Rise through the instrument of this devotion, Sr. Mary Ephrem, and the place at Rome City.

### **Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend**

Bishop Rhoades was appointed the Ninth Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne – South Bend on November 14, 2009, by Pope Benedict XVI, and installed on January 13, 2010, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne. He is Chair of the USCCB Committee on Doctrine, a member of the USCCB Administrative Committee, of the USCCB Committee on Religious Liberty, and a member of the Board of Directors of Catholic Relief Services.

### **Most Rev. Thomas J. Olmsted is the bishop of the Diocese of Phoenix**

He was installed as the fourth bishop of Phoenix on Dec. 20, 2003 and later Member of the USCCB National Advisory Council, USCCB Pro-Life Committee Member and Board of Governors of the Pontifical North American College.

### **Most Reverend Dennis M. Schnurr Archbishop of Cincinnati**

On December 21, 2009, he became the tenth Archbishop of Cincinnati. Just prior he was general secretary of the USCCB.

### **Most Reverend Allen H. Vigneron Archbishop of Detroit**

Appointed by Pope Benedict XVI, he was named Archbishop of the Detroit Archdiocese on Jan. 5, 2009 and elected Vice President of the USCCB on November 12, 2019.

### **Most Reverend Timothy L. Doherty Bishop of Lafayette in Indiana**

He was installed as the Bishop of the Diocese of Lafayette in Indiana on July 15, 2010. He was voted by the USCCB membership to be the Chair-elect of the USCCB Committee for the Protection of Children and Young People.

### **Most Reverend Daniel E. Thomas Bishop of Toledo in Ohio**

He was installed in 2014 as Bishop of Toledo. He was assigned an Official of the Congregation for Bishops at the Holy See, Vatican City State, served as Adjunct Spiritual Director at the Pontifical North American College Seminary, Rome, Italy and Named Chaplain to His Holiness by Pope John Paul II, and other USCCB Boards.

For Statements visit:

<https://www.ourladyofamerica.org/wordpress/2020/05/22/devotion-to-our-lady-of-america-gains-further-approvals-what-comes-next/>

*Our Lady of America, The Immaculate Virgin, Patroness of our land, Pray for all Bishops through the intercession of Sister Mary Ephrem and Archbishop Paul Leibold!*