“God shows us the way to true peace through Mary, the Mother of All Nations”

Conference by Fr. Paul Maria Sigl
“BRING THIS IMAGE INTO THE WORLD.
AND NOW I AM SPEAKING NOT FOR YOUR COUNTRY ALONE,
BUT FOR THE WHOLE WORLD.
THIS WORLD IS DEGENERATING.
THE WORLD WILL SUFFER DISASTER UPON DISASTER.
THE WORLD WILL BE AND IS ECONOMICALLY AND MATERIALLY RUINED.
WARS WILL CONTINUE AS LONG AS NO HELP COMES FROM THE TRUE SPIRIT.
BRING THE PEOPLE BACK TO THE CROSS.”

The Messages of Amsterdam from November 15, 1951
Dear brothers and sisters, dear pilgrims from near and far!

Exactly fifty years ago today, on May 31, 1959, Mary appeared as the Lady, the Mother of All Nations, for the last time in Amsterdam. (1) What joyous providence, that we can celebrate this Day of Prayer on the golden jubilee in the diocese of His Eminence, Joachim Cardinal Meisner.

Accordingly, we are fulfilling an express wish of Our Lady which she pronounced 54 years ago: “See to it that every year the nations are assembled around this throne, before this image. This is the great favor that Mary, Miriam, or the Lady of All Nations, may grant to the world.” (May 31, 1955) It is Our Lady, therefore, who has invited us here to give us special graces. As such, she is actually our “hostess” today!

The coming of the Mother of All Nations – the high point of the Marian Era

Many of you have been faithful devotees of the Mother of All Nations for years now. Yet for all those who we warmly welcome for the first time—and there are very many—I would like to show a little about the unique significance of the Lady of All Nations.

The so-called Marian Era began in 1830 with the apparition of the Immaculata in Rue du Bac (2), Paris, where Mary revealed the Miraculous Medal to us. It is named the Marian Era because in no preceding era has Our Lady allowed her motherly love and presence to be experienced in so many different places, principally in Europe. Let us just think about the ecclesiastically approved places of apparitions like La Salette, Lourdes, Knock in Ireland, Fatima, Beauraing and Banneux in Belgium.

We needed her powerful, protecting presence and virtually tangible closeness, because in the past 180 years Satan has attempted a frontal attack on God, as never before, to destroy nations, the Church, and the world.

With the coming of the Immaculata and the revelation of the Miraculous Medal (3) the Marian Era began, which is so important for us all.
Yet with the coming of the LADY, THE MOTHER OF ALL NA-
TIONS in Amsterdam, the Marian Era reached its coronation. (4) This
may come as a surprise, but you will understand it better as we go on.
Actually, if we fulfill God’s wishes as revealed to us in Amsterdam, we
will be led into a new era, a new Pentecost, a new time.

Although the series of apparitions of Amsterdam took place 50
years ago, they have not diminished in relevance. Quite the contrary!
We live in a time in which practically all aspects in the life of the Church
and of the world are in an almost hopeless crisis and world peace is
threatened as never before. In this context, the messages of the Lady
of All Nations grow in incomparable importance.

In the near future, all of us without exception will have to under-
stand more deeply how much the desired peace in our families and in
the world depends upon us doing today and now exactly that which
the Mother of All Nations desires in Amsterdam! Everything depends
upon on how we correspond!

Let us learn from Fatima!

Dear pilgrims, to show you just how important it is that we cor-
respond to the messages of Amsterdam, I would like to remind you of
Fatima (5), where we are dramatically shown what happens when we
give too little credence to the words of Mary and only hesitantly follow
her motherly strategy.

The paradox is this: the supernatural nature of Fatima was recog-
nized at the highest levels, yet still we waited far too long to put into
action Our Lady’s desires.

In 1917, towards the end of World War I, the Queen of the Rosary
warned us in Portugal about Russia (6) and the worldwide spreading
of its atheistic ideology. But it was not taken seriously enough. Con-
sequently, militant atheism spread like wildfire and subjugated those
lands which were brutally invaded one after the next.

Here we see Russian tanks in Prague during the invasion of
Czechoslovakia in 1968. Overnight, students and fathers in Prague
found themselves before a helpless situation. (7)

This Slovak worker in Bratislava (8), who was suddenly faced with
Russian tanks as he came home from the factory, ripped open his shirt
in the middle of the street in the pain of his helplessness.

In Russia alone, more than 50,000 churches and convents were
destroyed, and millions died in gulags, the Siberian prison camps. Let
us not forget, we could have prevented all of this if we had listened to
the warning calls of our mother in Fatima!

In the same way, the Queen of the Rosary warned us of the drama
of a second world war—20 years before hand!
To prevent Communism, Nationalism (9), and the Second World War, she revealed concrete grace-filled means: praying the Rosary (10), communion of expiation on the first Saturday of each month, and the consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Unfortunately, her motherly request was not fulfilled and so millions of people died in concentration camps (11) and on the fronts. Soldiers who did not lose their lives on the battlefield ended up as prisoners of war. Here (12) we see German POWs in Moscow before their deportation to Siberia.

The hate with which Satan desires to annihilate everything (13) that reminds us of God can best be shown with the monastery of Monte cassino, the most famous and beautiful Benedictine monastery in the world. Here we see it before and after the bombing. (14, 15)

The cities of Europe, especially those of Germany, lay in ashes, not to mention those of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. This is an aerial photo of Hiroshima from September 1945, one month after the first atomic bomb in the history of war completely leveled the city. (16)

Since we are in Cologne today, allow me to show you another photo from 1945, when Cologne, as so many other German cities, was like a ghost town. (17)

Since we did not take Our Lady’s words seriously, it unfortunately came to this. It is shocking when we think that we could have prevented all the indescribable suffering and misery.
Mary comes to Amsterdam

Mary, however, as a loving mother, never abandons us! So, once again she rushed to our aid towards the end of World War II, this time in the Netherlands. On March 25, 1945, the Feast of the Annunciation (18), Our Lady appeared in total silence to the 40-year-old Ida Peerdeman in her apartment in Amsterdam.

In 56 apparitions, the Mother of All Nations spoke, over a period of 14 years, addressing individual nations and peoples. She directed her words to the pope, to bishops, priests and religious, to families, to men, women and children, and to all people of good will. As a mother, she warned us of the degeneration of faith and morals, of disaster and war. She explained that she wants to save us from a threatening global catastrophe and to guide us into a new, spirit-filled time, a time of peace. To that end, the Lady of All Nations reminds us of the preciousness and divine power of the sacraments, especially that of the Holy Eucharist.

Above all, she asks us for love, such that the visionary once saw the word “LOVE” written in large letters in the heavens. She therefore guides humanity back to the Cross, to the high point of love; to the Cross, the fountain of mercy, to the center of creation. For this reason we have consciously placed the cross of our redemption, with the picture of Divine Mercy in the middle of the arena.

The visionary Ida Peerdeman

So many are here today for the first time, and therefore I want to say a few words about the visionary Ida Peerdeman. This photo (19) shows her at age 27. Ida was extraordinarily modest and an example of obedience to her bishop and spiritual director. Even though she never married, everyone who knew her well, found her to be a truly motherly woman.

As a 12-year-old, while she was on her way home from her weekly confession, she had her first encounter with the radiant ‘woman’ dressed in white. It was October 13, 1917, the same day that Our Lady appeared for the last time in Fatima and that the miracle of the sun took place. (20) The 12-year-old, however, did not yet know anything about these occurrences.

Many years later, Mother Ida described, as we see here in this photo (21), her startling visions in which she saw not just disastrous events, which were to be prevented, but also the renewal of the Church, which will invariably come through a new Pentecost of love.
Mother Ida died on June 17, 1996 at the age of 90. In his appreciation of her, the late bishop of the diocese of Haarlem-Amsterdam, the Most Reverend Henrik Bomers, insisted that he celebrate her funeral. (22) If he had not been convinced of the authenticity of the apparitions and the messages, I do not think that he would have ever done such a thing.

During the funeral Mass, he said in his homily: “We are gathered here together as people who have loved, admired, and esteemed Ida Peerdeman…

“In any case, I would like to say here that I knew Ida quite well... She was through and through down to earth to her last day and she had great repugnance toward any glorification of her own person... I am certain beyond doubt that she was absolutely sincere and spoke truthfully about her experiences.”

Proofs of authenticity

Naturally, Bishop Bomers came to this positive opinion of her through personal encounters and conversations with the visionary, but certainly also through the proofs of authenticity. God gave numerous and fascinating proofs in Amsterdam, which are unique in the history of Marian apparitions.

The Lady of All Nations said about her messages: “my signs are in my words.” (May 31, 1957) That means, she proves the authenticity of her message again and again through countless predictions which are fulfilled over the course of the years.

Due to time constraints, allow me to mention just a few examples.

Back in 1950, Ida saw the reunification of Germany. In a vision, the Lady pointed to a thick line through Germany and said, “Europe is divided in two.” (Dec. 12, 1950) At that point, the visionary had to erase the line with a gesture of her hand.

Almost forty years later, in 1989, we were witnesses to the fall of the Berlin Wall (23)—about which former East German president Honecker had said ten months previously: “The wall will remain for another hundred years.” (24) Honecker’s conviction is easy to understand in the face of the military parade (25) which took place only a few weeks prior to the upheaval, in October of 1989.

The visionary also saw the first landing of the Americans on the moon (26) in 1969, 23 years before it actually took place. During this vision, Ida also experienced weightlessness which she described in detail to her spiritual director. (Feb. 7, 1946)
Another time, Ida was led in a vision to St. Peter’s Basilica. She saw all the bishops of the world with white miters, the Holy Father with the tiara, and a thick book. (27) No one in the world, least of all the visionary, could have even suspected that with that impressive vision on February 11, 1951, she saw the Second Vatican Council which took place eleven years later.

By far the strongest proof of authenticity was given by Our Lady to the visionary in the night between the 18th and 19th of February, 1958. She announced to her that in the beginning of October, which is to say eight months later, Pope Pius XII (28), who at the time was still in good health, would die.

“Listen. This Holy Father, Pope Pius XII, will be taken up among Us at the beginning of October of this year: The Lady of All Nations, the Coredemptrix, Mediatrix and Advocate, will lead him to eternal joy.”

Our Lady desired that the visionary speak to no one about this message. Her spiritual director respected this absolute silence, but he desired that Ida leave the secret contents in a sealed envelope with him. She kept a copy of the message at home.

In fact, Pope Pius XII died in the beginning of October (29) in Castel Gandolfo († Oct. 9, 1958). Mother Ida went the same day to her spiritual director and showed him the copy of that message which had now become reality.

This proof of authenticity was naturally all the more convincing for her spiritual director, because, as a priest, he knew only too well that the day of a person’s death is decided and known only by God. Consequently, her spiritual director, Fr. Frehe O.P. (30), sent the sealed letter to Rome.

We can easily measure the outstanding importance of the messages of Amsterdam for the Church and world if God allows proofs of its authenticity to include even a council and the life and death of a holy pope.

The Church’s position

Naturally, following this, not only Bishop Huibers and his successors, but also the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith occupied themselves with the events in Amsterdam. The investigation and inquiry by the diocesan commissions were conducted over a period of years. In May of 1974, the Congregation sent a letter to the Bishop of Haarlem, the Most Reverend Zwartkruis, and published in the Osservatore Romano a notice of “non constat de supernaturalitate” which means that “the supernatural nature” is, at this point of time, “not determined”.

Twenty-two years later, in 1996, moved by many requests from home and abroad, Bishop Henrik Bomers of Amsterdam and his Auxiliary Bishop, Jozef M. Punt, decided after consulting with the Congregation, to officially allow the public veneration of Mary under the biblical title Lady of All Nations. (Photo 31: The two bishops at the 2nd International Day of Prayer in 1998. The Austrian cardinal, Alfons M. Stickler († 2007) of Rome, is behind them as the main celebrant; he always believed in the authenticity of the messages of Amsterdam.)
They did this through a notification which was published exactly thirteen years ago today, on May 31, 1996. Among other things is found the following therein:

“Distinction must be made between the apparitions/messages on the one hand and the Marian title ‘The Lady of All Nations’, on the other hand.

“At the moment the Church cannot make a pronouncement about the supernatural character of the apparitions and the content of the messages. One is free to make a personal judgement according to his or her own conscience.

“The prayer ‘Lord Jesus Christ...’ which includes the title ‘The Lady of All Nations’, has since 1951 enjoyed Church approval by Msgr. Huibers, who was Bishop of Haarlem at the time. It is our judgement that there is no objection against the public veneration of the Blessed Virgin Mary under this title.”

On May 31, 2002, the current Bishop of Amsterdam, Jozef M. Punt, made a written statement “regarding the authenticity of the apparitions of Mary as the Lady of All Nations in Amsterdam during the years of 1945-1959”. (32) In his statement he wrote:

“As it is known, my predecessor, Msgr. H. Bomers and myself had previously given permission for public veneration in 1996...

“Over the period of six subsequent years, I observed that the devotion had taken its place in the spiritual life of millions all over the world (33), and that it possesses the support of many bishops... (34) In full recognition of the responsibility of the Holy See, it is primarily the task of the local bishop to speak out in conscience regarding the authenticity of private revelations that take place or have taken place within his diocese.

“Therefore I have asked once again for the advice of theologians and psychologists concerning outcomes of previous investigations, and the questions and objections deriving from them... I have also requested the judgment of a number of brother bishops concerning the fruits and development of the devotion, who within their own dioceses have experienced a strong devotion of Mary as the Mother and Lady of All Nations. (35) In light and virtue of all these recommendations, testimonies, and developments, and in pondering all this in prayer and theological reflection, I have come to the conclusion that the apparitions of the Lady of All Nations in Amsterdam consist of a supernatural origin.”
Our Lady introduced herself during the very first apparition with the beautiful biblical title Woman/Lady. [It is to be noted that in the original Dutch Vrouwe means both woman and lady.] She used this new title more than 150 times in the messages: “I am the Lady, Mary, Mother of All Nations. You may say: The LADY OF ALL NATIONS or MOTHER OF ALL NATIONS.” (Feb. 11, 1951)

Why LADY of All Nations? To understand better why Our Lady appears under the biblical title WOMAN/LADY we naturally have to turn to Sacred Scripture. Only there is the significance of the word woman/lady opened to us.

1. Already in the first pages, in Genesis, we read about the WOMAN, who together with her Son crushes the head of the serpent: (36)

“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; He will strike at your head, while you strike at his heel.” (Gn 3:15)

Catholic biblical scholarship has never hesitated to recognize this WOMAN as being Mary, who, united with her Son, conquers Satan. Also in Amsterdam, Mary indicated this:

“I crushed the snake with my foot. I became united with the Son, just as I was always united with Him.” (Aug. 15, 1951) “She will defeat Satan, as has been foretold. She will place her feet upon Satan’s head.” (May 31, 1955)

2. At the wedding in Cana, we encounter the WOMAN who intercedes and transmits grace: (37)

“Jesus said, ‘Woman, what do you want from me? My hour has not come yet.’ His mother said to the servants, ‘Do whatever he tells you.’” (Jn 2:4-5)

Jesus does not address His mother here as WOMAN to distance Himself from her as if to reject her but rather to remind her of her universal motherly vocation.

In Amsterdam, Mary consciously refers to Cana on the one hand to describe her perfectly harmonic relationship to her Son and, on the other hand, to show that Jesus actually wanted her, as the WOMAN, to ask for the miracle. “For was it not the Lord Jesus Christ Himself who waited with His great miracle”—and now the Lady says quietly and with emphasis—“of changing water into wine, until His Mother had spoken? He intended to work His miracle, but waited until His Mother spoke. Do you understand this? ... This thought shall help them to understand the relationship of the Lady with their Lord.” (May 31, 1956)

3. The Gospel of John describes for us also the coredeeming WOMAN on Calvary: (38)

“When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near; he said to his mother; ‘Woman, behold, your son!’” (Jn 19:26)
Let us hear what Pope John Paul II said about this: “... on two solemn occasions, that is, at Cana and beneath the Cross, Jesus addresses [Mary] as ‘Woman’ (cf. Jn 2:4; 19:26). Mary is associated as a woman in the work of salvation. Having created man ‘male and female’ (cf. Gn 1:27), the Lord also wants to place the New Eve beside the New Adam in the Redemption. Our first parents had chosen the way of sin as a couple; a new pair, the Son of God with his Mother’s co-operation, would re-establish the human race in its original dignity.” (Apr. 9, 1997)

“In the hour of Jesus, of His mother, and of the Church, the words of the redeemer are solemn and actuate that which they proclaim: Mary is made the mother of the disciples of Christ and of all men.” (Mar. 8, 1983)

This confirms the message of Amsterdam on April 6, 1952: “At the sacrifice of the Cross the Son gave this title to the entire world.”

4. In the Apocalypse, we read about the WOMAN one last time as the one clothed with the sun: (39)

“Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman, robed with the sun, standing on the moon, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was pregnant, and in labor, crying aloud in the pangs of childbirth. Then a second sign appeared in the sky: there was a huge red dragon ... the dragon stopped in front of the woman as she was at the point of giving birth... ” (Rev 12:1-4)

Pope Paul VI wrote referring to this passage: “The great sign which the Apostle John saw in heaven, ‘a woman clothed with the sun,’ is interpreted by the sacred Liturgy, not without foundation, as referring to the most blessed Mary, the mother of all men by the grace of Christ the Redeemer.” (Signum Magnum, 1967)

This confrontation between the WOMAN and the dragon allows us to think back to the words in Genesis: “I shall put enmity between you and the woman...” (Gn 3:15)

In Amsterdam, Mary said the following to the visionary on December 3, 1953: “The powers of hell will break loose. They will not, however, defeat the Lady of All Nations.”

Mary is therefore always referred to as WOMAN when indicating her universal motherly vocation for all humanity and time.

Remember well: “Humanity is entrusted to the Mother.” (Aug. 15, 1951)

In regards to this title, the Mother of All Nations gave numerous consoling promises: “Under this title she will save the world.” (Mar. 20, 1953) “She will defeat Satan, as has been foretold. She will place her feet upon Satan’s head.” (May 31, 1955) “The Lady of All Nations will be allowed to bring peace to the world. Yet she must be asked for it under this title.” (Oct. 11, 1953)

She is truly the Mother for all nations, tribes and races, regardless of what faith they might profess. She loves all her children, also those who do not yet know her motherly love, and especially those who want to know nothing about her.

Therefore, it will be the MOTHER OF ALL NATIONS who will implore for and give us enduring world peace, true ecumenism, and unity in the Holy Spirit.
THE PRAYER

To implore for us enduring world peace, that is, unity in the Holy Spirit, Our Lady revealed her PRAYER, which she spoke about in the very first message. Yet it was only six years later, on the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, on February 11, 1951, that she dictated it to the visionary while she was in Germany.

The universal significance of this prayer for the Church and the world is shown by the fact that Our Lady revealed it during the prophetic vision of the Second Vatican Council. Suddenly the vision of the Second Vatican Council was interrupted. Ida was led before a cross and was so painfully united with the sufferings of Jesus and Mary that she began to cry. Let us let the visionary recount:

“While I was still standing with the Lady before the Cross (41), she said, ‘Repeat after me.’ … Then the Lady said, ‘Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Father…’ But the way she said it! It goes right through you. I have not yet heard anyone in the world pray it as she did. ‘Send NOW Your Spirit’ with the emphasis on NOW, and ‘Let the Holy Spirit live in the hearts of ALL nations’ especially stressing the word ALL. She also pronounces the word ‘AMEN’ so beautifully and solemnly. As I repeated everything word for word, I was unaware what all this was actually suppose to be that she was reciting to me. However, when the Lady said ‘Amen’ everything was written in large letters before me. Only then did I realize that it was a prayer. The strange thing is that … I never had to learn it by heart … it was as if impressed upon my memory.

LORD JESUS CHRIST,
SON OF THE FATHER,
SEND NOW YOUR SPIRIT
OVER THE EARTH.
LET THE HOLY SPIRIT LIVE
IN THE HEARTS OF ALL NATIONS,
THAT THEY MAY BE PRESERVED
FROM DEGENERATION, DISASTER AND WAR.
MAY THE LADY OF ALL NATIONS,
WHO ONCE WAS MARY,
BE OUR ADVOCATE.
AMEN.

“Then the Lady continues her message, ‘Child, this [prayer] is so simple and short that everyone can say it in one’s own language, before one’s own crucifix; and those who have no crucifix say it to themselves.’"
The prayer, therefore, is a wonderful supplication for the coming of the Holy Spirit. May He come NOW and live in the hearts of ALL nations.

That the nations may be preserved from DEGENERATION: Are we not confronted every day with degeneration, the falling away from faith and the resulting moral decay? When we lose faith, we also easily lose morals.

Degeneration through pornography and Satanism (42) which frequently even ends in suicide. Some experts estimate the number of young devotees of Satan in Germany to be up to 60,000! The headquarters of the state police of Baden-Württemberg in Freiburg estimates that “in every school there sits at least one hard core Satanist.”

Degeneration in the entertainment industry through rock music and bad films, through videos and DVD’s which are consumed by hundreds of millions of people daily. Here we see an advertisement for the horror film “Drag me to Hell” (43) now showing in theaters worldwide.

Degeneration through abortion. On May 7, 2008, the Institut für Familienpolitik presented the European Parliament with the data that more than a million children are lost every year in Europe through abortion. (44) That corresponds to the population of Luxembourg and Malta together!

That we may be preserved from DISASTER—disaster in every form: accidents and natural disasters such as devastating wildfires (45), hurricanes and floods. (46) In recent years, because of the degree of destruction, they have been called disasters of the century by the media. Disaster through earthquakes such as a few weeks ago in L’Aquila, Italy. (47) The tragic part is that the innocent are always affected as well. The same is true for hunger, a disaster which affects whole nations. According to the information of UNICEF, more than 900 million people are starving throughout the world in developing nations. That is almost a billion people. As a result of hunger, 8,000 children die each day. Try to imagine that!

Throughout the world, far more than 18 million people have had to flee from their homes. (48) They know what it means to be afraid, tired, and hungry day after day. More than half of these refugees are children. They are the most affected and the number grows each day.
So that we may be preserved from WAR. The Heidelberg Institute for International Conflict Research’s Conflict Barometer of 2008 published that the number of unarmed and violent conflicts has risen to 345 worldwide. (49) This is the highest level measured since the end of the Second World War in 1945!

May Our Lady protect us from a new intensification in the Middle East, which could rapidly escalate into a worldwide conflict. Iran has been working for years on a nuclear program to be used for what they claim are peaceful purposes. At the same time, they have openly declared their desire to destroy Israel for they maintain it has no right to exist. This is also the reason why Iran will never abandon their nuclear program. (50) Again and again, we hear talk about the dreadful possibility of a third world war lying before us. (51) In spite of all of the international efforts of the most experienced diplomats, the political situation in the world has gotten ever worse. Is it not understandable that so many people look to the future with fear?

The most influential German psychotherapist, Christa Meves, spoke about this fear in 2006, during the opening lecture of the “Second International Congress Treffpunkt Weltkirche” which was put on by the Catholic aid organization, AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED in Augsburg, Germany.

We see her here in 2005 as she was awarded the rank of Dame Commander with Star of the Order of St. Gregory. (52) It is the highest Catholic honor and was presented to her by Cardinal Meisner on behalf of Pope Benedict XVI. In her lecture, she asked: “How should we ... not be afraid when already the existing number of nuclear weapons are able to destroy and poison this beautiful blue planet and us living beings a thousand times over? Yes, how should we not be afraid when the Muslims are calling their people to a holy war (53) against the ‘godless West’, as they say? How should we not be afraid that deadly new plagues (54) are appearing across the world which develop so rapidly that vaccines cannot be pulled out of thin air for them? How should we remain composed when faced with the fact that the industrial nations have been trying to eliminate themselves for forty years now by seeing to it that they hardly have children anymore? And for those that are about to be born, throughout the world they are killed by the millions in their mother’s womb. In Germany alone there have been eight million since 1976. How should we not shudder when we calculate that our economical strength will unavoidably sink as a result and that ultimately we will be threatened with famine and poverty and in any event with unemployment?!”

As a firm Catholic she stresses that against such a growing fear, we need a renewed, living faith in Jesus Christ who calls to us saying: “take courage, I have conquered the world.” (Jn 16:33)
How true this is! Christ is the Savior of the world, and He sends us His mother, because in our times, peace in the world is entrusted to her. She herself says: “This time is Our time. This means that the Father and the Son wants to send the Coredemptrix, Mediatrix and Advocate throughout the whole world in this time.” (July 2, 1951) There is no power in the world that will succeed in conquering evil in the world and to turn things around if we do not call Mary into our midst as the one sent by the Father and the Son. As the Mother of the Church and of all nations, she is the one who mediates and implores the Holy Spirit for us as she did 2,000 years ago on Pentecost, in Jerusalem. (55)

From degeneration come disaster and war

Our Lady also said something of great significance to us in regards to her prayer. Let us listen to her words: “Ask [the Lady of All Nations] to stave off all disasters. Ask her to banish degeneration from this world. From degeneration comes disaster. From degeneration comes war. Through my prayer you shall ask that this be staved off from the world. You do not know how great and how important this prayer is before God.” (May 31, 1955)

Disaster and war come from moral degeneration! Have you ever heard it put that simply before? This shows us so much and is easy to understand! If we do not bring our sins before God and repent them, then we harm not only ourselves, but give power to Satan. Satan then uses this power to harm us as much as he can in his pitiless hatred. There are few Christians who consider this! So, it is not God who gives Satan the power to bring disasters upon us, it is we who give it. God, rather, gives us the power to conquer evil.
So that disasters and war might end, we have to see to it that its cause, degeneration, ends. That simply means that we must convert following the example of John the Baptist: (56) through humility and repentance. It means that we have to convert through a good confession (57), through prayer (58) and the loving reception of the Holy Eucharist (59), through love of neighbor (60) and fasting. Actually, all of these are simple means that we can all employ. Even the four billion people who are not Christians (61) and who know God too little can turn away from egoism and think about the good of others. The Lady of All Nations says they can do this if they would “strive after Righteousness, Truth and Love.” (Dec. 8, 1952)

Let us hear the beautiful promises that Our Lady gives to those who pray her prayer:

“Through this prayer the Lady will save the world. I repeat this promise once more.” (May 10, 1953) “You do not know how great and how important this prayer is before God. He will hear His Mother, as she wants to be your Advocate.” (May 31, 1955)

Our Lady also explains why she gave this new prayer: “It is given in order to call down the True Spirit upon the world.” (Sept. 20, 1951) “You cannot estimate the great value this will have. You do not know what the future has in store.” (Apr. 15, 1951)

Truly, dear friends, no one knows what the future will bring. (62) Yet Our Lady gives us a promise which is at the same time dramatic and wonderful because she “has been sent by her Lord and Creator so that, under this title and through this prayer, she may deliver the world from a great world catastrophe... Through this prayer the Lady will save the world. I repeat this promise once more.” (May 10, 1953)

Who once was Mary

Dear pilgrims, in this context, allow me to point out something important. Many have difficulty with the formulation who once was Mary. It was surely the same for some of you who have known this prayer for some time.
This is not surprising because the very first ones to have difficulty understanding the sense of these words were the visionary herself, followed by her spiritual director, Fr. Frehe, and finally Bishop Huibers, whose responsibility it was to give permission to print it. Therefore, in its first printing, the bishop, who happened to like the prayer very much, simply left out this phrase which he did not understand. The prayer then ended: “May the Lady of All Nations be our Advocate.”

Our Lady, however, did not agree with the change. “May the Lady of All Nations, who once was Mary, be our Advocate”—that is to remain as it is.” (Apr. 6, 1952)

She had already explained in brief and simple words: “Who once was Mary’ means: many people have known Mary as Mary. Now, however, in this new era which is about to begin, I wish to be the Lady of All Nations. Everyone understands this.” (July 2, 1951)

Who once was Mary therefore in no way means that we can no longer call Our Lady Mary, as we often do when praying the Rosary. Rather it means that we should not just know Mary by her name, but also by her vocation as our spiritual mother. Through this, our relationship to her should become like that of a child. (63)

The fact that this mother-child relationship can become much deeper and more personal is most certainly true for us Catholics—such as this girl (64)—but even more so for the four billion non-Christians, which is to say for the vast majority of humanity. They may know Mary by her name, but they do not know that she is a mother for all nations and therefore also their own personal mother. Take, for example, this young Hindu girl (65) in southern India who discovered her Mother in a picture of the Lady of All Nations. Do you see! She presses the prayer card of the Mother of All Nations to her heart.

When people discover Mary as their personal mother, everything changes. She, who once was only Mary to me, is now someone I know and love as my Mother. (66) As a result, the need to entrust myself and to imitate her grows in my heart, just as a child (67) entrusts itself to its mother and imitates her.
The changing of the prayer

So why is it that we no longer pray the prayer as it was given? To explain this, I would ask for your full attention.

In the last years, the faithful, priests, and bishops repeatedly have had difficulty with the expression who once was Mary, just as Bishop Huibers had in the past. Therefore, inquiries were repeatedly sent to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in Rome.

Out of pastoral concern that the phrase who once was Mary, from the prayer of the Lady of All Nations, could be misunderstood, in July of 2005, the Congregation requested the diocesan bishop of Amsterdam, the Most Reverend Jozef M. Punt to leave these words out.

In a letter dated August 8, 2005, the position of the bishop was made public by Raphaël Soffner, the Coordinator of the Advisory Commission. It says:

“Naturally, the Bishop contacted the Congregation and expressed his opinion on this matter. In the meantime, he has asked the authorities of the devotion to respect the pastoral concern of the Congregation by leaving out or praying silently the clause during public prayer until further notice. The Bishop realizes that for many people this may cause a tension between conviction and obedience, but he refers to the example offered by the visionary herself.

Once she experienced a similar type of dilemma and then heard the following words from ‘the Lady’: ‘obedience comes first’. Of course, obedience does not exclude ongoing and open dialogue on this issue, he states. Also the great and actual importance of this prayer, that asks the ‘Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Father’ to send ‘now’ the Holy Spirit over our wounded world, completely remains.

In all this, the Bishop also sees a positive side. With this discussion a deeper dialogue is launched. Behind this clause, given after the proclamation of the Dogma of Our Lady’s Assumption, lies a fundamental question: Who truly is Mary in God’s plan of Salvation? What is Her role in the coming of the Holy Spirit? Who is She to be for this time and this world? It was to this dialogue that Pope John Paul II in 2002 explicitly encouraged theologians.”

To clarify that the title Lady of All Nations refers to Our Lady, the words the Blessed Virgin Mary have been inserted. This version received the Imprimatur on January 6, 2009 from Bishop Jozef M. Punt. So, the end of the prayer is now:

“May the Lady of All Nations, the Blessed Virgin Mary, be our Advocate.”

Since I continually encounter faithful who have venerated the Lady of All Nations for years and have difficulties to accept the new version, I would like to modestly but adamantly ask all of you for your obedience, for obedience out of love. It is only in this way that the prayer can continue to be spread throughout the world with the blessing of the Church and with the support of bishops and priests.

Thinking and acting with the Church is decisive for the spreading out of her image and her prayer. At one point, Our Lady herself even says: “And now the Lady of All Nations promises to grant true peace. But the nations, together with the Church—understand well—together with the Church, will have to pray my prayer…” (Mar. 20, 1953)

Think about it, what would Our Lady have done? She, too, would have humbly obeyed.
The Image of Amsterdam

The messages of Amsterdam are also special in that Our Lady herself described in detail how her image was to be painted. Actually, through the contemplation of her image everyone should be able to understand why Mary is our Mother.

I am convinced that if you were to ask Christians, "Why is Mary your Mother?" many of them would certainly answer, "Because she is the mother of Jesus and because she bore us with Him in her womb." This is certainly not wrong, but also by no means the deepest reason for her motherhood of us. She is our mother for a threefold reason, and the image from Amsterdam describes precisely this:

1. Mary is the MOTHER of us all because, united with her and our Redeemer, she suffered as the COREDEMPTRIX for us. Do you see in this painting by Bradi Barth how Our Lady places her hands on her womb, which bears all people? Beneath the cross she bore all humanity to new life. That is why we see her standing before the radiant cross of her divine Son, whose light completely permeates her. As it is clearly shown on the Miraculous Medal, our Mother cannot be separated from the Cross, nor the Cross from the Mother.

   She has a cloth bound around her waist, which she explains as symbolizing the loincloth of her Son and the inseparable unity of the Coredemptrix with her Redeemer.

   We can also see transfigured wounds in her hands. In the first moment that may be surprising because the sufferings of the Sorrowful Mother on Calvary were not visible through an exterior shedding of blood. The Gospels would have surely told us that.

   Yet we can ask ourselves, "Who suffered more: saints with the stigmata like Padre Pio and Therese Neumann or Our Lady of Sorrows?" We would naturally respond with the theologically correct answer: "Our Lady of Sorrows!"

   Allow me now to show you a striking picture of the stigmatic Therese Neumann which was taken during one of her ecstasies of the Passion. If, then, even Therese Neumann suffered in such a striking manner, how much more did the Coredemptrix suffer!

   Precisely this spiritual reality was stressed by Pope John Paul II as he said in the general audience on May 4, 1983, "The Father desired that she, called to the most total cooperation in the mystery of redemption, would be completely united with the sacrifice and share in the sufferings of the Crucified one..."

   Do you now understand why Our Mother shows herself in Amsterdam with the mystical wounds?
2. Mary is also the MOTHER of us all because, as the MEDIATRIX, in union with her Son, she transmits all grace to the nations. In her image this is illustrated by three rays of light which issue forth from each of her pierced hands. (72) She explains: “These are three rays, the rays of Grace, Redemption and Peace. Through the Grace of my Lord and Master, and out of love for humanity, the Father sent to the world His only Son as Redeemer. Now both of them want to send the Holy, the True Spirit, who alone can be Peace. Hence: Grace, Redemption, Peace.” (May 31, 1951)

These fall upon the white and black sheep which symbolize Christ’s flock, which is to say all peoples and races of the earth.

These hands which are at the same time pierced (73) and radiating grace make visible the internal connection between coredemption and mediation of grace. They show that from every suffering borne in love, grace and blessings stream forth. In other words, she who suffered with the Redeemer as the Coredemptrix for these graces may also distribute them in union with Him.

3. Mary is also a MOTHER for us because as our ADVOCATE, she intercedes for us before God and defends us against the evil one, Satan.

The biblical truth that our Mother defends us against Satan, as the one who crushes the head of the serpent, and conquers him is illustrated here in an especially impressive way. Unlike with the Miraculous Medal, in the image given in Amsterdam, the serpent is nowhere to be found anymore because it is utterly vanquished. (74) The motherly intercessory power of Mary cannot be more clearly portrayed! She is truly the apocalyptic woman, the one who is clothed with the sun and who shall crush the head of the serpent. (75)

I would like, therefore, to call the image of Amsterdam a paradisiacal picture which already shows the Triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. It is an image for a new time, a time of global peace which will dwell in the hearts of all people. This truly fills all of us with great hope and joy when we look upon the image and pray before it! Does this not remind us of the Book of Revelation of John in which it says: “Behold, the dwelling of God is with men. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away.” (Rev 21:3b-4)

So, the universal motherhood of Mary for all people of all times is described in a threefold way. Our Lady said something unexpected about this: “This image shall precede. This image must go over the whole world. It is the interpretation and illustration of the new dogma. This is why I myself have given this image to the peoples.” (Dec. 8, 1952)
THE DOGMA OF THE LADY OF ALL NATIONS

The image is the interpretation and illustration of a new dogma? Which dogma is the Lady speaking about? In the history of Marian apparitions it is truly unique that Our Lady asks for a dogma in her messages! According to her words, this Marian dogma will be the “final and greatest.” (Aug. 15, 1951) Addressing the Holy Father, she desired: “See to the final dogma, the crowning of the Mother of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Coredemptrix, Mediatrix and Advocate.” (Oct. 11, 1953)

More than once, our Mother addressed the theologians directly and explained to them the theological content and great significance of the dogma: “Tell your theologians that they can find everything in their books... I am not bringing a new doctrine.” (Apr. 4, 1954) “The Church will encounter much opposition on account of the new dogma.” (Aug. 15, 1951)

Today, more than 50 years later, the Catholic Church indeed finds herself in this difficult and painful position. On the one hand, cardinals and hundreds of bishops want to see Mary honored through a dogma as Coredemptrix, Mediatrix and Advocate. The same is desired by renowned theologians, many priests and millions of faithful. This title has also been loved and used up to this very day by various mariologists and even saints such as Vincent Pallotti, Anne Catherine Emmerich, Leopold Mandic, Maximilian Kolbe, Edith Stein, Padre Pio and Mother Teresa.

Also Pope John Paul II used the title Coredemptrix several times. For example, he said in the general audience on September 8, 1982, “Mary, despite being conceived and born without the stain of sin, has participated in an admirable way in the sufferings of her divine Son, to be the Coredemptrix of humanity.”

However, not everyone thinks in this way, and they have their understandable reasons. Among the cardinals, bishops and theologians, there are many who consider the term Coredemptrix to be easily misunderstood and therefore fundamentally unsuitable to correctly explain the unique theological role of Mary in salvation history.

It is an intention of mine, dear faithful, and I feel it is my duty to say very openly regarding this title, that as Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith at the time, Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger said to the German journalist, Peter Seewald, in his book “God and the World”, that the cooperation of Mary in the plan of redemption “is already better expressed in other titles of Mary, while the formula ‘Co-Redemptrix’ departs to too great an extent from the language of Scripture and of the Fathers and therefore gives rise to misunderstanding.” Joachim Cardinal Meisner also shares the same opinion regarding this issue. (76)

This has to be clearly stated here, for the Archbishop of Cologne who is certainly the pope’s best and most faithful friend, would have never given us permission to celebrate in his diocese a day of prayer in honor of the Lady of All Nations, whose message is directly linked to the title Coredemptrix, if the current position of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith were not clearly stated.
A dialogue of love

In order that this truth may be proclaimed at the appropriate time, God willing, the theological differences of opinion regarding the title *Coredemptrix* must be reconciled sooner or later through extensive studies, loving dialogue, and above all through prayer and sacrifice.

Consequently, let it be said that those who are in favor of the title *Coredemptrix* should show understanding for those who, in their genuine love for Mary, consider this notion unsuitable. Some of them, as mariologists, have written important works about Mary. Yet, out of their concern that Jesus’ unique and incomparable place as the divine Redeemer could be diminished or that the ecumenical dialogue could be jeopardized, they recommend not using the title *Coredemptrix*.

There is another group of theologians who have no problem with venerating Mary under the title *Coredemptrix*, but they see no necessity that this truth ever be defined as a dogma. Still others are open to the dogma but consider its proclamation in the near future to be unwise.

Whichever opinion one puts forward, the theological discussion must be conducted without controversy, in brotherly love, in mutual esteem and respecting the sense of the faith (sensus fidei). Perhaps the most beautiful example of this is Pope John Paul II and his closest coworker, Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger. While Pope Wojtyla appreciated and used the title, the Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith had his reservations. This did not, however, in any way diminish their friendship, which was extremely fruitful for the good of the Church.

One thing is certain, the dogma will above all be the fruit of prayer and it will grow from the hearts of the suffering. It will be a dogma that is prayed and suffered for. The most powerful intercessors are therefore the sick and suffering, among whom are some who are even willing to offer their lives.
The way to true peace

Whether or not it is proper to call Mary the Coredemptrix is a question which theologians, subordinate to the Magisterium of the Church, will continue to work on, all the bishops of the world will be asked their opinion and then the Holy Father will decide.

Even if a dogma will never be proclaimed on account of a prophetic private revelation, it is still exceptional that we can even now know the powerful and grace-filled effects of this Marian dogma for the Church and the world. The Lady of All Nations promised a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit (78) and through this, true peace for the nations.

“And the Lady stayed with her Apostles until the Spirit came. So also may the Lady come to her apostles and nations throughout the whole world, in order to bring them the Holy Spirit again and anew... Once the dogma, the final dogma in Marian history, has been proclaimed, the Lady of All Nations will grant peace, true peace, to the world.” (May 31, 1954)

The grace-filled effects of the dogma, the victory of Mary over evil and peace in the world which is associated with it, is impressively illustrated in the image. The serpent, as mentioned before, is no longer visible on the globe. However, to conquer the entire power of Satan worldwide, Mary, the woman who crushes the serpent’s head, must also be solemnly recognized and honored worldwide in the entirety of her vocation—as the Coredemptrix, Mediatrix, and Advocate.

If and when the dogma will be proclaimed rests, as said, entirely on the Holy Father. In any event, a new Marian dogma will certainly not be proclaimed as long as its theological content is not understood by most and when the majority of the faithful are barely Marian anymore. So we see that the right time has not yet come.

Yet how should the right time come? How should the nations come to appreciate and love Mary as their mother or even come to know about her as the Coredemptrix? What can we, the faithful, concretely do in our daily lives so that Mary can one day be solemnly glorified through the last Marian dogma? Our Lady herself gives us the answer: “This is my message for today, because time presses. A great action must be set on foot for the Son and the Cross, and for the Advocate and bearer of tranquility and peace, the Lady of All Nations.” (Apr. 1, 1951)

THE GREAT WORLDWIDE ACTION – A Marian pastoral program

What great worldwide action does Our Lady mean? Our Lady asks us to spread her PRAYER and IMAGE as a completely peaceful contribution that everyone of good will can do in preparation for the dogma and for world peace. She herself gave a name to the diffusion, calling it a “great world action” (Oct. 11, 1953) or even a “work of redemption and peace.” (Apr. 1, 1951)

It may seem surprising in the first moment that Our Lady calls the spreading of her prayer and image a “work of redemption and peace.” Mary’s vocation consists in guiding us to Jesus, our Redeemer, and to the sacraments and thereby to interior peace. Those who know this are happy to take part in such a work of redemption and peace.
I understood this well when, while on a mission trip from Panama to Nicaragua, as I was entering the plane, I gave a prayer card to a flight attendant. She then came to my seat before take-off and asked me if she could confess. After she had served all of the passengers, she confessed. Her radiant joy was so contagious that her colleague wanted to confess too. You cannot imagine my surprise. I then understood once and for all: it is Our Lady who opens the hearts of her children for the grace of redemption.

Therefore, each one of us, even a child, can help to offer this prayer card in a friendly way to all our brothers and sisters, be they believers or not.

This magnificent “work of redemption and peace” (Apr. 1, 1951) is something Mother Ida saw in the amazing image of billions of snowflakes around the globe: (79)

“Just as the snowflakes whirl over the world and fall upon the ground in a thick layer, so will the prayer and the image spread over the world (80) and fall down into the hearts of all nations. Just as the snow melts into the ground, so the fruit, the Spirit, will come into the hearts of all people who pray this prayer every day.” (Apr. 1, 1951)

Convinced of the tremendous importance of this worldwide action, the visionary worked tirelessly until the end of her life to send prayer cards out throughout the world. (81) In doing so, she often felt so incapable. Therefore, the Lady once encouraged her, saying, “You are afraid? But I am helping you! You will find that the spreading will happen as if by itself.” (Apr. 15, 1951) “Mary is taking full responsibility for this.” (Apr. 4, 1954)

The summons of the Mother of All Nations to work with her is one that she addresses also to us here in the arena, dear friends:

“And now I am speaking to those who want a miracle. Very well then, I tell them: go with great ardor and zeal about this work of redemption and peace, and you will behold the miracle.” (Apr. 1, 1951) “Help with all your means and see to the outspreading, everyone in one’s own way.” (June 15, 1952) “This action is not for one country: this action is for all nations.” (Oct. 11, 1953) “They all have a right to it. I assure you that the world will change.” (Apr. 29, 1951) “The outspreading shall go through the monasteries...” (Mar. 20, 1953) (82) “[It] shall be spread in churches and by modern means.” (Dec. 31, 1951) “The Lady of All Nations will be brought throughout the world in the same way, from town to town, from country to country. This simple prayer will create one community.” (Feb. 17, 1952)

In the mean time, the prayer has been translated into more than 70 languages and millions of prayer cards have reached countless countries throughout the world. Over the course of the years, many beautiful testimonies, accounts of conversion, and even of healings and other miracles have arrived at the shrine in Amsterdam. These have taken place because people have come to know Mary as their personal mother through the prayer cards.
Even cardinals (as in the photo here of His Beatitude, the Syrian cardinal Ignace Moussa Daoud of Rome, as the Prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches 83) and bishops of various continents have made pilgrimages to Amsterdam and have given witness at the International Days of Prayer to the graces they have received in their dioceses (we see here, for example, Archbishop Charles Bo from Yangon, the largest city in Myanmar). (84, 85)

In the mean time, the image is to be found in numerous churches (86) and chapels. In many countries, the faithful see to it that a pilgrim image visits families, prayer groups, parishes, monasteries, schools (87), prisons, etc. Of course, to display it in public places, such as churches, hospitals or schools, it is naturally necessary to first receive the permission of the priest or those responsible.

“Go with great ardor and zeal about this work”

Allow me, dear friends, to encourage you to cooperate anew with this request of Our Lady and to pass on with love this prayer card.

It is such a beautiful task to be able to help in this worldwide action to prepare the faithful for the proclamation of a new Marian dogma, about which Our Lady said, “Once the dogma, the final dogma in Marian history, has been proclaimed, the Lady of All Nations will grant peace, true peace, to the world.” (May 31, 1954)

Billions of people know nothing of Jesus, their Redeemer, and of the power of the cross. Most people do not know that Mary is their very personal mother. Can we be responsible for this? Around the globe, we hear the media speak of life threatening danger which grows every day and becomes ever more frightening. But they are helpless and have no solution.

Our Lady, however, does have a solution. As she did before in Fatima, she even gives us an infallible plan to save us. She gives us a precise strategy: the “great world action” as she says, in which all nations should be involved through our missionary zeal.
We Catholics, who have the grace to know and understand this, therefore have a great responsibility. People should not be able to say to us later, “What, you know about this? You knew how you could stop this worldwide catastrophe and you didn’t tell us!?”

With the Miraculous Medal, we know that within ten years, already a billion of them had been spread out around the world. We could accomplish that with the prayer card of the Lady of All Nations in a single week these days. We only need to work together in harmony with bishops and priests and make use of the means of communication and media that are already available to us. The Lady of All Nations urged us to do exactly this: “This prayer shall be spread in churches and by modern means... that the world may be delivered from degeneration, disaster and war.” (Dec. 31, 1951)

Here you see an impressive photo of New York. (88) When I see pictures like this, I always think: so many lights, so many people, and God wants to dwell in each one of them! Each and every one of them is called to love God with their whole heart. We Catholics have the responsibility to bring them Mary, as their mother, and she will then open their souls for the Holy Spirit.

When the Twin Towers collapsed through a completely unexpected terrorist attack on September 11, 2001, and the Iraq war began, military chaplains distributed 50,000 prayer cards in just a few days to US soldiers from every branch of the military, even to the non-Catholics! (89) And everyone swore the same: “Yes, that is exactly what we need ... that we may be preserved from degeneration, disaster, and war!” So it was that the prayer of Amsterdam quickly became known in the USA as “Our Lady’s Prayer for Peace” or “Our Lady’s Peace Prayer”. Fr. Mandato of the US Navy had 2,000 prayer cards sent directly to the USS Bataan warship. At Charleston Airforce Base, South Carolina, Fr. Del Toro arranged for all the pilots and their crews to receive the prayer card. Army Chaplain Carlson saw to it that his troops, a battalion stationed in Texas, received 3,000 prayer cards shortly before shipping out to Iraq. In that way, a quarter of a million prayer cards were distributed in three months in the USA alone. On EWTN, the largest Catholic television station in the world, the prayer from Amsterdam was shown every hour.
“My heart is greatly concerned for Germany!”

Dear pilgrims, in the messages of Amsterdam, Our Lady spoke repeatedly to individual nations. In this, it is noticeable that the Lady of All Nations spoke to no country more often than Germany. In no less than 12 messages, Our Lady directly addressed Germany and named it 30 times. More than once the visionary saw the Lady with her foot firmly placed on Germany, which always had a special significance.

It was in Germany that she revealed her short but oh so important prayer. Her image was painted in Germany. And it was from Germany that the Lady of All Nations wanted the spreading of her prayer and image to begin. In fact, it was here that the very first prayer cards were distributed! So, as we see, along with the Netherlands, Germany has a unique task and a great responsibility!

It was with concerned, motherly love that Mary addressed her words repeatedly to these two countries and described their troubles: “The Netherlands is on the brink of degeneration; that is why I have put my foot on it. From the Netherlands I want to give my words to the world. My other foot is placed on Germany. The Mother of God weeps for the people of Germany. (90) They have always been my children, and that is why, from Germany too, I wish to be brought into the world as the Lady of All Nations.” (Aug. 15, 1951)

The Lady of All Nations described the current situation with striking precision. More than 50 years ago she predicted the falling away from the faith (91) we see today, in a time when the churches in Germany were still full as were those of the Netherlands, and no one could have imagined what was to come.

“The youth have to be kept away from modern paganism.” (Dec. 3, 1949) “Germany, be warned! ... The people are good, but they are being pulled hither and thither and can find no way out. Poor Germany!” (Dec. 16, 1949) “A two-faced game is being played with her.” (May 27, 1950)

“The others are very busy drawing the German people away from Rome... There are others working to destroy Germany.” (Nov. 16, 1950) “My heart is greatly concerned for Germany.” (Feb. 11, 1951) “The Son wants to give His special protection and has sent me to help Germany.” (Nov. 16, 1950) “They shall work hard, hard in this country to bring the people, who have strayed far, far away, back to this center, the Cross. Priests are too few, but lay people are many... Work here above all with great love and charity.” (Feb. 11, 1951)
Nine years ago, prior to retiring, the Most Reverend Helmut Bauer (92), Auxiliary Bishop of Würzburg, Germany described just how dramatically this prediction proves true. In an address about Fatima on October 13, 2000, he spoke of the shocking “catastrophe of our faith, our disdain for God and rejection of God” and noted that not even half of the population characterizes themselves as believers anymore. In former East Germany, 80 percent are not even baptized!

Bishop Bauer’s exact words were: “We truly must recognize again the inside threat to our faith in our country. In our families, God is an unknown entity. Prayer does not take place. We are ashamed to speak of God. Even the grandparents are not an exception here... It is time that we wake up! ... Also today, there is no other way than the Marian way through which God came upon this earth!” Bishop Bauer was truly right with his Marian way!

Today, when even children and youth behave in a noticeably destructive way because of their interior wounds caused perhaps by a mother’s lack of the tenderness, Mary comes as a mother, as the Mother of All Nations, to heal through her love. She explains this briefly and strikingly in the so-called Eucharistic Experiences which began parallel to the messages in 1958 and those through March 25, 1984, were published. She once said, “A church and a people without a mother is like a body without a soul.” (Eucharistic Experience on May 31, 1965)

Christa Meves also speaks from her decades of experience with psychologically damaged children and youth about this vital mother-child relationship:

“When it is born, a child knows the beat of its mother’s heart, it knows her voice, and yes, even the taste of her individual milk (93) which is similar to the amniotic fluid ... And within a few weeks of birth, the baby is familiar with its mother’s face ... (94) It must recognize her face, because the baby knows that she is the one who guarantees its life. If this guarantor is missing for a long time, the child perceives this as life-threatening.

“In the first years, a child also needs the familiar heart beat of its mother. Mothers intuitively lay their crying children on their left side (95) so that it can feel their heartbeat. It knows this rhythm already from its mother’s womb.”

What this mother and scientist shows here, is just as true for religious life. Regarding this, let us again hear the loving voice of the Mother of All Nations: “A church and a people without a mother is like a body without a soul.”
"Understand this well: Also the Lord needed His mother to come to life. (96) Through the mother comes life. Therefore she must be brought into your churches and among the nations, and you will experience the flourishing." (Eucharistic Experience on March 25, 1973)

The miracle of the flourishing Church will doubtlessly take place here in Germany, in Europe and on all the continents of the world!

But we all have to help with new conviction and new exertion through the diffusion of her image and her prayer (97), through the worldwide action which the Mother of All Nations has given us which will bring redemption and peace. For it is on this way called MARY, this way called MOTHER that God wants to guide all people to true peace. (98)

She guarantees this in her message on May 31, 1955: “The Lady will fulfill her promise, and true peace will come.”
During the Day of Prayer in Cologne on May 31, 2009, at the end of the Holy Mass of the Solemnity of Pentecost, His Eminence, Joachim Cardinal Meisner, His Excellency, Jozef M. Punt, all the priests and all the faithful present prayed the consecration which Pope John Paul II prayed on St. Peter’s Square on March 25, 1984 consecrating the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.
Fr. Paul Maria Sigl, born October 22, 1949, in Natters, Austria, was ordained a priest on December 8, 1992, in the Chapel of Apparitions in Fatima. He is the leader of the international missionary community of pontifical right "PDF-Family of Mary" and the founder and president of the international public clerical association of pontifical right "Work of Jesus the High Priest" (Opus J.S.S.). Fr. Sigl knew the visionary, Ida Peerdeman, who was a spiritual mother for him for more than 25 years. He may be considered, therefore, one of the leading authorities on the Messages of Amsterdam.
"Understand the following words well:

The Lady of All Nations may and shall bestow grace, redemption and peace upon all the peoples of this world who have recourse to her. You, however, shall all bring the Lady of All Nations throughout the entire world."

The Messages of Amsterdam from February 17, 1952