

Our Lady of America Trial--Update

By Al Langsenkamp, Update 1/26/2014:

This past week we seated our jury on Tuesday Morning. Opening statements were made in the afternoon and Kevin McCarthy was on the stand for the remainder of the week for direct examination. Cross examination will start tomorrow afternoon.

Anyone thinking of attending the proceedings on Monday morning, please be advised that the trial has been postponed until 1:00 PM due to weather.

God Bless you and keep praying that truth prevails in all of these proceedings.

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BACKGROUND 1/19/2014

Dear Friends and Family,

Once again, please allow me to ask for your prayers.

Starting this past Tuesday, January 21, I have been in a Federal Court Trial (as a Plaintiff) that revolves around the question: does a certain person own a devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. This trial has certain constitutional and religious issues which have already set legal precedent (and may set more) concerning separation of Church and State issues. The fundamental question however is does the defendant own copyrights and trademarks concerning the Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary under the title of Our Lady of America.

Many of you know that I have been dedicated to promoting this devotion to The Blessed Virgin Mary under the title of Our Lady of America. This devotion originates with appearances of the Blessed Virgin as Our Lady of America to a Sister Mary Ephrem, C.P.P.S. (8/2/1916-1/10/2000) in 1956 in Rome City, Indiana and continuing until 1960 in other locations. The devotion was approved by the Archbishop of Cincinnati, Paul Francis Leibold.

The messages are a call to purity for our country. There are certain requests made by Our Lady of us individually and of our Church collectively. If we respond, she has promised graces greater than those given at Fatima and Lourdes. During the course of these apparitions Jesus, St. Joseph, Our Lady, and St. Michael all appeared. You can learn more about the devotion and additionally download the messages at www.ourladyofamerica.org.

In late 2005 Kevin B. McCarthy (a friend of mine) was asked by two U.S. bishops to find out why this devotion had fallen into dormancy and to "Get it going". Terry and I discerned that we should help in this charge by the Bishops.

Starting in late 2005 we started collaborating with a Sr. Mary Joseph Therese, C.I.T. (Patricia Fuller) from Fostoria, OH. She was in the cloister of the Precious Blood Sister with the visionary. In the late 70's the Precious Blood Sisters closed the cloister and the visionary left the Order. Sr. Joseph represented that a new Order was founded called the Contemplative Sisters of the Indwelling Trinity that she and the visionary went to after leaving the Precious Blood Cloister and that she was the last living member of that Order. She claimed copyrights and trademarks concerning the messages and devotionals. Unfortunately, I never met the visionary.

Kevin & I collaborated with Sr. Mary Joseph Therese and many things were accomplished to promote the devotion from 2006-2007. The statue of Our Lady of America attended the U.S.C.C.B. Conference in 2006. It was displayed in the Archdioceses of New York, Galveston-Houston, St. Louis, Newark, Indianapolis and Milwaukee. Additionally, many Dioceses also promoted the devotion to some level. While it was a struggle working with her, we continued our collaboration until late 2007 when the relationship broke down and we simultaneously learned that Sr. Mary Joseph Therese was not recognized as a Catholic Religious by the Holy Roman Catholic Church and did not live in a convent. Subsequently, we also learned that Sr. Mary Joseph Therese was dismissed from religious life in 1982 for "incurable disobedience". In other words she misrepresented her status and in essence who she was.

This caused a serious threat to the devotion. As a nun under a vow of poverty, Sr. Mary Joseph Therese could own trademarks and copyrights in her name that would through the operation of a vow of poverty belong to the Church. However, as a lay person, if those copyright and trademarks were allowed to stand then a lay person would own, under the laws of the United States, what may be one of the greatest gifts of grace available through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin.

In 2005, Kevin McCarthy, BVM Foundation, Inc and I filed a lawsuit in Federal Court, primarily seeking to overturn these copyrights and trademarks arguing that they were either owned by the Catholic Church or were in the public domain. Patricia Fuller and her co-defendant countersued with anything they could imagine producing a laundry list of illegal and immoral activities with which the created claims in the lawsuit.

This case has spanned over 5 years and has involved statements from 2 Bishops, the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, a diplomatic note from the Apostolic Nunciature, an Amicus Curie brief from the Vatican and a successful appeal to the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals. Truly this has been a battle of "Powers and Principalities".

The trial will last 4-6 weeks and is being held in the courtroom of William T. Lawrence at the U.S. Courthouse in downtown Indianapolis.

Terry and I sincerely implore your prayers that truth will prevail in this trial and that the evil one will be prevented from influencing anything about this trial resulting in a devotion which is free for the faithful and the bishops to practice.

The trial is open to the public. Should you be able to attend and pray silently during the proceedings, it would certainly be appreciated? If you are not able to attend, please offer your prayers for our success. The trial is expected to last for the next 3 weeks or beyond.

We need prayer warriors, so feel free to forward this message or post it.

May Jesus bless you and Our Lady of America intercede for you!