

NICHOLAS DiMARZIO
By the Grace of God and of the Apostolic See
BISHOP OF BROOKLYN



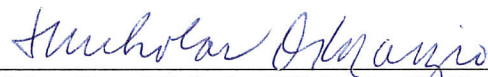
Statement on the Alleged Apparition of “Our Lady of the Roses” and the Bayside Movement

Today, I write in order to dissipate any lingering doubts concerning the longstanding position of the Diocese of Brooklyn and the judgment of Bishop Francis J. Mugavero, Fifth Bishop of Brooklyn, regarding the alleged apparitions of Mrs. Veronica Lueken and the “Bayside Movement.” The persistence of some in promoting these alleged visions and the person of Mrs. Lueken as a “visionary” has both defied the declaration made by Bishop Mugavero on November 4, 1986, and has remained a source of continued confusion and division among a number of the faithful of Brooklyn and Queens and beyond. Allow me, therefore, to reaffirm clearly that these supposed visions completely lack credibility, and the promotion or dissemination of these alleged apparitions has been done without ecclesiastical permission and in direct defiance of the legitimate Ecclesiastical Authority. This judgment has been maintained over the course of three decades, due to the fact that the alleged visions contain serious theological errors and contradict both Sacred Scripture and the Magisterial teaching of the Church. Indeed, they are theologically problematic, and fail to meet the *Norms Regarding the Manner of Proceeding in the Discernment of Presumed Apparitions or Revelations*, which were published by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in 1978, and recently republished in 2011.

Indeed, Mrs. Lueken’s alleged visions are theologically problematic on numerous levels. They contain erroneous, and at times outlandish, claims about a variety of subjects including: the nature and identity of Christ, the identity and role of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Grace, the identity and mission of the Church, the Petrine Office, the Second Vatican Council, the Sacraments, and the last things. These supposed apparitions, therefore, lack any moral certitude, were reported with no docility towards Ecclesiastical Authority, remain theologically and spiritually problematic, and have produced division and discord. As a result, I reiterate the instruction issued by Bishop Francis J. Mugavero calling all clergy and faithful to refrain from any activities connected to the “Bayside Movement” or the alleged visions of Mrs. Lueken. Furthermore, the faithful should not publish, disseminate, or distribute literature or other media surrounding these alleged apparitions, which continue to be produced and disseminated without ecclesiastical permission and cannot be declared free of doctrinal error. It is a source of concern that these alleged apparitions have been veiled by different names, especially “Our Lady of the Roses,” and have been connected to other


authentic elements of Catholic devotional life. While these practices have led to confusion among some members of the faithful, they do not mitigate the substantive errors and suspicious claims contained in the alleged visions of Mrs. Lueken.

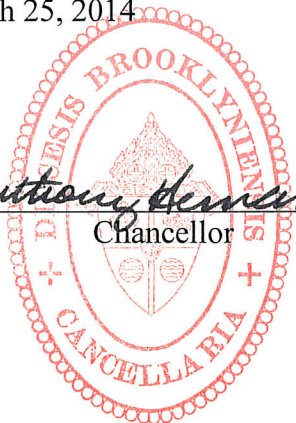
Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary is an important part of our spiritual life and an essential tool on the path to holiness. Indeed, this devotion must be promoted and renewed in our homes, parishes, and throughout our Diocese here in Brooklyn and Queens. However, we must never forget that such devotion to the Blessed Mother remains authentic, inasmuch as it leads us closer to Christ and to His Church. Blessed John Paul II reminded us of this truth in his Apostolic Letter, *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, "The most perfect of all devotions is undoubtedly that which conforms, unites and consecrates us most perfectly to Jesus Christ. Now, since Mary is of all creatures the one most conformed to Jesus Christ, it follows that among all devotions that which most consecrates and conforms a soul to our Lord is devotion to Mary, his Holy Mother, and that the more a soul is consecrated to her the more will it be consecrated to Jesus Christ." Recalling my own episcopal motto, I pray that all of us will heed the invitation of the Lord to *Behold Your Mother*, and commit ourselves ever more deeply to an authentic and renewed devotion to Our Lady, who never ceases to lead us to her Son, "the way, the truth, and the life."

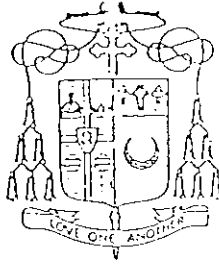


Most Rev. Nicholas DiMarzio, Ph.D., D.D.

Given in Brooklyn, on the Solemnity
Of the Annunciation of the Lord,
March 25, 2014


Chancellor





FRANCIS JOHN MUGAVERO
By the Grace of God and of the Apostolic See
BISHOP OF BROOKLYN

DECLARATION CONCERNING THE "BAYSIDE MOVEMENT"

In recent months, doubts have been raised by members of the so-called "Bayside Movement" concerning the official position of the Diocese of Brooklyn on the alleged "apparitions" of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and other heavenly beings, to a woman by the name of Veronica Lueken.

Moreover, erroneous claims have been made by a number of followers of Mrs. Lueken concerning the legitimacy of their position, in order to justify their activities on behalf of the "Movement". These have taken the form of statements in their publications that "since Articles 1399 and 2218 of (the 1917 Code of) Canon Law were abrogated by Pope Paul VI in 1966, no ecclesiastical permission is required, neither can anyone incur censure, for the publication or dissemination of information dealing with revelations, visions or miracles, provided these do not endanger Faith or morals."

As a result of the above-mentioned doubts and claims, a number of Christ's faithful continue to attend the regularly-scheduled "vigils" held at Flushing Meadow Park, and to disseminate or receive propaganda literature on this matter.

I, the undersigned Diocesan Bishop of Brooklyn, in my role as the legitimate shepherd of this particular Church, wish to confirm the constant position of the Diocese of Brooklyn that a thorough investigation revealed that the alleged "visions of Bayside" completely lacked authenticity.

Moreover, in view of the confusion created by published reports of messages and other literature by this "Movement", I consider it my obligation to offer Christ's faithful pastoral guidance, lest their faith be endangered by "messages" and "teachings" relayed by "visionaries", which are contrary to the Faith of our Catholic Church.

Therefore, in consultation with the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, I hereby declare that:

1. No credibility can be given to the so-called "apparitions" reported by Veronica Lueken and her followers.
2. The "messages" and other related propaganda contain statements which, among other things, are contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church, undermine the legitimate authority of bishops and councils and instill doubts in the minds of the faithful, for example, by claiming that, for years, an "imposter (sic) Pope" governed the Catholic Church in place of Paul VI.
3. Those who persistently maintain that "no ecclesiastical permission is required for the publication or dissemination" of information concerning "revelations, visions or miracles", are erroneously interpreting the directives of the Holy See when they attempt to justify the publication of the propaganda literature on the "Bayside Messages".

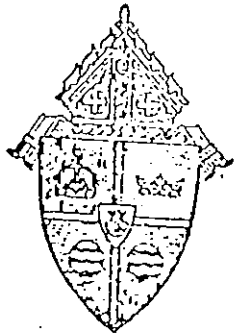
In view of my declaration concerning the authenticity of the "visions of Bayside", the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has confirmed that the principles governing the publication of such religious material still maintain authoritative moral value prohibiting the endangering of faith and good morals (cf. Response of SCDF of June 14, 1966, in AAS 58, 1186).

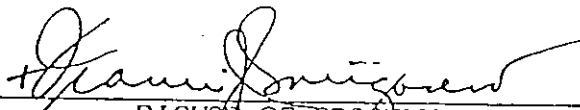
As a result, those publishing or disseminating this propaganda literature are acting against the judgment of legitimate Church authority.

4. Because of my concern for their spiritual welfare, members of Christ's faithful are hereby directed to refrain from participating in the "vigils" and from disseminating any propaganda related to the "Bayside apparitions". They are also discouraged from reading any such literature.
5. Anyone promoting this devotion in any way, be it by participating in the "vigils", organizing pilgrimages, publishing or disseminating the literature related to it, is contributing to the confusion which is being created

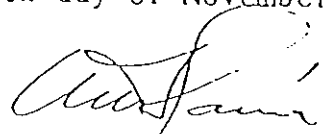
in the faith of God's people, as well as encouraging them to act against the determinations made by the legitimate pastor of this particular Church (c.212, §1).

It remains my constant hope that all the faithful spend their time and energies in promoting devotion to our Blessed Lady, in the many forms which have been approved by the Catholic Church.




BISHOP OF BROOKLYN

Given at the Diocesan Curia of
Brooklyn, New York,
this 4th day of November, 1986.


CHANCELLOR