

## ***Our Lady of the Rockies: Unfinished Business.***

Our Lady of the Rockies is a lesser known shrine to Our Lady in the United States. Or is it a shrine to Our Lady? The story of Our Lady of the Rockies is both inspiring and disappointing. This December the statue will be entering into its 40th year as the fulfillment of a promise made to Our Lady to place a statue in her honor on the mountain above Butte Montana. The story of statue's origins and symbolism are too rich with theological significance to be the work of mere men. For example, the fact that the image chosen for the statue is the Immaculate Conception, the patroness of these United States, was truly guided by Divine Providence. Sadly though, due to a failure to keep on the original course, it has become a symbol of contradiction, mixed messages and lost opportunities for evangelization. It is a work that has yet to be properly completed on the supernatural level, lacking proper closure, the statue has become a memorial to unfinished business.

Driving along Interstate 15 near Butte Montana, especially at night, you might gaze up and think you are seeing a UFO or a giant white ghost floating over the interstate, but fear not, you are rather viewing a beautiful testimony to Catholic Faith and Marian devotion in the statue of Our Lady of the Rockies. Overlooking the town of Butte, Montana, on the summit of the Continental Divide, Our Lady of the Rockies at a height of 90 feet is one of the tallest statues in the United States.

There is more to this story than a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary on top of a mountain. The story and what one sees contain a deeper, spiritual meaning that ought to make this site a holy place of Marian pilgrimage, but instead, as we shall also see, this beautiful testimony to Faith and Marian devotion has sadly been suppressed due to a lack of the same Faith and Marian devotion that inspired and gave birth to it. One might even say that this statue of Our Lady has in a sense been "hijacked" and has unfinished business that needs attending.

Bob O'Bill



### **A Promise Made**

The story begins with a promise made to the Blessed Mother by a loving husband whose wife, very sick with cancer, is scheduled for surgery. Bob O'Bill promised to build a five- or six-foot statue of Mary and place it on the East Ridge of the mountain, if his wife survives the surgery.<sup>1</sup> The doctors informed him that his wife has a 50% chance of survival. It should be noted that Bob O'Bill confessed that he was not as devout in the practice of the Faith as he should have been at the time he made the promise to Our Lady. Bob O'Bill's failure to be steadfast in the practice of the Faith, as we will see, will become problematic and cause future difficulties in fulfilling the will of the Immaculate.

A promise, like a vow, commits one to fulfill that promise if the prayer is answered. Bob O'Bill's wife survived the surgery. Please note this important point as this story unfolds, the promise Bob O'Bill made was to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, to build a statue in her honor. Bob O'Bill's wife survived the surgery and therefore he was obliged to fulfill the vow he made to the Blessed Mother.

### **Our Lady assembles her crew.**

Bob O'Bill sets forth to carry out his promise and as a result of sharing what he promised Our Lady with some friends in town, the size of the statue grew to 90 feet! Bob was convinced that it could be done, however, some of the townspeople thought it unrealistic. They told him to build a cross. "I did not promise Mary a cross. I promised her a statue!", responded O'Bill.<sup>2</sup>

*To LeRoy Lee From Fr Elias*

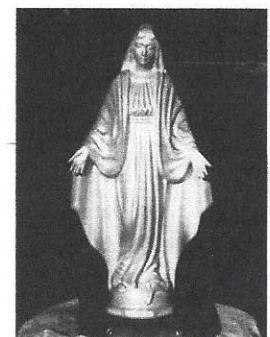
<sup>1</sup> Lee, LeRoy. Our Lady Builds a Statue. © 1992, LeRoy Lee. 6.

<sup>2</sup> cf. Ibid., 7.

The project began in December 1979 and it was definitely not something Bob O'Bill could accomplish by himself. As Divine Providence would have it, in 1983 when there would be the need for man-power for the project, there was economic crisis caused in Butte due to the closing of the mining operations which was the largest employer of the town. Butte was a one-industry town and was now devastated. Many families had to leave town to look for work elsewhere and there was a deep depression that came over the population due to the hardships that ensued. Our Lady came to the aide of the people of Butte even on a natural level with her employment agency and as Joe Roberts, a main organizer, noted that each person who was sent to him by Our Lady possessed a skill that could be employed in her service of building the statue. The promise Bob O'Bill made was going to be fulfilled with the help of a number of these unemployed men in Butte who possessed certain gifts and skills. Some Our Lady chose did not possess the skills to do it at all, but as we shall see, Our Lady supplied even those. Reminding us of the words of St. Therese of the Child Jesus and Holy Face, "God does not choose those who are worthy, but those whom He pleases." Another popular saying is: "God does not call the qualified, but qualifies the called." Each person was chosen by Our Lady, the "Directress", of the project as she was called by those involved in the work.

### Which Image?

Bob O'Bill originally prayed to Our Lady of Guadalupe for his wife's healing, but as Our Lady would arrange it there became a decision about whether Our Lady of Guadalupe was the best image for the statue? Our Lady of Guadalupe? Our Lady of Grace? One day, Bob, went to visit a friend, LeRoy Lee, who worked as a welder, and handed LeRoy two ceramic statues, and left the shop. Bob asked LeRoy which of the two statues could he more easily turn into a metal statue? LeRoy looked at the two statues, one was a statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe and the other an image of Our Lady of Grace, but as time went by, his gaze fixed on the smaller statue, the statue of Our Lady of Grace.



10" Model

"One day I paused and really took a good look at it. I picked it up, examined it carefully, and thought to myself, 'If the 90-inch model looked like this one, we would really have something.' The more I peered at the statue, the more I felt that this was how the Lady of the Rockies should look."<sup>3</sup>

*I didn't know who Bob O'Bill was*

Thinking that the statue was still going to be 90 inches, LeRoy informed Bob that he would build the statue, but once he realized that Bob had changed the dimensions to 90 FEET, he exploded! When LeRoy returned home, he said to his wife, "Pat, I'm no sculptor! I took on something I don't know anything about."<sup>4</sup> That afternoon LeRoy and Pat decided to go to the 4:30 Mass. "As I sat in St. Ann's Church ... I noticed the statue of Mary and Baby Jesus.... (he prayed) 'Mary, if you want me to build a statue of you, you have to help me.' ... That night, I tossed and turned.... Then, my mind started to think of the face. I could see myself cleaning the welding shop floor, drawing a one-foot grid and drawing the face on it.... Finally, morning came ... 'Pat, I think I know how to build the face of the statue! It came to me last night. It was like watching a movie. I know how to build it!'<sup>5</sup>

Bob's promise to Our Lady was to place her statue on the mountain and Our Lady was behind the scenes directing the events and disposing all those who would help with fulfilling the promise. She began by obtaining the place for her statue. The mountain along the town of Butte was the Continental Divide and the piece of land on the East Ridge, known as Saddle Rock, was owned by Mr. Ossello and his brother who, after some discussion, donated the land for Our Lady's project. The project was a voluntary effort funded by donations of money, materials and labor from the local community. Our Lady saw to it that when a need arose she would promptly fulfill it from her treasury of Divine Providence.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., 28, 29. Editor's note: The Providence of God guided Mr. Lee in his choice of image as he chose the statue of Our Lady of Grace which is also the image associated with the Immaculate Conception, the patroness of the United States.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., 40.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid., 40-41.

<sup>6</sup> Bert Gaskill, editor, *Montana Standard*.

## The Continental Divide and the flow of grace

The Continental Divide that overlooks Butte, MT, is a naturally occurring boundary or ridge separating a continent's river systems. Each river system feeds into an ocean basin, bay, or sea. Generally, precipitation that falls on one side of the divide will flow to one basin and precipitation that falls on the other side will flow to another basin.

It is appropriate that Our Lady's statue is standing on top of the Continental Divide. The significance and meaning is overwhelming of this one detail. Our Lady as St. Maximilian writes is the Mediatrix of all Grace and grace is symbolized by water in the Sacred Scripture. St. Maximilian teaches in his prayer of consecration to the Immaculate that the Blessed Virgin Mary gives the graces of conversion and sanctification. The continental divide is where the headwaters of many of the rivers are formed from the snow melting from the mountains and flowing down. Our Lady as the Spouse of the Holy Spirit is at the headwaters of the graces that she mediates to us from her spouse the Holy Spirit.

"Just as water flows down into valleys, so the grace of the Holy Spirit flows down to the humble, and as water flows more rapidly from a greater height, so the person who goes about humble in heart draws closer to God to obtain His grace."<sup>7</sup>

Our Lady stands on top of the mountain because she is "full of grace." She is the Mount Zion, the true mountain of the Lord, the highest of all mountains. St. John Eudes writes, "What are the lofty mountain-tops, if not His most worthy Mother, whom the Holy Spirit sets before our eyes under the name and figure not of a single mountain but of many mountains? Mary possesses in the highest degree all that is most excellent in the sacred mountains, that is in all the Saints, who are called in Sacred Scripture "the holy mountains," and "the everlasting hills." What are the mighty summits of these mountains, if not the exalted prerogatives and sublime perfections of the Sovereign Lady of the Universe?" Also it is significant that Our Lady sits upon the continental divide that exists in the ecclesiastical realm. The division that has rent assunder the Mystical Body of Christ and has brought great division with the many protestant sects of separated brethren. Our Lady is the one that will truly bring an end to this division as she is the Mother of Unity and is not an obstacle to the reunification of the separated brethren or to true efforts of ecumenism. Sad to say that it appears that a false notion of ecumenism and a misguided sensitivity to protestant concerns has affected the story of Our Lady of the Rockies and its purpose, which we will touch upon later in this article.



### The Ascent

Bob O'Bill and his crew planned to drive up the East Ridge to look over the land and find the perfect spot. To be able to ascend, however, a road had to be cleared of trees, rocks and boulders. Equipment such as bulldozers, loaders, and graders, and dynamite were needed.

Once the crew was able to continue the drive up, that reached a place where they could stop. "Now where?" Each person walked a different direction, looking for a place that would be clear of any rocks that would obstruct a full view of Our Lady of the Rockies. Quite excited, Mike said,

"Let's put it under the rock that looks like a lamb!"

"That's funny, we never saw that before. No matter where you stand, you can see it."

"You know, Bob, when I went up there the men had a hard hat on the lamb and called it 'the Boss'. I called it the 'Lamb of God,' but then it means the same, I guess. God is the Boss'!"<sup>8</sup>



<sup>7</sup> St. Bonaventure, *To Sisters on the Life of Perfection*.

The 'Mother of the Lamb' will stand near her Lamb. Once again another indication of the Catholic insights that were guiding these men in this Marian project. Just as the clearing of the road allowed the crew to ascend the mountain, leading them to the "Lamb Rock", so those who follow after will need to "clear the road" of their souls and desire to make the journey up the mountain to where stands Our Lady of the Rockies and the "Lamb."

#### A Work Completed – But Promise fulfilled?

By September 1985, 425 tons of concrete was poured for the base! In October, U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger with urging from many civic groups, including the Roman Catholic diocese of Helena Montana, approved the use of a military helicopter for Our Lady's installment on top of the mountain. On December 17, 1985, a Skycrane helicopter from the Nevada Air National Guard, arrived in Butte, to proceed with airlifting the statue in four sections, two sections a day. During the operation there was a dramatic moment when Our Lady intervened and prevented disaster. At one point the helicopter carrying the part of the statue of Our Lady's hands suspended below, experienced such turbulence that the hands of the statue started to spin out of control, causing the part to strike the previously assembled parts on the ground, which sent the helicopter with the hands suspended careening down the side of the mountain, only to miraculously reappear with the hands in tow and eventually landing safely back at the airport. After some minor repairs to the hands and the prayers of workmen and onlookers on the mountain top for a safe delivery, the part was successfully installed on the second attempt. The crowning day was on December 20, 1985 as thousands of Butte's residents cheered as Our Lady's head was lowered in place. LeRoy Lee, the welder turned sculptor, credits Our Lady with the "string of miracles that led to the completion and placement of the statue. "We looked at each other and raised our hands just as if we had won an immense victory"<sup>9</sup>

#### A Mountain top message from Heaven

Our Lady of the Rockies stands on top of the East Ridge as she did next to her Son on Mount Calvary. As in all her apparitions, she brings a message, whether verbal or silent, or working through her children to build a statue placed on top of the Continental Divide. What is it about the top of a mountain? We see it all through Sacred Scripture. The mountain top is the dwelling place of God. In the Old Testament: Moses on Mt. Horeb, Abraham on Mt. Moriah, the Prophet Elias on Mt. Carmel. In the New Testament, the fulfillment of the Old: Jesus was tempted, prayed, preached (Sermon on the Mount), transfigured (Mt. Tabor), was crucified (Mt. Calvary), on mountain tops. Moreover, standing on top of East Ridge overlooking the town of Butte, Our Lady of the Rockies is in fact facing West, with arms outstretched, beckoning her children to ascend to her, leading them to her Son. *Ad Jesum per Mariam!*

It follows, then, that when we look up to Our Lady of the Rockies we are facing East, the direction of the rising Sun, the direction from which Our Lord will come again. Facing East, we face toward God! "For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man."<sup>10</sup> Our Lady is the Lady of the New Advent. The Second Coming of Christ. The saints tell us that the second coming of Christ will be preceded by an age of Mary. She is the dawn that precedes the rising of the Son.

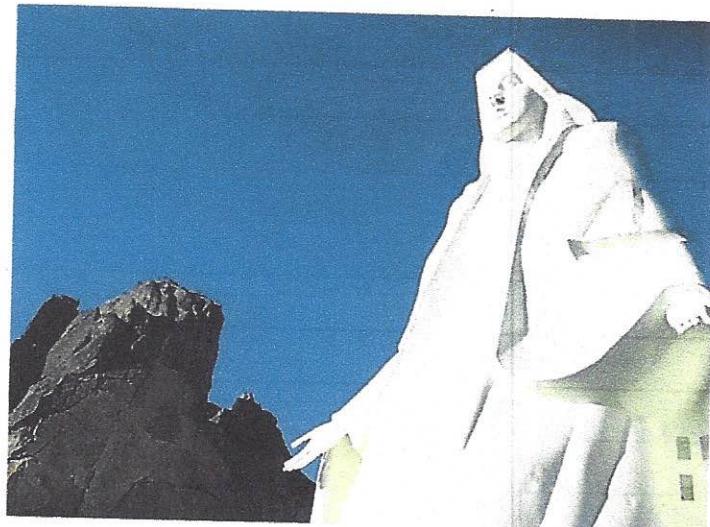
"My dear friend, when will that happy time come, that age of Mary, when many souls, chosen by Mary and given her by the most High God, will hide themselves completely in the depths of her soul, becoming living copies of her, loving and glorifying Jesus? That day will dawn only when the devotion I teach is understood and put into practice. Ut adveniat regnum tuum, adveniat regnum Mariae: 'Lord, that your kingdom may come, may the reign of Mary come!' If Mary, the Tree of Life, is well cultivated in our soul by fidelity to this devotion, she will in due time bring

<sup>8</sup> Lee, LeRoy. 63-64.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid., 197.

<sup>10</sup>Matthew 24:27

forth her fruit which is none other than Jesus."<sup>11</sup> "Ad Jesum per Mariam, through Mary you reach Jesus; this is the most beautiful, the most enjoyable, and the safest path. By entrusting ourselves to the Heart of the Mother, of that Mother, we come closer to the heart of the Son."<sup>12</sup>



### A Promise Kept? Our Lady of the Rockies - Unfinished Business

The statue of Our Lady of the Rockies is dedicated to the Mother of Jesus, "The Woman" – "The Woman" of Genesis 3:15 and Apocalypse Chapter 12, the perfect model for all women, especially mothers. It is important to note that Our Lady is the model for all women and mothers because she was chosen by the Holy Trinity to be the Mother of God from all eternity. This also brings us to the point where the story of Our Lady of the Rockies seems to have taken a wrong turn, failing to fulfill its original mission and purpose – the original promise of Bob O'Bill to Our Lady. Somewhere in this story of Marian devotion, the building of this statue in honor of the Blessed Mother, there was a derailment, or one might even call it a "hi-jacking", of the work from its original purpose, so that currently the statue is being promoted as a non-denominational shrine in honor of all mothers. You may have just hit your head and said, "What!" Hence the reason I was tempted to entitle this article – "Hi-jacked Hyperdulia: A Lost opportunity for Marian Evangelization". In all that has been previously recounted: from the original inspiration to build a statue in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary, if Bob O'Bill's spouse survives a very difficult operation, to Our Lady being the "Directress" of the project, especially in regards to the mystical way in which Our Lady inspired LeRoy Lee on how to build her statue, the manner in which all of their construction needs were provided for in a rather uncanny manner - everything about it speaks, no rather screams, about the Blessed Mother and that it was a work to honor her. As a matter of fact, if you recall that when Bob O'Bill shared his plans to his friends, they urged him to change it to just building a cross, but he reminded them that his promise was not to build a cross, but a statue in honor of Our Lady. He may have been ignorant regarding his knowledge of the Faith, but he was not confused about his promise to make a statue in honor of the Blessed Mother! This whole project was not inspired and guided by Our Lady, even with mystical inspirations one might say, with some minor miracles thrown in along the way, for it to become "a non-denominational symbol to 'recognize the dignity of motherhood and the sacrificial love a mother has for her child.'" I want to stress this point. As much as the men involved, from Bob O'Bill to the least man involved in this project, may think that they were the ones initiating and completing this task, it was not their idea nor their initiative that brought this about, but Our Lady, who was the one who initiated, inspired and completed the work with graces she showered down from heaven. Bob and all those involved were simply responding to her graces. In one sense what happened to Our Lady's statue seems like the proverbial carrot being dangled before one's eyes; someone started to present a gift to Our Lady and then at the last moment snatched it

<sup>11</sup> St. Louis de Montfort, True Devotion to Mary, #217

<sup>12</sup> St. Maximilian Mary Kolbe, OFM-Conv.

from her and turned it into something less than intended. Our Lady's statue seems to have undergone the same fate as Jesus and the celebration of Christmas, both being hijacked by secular interests wanting to remove any hint of the supernatural realities they are.

How did a shrine which was intended and built to be in honor of the Mother of God become a generic shrine to all mothers or to a mother's love? It seems that it has its origins, surprisingly enough, with Bob O'Bill himself. LeRoy Lee was shocked when he heard from Bob's lips that the statue would be a non-denominational shrine in honor of all mothers. Bob O'Bill was a man of simple faith and it is hard to imagine that he came up with this idea without outside influence, maybe even a member of the clergy, wrongly directing him that this would be a good and pleasing solution since there were non-Catholics involved in the project. LeRoy Lee said that the bishop at the time was willing to work with them to make it a Catholic Shrine. But to the bishop's frustration, O'Bill and the board of directors of the statue, would not budge from this notion. Archbishop Curtiss who is 92 years old does not recall this event, but LeRoy Lee is certain that had Bob O'Bill and company cooperated, the diocese of Helena would have accepted the statue as a Catholic Shrine. As mentioned earlier Bob O'Bill and the men who helped build the statue were hard working men of faith, but had no organizational or managerial skills. He turned to a group that became the Board of Directors, who were not guided by a supernatural mindset - not out of bad will, but mainly due to ignorance of the ways of God - and having a secular mentality instead, seems to have pushed aside those who worked hard to achieve this project, especially removing anyone with a Catholic Shrine mindset from having any influence in the statue's future and therefore thwarting the original purpose and promise of a Statue in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which I may add, was also Our Lady's will as well. They were mainly businessmen from the community who wanted to run it like a business and thought that if they made it non-denominational that it would appeal to a larger audience thereby making more profit. Little did they know that this was their first mistake. By making it non-denominational and removing Our Lady from the picture, they just removed her who holds the keys "to the bottomless cash box of Divine Providence" as St. Maximilian would tell his friars. Also you cannot get any wider of an audience than Catholic which means universal. Someone who is non-denominational is not going to have any convictions or desire to visit a statue of Our Lady. As Archbishop Elden Curtiss, who was the bishop of the Diocese of Helena from 1976 to 1993, stated in an interview with a reporter of the Missio Immaculatae, when asked about the current promotion of Our Lady of the Rockies as being a shrine in honor of every mother's love, stated that even though it is promoted as a "civic shrine", "... it was begun as an inspiration to a Catholic, planned and built primarily by Catholics in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, blessed by me as the Bishop of the diocese of Helena, therefore it ought to be Catholic!" His Excellency as previously noted, blessed the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary when it was finally completed in 1985.

In researching Our Lady of the Rockies, a priest in the diocese supposedly knowledgeable regarding the Shrine, stated to our staff in an email, that the name of the Shrine is not Our Lady, but The Lady of the Rockies, because it is in honor of all mothers. That is such a non-distinction because whether it is "Our" or "The", everyone knows that this is the image of The Mother of all mothers, The Mother of God, Our Lady, the Blessed Virgin Mary. Bob O'Bill, who passed away in 2016, did not offer his prayers for the protection and healing of his spouse - who is still living and will turn 91 in November - to the generic and nebulous spirit of a "mother's sacrificial love for her child", but rather to a singular and particular Mother, who is the archetype of which all mothers are but a faint reflection and whose sacrificial love at the foot of the Cross, gives meaning and hope to any love to the point of sacrifice, Our Lady Coreemptrix and Mediatrix of all Grace. Was there push back or complaints from protestants? Yes, from the very beginning there were critics and anti-Catholic push back for the project, but the men were not dissuaded from carrying out the project. The main reason given for why the Statue could not become a Catholic Shrine, but had to become "non-denominational" and secular for all purposes, is that for the men to get the assistance of the military helicopter they had to have the help of the Federal Government, so the project could not be associated with any religion.<sup>13</sup> This seems to be an easy hurdle to overcome. After the statue had been in place for three months, they could have dissolved the secular board and non-profit organization and reestablished it as a non-profit Catholic

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<sup>13</sup>Curiously, "non-denominational" is a religion. The only one that a government inspired by masonic principles accepts.

Shrine. This would not have been unethical as organizations change their mission statements after review. When the Federal Government was involved it was a secular enterprise. Later when the government's involvement ended, no longer was there the restriction of making it a Catholic Shrine. Sadly though, it seems that those involved did not have a priest like St. Maximilian Kolbe to guide them in this project for Our Lady as he would have never compromised on the Catholic work he had begun, even if unbelievers and non-Catholics were assisting him in his work of evangelization. For example, while in Japan St. Maximilian employed the services of Buddhists and protestants in helping him and his friars to produce his Catholic magazine, *Seibo no Kishi*, but he did not waterdown the Catholic content or modify his work to become "non-denominational" to appease non Catholics. It was a Catholic work, and if they did not like it they need not be involved, but he would not have changed the Catholic identity or purpose to please others. This Catholic sense of the saints sad to say is not as common as it ought to be in the Church and may have been lacking in the Church at that time in Montana and the United States in the 70's and 80's in general. One of which would be anti-Marian notions leaning towards a Marian minimalism, a large part of a false ecumenism that was promoted at that time, which portrayed Our Lady as an obstacle to dialogue and reunification with our protestant brothers and sisters.

Some may wonder, did the Freemasons infiltrate the project? It is a masonic trait to reduce everything to indifferentism, and especially, to make something specifically Catholic - secular. For example, the Freemasonry promotes the notion that all religions are the same: Jesus is no different than Buddha, Moses or Mohammed. So in the case of Our Lady of the Rockies, we do not want to draw attention to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of the True God, but let us for the sake of fellowship and not to offend anyone - except God of course - let us make it a symbol of all mothers as if somehow they are all equal and deserving of the same honor. Can one not see the little his from hell in this approach? One could say indirectly there was a masonic influence because the Federal Government got involved and separation of Church and State is a masonic principle. A Catholic doctor once advised a group of Catholic sisters who ran a large Catholic hospital system to not accept the Federal Government's assistance in the form of grants and aide. He told them if they do, they will cease being Catholic. Prophetic words with regards to Catholic healthcare in our day and all Catholic institutions who have prostituted themselves to the secular influence in the form of money from the Federal Government. But whatever the reasons, why did the leaders of the Church, both clergy and laity, allow this statue of Our Lady to fall into the hands of secularists and unbelievers? So much so that when one contacts the Diocese of Helena about information regarding the statue the first response coming from the chancery is their disclaimer of disavowal and disassociation with Our Lady of the Rockies that it is not affiliated with the Church in any way and is not a Catholic Shrine. To his credit the current bishop of Helena stated when asked about making the statue a Catholic Shrine that it is up to the people to start the process and he would support them.

Until unfinished business is taken care of, the Statue of Our Lady of the Rockies will not reach its true potential and its ultimate purpose and end. Just think of all the missed opportunities of grace that are not being received because it is not recognized as a Shrine to Our Lady. The Masses that could be offered in a proper chapel, the pilgrims prayers and praises being offered to the Mother of God, the rosaries that could be said in procession to her, the souls that could be reconciled to God in the Sacrament of Penance, the lost opportunities to introduce souls to the person of the Mother of God and her great love for her children. Until it returns to the original intention and purpose for which God inspired it to be constructed - to give glory and honor and praise to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, so that she in turn could bless her children. God will not bless a project that He inspired to be done for one thing to have it be hi-jacked for a purpose that is less than worthy of His Will. Finally, one last item of unfinished business with Our Lady of the Rockies is Joyce O'Bill, the wife of Bob O'Bill whose illness prompted Bob with child-like faith to turn to Mary and to promise her a statue if she would spare his wife. Joyce will turn 91 this November. Joyce is a woman with a good heart who has devoted herself to working in a local soup kitchen since she was blessed by Our Lady back in 1979. This year will mark 45 years. Our Lady has answered Bob's prayer in spades. Yet in all these years, those close to Joyce did not know if she was Catholic or just presumed that she was. The Most Loving Mother of God wishes more for her children than just natural benefits.

She wants the greatest gifts for us which ultimately are those that she distributes through the Church's sacraments. Maybe the day that the statue becomes Catholic so will others. Let us pray to Our Lady for this grace for her statue and all involved.

#### To learn more:

Our Lady Builds a Statue, a book by Leroy Lee, who designed and sculptured the 90-foot statue of Our Lady of the Rockies. The story takes the reader into the personal experiences and difficulties surrounding a tremendous feat. It is a wonderful tribute to all those who worked together and believed in the power of prayer to accomplish a seemingly impossible task. It is a wonderful testimony to the Blessed Mother who without her help they could not have achieved. It will touch the hearts of all who are devoted to and believe in God and His Blessed Mother.

Fr. Elias