

From L'Osservatore Romano, June 27th 1974:

Notification by Sac. Congregation regarding alleged apparitions

"With regard to the alleged apparitions and revelations of "Our Lady of All Nations", said to have taken place in Amsterdam, the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith considers it advisable to make the following declaration.

On 7 May 1956, the Bishop of the Diocese of Haarlem (Netherlands), following a careful examination of the case concerning the supposed apparitions and revelations of "Our Lady of All Nations", declared that he "found no evidence of the supernatural nature of the apparitions". He therefore prohibited public veneration of the picture of "Our Lady of All Nations" and the spreading of writings which attributed a supernatural origin to these apparitions and revelations.

On 2 March 1957, the same Ordinary repeated the above statement. The Holy Office, in a letter dated 13 March of the same year, praised the Bishop's prudence and pastoral concern and approved of the measures taken. Moreover, in reply to an appeal of the Bishop of Haarlem, dated 29 March 1972, the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, on 24 May of the same year, confirmed the previous decision on the matter.

At the present time, following on further developments and after a fresh and deeper examination of the case, the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith confirms by the present notification the judgement already expressed by the competent ecclesiastical authority and invites priests and laity to discontinue all forms of propaganda with regard to the alleged apparitions and revelations of "Our Lady of All Nations". It exhorts all, moreover, to express their devotion to the Most Holy Virgin, Queen of the Universe (cf. Encyclical Letter "Ad Caeli Reginam", A.A.S. 1954, pp. 625-640) by forms which are recognized and recommended by the Church.

ROME, 25 May 1974

Important note: The following document, in which he distinguishes between the alleged Amsterdam apparitions and messages, and veneration of Mary under the title: "Our Lady of All Peoples (Nations)," was issued by the late Bishop Bomers and his auxiliary in 1996.

Since there is no reference to the earlier notification in this document, it has to be regarded as possibly misleading. It does not mention the fact that the competent authority (the first bishop) came to a negative decision about Ida Peerdeman's alleged visions.

However, there is apparently a question mark about the above notification since it has not been signed, and I understand that there are ongoing investigations into the events at Amsterdam involving Ida Peerdeman. When further information is available it will be posted here.

BISDOM VAN HAARLEM

Authorised English translation

NOTIFICATION

for the catholic faithful of the diocese of Haarlem

We, the Bishop and Auxiliary Bishop of Haarlem have, for a long time and in increasing numbers, received requests both from home and abroad. These requests are for us to provide clarification regarding the status of the apparitions of Mary as 'THE LADY OF ALL PEOPLES (NATIONS)' in Amsterdam, during the years 1945-1959.

After ample consideration and consultation of official authorities, we have decided to adopt the following policy in order to provide the required pastoral clarity:

Distinction must be made between the apparitions/messages on the one hand and the Marian title 'The Lady of All Peoples (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 Peoples (Nations)' has since 1951 enjoyed Church approval by Mgr. 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.

In an age where races, peoples and cultures are more dependent on 'each other than ever before - nowhere more so than in Amsterdam - we have confidence in saying that it is exactly this title which throws a clear light on our Lady's Universal Motherhood and her unique role as 'woman' in God's plan of Salvation.

Haarlem, 31st of May 1996, on the feast of The Visitation of Mary.

+ Henricus Bomers
Bishop of Haarlem

+ Joseph Punt
Auxiliary