

# The Lady of All Nations

## A response from the Bishop of Haarlem-Amsterdam, His Excellency J. Hendriks, concerning an article in the *Nederlands Dagblad*

On September 17, 2020, the *Nederlands Dagblad* published an article written by Hendro Munsterman under the headline: *Marian apparitions in Amsterdam were 'false'*. According to the article, the Vatican has declared that the apparitions in Amsterdam are false. This evoked, of course, a flood of questions by concerned faithful. The article is incorrect, however; and, therefore a short clarification follows.

### *Statement*

Actually, it concerns a short notification which, for many years already, can be found on the website of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. It was recently cited in a private letter from the papal nuncio in Lebanon to Cardinal Boutros Raï of that country. This notification, which dates back to 1974, is based on the judgement of the Bishop of Haarlem at the time who declared that he found no evidence of the supernatural character of the apparitions. The text was meant to confirm the Bishop's judgement and to underline his authority in this matter.

### *What has been the position of the Vatican since then?*

A lot has happened since that time. So, already in 1990, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith allowed the Bishop of Haarlem, His Excellency Hendrik Bomers, to give his approval to the public devotion to the Lady and Mother of All Nations. It was thus granted in 1996 by the Bishops Bomers and Punt. In 2002, Bishop Jozef Punt approved the apparitions. In 2005, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith requested a change in the prayer of the Lady of All Nations. In a message to the participants at the Day of Prayer in honor of the Lady of All Nations held on September 14, 2019, in Düsseldorf (Archdiocese of Cologne), Pope Francis expressed his joy about the Day of Prayer and gave his Apostolic Blessing to everyone in attendance. In his sermon on December 12, 2019, the Pope expressed his appreciation for the title under which Mary is venerated in Amsterdam.

In short, the Vatican has not made any new statement condemning the devotion; on the contrary, there are positive signs that the Pope values it.

Bishop Emeritus Jozef Punt recently wrote a response on the website *Mother of All Peoples* in which he clarifies the history of the apparitions of the Lady of All Nations and the devotion:

[Bishop Answers Request for Clarification Regarding the Amsterdam Apparitions](#)

(Translation of the Dutch original: [Reactie op een artikel in het Nederlands Dagblad](#))