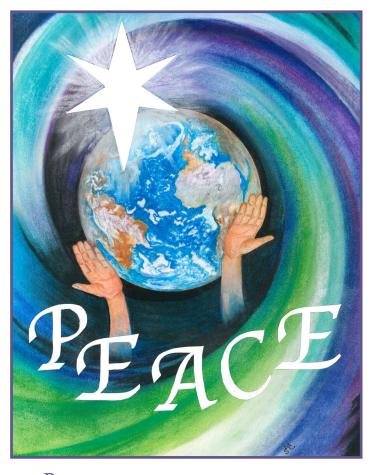


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February 2023



PEACE ... A MANTLE OF HARMONY WHICH
ENCOMPASSES OUR LIVES.
ARTIST - SISTER MARY CULHANE, SC



APOSTOLIC POSTULATION

for the cause of Canonization of the Blessed

Miriam Teresa Demjanovich, SC

of the

Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth,

His Eminence Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, CSSR Archbishop of Newark

The Most Reverend Kevin J. Sweeney, D.D. Bishop of Paterson

The Most Reverend Kurt Burnette Bishop of Byzantine Eparchy of Passaic

Dr. Silvia Correale, J.C.D.
Postulator

Sister Maureen Corcoran, SC Vice Postulator



THE BLESSED MIRIAM TERESA LEAGUE OF PRAYER BULLETIN

Purpose of the League: To honor the Blessed Trinity through the Immaculate Heart of Mary by spreading the knowledge of Blessed Miriam Teresa's life and mission, and by working for her cause.

President.....Sister Maureen Shaughnessy, SC

TEAM

Sister Mary Canavan, Sister Maureen Corcoran, Doctor Mary Mazzarella and Linda Amitrano. Consultants: Father Terrence Moran and Sister Noreen Neary.

Obligations: 1. Daily recitation of 26 Glorias in honor of the Most Holy Trinity for the success of the cause.(an Our Father may be substituted.) 2. A small sacrifice daily.

Spiritual Privileges: for the intentions of League Members.

1. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is offered 100 times each year.

2. Special private prayers are offered every day by the Sisters of Charity.

The *BULLETIN* is published four times a year. The current cost is fifteen dollars a year.

Address all communications to: Blessed Miriam Teresa League of Prayer Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth Box 476 Convent Station, New Jersey 07961-0476 Tel: (973) 290-5465

POSTMASTER SEND all address changes to the above address

Having recently begun to live into 2023 we are still yearning for peace in our hearts, in our families, in our neighborhoods, in our country, and in our world. The coming of Christ Jesus as the Prince of Peace into our troubled world gives us hope and inspires us to be living bearers of peace. His peace calms our uncertainties, doubts and skepticism and urges us to be peaceful in all our encounters as we daily pray for abiding peace on earth. Music from the season during which we celebrate the Incarnation fills us with the songs of the angels as they call us to sing, "Peace on earth and mercy mild God and sinners reconciled."

Blessed Miriam Teresa, as a teenager, was deeply aware of the trauma that comes from a lack of peace that erupts into war. Her grasp of the Blessed Trinity's life within her caused her to appreciate the world as God's beautiful creation which was meant to be cultivated and enhanced—not destroyed. With her Slovakian heritage she would be sorely dismayed by the destruction in the Ukraine today.

Thoughtful reflections on how peace can be achieved in our daily experiences, no matter how difficult they may be, are included in this bulletin. They were composed by women who serve God's People in their school environment and in their inner-city community. There is a recipe for peace which enlivens our spirits to be makers of peace in all our relationships.

Let each of us continue to pray for peace and be peacemakers.

~ Sister Maureen Corcoran, SC

BLESSED MIRIAM TERESA by Fr. Terrence Moran

Blessed Miriam Teresa was a mystic, gifted with contemplative prayer from her early life. Her religious life was brief – less than two years from her entrance to her profession in the hospital a month before she died. What possible message could she have for activists who work for a more peaceful, just, and verdant world?

John Dear was once at a meeting with a number of famous peace activists, including Jesuit Father Daniel Berrigan, to discuss resistance to militarism. Dear addressed the group very passionately, "We need to reorganize the peace movement. We need to mobilize people around the country to come forward by the thousands, eventually by the millions, to demand disarmament. We need to wake people up to the realities of war and its destructive consequences for our nation." After going on at length in that fashion, he finally concluded. There was a long pause. Daniel Berrigan turned to him and said, "I just think we need to unleash the contemplative springs within."

Releasing the contemplative springs within is a beautiful way of articulating what Blessed Miriam Teresa saw as her life mission – to proclaim intimacy with the indwelling Trinity has to be the wellspring of any genuine activity for the world from the perspective

of God's loving design for creation. The child of Slovak immigrants, she knew the cultural isolation and prejudice to which new immigrants are subject. She often had to deal with ethnic slurs and even bullying but she always responded with nonviolent love. She grew up during the years of World War I and was doubtless aware of the devastation of that war. Several of her poems have anti-war themes. Growing up in industrial Bayonne, her spirit was deeply nourished by the natural beauty of the then rural campus of the College of Saint Elizabeth and the motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity. A novice companion was once surprised to hear her exclaim during a walk, "Don't you see? God is in the trees!"

Blessed Miriam Teresa's mystical gifts plunged her into heartfelt concern for the flourishing of all creation according to God's deepest dream. May this child of immigrants intercede for new immigrants. Author of anti-war poetry, she invites us to work for peace. Contemplative of God's presence in nature, she invites us to protect creation. Blessed Miriam Teresa teaches us to unleash the contemplative springs within.

BLESSED MIRIAM TERESA AND PEACE by Fr. Terrence Moran

During the Teenage years of Sr. Miriam Teresa, the world was plunged into the horrors of World War I (1914-1918). Nine million combatants would die in WWI and as a result of the war Slovakia, the homeland of Sr. Miriam Teresa's parents, would be joined with the Czech Republic to form Czechoslovakia., The impression that these events made on Sr. Miriam Teresa are

evidenced in a vivid poem For Such is War that she wrote as a student at the College of Saint Elizabeth. We pray with Sr. Miriam Teresa for peace. Her conviction that every human being is God's temple is a characteristic of her spirituality. We pray for situations of violence in our world today, for the senseless rending of earth, and spilling of human blood in sacrifice.

For Such Is War

The earth is rent. She bleeds. She gasps for breath.

Convulsions rock her couch of mortal pain,

Below. High overhead the heavens rain

Hell-fire. She groans in agony. Death

Walks with regal tread, a welcome guest.

Loud rings the battle cry. The air is filled

With shrieks and shouts; with shot and shell. Is spilled

The blood of human sacrifice. The quest

For liberty demands that ever, more

New volunteers arise to fill the need –

To staunch earth's wounds that earth may no more bleed

In future centuries. For such is war.

WHAT PEACE MEANS TO ME

by J.V., Grade 11 (Mother Seton Regional High School, Clark, NJ)

Whenever someone is asked what peace means to them, I often see people struggling to fund an answer but to me finding the definition of peace is easy. To me peace is to love others as Jesus loves us. Our world is imperfect, we are hateful and spiteful towards each other; there is war and crime, and so many other darknesses in the world. There would not be all this pain in the world if we showed each other the same unconditional and powerful love that Jesus shows each and every one of us. So many times our world is corrupted with acts of revenge or in an attempt to gain power but that is not what Jesus does. Jesus loves us no matter what we do. no matter how many mistakes we make, even if we doubt him, he still is there for us. Jesus is the embodiment of peace and if all of us could just be a little more like him our world could be more peaceful. We must look at Jesus as a role model, he leads

us by example. Even with this clear definition and direction for peace the big question is if peace is possible. This might seem like a matter of optimism vs pessimism but that's not necessarily the case. One can hope for peace yet doubt how possible it really is. All we can really control is ourselves; we can start the change and hope and pray that the rest of the world follows.

Blessed Miriam Teresa strove to live peacefully and enabled others to see the beauty in their lives and to accept the situation they are living with and to integrate the stressful components into graced moments – accepting the unacceptable. Each day we can be the presence of peace in our families as Blessed Miriam Teresa was in her home. She took up any task that arose and peacefully went about taking care of the need so that her family members' lives would be more peaceful and productive.

PRAYERS FOR FAVORS

FOR Peace of mind (9), Peace for All (1), Cancer (9), Blessings of a Marriage (1), Prayer Intentions (4), Mental Health (1), Healing (12), Family (10), Conversion (2), For

all priests (4), Eyesight (1), Job Intentions (1), Kidney Transplant (1), Recovery (1), Desire to Conceive (1), COVID (1), Courage (1), Physically Healed (1).

PEACE by Rosemary Sekel

Peace. A simple, familiar, straightforward word the meaning of which we might all agree, everyone, even fairly young children, understand.

At Sacred Heart School however, our staff realizes that the meaning of Peace is not only far from simple, but, in addition, modeling, nurturing, and integrating peace into the lives of our inner-city children can be a difficult, complicated, and multi-layered process.

As a school community we see the necessity of weaving respect and kindness – calm and self-discipline into the lives of our students. These qualities are not only the basis of peace, they are such a profoundly essential part of education that they may well have a greater impact on each child's life than their academic subjects.

Yet establishing and maintaining true peace can be a surprisingly formidable ask – immensely easier to talk about than actually succeed in doing.

Society's often questionable goals, compounded by the harshness and poverty of the inner-city, can trigger feelings and actions in our children that are far from peaceful. And, sadly, too many children live among various levels of chaos, anger, and emotional insecurity.

Sacred Heart is guided by our school philosophy which states two important realities: the most effective education addresses the whole child - mind, heart, and spirit and the elementary years are quite possibly the most important period of life for the formation of habits. We believe that seeking Peace is a habit that can be acquired and honed through awareness, experience - and practice. Like Blessed Miriam Teresa we strive to create an environment in which peaceful values come to life through our presence, relationships, and interactions. Being kind to one another is a hallmark way to give peace to others in all situations.

When asked. our noted the importance of frequently communicating to the students the values that guide our school. But the process only starts there. These values must come alive and take on meaning and importance to each child through age-appropriate actions and activities. You can't just talk about peace, kindness, and respect to children. They must both see these values in action and. more importantly, live these values throughout the school day.

Sacred Heart children stand and welcome any visitor to their class and ask God to bless them. The primary grades - as a group —

will pause to extend greetings and blessings to any staff member who happens to pass them in the hall. Teachers consistently emphasize the importance of kindness, patience and making an effort to understand another person's situation, just as Blessed Miriam Teresa would do. and disagreements When anger arise, the students are encouraged to express their views to whomever they have had a disagreement with but then they must carefully listen, without interruption, to the other person's thoughts and feelings. Nothing is permanently settled when there is anger. Holding on to anger and not trying to resolve a situation peacefully can be very disruptive to a person. When anger finds a home in someone's heart it eats away at the well-being of the person and can erupt unexpectedly and destroy the fragile peace.

We are acutely aware that our students are not only part of the neighborhood that surrounds Sacred Heart, they are citizens of our world. Children, today, see, hear and experience far more than any other generation before them. That is why it is so essential to nurture awareness, compassion, and justice - the bedrock of peace - within each child's spirit in the hope that they will grow with an understanding of the humanity in all people — from the homeless person they pass on their way to school to the undernourished child in Somalia.

At the very beginning of our school day - and just before dismissal – Sacred Heart students stand and pray. This may well be the most consistent and essential action of peace that our children do. We believe that a few moments of prayer are also a few moments of peace – physically, mentally, and emotionally. We are blessed to be a Catholic school. The tenets of our faith provide abundant encouragement and countless examples of the primacy of peace.



*Rosemary Sekel was the Advancement Director for Sacred Heart School for many years. It is with profound sadness to inform you that Rosemary passed away suddenly in her sleep on January 2, 2023. She often spoke about Peace and ironically the last article she wrote was on peace. Ultimately, Rosemary's untimely passing was a peaceful one, a reflection of the life she lived. May she rest in peace.

Sister Frances Salemi, SC

PEACE IN OUR LIVES

Authors: C.M., A.K., G.S., K.H., K.W., B.P., M.C.B.R., M.M., B.L., M.L., A.L., S.R., M.H., S.U., F.F., M.F., R.W., V.C., S.D., A.B.

In Dr. Borin's class on Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, at the Academy of St. Elizabeth, we often focus on peace that comes from prayer, contemplative arts, within interfaith dialogue and within our own hearts. In a recent class discussion we collaborated as a class

to explore inner peace, what it feels like, how we can find it and how we can offer it as a blessing for others. We hope to share our thoughts with the Blessed Miriam Teresa community and offer words of comfort and hope to others. May you find a word or two of inspiration here.

INNER PEACE FEELS LIKE...

Inner peace feels like being able to let go and achieve ultimate serenity.

Inner peace feels like a calming stream in a peaceful forest.

Inner peace feels like laying on the beach watching the sunset.

Inner peace feels like a relaxing vacation without any worries.

INNER PEACE COMES WHEN...

Inner peace comes when I am not stressed and surrounded by my favorite people.

Inner peace comes when I am around people I love.

Inner peace comes when I quietly sit and listen to music.

Inner peace comes when I an sitting on the beach, feeling the sun hitting me, and hearing the waves crash.

Inner peace comes when I am around the people I love most.

Inner peace comes when I feel confident in myself and do not let others affect me.

A BLESSING TO OTHERS FOR INNER PEACE...

May the burdens that you feel be lifted from your shoulders so that you can experience true bliss.

May you find what makes you happy in life and put you at a place of grace.

May you take deep breaths and let God's presence put you at ease.

May you find inner peace in simple things.

May you find inner peace in the little things that life offers, live in the present moment, and take life one day at a time.

May you let God guide you through your journey. May he assure you that you are on the right path, and everything happens for a reason.

May you clear your head, take a deep breath, and focus on the positives to fine your inner peace.

May you feel a sense of security amidst the busyness and stress of life.

RECIPE FOR PEACE by Sister Maureen Mahan, SC

This recipe was created by Sister Maureen Mahan, SC as a way to reflect on how we relate to one another - whether we do so with the people we interact with on a daily basis or those whom we may have not met because of distance, race, or culture.

In Blessed Miriam Teresa's world she was called to be a peacemaker within her family and with all whom she encountered as a student and teacher. In our lives may we integrate these ingredients for peace in all our relationships.

INGREDIENTS

All nations

1 bu. Understanding

3 lbs. love

4 cups equality

1 tsp. cooperation

2 tbsp. acceptance

Combine all nations.
Coat with understanding.
Gently fold in love.
Pour in equality.
Stir in cooperation.
Blend in acceptance.
Mix until prejudice is eliminated.

Prep.Time: over 2000 years Cooking time: Forever Yields: Peace and Harmony



WORLD PEACE PRAYER

Submitted by Sister Marie Russo, SC

Lead me from death to life, from falsehood to truth
Lead me from despair to hope, from fear to trust
Lead me from hate to love, from war to peace
Let peace fill our heart, our world, our universe.

Prayer at Peace Ribbon in D.C., August 4, 1985. Part of Peace Ribbon International founded by Justine Merritt. (Sisters of Charity attended and brought 15 banners for Ribbon.)

PRAYERS FOR DECEASED

SISTER MARY WALTER DWYER, SC SISTER AUDREY R. MOLOUGHNEY, SC SISTER MARIE IRMA KESSLER, SC SISTER JOAN EILEEN BUTLER, SC SISTER MARIA MAGDALENA STUDER, SC SISTER MAUREEN JOSEPH KIRWAN, SC

REV. JOHN B. BARON

Paul E. Reddington Veronica Bertha

MARY ANN DIMUCCI

JERRY MILLS

HUGH P. DUDDY

PATRICIA HARRINGTON

REV. TED OSBAHR

Mary O'Connor

RAY GARLAND

Mary Harland

Terry Brady

Antonio Dy

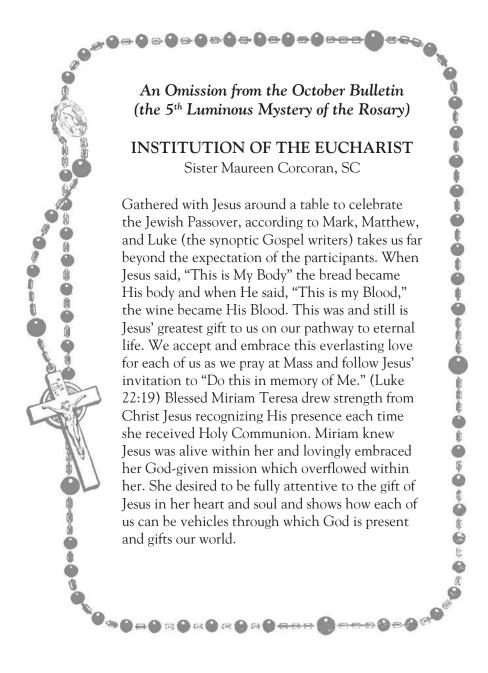
Nenita Jamie

AILEEN LIM

PATRICIA ROSENBAUM, SA ROSEMARY SEKEL









SISTERS OF CHARITY OF SAINT ELIZABETH

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