



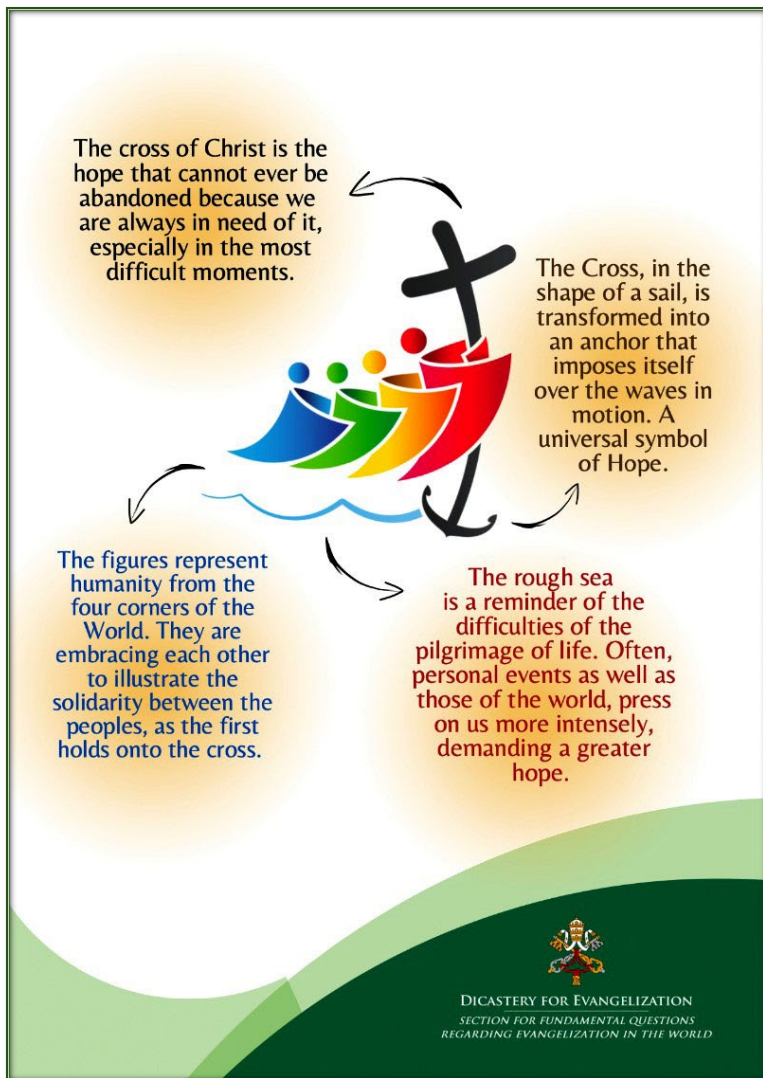
Blessed Miriam Teresa League of Prayer Bulletin



Volume 80 No. 2

Convent Station, N.J.

September 2025





APOSTOLIC POSTULATION

for the cause of Canonization
of the Blessed

Miriam Teresa Demjanovich, SC
of the

Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth,

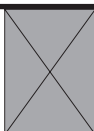
His Eminence
Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, CSSR
Archbishop of Newark

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. Consultant: 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:
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Throughout this year of 2025 we have been living in the Jubilee Year of Hope which began on Dec. 24, 2024 and will conclude on Jan. 6, 2025. Pope Francis opened the decorated bronze door of St. Peter's Basilica and the St. Matthew's account of Jesus' birth was proclaimed to emphasize "Jesus is the hope in our world". With the trumpets blaring the choir sang, "Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord." "Holding fast to Christ, the rock of our salvation, enlightened by his word, and renewed by his grace Pope Francis prayed that each one of us may encounter and embrace the path of hope, which does not disappoint even when we don't always find it easy to hope as we live our journey here on earth. Hope is not a magic pill that eliminates all our pain, but it is a God-given gift that helps us to be faithful disciples when suffering wants to derail us from living into all that God promises and envisions for us. May the virtue of hope dwell in hearts and strengthen us each day to live our Baptismal promises.

~ Sister Maureen Corcoran, SC

Celebrating 165 Years

Our Legacy Continues

Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth

A Year of Hope, A Life of Purpose

by Rosemary Lalevée Carroll, MA Th.

Pope Francis opened his Bull of Indiction proclaiming 2025 a Jubilee Year of Hope with the Latin words “Spes non confundit,” meaning “Hope does not disappoint.” (Romans 5:5) This Year of Hope is a time of spiritual renewal and pilgrimage for Catholics. A time of fulfillment.

Drawing on Leviticus, Chapter 25, Francis invites us to become “Pilgrims of Hope” through a focus on reconciliation, pilgrimage and coming home. He believes planting seeds of Hope can transform us, and through us, the world.

The Church has celebrated Jubilee years since 1300 when Pope Boniface VIII declared that year a Holy Year. A Jubilee Year comes every 25 years. It is a time of prayer and action. The Holy Spirit might distribute additional graces upon us enabling us to undertake extraordinary assignments. It may be a time when we, the Church, have an impact and influence where we live, work and play and even beyond.

This Jubilee comes at a time when much of the world is in chaos from natural disasters, disease, disillusionment, and conflict. Secularism leaves faith by the side of the road while travelers appear lost and desperate for spiritual directions. Migrants on the move worldwide seek a coming home.

What does it mean for us to be Pilgrims of Hope? It is a call for us to engage in a journey, both physically and spiritually, with a desire to draw closer to God and to one another. Hope is a sacred salve on people in pain, desperate for the belief that all will be well.

Hope is more than optimism. More than a wish. More than I hope I get concert tickets for Christmas.”

Hope is part of our essential spiritual DNA. It is one of the three theological virtues of faith, hope and charity. These virtues represent belief in a Divine Creator, ever present to us; trust in God’s promises, particularly that our Gospel living will lead us to the place Jesus has prepared for us; and through grace, love of God and neighbor, especially support to those in need.

Hope is the lynchpin. It is confident trust from faith that impels us toward boundless charity. Guided by the Holy Spirit, Francis declared a Year of Hope to achieve the greatest impact on our troubled world.

The start of the Jubilee year began in a ceremony opening the holy door to Saint Peter’s Basilica on Christmas eve, 2024. The holy door will close on January 6, 2026. Catholics who make a pilgrimage to Rome and pass through the doorway during this year will receive a plenary

indulgence, a forgiveness of all temporal punishment for sins that already have been forgiven.

Crossing the threshold symbolizes leaving your past and present self behind and embracing a new life focused on the theological virtues. It symbolizes passing from this world into Divine Presence, passing from sin to grace, from separation to union with God.

As Christians we cross the threshold every time we choose goodness. We are perennial pilgrims on our quest for sainthood. It is Hope that fuels us and Hope that attracts and encourages others to join us.

Hope encourages us to perform works of mercy, extend charity to the poor and marginalized, do penance and pray. We are asked to abstain from “futile distraction” or “superfluous consumption.”

Hope is evidence of God active in our lives to deepen our faith. He will move us closer to Jesus and emulate Jesus by following his teaching. This movement of God working through us is called sanctification.

The essence of Francis’ message to us is “the certainty that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love. This is the heart of Christian Hope.” It also is the core mission of this Jubilee: to hold each other in the wild dance of grace swirling through our goodness to the song of thanksgiving for God’s love.

Hope is a gift. It comes from God, not from our own merit. Hope, says Francis, is “waiting for something that already has been given to us: salvation in God’s eternal and infinite love.” He adds Hope is “the desire and expectation of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future might bring.”

Hope encourages us to trust God’s plan for us, even in the face of life’s uncertainty, challenges, detours, and loss. As Pilgrims of Hope, we foster a spirit of holy optimism and shared faith. We re-establish our birthright with God, our relationships with one another, and our responsibility to *meet our grace*. Through Hope we realize a life with purpose.

Such a life recognizes and responds to others in need. “A little bit of kindness,” Francis says. “makes the world less cold and more just.” We who are forgiven abound in grace for giving.

Imbued with a Vincentian legacy and inspired by Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich, our journey follows in holy footsteps toward our own greater perfection. Hope is in our hands to distribute spiritual and life-giving sustenance to a world waiting for us.

Blessed Miriam Teresa Exudes Hope

by Anne Marie Gardiner, Seton Associate

A reflection on Blessed Miriam Teresa's life reveals themes of hope, faith, and divine purpose, all of which were integral to her spiritual journey. Even in her young life, she sought a deep and personal relationship with God. She understood that true hope comes not from worldly achievements, but from a profound sense of God's presence in one's life. This type of hope was rooted not in material success, but in the quiet and unseen ways that faith could transform lives – through service, prayer, and love.

Her life exemplifies that hope that one can live a meaningful life even in the face of suffering or limited time. Her illness, which took her life so young, might have seemed an injustice to some, but for Blessed Miriam Teresa, it did not diminish her ability to love and to serve others. Even as her health deteriorated, she remained a beacon of hope and a testament to the strength of faith in times of trial. Through her example, she showed that hope does not necessarily mean the absence of suffering, but rather the ability to find meaning in the midst of it.

Blessed Miriam Teresa's life offers a powerful reminder that hope is not simply an emotion or feeling but a way of living. It is a choice to believe in something greater than

oneself, to trust in God's plan even when it is unclear, and to continue moving forward with faith in the face of adversity. She demonstrated that true hope lies not in the promises of the world, but in the eternal promise of God's love and mercy.

Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich's legacy lives on in the lives she touched, in the prayers she offered, and in the love she gave. She showed us that hope is not something we wait for, but something we live, each day, in how we choose to approach the world around us. Her life was short, but it was filled with the kind of hope that changes the world, a reminder that every life, no matter how brief, has a purpose.



Hope Inspires Blessed Miriam Teresa and Us

When I reflect on my hopes for life, I see they are truly connected to a desire to live with purpose and to serve others in a way that brings light, peace, and hope into the world, I hope to grow into someone who listens with compassion, acts with courage, and lives with integrity. The focus of hope is based on my relationship with God; learning to trust His timing, His path, and His plan, even when I can't see the full picture.

I believe that God is directing me toward a life that involves both service and humility. I may not know exactly where that will take me yet, but I feel called to make a difference in people's lives. Even if it's through words, actions, or simply being present. I know that God plants dreams in our hearts, but He also shapes them through trials.

Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich's life shows us that even when things don't go the way we expect, our inner hope can still survive even if it is placed in something greater than ourselves. Like her, I know I may face challenges, plans that don't work out, rejection, or moments when I feel lost; I still want to respond like she did with faith, patience, and trust that God sees the bigger picture.

Sweenlynn, St. Vincent Academy

As I reflect on my life's hopes and where I see God directing me, I find myself inspired by the story of Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich. Like Miriam, I hold a deep desire to serve others and fulfill God's plan for my life. Miriam had a burning hope to serve God as a Carmelite Sister, following in the footsteps of her hero, St. Therese the Little Flower. However her dream was thwarted by her poor eyesight, she didn't give up her calling. Instead, her faith and hope led her to another path – one that ultimately brought her to the Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth, where she faithfully served. Her story resonates with me because it shows the importance of persistence in the face of setbacks. Miriam could have allowed her disappointment to crush her hopes, but instead, she trusted that God had a bigger plan for her. Her faith guided her toward the right place, even when it wasn't the path, she first envisioned. In my own life, I see a similar journey beginning. My deep hope is to become a Women's Nurse Practitioner (NP), focusing on helping women through health challenges and providing care that honors both their physical and spiritual well-being. I believe this is the direction in which God is leading me. Just as Miriam's hope never wavered, even when she faced closed doors, I trust that God is guiding

me toward my vocation. There will undoubtedly be obstacles and times when my path might not seem clear, just like Miriam faced rejection. But her story reminds me that setbacks are not the end of the journey – they are often a redirection toward where God truly wants me to be. I am confident that my purpose lies in helping women, just as Miriam’s purpose was to serve others through her religious life. Through perseverance, prayer, and faith in God’s direction, I believe I can continue to move toward this calling, trusting that God will show me the way.

Victoria, St. Vincent Academy

Upon reflection on this year’s Jubilee theme of hope, I realized many hopes and wishes for my future. I hope that I become a pillar of change to our society by achieving my dreams of becoming a doctor. I hope that I will fulfill the act of helping and caring for the undeserved and being a person my patients can confide in. I feel as though God will lead me to do great things, whether it is through my dreams of becoming a doctor or through another unpredictable future ahead of me. If God were to truly lead me to the path I plan to trod on, I will follow it with full confidence.

If I were to face setbacks or changes in my path, just as Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich I will

continue to find a way to serve God and fulfill the duties he has given me. Nothing will change my determination to reach my hopes and dreams, and whatever the future may hold, I will surely be ready to face it. A quote that also motivates me and reminds me that there will always be a way to serve God is from the poem “On His Blindness” by John Milton: “Either man’s work or his own gifts, who best bear His mild yolk, they serve him best” ...” They also serve who only stand and wait.” These quotes remind me that even if you can’t do what you hoped to do or lost the ability to do what you lived for, God’s service isn’t only defined as active work but also the ability to bear your suffering and be patient, just as God has done for you so far.

To end this reflection, I’d like to say that I can save lives of people and God’s children get the care that they need. Or I could also find myself on an unpredictable path that God has planned for me. I know that my hope to change and fulfill God’s plan is the hope that I truly wish to accomplish.

Emmanuela, St. Vincent Academy

The Jubilee Year and the Writings of Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich

by Deacon Kevin Combs

Theology Department, Academy of St. Elizabeth

During the Jubilee year we are given the opportunity to seek conversion, repentance, renew our relationship with God and our neighbor, consider pilgrimage, and receive indulgences. In current times a Jubilee Year is held every 25 years. It can also be declared by the Pope at any time. It is a great opportunity to renew and strengthen our current level of spirituality.

The opportunity for the renewal of our relationship with God strikes me as an ongoing process. It needs to be worked on consistently and by incorporating change when we see the opportunity to grow closer to Christ. Bettering our spirituality is about small changes, made, and kept, when we strive to improve our relationship with God

In her 12th conference in “Greater Perfection” Blessed Miriam Teresa calls prayer “the third help to attain perfection.” It ranks only below the Mass and Sacraments. Further “that it is always available to us”. She identifies the focus on “attention and intention” as necessary to become better at prayer.

Intention is the will to cooperate with God. We must be open to the divine instruction we will receive from the Holy Spirit. We must also be open to the application of what we discover in prayer.

Prayer should become an integral part of our day. Introduce this slowly. Remember, small changes are made and kept. Prayer can be as complex as The Divine Office. It can also include simple affirmations during the day such as “The Jesus Prayer “Jesus Son of the Living God, have mercy on me a sinner.” This allows us to bring Christ into our workday and interactions with others. Spontaneous affirmations and everything in between can all help improve our relationship with Christ. The investment of a book of prayers can also add to your efforts. There you can find prayers that are specific to your needs at the time. Always approach this with “attention and intention.”

Also be sure to set aside time to quietly reflect. Oftentimes I will open this up by saying “Jesus I have been doing all the talking, tell me and I will listen.” Then I remain silent. In all cases I strive (and some days are better than others) to listen with *attention* to his message and the *intention* of acting on what comes from it.

While a Jubilee year is not necessary to begin to deepen our relationship with Christ it does present a great opportunity. This Jubilee Year is an opportunity to join with the whole Church to celebrate Christ, be reminded of his Mercy, and to improve our relationship with him.

PRAYERS FOR DECEASED



SISTER LILLIAN SILKOWSKI, SC
SISTER MARY PATRICIA REID, OP



AILEEN M. VASSAR

JIM AUSTIN

LILLIAN BIRD

CECILIA BURKE

MOLLY MCKINNEY

THOMAS OG. MCKINNEY

ROSEMAIRE RUGGIERO

AUSTIN MICHAEL MOTIUK

CHRISTOPHER MANNIX

DIANE DEBELLIS

TRUDY CARROLL

PRAYERS FOR FAVORS

Thyroid Cancer – 1, Mastectomy – 1, Paralysis -1, Congenital Eye Problem -1, Good Health -2, Macular Degeneration -1, Hope -1, Healing -8, Blindness -1, Peace -4, Increase in Sisters Vocations -1, Special Intentions -5, Family -5, Do Well on Exams -1, The Blessing of Miriam Teresa -1, Priesthood -1, Digestive Problems -1, Pancreatic Cancer -1, Kidney Failure -1, Safe Travel -1, Forgiveness -1, Safe Birth of Infant -1, Return to Church -2, Healing of Mental Illness -1, Autism, OCD, Depression and Anxiety -2, Guardian Angels -1



THE JUBILEE PRAYER

Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless
cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both
humanity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.

Amen.

Franciscans

Come and Celebrate with Us

SISTERS OF CHARITY OF SAINT ELIZABETH

SAVE THE DATE

165th Gala

Hanover Marriott, Whippany, NJ

10 | 18 | 2025

★ VISIT SCNJ.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION ★



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