



Blessed Miriam Teresa League of Prayer Bulletin



Volume 78 No. 3

Convent Station, N.J.

October 2023



Blessed Miriam Teresa's Crypt
Holy Family Chapel in the Motherhouse of
the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth



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

Earlier this month, on October 4th memories of that day nine years ago flooded our hearts and minds as we recalled the jubilation we experienced at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark when Miriam Teresa Demjanovich was declared blessed.

As a congregation of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth it was decided that we needed to create a suitable, prayerful space for people to come to pray to Blessed Miriam Teresa asking for favors and praying that she might be canonized.

In light of that decision a simple yet beautiful crypt was created by Willy Malarcher, a liturgical designer, for her remains and is in our Motherhouse Chapel. The adjacent hallway tells the story of her 26 years on earth, as a child and teenager in Bayonne, N.J. and her years at the College of Saint Elizabeth and her 27 months living with the Sisters of Charity.

Since then people are requesting and or writing asking about pamphlets and books pertaining to her spirituality, which emphasizes that "each of us is called to holiness."

The pandemic caused us to close the entrance to this holy place, but we are happy to once again welcome visitors to the shrine.

As you read through this bulletin you will read about and see some faithful believers of all ages who have been visitors.

Their interest in her life and being in the same space she prayed in as a college student and a Sister of Charity deeply touched their hearts and inspire them to continue to seek her intercession.

~ Sister Maureen Corcoran, SC

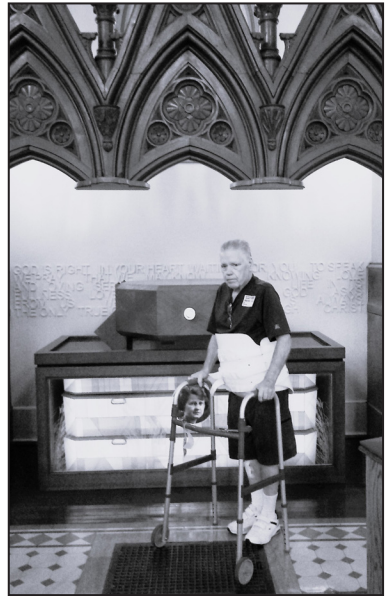
LEGACY ROOM REFLECTIONS

When I was a young girl, our priest Fr. George Kandra, said to me, “I am going to give you something, but you must promise to keep it in a safe place because someday it will be very special.” What he put in my hand was a first-class relic of Sr. Miriam Teresa Demjanovich, SC. He explained to me that Sr. Miriam Teresa was a parishioner of our church, St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church. At times, I would take the relic out and hold it wondering when it would become special.

Both of my brothers were born deaf. My mother always wondered if she had done something wrong in her pregnancy to cause their deafness. Before my mom died in 2003, she told me that she found consolation and peace with the Sisters of Charity. She would visit or write to the Sisters regularly. She asked me to please stay in contact with them, I promised her that I would.

As Fr. Kandra predicted, the relic did become special. A young boy, Michael Mencer, declared legally blind from bilateral macular degeneration had his sight restored in 1964 by a miracle attributed to Sr. Miriam Teresa’s intercession to God. Sr. Miriam Teresa’s beatification was on October 4, 2014, at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark. This was the first beatification held in the United States.

Sr. Miriam Teresa was in my thoughts frequently, especially when



Charlie Chambers

I was in church. Knowing Sr. Miriam Teresa loved St. John’s Church as much as I do, I could feel her presence but felt something was missing. I asked the priest if there were any relics of Sister in church; he said there were none. This is what was missing! I put the relic Fr. Kandra gave me years ago into a small black velvet box and returned it to St John’s along with two relics my mother left. The relics were squares of paper cut with pinking shears containing Sister’s picture and strand of her hair with a certification stamp of the Sisters of Charity. Now, Sr. Miriam Teresa’s spirit is in church along with a relic containing a part of her.

The first time my husband and I visited the Legacy Room I was

in awe of how inspirational it was and how well it depicted the life journey of Blessed Miriam Teresa. Sister's devotion to both her family and the Holy Trinity was steadfast. She helped her parents through their illnesses and death, never losing her faith, even when she became critically ill herself. The Crucifix on display in the Legacy Room provided Sister the mystical privilege of Our Lord's embrace. The Holy Trinity was always with her, providing the blessings of grace, mercy, and comfort.

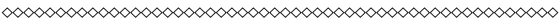
On June 11, 2018, my husband's orthopedic surgeon admitted Charlie to the hospital for lengthy spine surgery. Arthritis fused his spine together with no space between each vertebrae causing him severe pain. During surgery four major complications occurred, any one of them severe enough to cause his death. His surgeon admitted that God was with Charlie in the operating room. The hospital discharged Charlie on July 3, 2018, weighing 60 lbs. less than on admission and transferred him

to Kessler for rehabilitation. The staff wished Charlie well and mentioned to me he was lucky to be alive. I told them luck had nothing to do with his survival. Charlie is blessed!

Kessler discharged Charlie on August 10, 2018. We agreed, the first stop we had to make was to Blessed Miriam Teresa's Shrine to prayerfully show our gratitude and thank her for her intercession to God. Going to Holy Family Chapel to visit the Shrine and Legacy Room and speak with the Sisters, always gives us a sense of peace and comfort, just as it did for my mother.

In my life there have been family health related issues and times of danger when I know that God had to be with us, because there is no other explanation! They may not qualify as miracles because of medical interventions, but to me they are true miracles. The Holy Trinity is and always will be in my heart, mind, and soul!

~ Carol Chambers



“If all would only make use of the ordinary duties and trials of their state in the way God intended, they would all become saints...”

(Blessed Miriam Teresa to Father Benedict, OSB Aug.19, 1926)

Her mission upon earth was to do God's will by example, with love and through her work. Her belief was that we are all called to sainthood. The short, earthly life of hers was her testimony to the faith. Decades later, on November 21, 1964, His Holiness

Pope Paul VI promulgated the Second Vatican Council document *Lumen Gentium*. This document details the same “Universal Call to Holiness” echoed earlier by Blessed Miriam Teresa.

Who is this holy woman? She is the Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich, SC. Baptized Byzantine Ruthenian Catholic in a small church in Bayonne, New Jersey on March 31, 1901; her saintly life was short but well-lived. Her spiritual reflections and prayers continue to resonate within me through the collection of writings which were eventually published in *Greater Perfection*. I keep this book close in my heart and by my side.

Earlier this year I had the opportunity to visit the Sisters of Charity in Convent Station, New Jersey with my husband. We made arrangements to meet with Sister Maureen Corcoran, but first we were invited to attend Mass with the sisters.

We entered the building, greeted by a friendly guard and an imposing staircase. Sister Maureen met us and led us to the chapel. We arrived at the chapel early, traveling down one long corridor of the convent. One by one, the Sisters entered and took their places in the chapel's pews. We were spiritually nourished by Mass and received the precious Body and Blood of Christ with the community. As Mass ended, I remember watching the elderly Sisters slowly leaving the chapel, one by one, like the way they entered just a short while ago.

Sister Maureen motioned to us to come nearer to the Shrine where the remains of Blessed Miriam



Mr. and Mrs. Grip

Teresa are entombed. We followed her gentle motion to come. We knelt, nearer to Blessed Miriam. The stillness embraced us. I found a message in the words on the wall behind her crypt:

"God is right in your heart waiting for you to speak..."

My husband and I prayed. We both reached out silently from the recesses of our hearts; perhaps to Miriam herself, raising our hearts and minds to God in spontaneous prayer. An overwhelming sense of gratitude filled my heart. My husband gestured to me to look through the small glass eye piece that is affixed to Blessed Miriam's crypt. I looked and saw inside the crypt, leading to an intense union of closeness to her.

The words on the wall continued their message to me:

"...We pray that we may know, and knowing love, and loving, serve and

*so possess life in its fullness.
Love is the only thing God wants
from us. Whatever God wants is
always the only true good."*

As we left the motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity on that bright and sunny day, our hearts were lighter for having spent this time with the Sisters and Blessed Miriam.

Blessed Miriam insists we are truly called to be saints. Are you hearing her call?

*"It is Love, the essence of this life
that is ... is the expressed will of
God."*

*(Blessed Miriam Teresa, on Religious
Charity, Greater Perfection.)*

~ Diane Grip



Our son, Dominic, was diagnosed with brain cancer in December 2021. At just 6 years old, he endured more medical tests, procedures, surgeries, and treatments than most adults will in a lifetime. Our hearts were broken. As parents, it was natural to go through the stages of grief. One of those stages was anger, and sadly that anger was directed at God. How could this be happening? Our anger wavered, but our faith and our hope outgrew that anger. We tried to find the blessings within this hardship. One of those blessings was being able to speak with Sister Maureen and visit Blessed Miriam Teresa's crypt. My husband, my mother, and our four children listened intently to Blessed Miriam Teresa's story. We prayed so hard that Dominic would receive a miracle from Blessed Miriam Teresa. Being in such a holy place filled us with a sense of peace and hope. We continue to pray daily for Blessed Miriam Teresa to perform a miracle on Dominic. *Lynn, mother*



*Sister Maureen Corcoran, SC, with
Dominic and his siblings.*

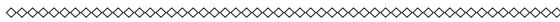
I felt excited to learn about Blessed Miriam Teresa. I felt shocked looking at the crypt. I prayed for her to do a miracle on Dominic and to bless my whole family. I still pray to Blessed Miriam Teresa every night and every day. *AJ, 9*

We went to see Blessed Miriam Teresa to pray for Dominic. I said the prayer that I always say. ‘Make Dom better and safe and healthy.’ I really liked the ice cream at the end and saying hello to the Sisters. *Joey, 5*

I went to see Blessed Miriam Teresa for her to bless me because I went through cancer. My family prayed for me when we were there. Sometimes I feel sad when my family prays for me because it reminds me of going through cancer. I felt happy for the boy who was blind and then could see. I pray to Blessed Miriam Teresa that she does that to me. *Dominic, 8*

Seeing the wall with the timeline of Blessed Miriam Teresa’s story was surreal. Going to see and pray by her crypt was so inspiring to us. We pray nightly for Blessed Miriam Teresa to perform a miracle on our son, Dominic. We are grateful for this experience. *Al, dad*

When visiting her crypt, I felt hopeful and peaceful as I do every day when I recite her prayer for canonization and favors. I envision my grandson’s picture on the wall next to Michael after Dominic receives his miracle. *Linda, grandmother*



On Thursday, August 18th, both Fr. Rudy Gonzales of St. Margaret Mary Church in the Bronx, NY and I experienced an afternoon of inspiration and tranquility during a visit to the tomb of Blessed Miriam Teresa at the Chapel of the Holy Family, Convent Station, NJ. This was a first-time visit and upon seeing

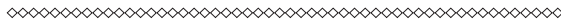
the very stately old Mother House and Chapel buildings we were taken back by a real sense of the sacred and also historic beauty. The building interiors did not disappoint. The chapel was a real work of art and a testament to the Sisters of Charity and their service. Beauty surrounded. Sister Maureen Corcoran was so kind and brought

us to the tomb and shared with us the story of Sr. Miriam Teresa from her humble beginning to her early death. We were also shown a display featuring some of her possessions and items pertaining to her saintly cause. A very well-done story wall provides the history for the visitor.

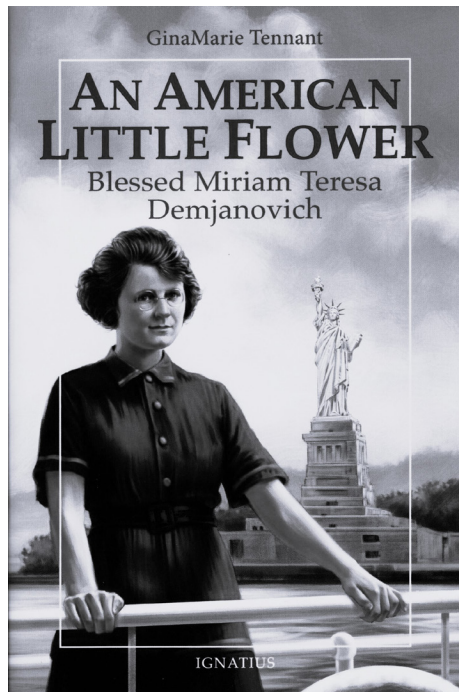
We were blessed by our visit. Standing in the chapel I realized that there was an extra special significance in having Sister declared Blessed and

her remains in our midst serve as a special call to everyday holiness. It is also a very beautiful symbol of the generosity and love shown by Blessed Miriam and all of the sisters who have prayed within sacred space over so very many years. By visiting we both felt a sense of connection and blessing and are both so grateful. Blessed Miriam Teresa pray for us.

~ Chaplain David A. DeSimone,
Lakewood, NJ.



ON SALE NOW



The cost of each book is \$15.00 which includes the book, a quote from Blessed Miriam Teresa, the authors signature, and shipping and handling.

To order, visit our online shop at SCNJ.org or call 973-290-5465.

Sister Joseph Spring, SCC, past president of Assumption College for Sisters, has faithfully introduced the international sister-students to Blessed Miriam Teresa. The most recent visitors each describe what the visit to our Motherhouse Chapel, the crypt, and Legacy Room meant to them.

Sister Stehen Phiri, OSB - Blessed Miriam lived a brief religious life. She completed the work of God in an abbreviated time. Her life was a sacrifice and she surrendered herself completely to God. I think about the cross she was bearing. Her short life

for me is a mystery; after her death the truth came out. She was a woman of silent prayer. Blessed Miriam Teresa pray for us!

Sister Theresa Le Nguyen, LHC - Life and virtues of Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich have given me a valuable example to follow Jesus Christ. Although she was of the Ruthenian Church, she chose to be a Sister of Charity in the Roman Catholic Church. She impressed me with her love for Jesus, especially by prostrating herself when she prayed. She taught me that no matter what you do, the most important thing is to engage in an authentic relationship with God. It is true love, and she displayed it throughout her life. She has been beatified by the Catholic Church: "Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich".

Sister Marivone Buse Kang, SST - Blessed Miriam Teresa was an American religious sister born on March 26, 1901. She entered the religious life of the Sisters of Charity in 1925. She became a teacher, but her life was cut short when she died at the age of 26 in 1927. Despite her short life, Miriam Teresa left behind a legacy of spiritual writings, including a series of spiritual conferences that were later published. In these writings she emphasized the importance of prayer and spiritual growth as a means of achieving greater union with God. She was beatified in 2014.



*Pictured from left - Sr. Mary
Magdalene Nguyen, LHC-Vinh;
Sr. Mary Duong Tran, MQP;
Sr. Stehen Phiri, OSB*

PRAYERS FOR DECEASED



SISTER JOAN WALTERS, SC
SR. ELIZABETH SCHEICK, SC
FR. WILLIAM HOLT, OP
MARGARET C. SMITH, SETON ASSOCIATE
PATRICIA O'BRIEN, SETON ASSOCIATE
LISA GUERRIERI, SETON ASSOCIATE
DIANE NOBILE OSNATO, SETON ASSOCIATE
MAUREEN O'KEEFE BLACK, SETON ASSOCIATE
CAMILLE COPERTINO, SETON ASSOCIATE
DEACON THOMAS BEIRNE, SETON ASSOCIATE
ANNA MARIA PADILLA, SETON ASSOCIATE
BARBARA BUTLER
VERONICA MARMO
GRACE ERICKSSON
BETSY (FESS) COHEN
CHARLIE BACCARO
MARY WALSH NYE
DANIEL LESZCZAK
KATHLEEN PARASCAND
JULIA (JAWOROWICZ) CAMBRIA
CHRISTOPHER M. SULLIVAN
KEVIN FOGARTY
JEAN S. ROGERS
PAT GERNE



PRAYERS FOR FAVORS

Cancer (16), Blindness (11),
Marriage (1), Employment, Mental
Illness (1), Frys Syndrome,
Eyesight (3), General Intercessions,
Unborn Baby (1), Return to the
Church, Acceptance of God's will
(1), Health (11), Successful Blood

Tests, Troubled Household, Diabetes
(1), Sick Parents, Prostate Cancer,
Peace, Renal Disease, Skin Disorder,
Anxiety (1), Covid, Health Issues
(1), Alcoholism, Cured of Cancer (2),
Inoperable Throat Cancer.



Visits to the
Blessed Miriam Teresa Crypt
are welcomed.

To assist us in scheduling your visit,
please contact us by
phone - (973) 290-5315 or by
email - mcorcoran@scnj.org.

We appreciate your
interest and cooperation
as we move forward for the
Cause of Blessed Miriam's
Canonization.



SISTERS OF CHARITY OF SAINT ELIZABETH

BLESSED Miriam Teresa League of Prayer

P.O. Box 476, CONVENT STATION, N.J. 07961-0476

SCNJ.org



Non-Profit Org.

U.S. Postage

PAID

Permit #1278

Caldwell, NJ