



Blessed Miriam Teresa
LEAGUE OF PRAYER BULLETIN



Volume 75 No. 3

Convent Station, N.J.

November 2021



TERESA DEMJANOVICH
COLLEGE OF SAINT ELIZABETH
1923



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 Mary Canavan, SC
Vice Postulator

This issue of the Bulletin is dedicated to the tens of thousands of students we have taught since our founding in 1859. It has been our privilege as Sisters of Charity to participate in preparing young people to take on their role in responding to the challenges of their day. Each age has faced its share of challenging events. When Blessed Miriam Teresa was a teenager, her generation endured World War I and the Spanish flu epidemic. Sister Ethel's generation faced World War II and the spread of polio. Today our young people are suffering through the COVID 19 pandemic and the United States involvement in endless violent conflicts around the world.



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 Sister Rita O'Farrell. Consultants: Sister Barbara Connell, 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.

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POSTMASTER SEND all address changes
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As we prepare our young people today to face their future, we strive for excellence in the traditional "reading, writing and arithmetic" but, as well, we strive to instill the virtues that lead to critical thinking and ethical decision making through social consciousness. Tomorrow's leaders build on the foundation laid today at home and in school. It is precious times not to be wasted.

Both theology and science tell us that we are all connected. Indeed, we are our brothers' and sisters' keepers. Let us keep that sacred trust.

~ Sister Mary Canavan, SC

MY STORY

by Sister Ethel Beneville, SC

Never in my wildest dreams did I ever expect to be asked to write an article on Blessed Miriam Teresa as a role model for young people. I have always thought of role models as persons still living or high-profile people that one tends to know about. For example, some saints come to mind that I was aware of as a young girl, the Little Flower, Maria Goretti to name two. As I look back on myself as a pre-teen and teenager the most influential persons as role models were my Mom and many of the Sisters of Charity that I had in school. These role models were people of faith, compassionate, hard-working, caring and always available with a listening heart.

My family were ordinary Catholics, my parents saw to it that we went to confession regularly and to Mass together. During the school year we sat with our respective classes and during the summer we were marched down the church aisle to the first pew and sat as a family. We did not say the rosary as a family.

I was one of six children, four of my siblings were significantly older than I was. My brother, who was closest in age to me, was ten years older and my younger sister was 21 months younger than me. I remember my younger sister and I had certain responsibilities, little ones, nothing major. The most important was to do our homework and to do our best in school.

When I was a junior in high school my mother died. At that time, I thought I might never survive without her. That was a

traumatic event in my life. My Mom was such a strong part of my life and a loving presence in my life. When she died my sister and I became responsible for caring for the home, preparing meals and living with a dad who was devastated. He had always let my mom handle the finances. He now had to take on that task of the bill payments etc. He and my mom had worked out how things would be done, and they respected and loved each other doing as they had agreed upon. They never disagreed in front of us on any issues even as to how things were to be done with us discipline-wise etc.

At that point in my life I had never heard of Miriam Teresa even though she was a Sister of Charity for a very short time. My first real knowledge of her was after I entered the community to become a Sister of Charity. As a novice I remember asking about a book to read and the Novice mistress suggested Greater Perfection. This book is really a deeply spiritual book way beyond where I was spiritually at that time. However, I did complete the reading of the book, understanding little of what for her was a deep expression of spirituality and her prayer life and love of God.

So, my world as a teenager was a world of difference than yours is today and very different than Miriam Teresa's world was as a teenager. The world was and is a different place. "Teresa's life was seemingly like that of any other child in that time period." Her sister attests to her quiet, unassuming, obedient attitudes." "She was docile, and playful and at everybody's beck and call. In one way,

however, she was different from most little girls, she was not fond of playing with dolls, she would readily turn to reading a book. Her first baby steps were taken to reach for a book held by her older sister. If allowed to sit in a corner with a book, Teresa was perfectly happy.”

p 3 An American Teresa

During her later years of high school Teresa had many responsibilities at home. Her Mom became an invalid and she took on many of the responsibilities of the home. Since she had so many responsibilities at home she did not have the opportunity for friendships and or the social life of a teenager. After her Mom's death she continued with the responsibilities of her home. As time passed her family encouraged her to continue her education and she entered the College of Saint Elizabeth as a freshman in 1919. She was unassuming. The Prefect of Freshmen, gave her kind direction and remained in close association throughout the remainder of Teresa's life. Teresa lost some of her shyness as the Prefect prevailed on some of the other young women to include her in some of the activities, parties, walks, basketball games, trips to New York, etc. Sister encouraged her to recreate with her classmates. Teresa initially was hesitant to join in and she herself indicated that she was shy as she did not have many opportunities to interact with girlhood friends because of her household responsibilities. She became the most respected member of her class. All that she attempted was done well, art editor of yearbook, writing poems, artistic. She was a perfectionist.

She had a strong love and loyalty for her family and in particular for her brother

Charles whom she missed while he was at Darlington Seminary studying to become a priest. Her spirituality was recognized from her first day at Saint Elizabeth's. Daily mass was available in Holy Family Chapel, Teresa took advantage of this possibility whenever she could. After graduation she accepted a teaching position at Saint Aloysius Academy. She found the work hard and did not love teaching. The students found it difficult to understand her. Her eyesight was not good and how she felt about teaching was probably affected by this. During this time, she continued to have responsibilities at home.

She prayed with great diligence regarding her decision as to where she should enter to become a sister for she had been considering this for some time. She had been thinking about joining the Carmelite community and was also considering whether she should consecrate her life to God at Convent.

Her father had mixed feelings regarding her entry to Religious life but said he would not interfere with what God had called her to do. Teresa was ready to enter the Convent on February 2. Her dad became ill and died on January 30. She wanted to enter right after the funeral but the Mother Superior felt she should wait till February 11. She left for Convent on February 11, accompanied by her brother Charles and her sisters Mary and Anne.

Soon after her entrance the Benedictine Father who became her Spiritual Director became aware that he had a very special person entrusted to his care. He recognized her writing ability and depth of spirituality. He asked the Mother Superior if Miriam could write a

series of instructions for him to use when instructing the Novices. She was given that permission and so she wrote them and as she did, they were sent to him. No one knew the real author, the sisters were only aware of a style change.

She practiced to the best of her ability, Charity, Simplicity, Mortification, and Fidelity to the Rule. Teresa turned twenty-six on March twenty-sixth, 1927. She became ill while a novice. Initially they thought she had acute appendicitis, but the next day she improved, and an operation was considered not advisable. The rest of that month and the following month her health fluctuated. Her brother Charles felt she would never get well and so he asked for permission for her to make her vows according to the community regulation. Miriam was delighted when she learned her brother had asked for this permission and was told yes, she could make her vows. The Mother Superior asked her Spiritual Director to go to the hospital and receive the religious vows of his faithful penitent. Most thought she would recover, however her brother felt that she was dying. Early in May Miriam had a severe appendicitis attack. On Friday the sixth she was operated on. The surgery was considered a success. However, the next day Miriam grew weaker. On the morning of May 8th, the Reverend Mother, her brother and her spiritual Director were notified. They tried to get to the hospital to be with her at this time, but her death came too soon, and she died without their immediate consolation. Present at her death were the superior of the hospital, several of the Sisters who happened to be free when the call came.

The following was written by one of her high school pupils at Convent Station “you ask for my impression of a Saint? But how can my feeble mind grasp the beauty and love of her soul? How can I in my smallness portray her in her greatness, for truly she was one of God’s chosen. Whilst her body was with us her mind roamed free, in the beautiful celestial region of God. Kind was she always, never an unnecessary reproof fell from her lips. Attempting to describe her, I can see only a patient, kind face gazing down on the crucifix in her hand, forever was her heart with Him...Just another word-she was the nearest to perfection that ever one has seen. She was the ideal woman, a model for this generation and for future generations to come”

p 37 An American Teresa

Now that you have read about her short journey in life, how is it possible for this Sister who has been beatified be a role model for you today. When you think of how she dealt with difficult issues in her life, never allowing herself to doubt God’s love or His presence. What are the ways that you deal with difficulties? Do you trust that God’s love which is unconditional surrounds you always? Do you believe that God is present to you throughout good and bad times? The thing about Miriam was that she had strong faith and trusted in His companionship.

Who are your role models? What do they stand for? What do they believe? Do you know what they believe? Do they do good for others? Are they concerned about life? What is it that you think you can learn from them? What do you think you

might learn from Miriam Teresa? What more would you like to learn about her and how she might influence your lives? Take the time to reflect on her life and then reflect on your life so far. It might be helpful to keep a journal about your

journey in life. Every person's journey is unique but we can learn from each other as we journey. May you be open to all the possibilities that the gift of life gives you to become the best possible person you can be.

PRAYERS FOR DECEASED



BR. RICHARD DE MARIA
BR. VIANNEY JUSTIN, O.F.M.
SR. JOSEPH MARIAN HUDSON, SC
SR. THERESA CHIAPPA, SR. OF
THE CHURCH
SR. JOSEPH NELIDA RICHARD, SC
SR. CAMILLA RITA WALSH, SC
SR. BARBARA GARLAND, SC
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KENNETH FRABIZIO
ANGELA CORRIGAN
HANS VOOS
PATRICK J. O'REILLY
MAGDALEN BODNER FIGUCCIO
FRANK RUSSO
PETER MATHANGANI
JAMES O'FARRELL
MARY ANN METZGER

OUR STORIES

My Gifts to the World

Maggie M.
Class of '22
Academy of Saint Elizabeth

I have always been a sensitive person. I remember in elementary school when a kid would hurt their knee, I would also feel pain in my knee, because I wanted to feel the pain rather than have them feel it. I have felt my whole life like this was a curse. All I ever wanted to do was help others, even over helping myself. But as I grew older I started to understand how this was a gift and how special this was. I decided to get involved in many different ways to help people. Through this I discovered more about myself as well as my passion and calling.

Being a sensitive person does not seem like it could benefit the world much, but I took this feeling and turned it into good. Instead of feeling sorry for people I decided I would help them in little ways. I began signing up for different non-profit organizations and different service projects within my church. Some of them lasted for no more than a few months, and some I am still serving in my life today. Not only was this sensitivity a gift to the rest of the world, but also a gift to me. I have flourished in these giving and selfless communities. I think it has made me into the person I am today.

A few weeks ago, it hit me that soon I would be leaving my hometown and embracing college. I know that helping others and volunteering in little things, like I am doing now, will not make me financially stable in the future. I started to

research worldwide issues in the field of law, which I have always been interested in. I began researching how less fortunate people are given lawyers who do not care much about the case and often don't care when those people are wrongly accused as guilty. My sensitivity for others kicked in and I knew that in my future I had to be a lawyer for these less fortunate people. Time will only tell how successful I will be in the future. But in my opinion, if I help one person in the future I will be a success. I know my sensitivity for others will become a gift. As I grow up I really

Erin K.
Class of '22
Academy of Saint Elizabeth

My greatest gift to the world is my voice. Anyone who has ever met me can attest to the fact that I have a loud voice. I love to talk, tell stories, and most of all, make jokes. There was a sign in the hallway of my elementary school that I used to walk past every single day which said, "A day without laughter is a day wasted." Even though it was cheesy, I loved this sign and it became my motto for the rest of my life. Laughter is my favorite sound in the entire world and I love the feeling of making someone laugh. I've never been very good at comforting people when they are sad, so I tend to resort to jokes to cheer them up. I may not always be the smartest in the room or the fastest on the field, but I can always cheer someone up when they are having a bad day, and that is good enough for me.

Another benefit of having a loud voice is helping those who don't. I don't get embarrassed easily, especially in school or social settings, so I'm often the first to volunteer for things or to answer questions. I don't like the way that teachers often call on people who don't volunteer for things; if someone wanted to answer a question, they would have raised their hand. Even if I am unsure of my answer, I tend to volunteer for questions because answering them is not a big deal to me, but I know there are people who view getting called on as the end of the world. So, the possibility of getting a question wrong is a small price to pay for making someone else feel more comfortable. I volunteer for things and I talk a lot and I ask questions because I know there are others who are too afraid to. Maybe if I lead the way, they will be able to follow.

A loud voice is usually accompanied by an outgoing personality, which I definitely have. I love meeting new people and making new friends. If things are ever awkward, I am often the one to break the ice. I hate awkward silences, so I've gotten good at making conversation with people. I get along well with almost everyone, so I often volunteer to work with people who might not have a partner on a project, or I sit with someone who is by themselves. I love being around people and I believe you can find a friend in everyone you meet, if you take the time to get to know them. Though it may seem small, I think that making someone laugh or making someone feel heard are some of the most incredible gifts that can be given. I plan to use my outgoing personality and loud voice throughout my life to continue spreading these gifts to those around me.

REFLECTIONS OF HIGH SCHOOLERS ON BLESSED MIRIAM TERESA

Young people are responding to the life and giftedness of Blessed Miriam Teresa. Like her they are contributing to their home life; they desire to become the person God created them to be and they hope to influence others by the way they live.

As a high schooler Blessed Miriam Teresa had numerous responsibilities at home; she attended to her invalid mother and did much of the housework cheerfully and patiently without complaining. How do you contribute to your homelife – making your home a place of comfort and joy?

I too do a lot of housework: wash the dishes, put the laundry away, iron, dust, vacuum, and sometimes cook. Yes, I think I do! I think decluttering unnecessary things will make my home

a place of comfort. Having flowers and plants and keeping my home clean and organized also brings joy!

*Joanna H. '25
Mother Seton*

I contribute by helping my parents if they need help (when I can). I try my best to make my home a place of love and joy, and I think it's working out. I try not to get upset about things because then my parents get upset.

*Sophia M. '25
Mother Seton*

In what way(s) does Blessed Miriam Teresa inspire you to become the person God created you to be?

Blessed Miriam Teresa inspires me to become the person God created me to be because of her loyalty to God. Her trust in God's plan inspires me to trust that everything happens for a reason. God doesn't do anything by accident and Blessed Miriam knew that.

*Erica I. '22
Mother Seton*

Blessed Miriam Teresa inspires me to become the person God created me to be because she was so submitted to God's will and how prayerful and close to Jesus she was. These two things are things I can become better at and will help me know that God wants me to be.

*Anna M. '25
Mother Seton*

On top of my dresser there is a little blue book with a crumpled white ribbon marking the forty-third page. The book was given to me by Sister Regina of the Sisters of Charity and includes an excerpt from Blessed Miriam Theresa's writings for each day of the year. A month or so after being given this book, I sat in an empty room in the pediatric intensive care unit of the Morristown Medical Center across from where my brother lay attached to an external heart and lung, thumbing through the little blue book with the crumpled white ribbon. The last entry on the forty-third page was May 21st, my brother's birthday, and under that date was the short line: "Perfection can be acquired only through suffering. There is no other way. We are not perfect because we are not willing to suffer."

Miriam Theresa had her fair share of difficulties—teenage years spent caring for her sick mother, her own life cut short before she reached thirty. But Miriam Theresa saw those difficulties as a pathway to God. Miriam Theresa saw God in her own suffering. Reading this line in that little blue book in a hospital room across from my brother gave me a new sense of perspective. I could easily derive anger from the things that have happened to me. I could blame God for taking my brother or lose faith in God altogether. Or I could do what Blessed Miriam Theresa did and accept my suffering as a vital part of my faith formation. As she says, it is only through adversity that we grow in body and soul. Miriam Theresa inspires me to endure my suffering, as she did and as Christ did, to accept the weight of my own cross as the gateway to perfection in God's eyes.

*Molly M. '21
Academy of St. Elizabeth*

Blessed Miriam Teresa inspires me to become the person God created me to be by being loving, generous with helping others, and having more conversations with the Lord.

*Tiara Marie R. '23
Saint Vincent Academy*

The way Blessed Miriam Teresa inspires me to become the person God created me to be is by the way she takes others needs into consideration before her own.

*Mariela C. '23
Saint Vincent Academy*

Is there an attribute you see in Blessed Miriam Teresa that you would like to foster in yourself to enhance the lives of others? Why?

I would like to be as kind and helpful to others as she was because I think it is very important to treat others with respect and kindness.

*Natalia F. '25
Mother Seton*

The attribute I saw in Blessed Miriam Teresa that I would like to foster in myself to enhance the lives of others is her care and kind-heartedness. I chose that because having those qualities will allow me to treat others how I want to be treated and also help them in any way possible. Also, I can help others by showing them ways to make a difference in this world in a good way by doing normal and regular things each day. Lastly, I can teach other ways to do what God put you on this Earth to do.

*Victoria C. '25
Mother Seton*

An attribute I see in Blessed Miriam Teresa that I would like to foster in myself to enhance the lives of others would be her union with body and soul by just the way she carries herself (helpful, caring, and loves God).

*Uchenna O. '23
Saint Vincent Academy*

An attribute I see in Blessed Miriam Teresa that I would like to foster in myself to enhance the lives of others is the way that she spoke and how powerful and moving those words were. To the point that a miracle happened to a little boy who had poor eyesight. She created

that special change in that boy's vision but also in his heart. I would be satisfied with myself if I spoke in such a powerful moving way.

*Mishell G. '24
Saint Vincent Academy*

The answers to the preceding questions are in the words of the students, unedited.



FAVORS REQUESTED

FOR Good health (7), Cure of brain seizures (1), Cure of failing vision (3), Successful publication (2), Financial assistance (3), Find employment (2), Peace, protection, health, end of alienation in family (5), Relief of ulcerative colitis (2), Grace of a happy death (2), Gift of ordination (1), Return to the Church (4), Successful surgery (5), Cure of cancer (7), liver (1), brain (1), oral (1), esophageal (1), Cure of leukemia (1), Relief of chronic pain (1), Special intentions (25), Healing of eye problems (5), Cure of macular degeneration (5), Successful birth (2), Healing of drug addiction (1), Cure of Parkinsons disease (1), Cure of mental illness (3), Cure of heart disease (2), Partial paralysis (1), Happy and healthy marriage (3), Relief of multiple diseases (4).

Three Things About Miriam Teresa Demjanovich

On Monday, October 4, 2021, on the seventh anniversary of the Beatification of Miriam Teresa Demjanovich, Father Aiden R. Rooney, C.M. presented us a few insights into how Blessed Miriam Teresa lived the Vincentian charism as a Sister Charity of Saint Elizabeth.

“There are saints and blessededs in the family that we know little about - they don’t have these “active” virtues. Holiness is both an outside and inside job. Remember God demands first the heart, then the work.

The three things are:

- She was not unacquainted with suffering and was able to embrace it.
- She was steeped in the Word of God.
- She was not unacquainted with solitude and silence.

Those actions and ways of being in the world are just as Vincentian as getting down and dirty and serving the poor. Why? Because all of the things we do are meant to lead us to deeper holiness and union with God.”

Father Aiden Rooney is a member of the Vincentian Family – a movement made up of more than 160 institutions and some 4 million people who follow Jesus Christ serving the poor as did Saint Vincent de Paul, Saint Louise de Marillac, and many other believers who have enriched the Vincentian charism over the last four centuries. Presently, Father Rooney is Vice President for Mission Integration at Niagara University in New York State



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BLESSSED Miriam Teresa League of Prayer

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