



*Blessed Miriam Teresa
League of Prayer Bulletin*



Volume 79 No. 1

Convent Station, N.J.

February 2024



a/s/o Donna Gabusi

COME

*and experience Blessed Miriam Teresa's holiness
reflected in the light that shines through her face.*

Artist: Donna Gabusi



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

During the year 2022-2023 Saint Joseph's Hospital, now known as St. Joseph's Healthcare, celebrated 155 years of service to God's people in need of medical care in Paterson, N.J., and the surrounding areas. Throughout the year, under the creative leadership of Sister Patricia Mennor, and Deacon Larry Duffy a group of staff members made a pilgrimage to Convent Station, the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity and visited the crypt of Blessed Miriam Teresa. It was from here in less than 10 years of the foundation of our congregation that St. Joseph's Hospital was born and has grown exponentially from then until now. Members of the pilgrimage shared their reflections about their experience along with some photographs.

Two young women who are students at Mother Seton Regional High School in Clark, N.J. enjoyed our newest publication on Blessed Miriam Teresa, An American Little Flower and shared their initial "coming to know" this holy woman who is an inspiration to them.

A group of pilgrims from the Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Perth Amboy visited Blessed Miriam Teresa's crypt and prayed in their native language which is surely close to the language Blessed Miriam Teresa's parents spoke and shared some understanding of it with them. The quiet prayer time that followed was most peaceful as each one gathered the petitions in their minds and hearts, and which were presented to Blessed Miriam Teresa at her crypt verbally or in writing.

May your reading of the many reflections on Blessed Miriam Teresa create a desire in your heart to visit her shrine as you come to know her and be inspired to deepen your relationship with our loving God who always stands besides us and from whom we receive our strength.

~ *Sister Maureen Corcoran, SC*



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:
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POSTMASTER SEND all address changes to the above address

MUSINGS ON THE PILGRIMAGE

When the topic was first mentioned I thought how blessed I was to have a holy person (recognized by the church) to be a member of the Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth, to be able to walk literally in her foot-steps and not have to go halfway around the world. She taught in the same school that I taught in many years ago. Holiness is right here, and I just took it for granted.

I also met some co-workers in a different setting: on a bus and walking on the lovely grounds of Convent Station. In the last few years, I have talked about God. During the pilgrimage, I had the opportunity to not just talk about God but to share on a personal level, my personal faith relationship with our Creator God. This has made friendships that much deeper.

Thank you to Sr. Pat Mennor and Sr. Maureen Corcoran for making this happen. Deacon Larry Duffy and Father Lazaro Perez complemented the wonderful day. I appreciated the opportunity.

Sister Mary Pauline Hogan, SC

It was very informative at the same time, making me feel blessed knowing what Blessed Miriam went through! I am looking forward to more Pilgrimage trips.

Erlinda Tumanda

The pilgrimage for me was a deep reflection of the Divine Trinity. After the Pilgrimage aside from reading the materials that I got, I did my own research about Blessed Miriam Teresa.



Since then I have been doing the Novena every day. Thank you for the invite.

Eva G. Rojas

The Pilgrimage for me was a beautiful experience. I felt blessed to be part of the pilgrimage.

Lorena Reyes

I was very appreciative of the invitation to join this Pilgrimage. I grew up in Jersey City and did not know about this blessed place, hopefully saint soon to be, I hope and pray.

I learned about her and her miracle and the surroundings of the convent, the beautiful chapel, and the remarkable work of charity the sisters have done and are still doing, a holy, beautiful, and blessed place to visit. I enjoyed it very much, especially spending time with so many of my beautiful coworkers.

Dinorah Tello

A Blessing for me to say Mass on a Pilgrimage at the shrine of Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich. My first time to see the beautiful Shrine and all

the dedicated work Sr. Maureen, SC is doing.

Fr. Lazaro Perez

The pilgrimage was a nice outing time together with fellow employees. The day was beautiful and the area where the Church is located was also scenic. I felt a sense of calmness and peace. With everything that is going on in the world this was a much-needed feeling. We all gathered and walked around the Church and had one of the sisters speak about its history and significant events that occurred there. We saw many pieces of collected items and spoke about the significance, history and meaning of them.

This was a very educational and pleasant time together in a serene place of prayer and tranquil energy. I would love to have another trip like this in the future.

Lynette Quinones RN

I would just like to let you know that the Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich, SC was an awesome, educational, and heartwarming experience. I really enjoyed the entire experience. The prayer service was fantastic. Friendly people getting together to learn is great. If there were another trip or pilgrimage, I would be totally for it. Please keep me in contact and informed.

Jeffrey Zdanewicz

As we begin the year of the 155th anniversary of St. Joseph's Health, it was decided to offer a

Pilgrimage Trip to the Shrine of Blessed Miriam Teresa in Convent Station, NJ. Approximately 20 employees and some friends took advantage of this offer in the fall of 2022. We met at the campus of SJH in Paterson and proceeded by bus to Convent Station.

Everyone enjoyed Sr. Maureen's comments and information about Blessed Miriam. For many this was their first time at Convent station. Following our information session, a mass was celebrated by Fr. Lazaro Perez, a Priest Hospital Chaplain at St. Josephs Health Paterson. Everyone enjoyed the day, and many positive comments were heard on the trip back to Paterson. A special thank you to Sister Maureen Corcoran, SC for such a memorable and enjoyable morning.

Deacon Larry

1. There were multiple ethnic persons that were interested in Blessed Miriam Teresa.
2. At the Blessed Miriam site, the presenters of the history of Blessed Miriam were excellent.
3. The photos on the wall gave a good time sequence of history.
4. The tour of the chapel was awe inspiring to them.
5. The site of Blessed Miriam's remains was eloquently built for her remains.
6. All in all the tour was an excellent experience, pictures, holy cards – a history of Blessed Miriam's life was available.
7. It was a positive experience, much information. Sister Maureen was excellent.

-
8. The mass added to the tour.
9. Breakfast food provided by Deacon
Larry – fed the hungry!!
Sister Dolores Lew, SC
-

AN AMERICAN LITTLE FLOWER

Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich (Teresa), the first person to have been beatified in the United States, is a role model for young Catholics today. She is the perfect example of how saints and holy people live ordinary lives. This is shown throughout the book *An American Little Flower*, where Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich's story is written for all to reflect on and realize that everyone is called by God to follow Jesus's teachings and live out the Gospel, even in the simplest of ways.

The book *An American Little Flower* tells stories of Teresa's life. Teresa had many siblings, but she was particularly close to her brother Charles, since they had the age difference of just two years. As a child, Teresa made mistakes just as everyone does. As a very young child, she told a lie to her mother to try and avoid punishment, but later confessed this to her mother. Additionally, Teresa played baseball with her brother's friends, debated whether to go to her college prom, and made-up nicknames for her school friends. Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich was an ordinary girl living in Bayonne, New Jersey. Overall, she experienced many situations that young people experience today, which makes her someone Catholics can relate to.

Besides her ordinary life, Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich felt God calling her to become a religious sister. In response, Teresa embraced this vocation and tried to join the Carmelite Nuns; however, her poor eyesight held her back. So, she joined the Sisters of Charity instead. There, she continued living a full life of prayer and simplicity. Looking up to her role model, St. Therese of Lisieux, Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich truly lived a holy life.

From her simple, ordinary life to her acceptance of the vocation God called her to, Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich is most definitely an extraordinary example of a holy person for many Catholics around the world. She shows people that anyone can travel on the path toward sainthood, if only they are faithful and love God. As Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich once said, "And even in the world I felt very intensely that if people only sought God in all earnestness, they would find Him. And 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."

Anya C. - Grade 9
Mother Seton Regional High school

On March 26th, 1901, in Bayonne, New Jersey, Miriam Teresa Demjanovich was born. The youngest in her family of nine, Teresa was known as a brilliant scholar who graduated high school at the age of a young teenager. However, today we can see that these academic achievements are only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to Teresa's success. She was a brilliant writer, conscientious and spiritual woman, as well as a miraculous healer dedicated to her vocation.

Since she was a young girl, Teresa was applauded for her near-perfect performance in school. Throughout her life, she obtained high grades, ranking as both valedictorian and salutatorian in her lifetime. Even after she graduated from the College of Saint Elizabeth successfully earning a literature degree, Teresa took a temporary job teaching in another nearby college. Even though Teresa enjoyed her teaching work, she couldn't ignore the calling she felt – a deep desire leading her toward a more devotional life.

Even when Teresa was little, she was drawn to God. She grew up with religious parents who ensured that she received all of her Sacraments. She had always known that God's plan for her was a religious life. However, unfortunately every time Teresa attempted to enter a convent, something would get in the way. Whether it was poor eyesight of the tragic death of her father, Teresa faced many delays while trying to become a

nun. Despite all of these setbacks, she persisted and was finally able to enter the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth in 1925. There, she finally felt at home. Teresa was once recognized for her kindness and smarts. In fact, even her spiritual leader recruited her to write his conferences for him. She inspired all who met her with goodness and devotion to her mission.

Today, it's not hard to get inspired by Teresa and her story. She was a smart, dutiful woman who responded to God's voice when she heard it calling to her. These traits are what eventually led many desperate people to turn to her with their prayers after her death. In one case, these prayers to Teresa resulted in a young boy being cured of his blindness. Because of this miracle, Sister Teresa was declared "Blessed" in the year 2014 in Newark's Sacred Heart Basilica. In order to become a saint, she needs only one more miracle.

As a young student myself, I loved learning more about Sister Teresa. Her story shows me that anyone, even a regular person like me, can foster a strong relationship with God by following His plan for me and trusting His guidance.

Leah N. - Grade 9
Mother Seton Regional High School

VISITING THE CRYPT OF BLESSED MIRIAM TERESA DEMJANOVICH, SC IN HOLY FAMILY CHAPEL

**Submitted by Sister Margaret (“Meg”) McCann, SC
Sacristan, Holy Family Chapel, Convent Station, NJ**

On November 5th, 2023, a group of young visitors came to pray in Holy Family Chapel, Convent Station, New Jersey, and to gather around the crypt of Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich. These visitors came from the Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Perth Amboy, New Jersey. More specifically, this was a devout and dynamic youth group, accompanied by the Reverend Ivan Turyk, (Pastor of the Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary), along with several Sisters Servants of the Lord and Virgin of Matará. (For specific names, see photograph on right).

My first reaction on seeing these visitors was one of quiet and reverent amazement. These young men and women have a profound joy within themselves which prompts them with a sense of urgency to pray to God and to promote that joy with a spirit of intense gratitude. Their prayer service was in Ukrainian, yet I was able to pray along with them because they gave me a hard copy of this prayer service in English, entitled: “Fifteen Minutes in the Company of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.” We prayed together in the front pews of Holy Family Chapel (the young people out loud and myself in silence) and I was



Holy Family Chapel, Convent Station, NJ, Nov. 5, 2023. From Left to Right: Olena, Rev. Ivan Turyk, Iryna, Sr. Trijtsi, Teniana, and Tetiana. Back Row: Dariy, Maria, Mykhailo, m. Veronika, Sr. Svitanku, Viktoriya

deeply moved by the aura of love and humility which permeated throughout the chapel as they prayed in steadfast unison, their young voices rising with intense devotion toward the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle.

What made this prayer service so unique was the fact that while the words were articulated by the voices of the young people, they were essentially uttered in the first person of Jesus Christ. Here is an excerpt of the Ukrainian prayer service which I have selected from the five-page hard copy that they gave me in English, and which so beautifully reflects their profound spirituality:

My child, you need not know much in order to please me. Only love Me dearly.

Speak to Me simply.....Do not hesitate to ask Me a great deal! I love generous hearts who forget themselves for [the sake] of others. Speak to Me with simplicity about the poor whom you want to help; about the sick whom you have seen suffer; about the persons who are alienated from you and whose affection you wish to win back. For all, recite a fervent prayer. Remind Me that I have promised to grant every prayer that comes from your heart, and surely the prayers are heartfelt which we say for those whom we love and for those who love us. (Ukrainian Prayer Service: "Fifteen Minutes in the Company of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament").

When we had finished this prayer service, we sat in serene silence for a few minutes and then we wended our way to the crypt of Blessed Miriam Teresa, where we gathered around to continue our prayer and to ask Blessed Miriam Teresa to intercede for each of the special intentions and petitions that were spoken out loud or privately (in writing) to be placed in the petitions box.

This youth group of the Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Assumption is drawn to Blessed

Miriam Teresa, not only because they share her spirituality, but also because they share her Eastern Rite heritage. According to their website, this "parish belongs to the Byzantine Catholic Church, an Eastern Catholic Church that has its own rite, that is, liturgical traditions. Along with the Roman Catholic Church, the Byzantine Church is in full communion with Rome and is under the spiritual leadership of the Pope of Rome."

Before leaving Holy Family Chapel, the pastor of the Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Assumption, Fr. Ivan Turyk, gave me several copies of *Ukraine Diary*, by Henri J.M. Nouwen, originally published in 1994, but revised in 2023, with an Introduction by Archbishop Borys Gudziak, who was born of immigrant parents from the Ukraine and who is the Metropolitan Archbishop of Philadelphia for Ukrainian Catholics in the United States.

On a similar note, Fr. Ivan Turyk was born in Ukraine (the village of Sniatynka), and so these geographic connections remind us that Blessed Miriam Teresa's roots are not far from Bardejov (in North-Eastern Slovakia), just south of Kiev in north-central Ukraine, which would account, in part, for the affinity that Fr. Ivan Turyk feels for Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich. In his Introduction to *Ukraine Diary*, Archbishop Borys Gudziak proclaims that in his final

years, Ukraine became for Henri Nouwen an important place of reference, a spiritual locus...Now, in the minds of many, it is being born again. This advent, marked by pain and blood, is transforming the world. Tormented yet intrepid, Ukraine is at the epicenter of global change... The Russian invasion and Ukrainian resistance to it are provoking a global upheaval... But Ukrainians resist. Bravely, selflessly. Solidarity, prayer, mutual trust...charity, sacrifice, faith, and a belief in eternity all are present in a new way in society. People are certain that the truth will prevail and that evil will be defeated...(xiv – xvii)

One of the reasons that young people from a Ukrainian parish are captivated by the spirituality of Blessed Miriam Teresa is that, like themselves, she believed that total trust in God, charity and sacrifice would liberate the questing soul and one day lead to the Resurrection. For that matter, those who pray at the crypt of Blessed Miriam Teresa are not only women religious, clergy, or consecrated souls, but people very much immersed in a busy and hectic world. According to Blessed Miriam Teresa, even before she entered the religious life, God “in His wonderful mercy gifted me with the grace of union

while I was still a secular. I’ve always felt that He gave me the experience of the mystic phenomena...so that I might be of help to others...” (Letter to her Director, Aug. 19, 1926. Life, p. 157).

This is the crux of the matter when it comes to reading a road map of the saints. In her twenty-six years on earth, Blessed Miriam Teresa planted a flag in the soil of secularism with as much vigor as she planted a flag in the soil of mysticism. Her footing was just as sure in the secular world as it was in the mystical world, and God lavished her with abundant mystical privileges so that, to repeat her own words, she “might be of help to others.” She was never in it for herself, but always for love of God and for love of souls. Her perfect marriage of the secular with the mystical is why Blessed Miriam Teresa may be called a saint of the people and why she may be considered a bridge which connects ordinary people to a more intimate union with God.

In my childhood, my brothers and sisters and I used to search for buried treasure, and several decades later, I finally found buried treasure right in my own back yard. Here in Holy Family Chapel, our buried treasure is the crypt of Blessed Miriam Teresa, where people gather from all walks of life to pray to her for favors and abundant blessings. The youth group from the Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Assumption cherishes the treasure of Blessed Miriam Teresa

with true dignity and sincerity of heart. Let us pray to Blessed Miriam Teresa for peace in Ukraine and for the special intentions of these young people from Ukrainian Catholic church of the Assumption in Perth Amboy, New Jersey, who embrace the spirituality of Blessed Miriam Teresa, especially when she proclaimed to the Incarnate Word: “Thou dwellest in me

and I in Thee; and where Thou art, there is my sole delight (Diary. Feb. 21, 1925).

Thank you to Fr. Ivan Turyk and to these special visitors for the generous gifts you gave to the Sisters of Charity when you came to pray with us at the crypt of Blessed Miriam Teresa. We will continue to keep you in our heartfelt prayers.



*Youth Group from the Ukrainian Catholic Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Perth Amboy, NJ
From Left to Right: Mykhailo, Dariy, m. Veronika, Iryna, Viktoria, Olena, Maria, Sr. Svitanku, Sr. Trijtsi, Tetiana, Tetiana*

PRAYERS FOR DECEASED



SISTER PATRICIA GODRI, SC
SISTER MARIE GILLIGAN, SC
SISTER LORENA REILLY, SC
ROBERT CLETUS DRISCOLL



MSGR. PHILIP MORRIS
PATRICIA FRANCO, SETON ASSOCIATE
JOSEPH X. MEEHAN, JR.
MSGR. EDWARD J. CIUBA
CHARLES "ROD" ALTZ
TUFU J. PETRO
KRISTOPHER LEEK

PRAYERS FOR FAVORS

FOR Cancer (10), Sainthood (5), Mental, Physical and Spiritual Healing (16), Good Health (16), Homeless (1), Happy Marriage (6), Birth of a Healthy Baby (3), Thanksgiving (3), Conversion (9), Stroke (1), Financial Stability (1), Family (9), Spiritual Family (3), Conversion of all Terrorists (1), Peace in the World (6), Peace of Mind (3), Religious Priests and Sisters (2), Leaders in the Catholic Church (2), Armed Forces (3), General Intention (1), Forgiveness (1), Confidence (1), Poor (2), Education (1), Freedom (1), Gratitude (1), Childhood Epilepsy (1), More Faith (1), Help /Wisdom (1), Mission (1), Society (1), Good Eyesight (1), Chronic Suffering (1), Heart Disease (1), Anxiety (1), Infected Teeth (1), Successful Surgery (1), Employment (2), Grandchildren (1), Medical Procedure/Surgery (2), Presidential Election (1), Test results (1). Graduation (1), Judea Organization (1), Blindness (1).



SISTERS OF CHARITY OF SAINT ELIZABETH

BLESSED Miriam Teresa League of Prayer

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