



*Blessed Miriam Teresa  
League of Prayer Bulletin*



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Volume 80 No. 1

Convent Station, N.J.

May 2025



*Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich, SC  
10th Anniversary of Beatification*

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## 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.  
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Address all communications to:  
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It is hard to believe that 10 years have passed since the glorious celebration of the beatification of Blessed Miriam Teresa in the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark, NJ. In October 2024 we commemorated this memorable event on three different days. On Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, the Academy of Saint Elizabeth and some University staff and students joined the Sisters of Charity for a prayer service in Holy Family Chapel that recalled the first beatification in our country and called to mind the touching moments of that experience. The Academy of Saint Elizabeth students reflected on three questions and some of their thoughts are being shared in this issue.

Then on October 5<sup>th</sup> a retreat day was held in our new Caritas Center which was led by Kimberly Borin, a Seton Associate and Gina Marie Tenant, the author of [An American Little Flower](#), gave a presentation about Blessed Miriam Teresa's life which is retold in this bulletin.

There was a gathering on October 6<sup>th</sup> at St. John Byzantine Church in Bayonne, the parish where Blessed Miriam Teresa was baptized and chrismated. Carol Chambers, a lifetime parishioner of St. John's has been keeping Blessed Miriam Teresa's memory alive for decades. As we move forward spreading her life story and spirituality, Carol recounts this afternoon's liturgy and prayer services and explains some of the differences between the Latin and Eastern Rite churches.

May we continue to rejoice that Blessed Miriam Teresa is beatified and faithfully pray that she will be canonized.

*~ Sister Maureen Corcoran, SC*

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## **BLESSED MIRIAM TERESA 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF BEATIFICATION**

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Raise up your mind and heart...

**What part of this morning's prayer service touched you?**

*Freshman Homerooms:*

- Pray to her so that she may intercede on all our special intentions.
- All the talk about the relic and how grateful we should be to have it here with us at AOSE.
- Prayer service was tranquil, music was uplifting, stained glass window was interesting to see.
- "She was a woman who embodied humility, love, and devotion to God."

*Sophomore Homerooms:*

- Pray for those we care about who are sick for possible miracles of recovery.
- She was once like us so we can find the dedication and power to influence so many.
- We are looking forward to the possibility she becomes a Saint.
- Hearing all of the memories that were shared at her beatification. It shows that she was a big part of many people's lives, and she did a lot of good in her lifetime.
- Give back to the community and help others in the time of need.

*Junior Homerooms:*

- The part of the service that touched us was the stained-glass window and the memories that they shared.
- We were inspired by her dedication and commitment to God all these years.
- Praying for her intercession.

*Senior Homerooms:*

- Sharing the story with our family and grandparents.
- Our students mentioned that they enjoyed the readings by the Sisters. They appreciate the dedication and passion they bring to their vocation.
- Touched by how many people were impacted even though they have never met her.

**As we live the 165<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Sisters of Charity in what ways is Blessed Miriam Teresa calling us forward to live the Mission entrusted to us?**

**Is there an action plan you can do to make her message more alive in our world?**

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*Freshman Homerooms:*

- Share her message of her life and her wisdom.
- Spread her message by our actions rather than our words.
- Spread the awareness of her life and pray for her canonization.
- She inspires us to seek a deeper connection with Christ in our everyday lives.

*Sophomore Homerooms:*

- Be more like God's image and likeness; pray more often; treat people with kindness.
- It is cool that we walked on the same grounds that she walked on. It shows how deep we can be deep in our faith as well. Shows that we as sophomores can make some sort of impact on our faith.
- Her connection is cool.
- I thought it was very special when the nuns said they were grateful and thankful for being a part of the Sisters of Charity with her and that they get to continue her legacy. Share her story, share her message.

*Junior Homerooms:*

- We walked on the same grounds as her.
- She is a woman and a huge model to us girls today.
- Modeling our lives after her.

*Senior Homerooms:*

- Initiate prayer services for her especially in our parishes.
- We can imitate her by being grateful and recognizing the privilege we have, being a part of AOSE and future opportunities for learning.
- Teaches us to spread the word of God and share our religion with other people.
- Raise awareness.

**As I read through these ten quotes from the National Eucharistic Congress 2024 (League Bulletin 12/24) Blessed Miriam Teresa came to mind several times.**

*Freshman Homerooms:*

- Honor her memory through kind acts.
- Spread the message by our actions rather than our words.
- We can pray for a second miracle for her to become a saint.
- She reminds us of the power of faith and the beauty of selflessness.

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*Sophomore Homerooms:*

- Be present in Church spiritually while you are there physically.
- She is a role model in our faith, and she shows that having faith in God isn't just for nothing and something good will come out of it.
- She teaches us to evangelize her message to our peers.
- Hearing all speakers' responses about their experience with Sister Miriam Teresa touched me. This service really represented a peaceful time of prayer.
- Share her story and share her message.

*Junior Homerooms:*

- She made such a big impact at such a young age and died at 26.
- She cured a little boy's eyesight.
- Model our lives after her.

*Senior Homerooms*

- First person beatified in the United States and may become a saint soon.
- Touched by how many people have been impacted by her even though they have never met her.
- Volunteer, pray!

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## **PRAYERS FOR FAVORS**

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Pancreatic Cancer – 7, Conversion -2, Kidney and Parathyroid – 2, Grace and wisdom in Diaconate studies - 2, Special Intentions – 16, Succeed in my nursing studies - 1, Healing -29, Cognitive Problems - 1, Vocations – 2, Addicted to porn -1, Reunion -1, The eastern church -1, Peace – 4, Sick pregnant patient -1, Eye Disease – 1, Family -5, Recovering from

major surgery – 1, The Pope - 1, In Thanksgiving -1, Stomach Issues - 1, People of the Ukraine -1, Suffering Church in China -1, Hypothyroidism – 1, Glaucoma and Macular Degeneration - 1, Death -2, Priest -1, Healing of bi-polar disorder – 2, Happy Death -2, Heart issues – 3, Lymphedema - 1, Eye healing -3, Illness - 3, Surgery, Employment – 2, Kidney Transplant - 1

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## **Blessed Miriam Teresa by Sister Marion Scranton, SC**

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The Blessed Miriam Teresa Retreat gave me, and all present an opportunity to enter into the life of Blessed Miriam Teresa.

I am impressed by the number of young people who are interested in a modern-day mystic.

Personally by reading Gina Marie Tennant's book, An American Little Flower, I learned a great deal more about Blessed Miriam Teresa. I now have a more mature understanding of her life.

We all search for sanctity in some way, the path is difficult to know..., the way.

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## **A Saint of and for the Young by Sister M. Charitina Frabizio, SC**

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My retreat experience introduced me to a new understanding and appreciation of a simple, yet extraordinary person, who achieved the purpose for which she was created ---Sainthood!

Blessed Miriam Teresa --- child, teenager, young adult, college student, young novice, each of these stages mirrored her call to holiness. Teresa was a loving, devoted and caring, daughter to her faith filled-immigrant parents, Johanna and Alexander and a cherished sister to her siblings: Mary, John, and Anne and her younger brother Charles, who was her constant companion. Much love was present in the Demjanovich home.

Although Teresa was gifted with a keen intellect and excelled in her studies, she was nonetheless actively engaged in normal age-related fun and sports activities, especially the game of baseball.

Teresa's spirituality was

deeply rooted at a very early age. She attended church regularly and was always at peace during liturgical and devotional services. She lived in constant awareness of her ever-present God whom she desired to please. Teresa had great devotion to Saint Teresa of Avila and Saint Teresa of the Child Jesus (The Little Flower) whose spirituality was her model.

As Teresa grew to young adulthood, her family well aware of her brilliance, and desired that she earn a college education. Although her yearning was to enter a Carmelite Monastery, she realized that this time, college for her was God's will. Subsequently, she enrolled in the College of Saint Elizabeth. Teresa earned the respect of her sister professors and classmates with whom she enjoyed close friendships. They were inspired by her deep spirituality, her superior intellect and her many talents which she so

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generously shared. Her creativity contributed to the extracurricular projects she competently directed. At the completion of her four years at Saint Elizabeth's, Teresa earned a bachelor's degree in English summa cum laude (with highest honor!)

In her post graduate year, despite her burning desire to enter a Carmelite Monastery, family needs and responsibilities kept Teresa living at home, while at the same time, teaching at Saint Aloysius Academy High School in Jersey City. During this period, the petition for entrance into Carmel was denied. After prayerful discernment and encouraging advice from family, former Sister of Charity professors and friends, Teresa concluded that God was calling her to use her gifts and talents in active ministry as a Sister of Charity of Saint Elizabeth. Teresa received her letter of acceptance into the Sisters of Charity from Mother Alexandrine Jackson and was scheduled to enter on February 2, 1925. Teresa's family rejoiced with her although she would be greatly missed, especially by her father. However, in God's loving mercy, her father died on January 30 and was spared the sorrow of her departure. Due to Alexander's sudden death and burial on February 2, Teresa's scheduled entrance was deferred to February 11, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, one hundred years ago this year.

Having completed her postulancy, now novice, Sister Miriam Teresa, exemplified extraordinary

virtue as she lived the daily routine of religious life. Prayer time, study time, work time, recreation time all was done for the love of God.

Father Benedict Bradley, O.S.B. spiritual director and confessor for the novices believed Sister Miriam Teresa to be a chosen soul of contemplative holiness. After prayerful reflection and consultation with and approval of Mother Alexandrine, he placed Sister Miriam Teresa under obedience to write his weekly conferences to be given to the novices. Known only to Father Benedict and Mother Alexandrine Sister Miriam Teresa wrote the conferences.

Sister Miriam Teresa's novitiate period was interrupted due to severe illness which necessitated her hospitalization. Her brother, Father Charles Demjanovich, realizing death was imminent, requested that she be permitted to profess her vows as a Sister of Charity. Mother Alexandrine granted permission for Father Benedict Bradley, O.S.B., to receive Sister Miriam Teresa's vows which she professed with peaceful joy on April 2, 1927. Blessed Miriam Teresa made vows on her death bed.

On May 8, 1927, at the age of 26, Sister Miriam Teresa died in the loving embrace of the Blessed Trinity. Father Benedict Bradley, in testimony to the contemplative holiness of this chosen soul, posted a note stating that the weekly conferences given to the novices were written by Sister Miriam Teresa. These conferences published



under the title of Greater Perfection are available in several languages.

In 1945, during Mother Mary Benita Kane's term of office the Cause of Canonization for Sister Miriam Teresa was initiated. The process involved years of in-depth study of her holiness of life. At the conclusion of the study, the Vatican Congregation for the Cause of Saints affirmed Sister Miriam Terea's holiness and in 1989 Pope John Paul, II declared her Venerable Servant of God the final step leading to Beatification.

The miraculous cure through the intercession of the Servant of God is required for beatification. The proven cure for bilateral macular degeneration of nine-year-old Michael Mencer, attributed to Sister Miriam Teresa's intercession, was approved by the Congregation of the Cause of Saints for beatification.

On October 14, 2014, at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark, New Jersey, Cardinal Angelo Amato, S.D.B., in the presence of a packed congregation of clergy, religious and laity read the following apostolic letter signed by Pope Francis proclaiming Sister Miriam Teresa the first to be beatified in America.

### **Apostolic Letter**

Following the petition of our brother Arthur Joseph Serratelli, Bishop of Paterson,

of several other brethren in the Episcopate and many of the Christian faithful having consulted the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, by virtue of Our Apostolic Authority

we accord the faculty that The Venerable Servant of God MIRIAM TERESA DEMJANOVICH Religious of the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth,

whose ardent adoration of the Most Holy Trinity, and whose strenuous witness is evidence of her evangelical love, should henceforth be called Blessed forever,

and whose feast may be celebrated each year on the eighth day of May, the day of her heavenly birth, in the places and the manner established by law.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Given at Rome, at St. Peter's, on the fourteenth day of September,

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross,  
In the Year of Our Lord two thousand and fourteen,  
the second of Our Pontificate.

Francis



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# **CELEBRATION TO THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BEATIFICATION OF BLESSED MIRIAM TERESA AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST BYZANTINE RUTHENIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**by Carol A. Chambers**

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Saint John the Baptist Byzantine Ruthenian Catholic Church, Bayonne NJ, is the spiritual home parish of Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich, SC. When you first enter our church, the first thing you will notice is there are no statues. There is an iconostasis, a beautiful screen of icons with deep theological meaning representing events in the life of Jesus, Blessed Virgin Mary (Theotokos), and Saints. On October 6, 2024, in commemoration of the 10th Anniversary of Blessed Miriam Teresa's Beatification, an afternoon of prayer was planned to thank God for all His blessings. There is no organ music, all prayers are chanted or sung by the cantor and parishioners.

The afternoon started with the Holy Rosary, followed by the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Part of the Rosary was prayed in the Slavonic language as a demonstration of how Blessed Miriam Teresa may have prayed the Holy Rosary. Two parishioners from St. Mary Byzantine Ruthenian Catholic Church in Jersey City, Maria and Susan, led everyone in reciting the Rosary. They were dressed in Slovak clothing that is traditionally worn for special celebrations. After the Rosary, there was an opportunity for Confessions.

The Celebrant of the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom was His Grace, Bishop Kurt Burnett, Bishop of the Eparchy of Passaic. Con-celebrating the Liturgy were the Rev. Joseph Bertha, Administrator of St. John the Baptist Byzantine Ruthenian Catholic Church and St. Mary Byzantine Ruthenian Catholic Church, Rev. Michael Popson, and

Rev. Eugene Higgins. John Klapko was the cantor.

There were approximately fifty individuals attending, among them were the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth. We are always honored when the Sisters attend our special celebrations for Blessed Miriam Teresa. Also attending with her mother was Gina Marie Tennant, Author of "An American Little Flower," a paperback book on Blessed Miriam Teresa. Gina was kind enough to personally sign all her books.

There are some more differences you may notice when visiting our church. In most Eastern Catholic Churches, no one will kneel during the sanctification of gifts. This is not to be interpreted as a lack of respect. Kneeling is seen as a sign of penance or sorrow. However, if you attend a Latin Rite church it is acceptable for you to kneel if this is your preference when visiting. In an Eastern Rite Church, the priest does not use Hosts for Communion. The Eucharist is leavened consecrated bread dipped in consecrated wine in a chalice. When you approach to receive the Eucharist, the priest may ask your name. You do not need to say anything else. You simply need to tilt your head back, open your mouth, do not stick your tongue out, and the priest will drop the Eucharist into your mouth with a small spoon.

You may also notice that we bless ourselves frequently by making the sign of the cross from the right side to the left, which is opposite from the Latin Rite. We also bless ourselves

each time the Holy Trinity is stated in a prayer, such as in “Glory be...” or “Holy God...”

After the Divine Liturgy, a Moleben (Prayer Service), which is an intercessory prayer for health and blessings invoking Blessed Miriam Teresa’s intercession to God for healing was prayed in front of her new icon by the priests. The Prayer for Canonization and Prayer for Favors, followed by Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory be to the Father were also prayed.

Everyone in attendance was invited to come forward to venerate Blessed Miriam Teresa’s relics and were anointed with Holy Oil for healing.

Light refreshments were available in the vestibule of the church for all who attended this special celebration commemorating the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Blessed Miriam Teresa’s Beatification.

St. John’s Church is my lifetime parish. I received all my sacraments in this church and always enjoyed going to church. I have always felt honored to belong to the same church that Blessed Miriam Teresa received her sacraments. My faith has always been an especially important factor in my life.

When I was a 15-year-old teenager, I met someone who had a vastly different life experience than I had. He lived on a rural Pennsylvania farm with his parents and nine siblings. His family never went to church, so he could not understand why I attended church so often. We became close friends, and he wanted to spend more time with me, so I asked him if he would like to attend church with me. He seemed surprised that I invited him to attend a Divine Liturgy to see what it was all about for himself and asked if he would be permitted to go. Of



***Bishop Kurt giving a blessing  
10.6.2024***

course, I said yes!

Charlie began to understand how important faith was in his life. We started dating and at the age of twenty he was baptized at St. John’s Church. My parents were his godparents. He told me, “Once I found you, I found my faith.”

We have been married sixty-one years and still go to church together. There have been some rough times, with health-related issues, but we got through them together with our faith and the blessings of grace, and mercy from God.

If you have problems, pray to Blessed Miriam Teresa for her intercession to God. She only needs one more miracle to be canonized as a Saint! Whatever your problems are whether they are related to health, emotional, financial, or spiritual issues, never give up hope or faith in the power and blessings of God!

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## PRAYERS FOR DECEASED

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*Sr. Marilyn Zaino, SC*

*Sr. Carol Hoban, SC*

*Sr. Ethel Beneville, SC*

*Sr. Ann Stango, SC*

*Sr. Mary Lou Hayden, SC*

*Sr. John Mary Tierney, SC*

*Sr. Deborah Humphreys, SC*

*Sr. Mary Kathleen Flanagan, SC*

*Sr. Regis Keane, SC*

*Sr. Mary Bernadette Murphy, SC*

*Pope Francis*

*Fr. John Frambes, OFM*

*Fr. Joseph Quinn, OFM*

*Fr. Terrence Moran*

*Fr. George Wilson, SJ*

*Mary Ellen Eckes*

*Gary M. Ciuba*

*Ed Nestor*

*Dennis Moore*

*John Franklin*

*Cecelia Fleming*

*David Bell*

*Lee Scarfone*

*Joseph E. Heine*

*John Constance*

*Loretta Vergara*

*Lois Lozy*

*Elizabeth Ann Spring*

*Louise Long*

*Mary Margaret Regan-Russo*

*Bob Purner*

*Phyllis Simonelli*

*Charles Chambers*

*Mary Alice Gallagher Smith*

*Linda Tyler*

*Dale Howard Cavalero*

*Dr. David I. Canavan*

*Laura Cuevas*

*Francis Mertz*

*David Cordes*

*Kathleen Morley Hanson*



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