



*Blessed Miriam Teresa
League of Prayer Bulletin*



Volume 81 No. 1

Convent Station, N.J.

May 2026



**Blessed Miriam Teresa Touches Lives
Around Our World.**



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

Sister Maureen Corcoran 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.

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POSTMASTER SEND all address changes
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Gratitude fills our hearts for all those who have faithfully given life and meaning to the Blessed Miriam Teresa League office since 1946. In this bulletin we are sharing the reflection given by Sister Noreen Neary at Sister Mary Canavan's funeral on September 9, 2005. It capsulizes in an unembellished beautiful manner who she was throughout her life – a simple, humble, loving Sister of Charity.

In the spirit of all who have served as the Director of the Blessed Miriam Teresa League Office we are expressing our awareness of how Blessed Miriam Teresa's story and message calling each of us to holiness have spread throughout our world and our country and give thanks to Linda Amitrano for keeping our records formulating a summary to share with you.

Visits from two academic institutions, one nearby and one a distance were awesome groups.

In September 2025 Cathedral Catholic in San Diego, California, under the leadership of Kevin J. Calkins, PhD flew in on a Wednesday night and left on Saturday morning. What a whirlwind! In reality, it was truly a collaborative event. Anthony Santa Maria at Saint Elizabeth University arranged for the high schoolers and their chaperones to reside in Saint Joseph Hall. Initially, they were going to visit St. Elizabeth Ann Seton's significant places in New York City on Thursday, but that day was September 11. They accomplished some of that walking tour and returned on Friday to visit Ground Zero. Many thanks to Mrs. Beth Azar, the principal of the Academy of Saint Elizabeth and a Seton Associate, for introducing Blessed Miriam Teresa to the group. They wrote some reflections and prayers that are included in this bulletin.

A few weeks ago Sister Geralyn Schmidt, SSC, from Assumption College in Denville, NJ, brought seven Sister students from Vietnam and Africa to visit Blessed Miriam Teresa's Shrine. They were in awe and savored every moment to listen to her story and prayed fervently to her.

May these reflections inspire you to come to know more about Blessed Miriam Teresa and consider visiting her shrine in Holy Family Chapel in our Motherhouse.

~ Sister Maureen Corcoran, SC

REFLECTION ON THE LIFE OF SISTER MARY CANAVAN, SC

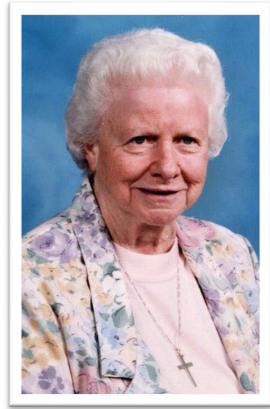
by Sister Noreen Neary, SC

It is an honor to reflect on the life of Sister Mary Canavan. I first met Mary in 1979, when I was a novice and she was the Assistant General Superior. She made a great impression on me; once she spoke with novices and posed the question, “What are you not just willing to die for; rather, what are you willing to live for?” Mary was blessed with a long life and extraordinarily good health – physical, mental and spiritual – so we know what she was willing to live for.

One of my fellow novices once said that Mary “set true and clear standards for us as Sisters of Charity.” Earlier this morning we heard Saint Paul describe to the church on Corinth the attributes of love and I’m sure many of us were nodding our heads, recognizing those qualities that Mary manifested in her life.

Mary brought a loving kindness, a steadfast loyalty and a calm attention to the needs of the people she met. She was able to reach the hearts of many because she understood our humanity, accepting it and sharing it.

Another attribute of Mary’s was her reverence for others, their experiences and their decisions. Last week I had dinner with a former Sister of Charity and told her that Mary was dying. This woman recalled that Mary was General Superior as she was grappling with her decision to leave the community. Some many years later my



friend thanked Mary for her kindness at the time and Mary’s response was, “Why wouldn’t I be kind?”

Mary took the responsibility of a quarter-century in elected leadership seriously, but her sense of humor enabled her to wear the mantle lightly. She liked to tell the story about the time she had gone to a parish to speak about our Congregation, its works, and its needs before a collection was taken for us. The pastor wasn’t there on Saturday evening, but he was present at the Sunday Masses. After the last Mass, Mary went up to thank him for his generosity and hospitality. He replied, “Thank you, Sister, for coming. But when you go home, tell your Mother Superior next time to send a sister wearing a veil.” Her reply? “Father, **I am** the Mother Superior.”

Sister Mary loved the Sisters of Charity and our mission. She completed her second term as General Superior a

few weeks after her 66th birthday and it would not be unreasonable to think that she might have retired. But, no, Sister Anne Virginie offered her the position of Vice President of Mission Services at the Hospital of Saint Raphael in New Haven, Connecticut and she accepted, serving ten years as Vice President and as a volunteer in the Children's Psychiatric Crisis Service.

Then it looked as if she might retire when she went to live with Sister Marilyn Thie in Hamilton, New York, where Marilyn was a Professor of Philosophy and Religion and Women's Studies at Colgate University. One might call it an active retirement, as Mary found ways to serve the People of God in upstate New York. Among her activities she volunteered at Heritage Farm, which served developmentally disabled adults, and the Georgetown Correctional Facility where she helped incarcerated people with their reading, writing and arithmetic skills.

When Marilyn was elected Assisted General Superior in 2011, she and Mary returned to life in New Jersey. Perhaps now she'd retire? No, she agreed to serve as Vice Postulator of the Cause of Sister Miriam Teresa and three years later our sister was beatified and now is known as Blessed Miriam Teresa. You can see some of the fruits of Mary's efforts – to my right are the beautiful shrine and the room where visitors can learn about Blessed Miriam Teresa's life and spirituality. Earlier I mentioned Mary's reverence for others. It was she who reached out to Bishop

Burnette, the Eparch of Passaic in the Ruthenian Greek Catholic Church, in recognition of Blessed Miriam Teresa's spiritual roots.

I've just scratched the surface of all that Mary did in her 78 years as a Sister of Charity. Know that she deeply loved her family and those of us who were blessed to be her friends. I won't mention names because I am sure that I would omit some.

In an interview some years ago Mary said that, upon completing the novitiate, she requested that she receive Sister Assumpta Mary as her religious name because there was a family tie to an earlier Sister Assumpta Mary. The Legendary Mother Benita agreed saying, "Now may our Lady of the Assumption come down and take you to heaven." Mary claimed that every year around the 15th of August, she prepared herself to meet her Maker. Well, the Blessed Mother was a few weeks late this year, but we know, Mary, that you were ready to go home to meet the God whom you loved and served so well. May your soul be at God's right hand!

PRAYERS FOR FAVORS

Wellbeing of family 5, Eye problems 1, Kidney transplant 1, Glaucoma 1, Cancer 6, Carpel tunnel 1, Birth of baby 1, Personal intentions 5, Healing 2, Parents 1, Youth of the world 1, God's loving power 3, Deceased brother 1, Miracle prayer request 3, Find employment 1, Stroke 1, Brain tumor 2, Multiple Myeloma 1, Marriage reconciliation 1

THE MAKING OF A SAINT IN OUR TIME

by Linda Amitrano, Seton Associate

Little did I know what I would encounter after being asked to be a support in the Blessed Miriam Teresa Office. I knew of her but did not really know her. So I began reading about her only to find out that even as a young child she had a great desire to live her life as a true child of God. She was here for a purpose. That certainly resonated with me.

I was soon bombarded with many requests for her relics, her writings, holy cards; whatever they could get about her. These requests have come from religious people, as well as so many lay people around the world. As to date thirty-one foreign countries as far away as Australia, Japan, many South American countries, the Philippines, many European countries and Israel just to name a few. I often wonder how they came to know about her. Her relics have been set up in reliquaries as well as religious home altars and in their churches.

People in twenty-one states have also requested her relics and writings. They are praying to her and for her canonization.

She truly lived her life devoted to God. It is ironic that although she was baptized in the Eastern Rite Church, she became a Sister of Charity in the Latin Rite Church. This is no coincidence. I believe that she was meant to bring the two rites together. She truly is a saint of our time.



Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich Prayer Requests (countries)

Brazil, Scotland, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam, Indonesia, Mexico, Canada, Poland, Philippines, Spain, Croatia, Portugal, Ireland, El Salvador, Haiti, Argentina, France, China, India, Australia, Slovakia, Italy, Venezuela, Israel, Peru, Czech Republic, Nicaragua, Canary Islands, New Zealand, Bolivia

Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich Prayer Requests (states)

South Carolina, Florida, Pennsylvania, New Mexico, Texas, Michigan, Delaware, Arizona, North Carolina, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, California, Oklahoma, Virginia, Wisconsin, Nebraska, Maryland, North Dakota, Connecticut, Hawaii

CATHEDRAL CATHOLIC'S SETON SCHOLARS VISIT

Reflections compiled by Sister Maureen Corcoran, SC

The Seton Scholars from Cathedral Catholic in San Diego, California reflected on their visit to our campus, especially their time spent in our Motherhouse Chapel and being introduced to Blessed Miriam Teresa. Dr. Beth Azar, principal of the Academy of Saint Elizabeth and a Seton Associate conducted the tour to the Shrine and Legacy Room. The students were given a Reflection Questionnaire, and their responses are collated in this article.

Many of the students recognized her pure devotion to Jesus and how her strength was found in her unwavering faith. Several of the group noted how her shrine was incredible; it was beautiful, joyful, peaceful and you felt the presence of God there. Praying to her at the shrine enabled the young people to see how God works in wonderful ways.

Blessed Miriam's holiness in everyday life touched the hearts of these young people; several of them recognized the gift that it is theirs to start living a faith-filled life now. Each one of us can allow the Holy Spirit to shine at any moment in time. Several of them stated that hardships, difficulties or setbacks didn't make her turn away from God but rather it made her turn toward him.

So much of what our visitors heard and experienced connected

with the four core values of Cathedral Catholic: faith, knowledge, responsibility and character. This echoed over and over again in their responses. Several of our visitors desire to remember that Blessed Miriam Teresa's life showed that holiness can be ours through everyday responsibilities and challenges, making the little things count.

Some prayers they formulated following the visit are:

Blessed Miriam Teresa, you were a woman of deep faith, a persistent prayer warrior and wanted to serve others even when it was difficult for you. Help me to model these amazing qualities in my own life and use my gifts for God's glory just as you did. Amen.

Blessed Miriam, thank you for your example. Your life leads us to understand the depths of faith we can have. We ask for guidance. Amen.

Blessed Miriam, guide those who are blind to kindness and faith. Help them to see life as you did and be selfless in your name. We pray. Amen.

Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich, please help me lead a life of prayer, charity and humble service. Help me to love like you did, even in the face of adversities. Help me to grow in wisdom and to see the beauty in which God has entrusted to

us as stewards. May we ever rejoice in Christ's love and may we love our neighbor as ourselves. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

God, please instill the qualities of Blessed Miriam upon your sisters and brothers who are struggling and succeeding. May your presence in our world promote peace and love. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Blessed Miriam Teresa, bless me to serve God in faith and persevere when I feel helpless. I pray for your intercession on my Scholar service project this year. Help me to impact the world as you did, spreading the light of Christ in my daily life. I pray for all this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Lord, help us to live by the example of Blessed Miriam Teresa and use her story to guide us to your glory. Remind us of the feelings, sights and stories we experienced at her shrine. We do everything for your love and in your glory. In Jesus's name. Amen.

Lord, thank you for giving us Blessed Miriam Teresa. May we follow her example toward holiness, being patient, kind and considerate. May we be lights in this world to everyone we encounter, we pray. Amen.

Together may all of us share Blessed Miriam Teresa's holy and saintly qualities to live out our call to holiness and build God's Kingdom.

Blessed Miriam Teresa, pray for us!

LETTERS FROM OUR VISITORS

I cannot remember when I first read about Sister Miriam but after reading about her life I knew she would be a heavenly helper...helping me to receive some of God's graces. I was also drawn to her because of her Eastern Rite background...which has always fascinated me.

I was also elated that my Indian friends were enthusiastic about a trip to Convent Station. I was looking forward to that for so long and was overjoyed to be able to visit you this summer.

Sisters, you were so welcoming and gracious despite the heat of the summer. It was a dream come true to be able to go into your lovely Convent Chapel and pray at Sister's tomb. Something I always wanted to do. Then a visit to the historical room which was a wonderful way to view the events of the sisters. My Indian friend was as joyful as I was about the day.

Thank you again for taking so much time with us. It was a high point of the summer.

John Termine

STUDENT SISTERS FROM ASSUMPTION COLLEGE VISITED BLESSED MIRIAM TERESA'S SHRINE

by Sister GERALYN SCHMIDT, SSC

On March 18, the first-year students from Assumption College for Sisters visited the heritage room of Blessed Miriam at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity. This field trip was a part of the curriculum of Foundations of Catholicism class. There were seven Sister students that visited Blessed Miriam's shrine as well as the heritage room. These Sisters were members of the Dominican Sisters from Vietnam, Sister Missionaries of Immaculate Conception from Namibia, and two different Benedictine Communities from Tanzania.

As a follow up assignment, I, Sister GERALYN SCHMIDT, SSC asked the Sister-students to write what they learned from their visit to Blessed Miriam's shrine and heritage room. These are their reflections:

- Sr. Miriam was a passionate student and artist. She was a resilient person as she confronted challenges in her life. She also had a close relationship with God.
- When our love for God is big, one could give to everyone unconditionally. This is what Blessed Miriam did in her lifetime.
- While in the novitiate, Blessed Miriam painted a watercolor picture of three violets. This, for her, was a symbol of the Trinity that



*Back Row: Sister Maureen Corcoran, SC, Sister Elizabeth Kulwa, OSB-OLHC, Sister Getrudis Tula, OSB-OLCH, Sister Teresa Phuong Doan, OP,
Front Row: Sister Grace Mbawala, OSB, Sister Teresa Trang Nguyen, OP, Sister GERALYN SCHMIDT, SCC, Sister Maria Thuy Do, OP, Sister Mary Teresia Eita, SMIC*

she was devoted to during her life. I was impressed with her words, "My mission in life is to teach all people of the word of Jesus." I think that this is our mission.

- Blessed Miriam is a model of hope, faith and divine purpose, always seeking a deep personal relationship with God. She experienced that true hope comes not from worldly success but from experiencing God's presence and living it daily.
- During her sickness in the hospital, Blessed Miriam loved to hold a crucifix. The nurses took it away from her several times, but somehow,

they found it back in her hands without her ever leaving her bed. God must have loved her so much!

- Blessed Miriam was beautiful! You could see joy coming from her smile.
- It was nice to know that a local girl could be so blessed by God to become a Blessed of the Church!



PRAYERS FOR DECEASED



SISTER JEAN MARIE STABILE, SC
SISTER MAUREEN MALONE, SC
SISTER LAWRENCE MAHON, SC
SISTER EMILY MARIE WALSH, SC
SISTER JANE FRANCIS BRADY, SC
SISTER MAEVE McDERMOTT, SC
SISTER JOANN BROMLEY, SC
SISTER KATHLEEN QUIGLEY, SC
SISTER BERNADETTE CONNOR, OP
ROBERT AGANS
NANCY RABKL
FRANTZ FLEURY
ANDREW CANAVAN
DEBRA JANE PERRY
MARGARET M. (PEGGY) EGGERS
NANCY LALEVEE
LORENA TYSON
BARRY GNECCO
JIM GNECCO
THOMAS McNAMARA
JOAN C. O'SHEA
ANTHONY (TONY) PECCI
ALEX SARABANDO
SUE M. THOMAS
DR. MARY T. MAZZARELLA-DeMAIO
LANCE CASSAK
Gov. RICHARD J. CODEY
LISA PRZYBYLSKI
WALTER WILLIAMS
DOROTHY ANN RILEY
TERESA DINEEN
EILEEN SPECCHIO
MARJORIE BLOMBERG
JAMES WISS
MAUREEN T. WARD
SR. MAUREEN McCANN, RSM
DAVID HALLER
BABY DOMINIC JOSEPH FIERRO

Living into Possibility

*Learning from
Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich*

**May 16th, 2026
9:30 am to 2:00 pm**

**Held in the Caritas Center
at the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth Convent.**

Sponsored by The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, The Blessed Miriam Teresa Prayer League, and the Ongoing Formation Committee.
Led by Dr. Kimberly Borin, SA

*Please join us for a nourishing day
of peace and possibility!*

Free Will Donation

Please RSVP by May 11th, 2026 to:
Sr. Joan Repka, SC at: jrepka@scnj.org



SISTERS OF CHARITY OF SAINT ELIZABETH

BLESSED Miriam Teresa League of Prayer

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