

Blessed Miriam Teresa League of Prayer Bulletin



Volume 80 No. 3

Convent Station, N.J.

December 2025



Exploring the Places of
Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich's Life



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, 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.
The current cost is fifteen dollars a year.

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As you reflect on Blessed Miriam Teresa's journey of life on the grounds of the Sisters of Charity Motherhouse as a college girl and a young woman in religious formation you are offered a beautiful way to come to know her as she lived on these peaceful grounds. This bulletin invites you to walk in her footsteps in varied ways. The places urge you to reflect on her experience as she encountered the beauty of living here ... this holy foundation.

The Train Station, the arrival point to our campus, brought Blessed Miriam Teresa from her native Bayonne to Convent Station during her college years and was the starting point as she entered the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth. Santa Rita Hall was her home away from home during her college days; now it is the Administration Building for the University.

The Motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity is where she entered the Sisters of Charity and lived as a postulant and novice. As a novice she was given permission to prepare conferences for those in her "band" ... a term the sisters use to identify the sisters they entered with. Her single ministerial assignment was at the Academy of Saint Elizabeth. During her 5+ years on these hallowed grounds Blessed Miriam spent many hours in our Holy Family Chapel at Mass, in meditation, praying the Stations of the Cross and conversing with our God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Following her beatification her remains were placed in a simple crypt in our chapel and her life and spirituality come alive on a wall in an adjacent room, the Legacy Room.

A path leads you through Nazareth Park, a place she frequented as she walked the Stations of the Cross. Lastly you can visit Holy Family Cemetery and visit her original burial place.

We invite and encourage you to visit these sacred grounds and walk where Blessed Miriam Teresa walked. Perhaps you may choose to make several visits to follow her footsteps and if you are at a distance Blessed Miriam Teresa invites you to take time for reflection...one step at a time.

~ Sister Maureen Corcoran, SC

Contemplate: Be Present to God Who Dwells in You

by Fr. Ryan Dela Pena.

Contemplation is simple. It has just been made to seem complicated. Think of the parents of a newborn baby, the first night the child is brought home and placed in the crib, the exhausted parents delightfully gaze at their daughter or son in awe, amazement and wonder... in love! That is contemplation.

Blessed Miriam Teresa was a contemplative. Before entering the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, she had a desire to enter a Carmelite Cloister and live a deeply contemplative life. God had other plans however, as her poor eyesight prevented her from entering Carmel. Blessed Miriam Teresa, through her own life and her anonymous conferences, proves to us that contemplation is not limited to behind the cloister wall.

The contemplative is one who is exceptionally aware that they possess God already. *I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine.* In *Greater Perfection*, Blessed Miriam Teresa reminds us of the precious gift that each of us already possesses: God! She states: "I have God living in me constantly... I carry heaven around with me and act as though I knew it not." The latter statement of hers rings true for many of us who, outside the cloister, are constantly busy, worried, occupied, tired and bored. We often think we don't have

the time or the energy to contemplate, to relish and to look at, with love and delight, God and the things of God.

This contemplative walk, through places made sacred by the presence and charity of selfless women, the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, among them, Blessed Miriam Teresa, is an invitation for us all to slow down and be still. Blessed Miriam Teresa teaches us that: "To seek God, I need only to fix my interior gaze on the Real Presence of the Divinity in my soul. And to fix my interior gaze on Him means simply to apply my mind with earnestness of effort to the consideration of His goodness."

Dear Pilgrim, walk this Holy Ground, with *earnestness of effort*... Turn off your cell phone, cast aside your problems, and throw away your worry! Replace these with an awareness of God's love for you. Consciously, immerse yourself in the beauty of creation, see the colors, listen to the birds, feel the wind, breathe in the fresh air. Soak in the stillness of the chapel where thousands of sisters have harnessed power for their boundless charity. Find in Blessed Miriam Teresa, a companion and friend for your journey. But most importantly: Contemplate: Be present to God who dwells in You.

Exploring the Places of Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich's Life

A Contemplative Prayer Walk near and on the grounds of the
Motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth
Convent Station, New Jersey

On this contemplative prayer walk, you can explore the places that Blessed Miriam Teresa lived during her time with the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth as a College student and a Sister. Included in this little self-guided tour are quotes from her writings as well as ideas for creating your own contemplative prayer walk. There are many places that Blessed Miriam Teresa walked and these are just a few.

Within each stop, you will find the location with information, a quote by Blessed Miriam Teresa, suggestions for a contemplative moment, and finally a picture of the building associated with the location. We offer this in the hopes that you might find the peace she experienced as you walk on this prayer journey.

1st Stop on the Journey

Location: Convent Station Train Station - Blessed Miriam Teresa took the train to and from Convent Station, as a College Student and to visit her family in Bayonne, NJ. This is also where she would first arrive to enter the Sisters of Charity at Convent Station.

Quote: "Faith is our unconditional belief in the veracity of God."

- *Greater Perfection*, p. 53.

Contemplative Prayer Moment:

Take time for Silence. Pause and listen.



Convent Station Train Station

2nd Stop on the Journey

Location: **Santa Rita Hall, Saint Elizabeth University** - Santa Rita Hall, previously, the College of Saint Elizabeth, is where Teresa lived as a college student. In the sky outside her dormitory room the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to Teresa.

Quote: “He has a human heart that dilates with a human love; a human understanding divinely responsive to our every least mood and thought and desire. And He is God.” – Greater Perfection, p. 110.

Contemplative Prayer Moment:

Take time to reflect on all that you have seen and the miracles of vision within your own life. Be present to a sense of gratitude for all that you have.



Santa Rita Hall, Saint Elizabeth University

3rd Stop on the Journey

Location: Motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth - On February 11, 1925, Teresa left home to enter the novitiate of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth. On May 17, 1925, she received the habit of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth. She was given the name Sister Miriam Teresa in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Teresa of Avila. In 1946, the Sister Miriam Teresa League of Prayer was initiated by Reverend Mother Mary Benita Kane to promote the Cause for Canonization for Sister Miriam Teresa. Over time, the members of the League have numbered in the thousands. The Office for the Cause of Blessed Miriam Teresa is located in the Sisters of Charity Administration Building where communications and information are distributed. The Cause for the canonization continues to progress under the guidance of the Dicastery for the Cause of the Saints.

Quotes: "We in all our meetings, no matter where or with whom or at what time, if we would glorify Him as it is our business to do, must always in all things in every place, "go and search for Him."

– *Greater Perfection*, p. 243

"God looks to the love of the giver, the love that is in our hearts."

Greater Perfection, p. 69.

Contemplative Prayer Moment:

Take time as you walk to ask God for what you need today.

Trust that you are heard and that you are loved.

Take time to rest in the peace of knowing that God is with you.



Motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth

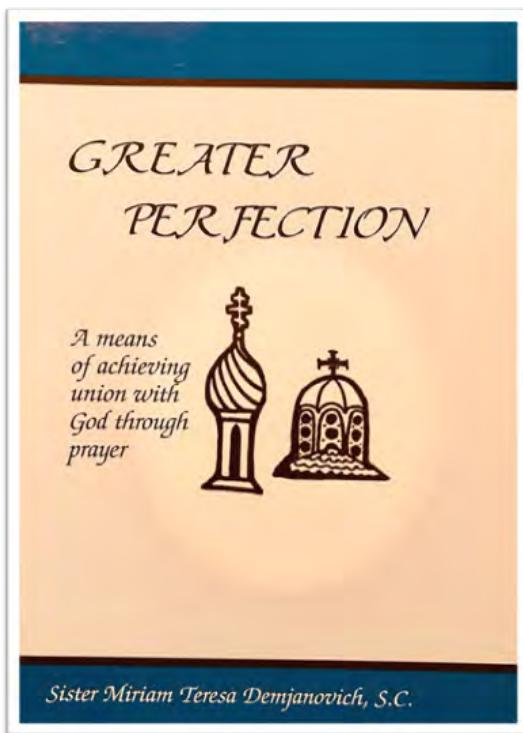
4th Stop on the Journey

Location: Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth Convent - Mother Mary Alexandrine Jackson, Mother General of the Sisters of Charity, gave permission for Sister Miriam Teresa to write the conferences given to the novices. These conferences were collected later into the Volume, Greater Perfection.

Quote: "God renders everything as easy as possible in order to draw us to Himself." - Letter to Alice Pratt. Life, p. 104.

Contemplative Prayer Moment:

Take time to notice your breath. Give yourself permission to relax and focus on simple breathing while you walk.
Trust in your ability to create something new.



***Greater Perfection* by Sister Miriam Teresa Demjanovich, SC**

5th Stop on the Journey

Location: The Academy of Saint Elizabeth - This is the place where Blessed Miriam Teresa served as a teacher for students at the Academy.

Quote: "Christ has but one desire, one aim, in singling out, in drawing us apart: that He be the secret Treasure of our heart; that we find and always seek to find in Him our sole delight, as He finds His in us."

Greater Perfection, p. 294.

Contemplative Prayer Moment:

Take time to relax and trust in the Presence of God.
Reflect on all that you have learned.



The Academy of Saint Elizabeth

6th Stop on the Journey

Location: Holy Family Chapel – This is the sacred space where Teresa prayed and worshiped during her years as a College student, a Postulant and Novice. A prayer service was conducted by Reverend Herbert Tillyer before placing the remains of Sister Miriam Teresa in the new crypt in the left transept of Holy Family Chapel at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth. James R. Prisco, Sr. constructed the new crypt and sealed it after her remains were placed within. They remained untouched until July 1, 2016, when they were moved to the new shrine. The curing of Michael Mencer's Macular Degeneration was the miracle that was the proof required for Sister Miriam Teresa to be declared Blessed by Pope Francis on December 17th, 2013. This was publicly proclaimed at the Beatification Ceremony held at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark, NJ, on October 4, 2014.

Quotes: "If people only sought God in all earnestness they would find Him." - Letter to her Director, Aug. 19, 1926. *Life*, p. 157.

"All you have to do to become a saint is to ask God to make you one."
- *Life*, p. 175.

Contemplative Prayer Moment:

Take a moment to pause with mindful awareness and pray. See what words come to you. Use this contemplative walking journey and exploration of the life of Blessed Miriam Teresa to be a Lectio Divina to see what words, phrases, or moments of her life speak to you and inspire you.



Holy Family Chapel

7th Stop on the Journey

Location: Shrine for Blessed Miriam Teresa at Holy Family Chapel - On July 1, 2016, under the supervision of Bishop Arthur Serratelli, the remains of Blessed Miriam Teresa were moved from the crypt in which they have been placed in 1979 to a new shrine built in the chapel proper. Sister Rosemary Moynihan, SC, General Superior, and Sister Marilyn Thie, SC, Assistant General Superior transferred her remains to the new reliquary. The shrine is visited by hundreds of people each year. In 2018, an adjacent room was dedicated to showcase the life and spirituality of Blessed Miriam Teresa, SC.

Quote: "If anyone loves Me he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him" (John 24:23). And He says this more than once. "We will make Our abode with him," that is, dwell in him, live in him continually, become the very life of his life and the sole and principal source of all his activity.

What a promise!" - *Greater Perfection*, p. 199.

Contemplative Prayer Moment:

Use the walk as a Visio Divina for nature. As you are walking what elements of nature speak to and inspire you? Let a connection with the natural world nourish your mind, body, and spirit.



Shrine for Blessed Miriam Teresa at Holy Family Chapel

8th Stop on the Journey

Location: Nazareth Park - On this trail in the woods, Blessed Miriam Teresa took a walk with Thérèse of Lisieux, The Little Flower. Her vision of the Saint and the trail are commemorated by a marker on the lined trail.

Quote: “Union with God is the spiritual height God calls everyone to achieve “any one,” not only religious but “any one” who chooses, who wills to seek this pearl of great price, who specializes in the traffic of eternal goods, who says “yes” constantly to God the Holy Ghost.” - *Greater Perfection*, p. 264.

Contemplative Prayer Moment:

Take time to remember that you have been blessed with many gifts that can be a blessing to those around you.



Nazareth Park

9th Stop on the Journey

Location: Holy Family Cemetery at the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth - At the tombstone of Sister Miriam Teresa devotees chipped away at the gravestone to have a keepsake. The first stone had been chipped away and is now located in the history and heritage room for Blessed Miriam Teresa located in the Holy Family Chapel. The second gravestone had to be removed as well and now resides in the archives. On May 8, 1979, Anna McLaughlin, sister of Sister Miriam Teresa, attended the exhumation of Sister Miriam Teresa's remains for their transfer to the new crypt. She was escorted by Sister Hildegard Marie Mahoney, SC, then General Superior, and Sister Mary Ann Tierney, SC, then General Treasurer of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth. Doctors Paul-Steinlauf and Stanley Sibonis, Pathologists from Saint Joseph Hospital, Paterson, NJ examined and placed the remains of Sister Miriam Teresa in anatomical position in her coffin. A plaque has been placed in the cemetery in Section B, Row K, #26.

Quote: "In striving to perfect myself in one virtue, I correspondingly strengthen all the others, for the soul is a simple substance, and whatever food is given it, invigorates the entire spiritual being."

Greater Perfection, p. 55.

Contemplative Prayer Moment:

Take time today to reflect on the life of Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich and all that she inspires.



Holy Family Cemetery on the Saint Elizabeth University Campus

For More Information:

- Campus Map for Saint Elizabeth University which contains many of the locations on the walk can be found here: <https://www.steu.edu/files/campus-map-071620.pdf>
- Information on the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth: <https://www.scnj.org>
- Information on Saint Elizabeth University: <https://www.steu.edu/index.html>
- Information on Holy Family Chapel: <https://www.scnj.org/copy-of-holy-family-chapel>
- Information on Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich: <https://www.scnj.org/copy-of-blessed-miriam-teresa>
- Share Your Story with the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth: <https://www.scnj.org/tell-us-your-story>
- Information about the Academy of Saint Elizabeth: <https://www.aosenj.org/>

Contact Information for the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth:

Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth | P.O. BOX 476 | Convent Station, NJ 07961-0476 | 973-290-5000 | escharity@scnj.org | <https://www.scnj.org>

This Contemplative Prayer walk was created for the Blessed Miriam Teresa Prayer League by Kimberly Ann Borin, Ed.D., Seton Associate, to highlight the life of Blessed Miriam Teresa and to Celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Beatification of Blessed Miriam Teresa. This anniversary also took place during 2025, the 165th Anniversary Year of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth.





LOVE LARGE

“GOD, MY
WONDERFUL
GOD, IF PEOPLE
ONLY REALIZED
THE INFINITE
POSSIBILITIES
THEY POSSESS IN
POSSESSING YOU.”

Sister Miriam Teresa, SC

Watercolor of Three Violets, symbol of the Trinity, by Sister Miriam Teresa.

Venerating the Relics of Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich

(adapted from Pasquale De Davide's recollection)

On a beautiful winter day, I found myself in Convent Station, New Jersey on the picturesque campus of St. Elizabeth University. Home to the Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth, the campus boasts the beautiful Holy Family Chapel, which was dedicated in 1909.

That day, the Chapel being open, I decided to enter and say our obligatory prayers. A serene, peaceful setting, Holy Family Chapel was the perfect place to pray in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

After my prayers and contemplation, I was greeted by Sister Regina Bernard, who graciously asked if I would like to see the relics of Blessed Miriam Teresa. I happily and excitedly agreed.

Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich was born on March 26, 1901, in Bayonne, New Jersey to Ruthenian immigrant parents, the youngest of seven children. She was raised in the Ruthenian Greek Catholic Rite. After her mother's death in 1918, she studied at then-named College of St. Elizabeth. It was at the College of St. Elizabeth's St. Rita Hall where as a student, Miriam Teresa went on to graduate from the College of St. Elizabeth in 1923 with the highest honors. Shortly after, Miriam Teresa accepted her first teaching position.

Miriam Teresa had been discerning entering a religious order, and finally joined the Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth, receiving the habit in 1925. As a postulant and then a

novice, she taught at the Academy of St. Elizabeth, still located on the Convent Station campus. Sister Miriam Teresa was known for her piety and devotion to the Holy Rosary. Much of her time when she wasn't working would be dedicated to prayer. Sister Miriam Teresa also wrote twenty-six conferences for the novitiate at the request of her spiritual advisor which are now compiled in the book titled Greater Perfection.

Unfortunately, in 1926 Sister Miriam Teresa's health began to decline precipitously. Sister Miriam made her vows in *periculo mortis* I April 1927. She died on May 8, 1927. Her funeral was held in Holy Family Chapel, and she was buried in Holy Family Cemetery on the grounds of the Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth Motherhouse.

In 2012, Sister Miriam Teresa was declared venerable by Pope Benedict XVI and was beatified in 2014 at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark, New Jersey, the first time a beatification was ever held in the United States.

In 2016, the remains of Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich were transferred from the crypt to a new shrine in Holy Family Chapel.

We still await and pray fervently for her canonization.

Jubilee Year of Hope

Throughout 2025 we have been celebrating the 2,025-year anniversary of the Incarnation of Jesus Christ. In less than a month, on January 6, 2026—the feast of the Solemnity of the Epiphany—the Jubilee Year will officially conclude with the closing of the Holy Door at St. Peter’s Basilica. We encourage you to pray the Jubilee Prayer as we bring this holy time to completion.

Prayer for Jubilee Year

Father in heaven,
may the **faith** You have given us
in Your Son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of **charity** enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of Your Kingdom.
May Your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators
of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within
both humanity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
When, with the powers of the Evil vanquished,
Your glory will shine eternally.
May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, ***Pilgrims of Hope***,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.
May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.
To You our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.
Amen

PRAYERS FOR DECEASED



SISTER BEVERLY BLIGH, SC
SISTER MARY CANAVAN, SC
SISTER JUNE FAVATA, SC
ROBERT (BOBBY)MCGRATH
MARY JANE WALDRON
CHRISTINE M. MAILAHN
BEATRIZ ESTEBAN MESSINA
ROBERT FARRELL
PETER TOSCANO
PATRICIA MORRIS
JEAN O'NEILL ROBERTSON
PATRICIA VERDON
CATHERINE AIRES CASSELS
HENRIETTA FUNIAKOVA
SANDILLO FICO
COLLEEN COLDON
EILEEN M. AMORUSO, RN
HOWARD SMULLEN
PODIANNY FLEURY
FRANTZCISA FLEURY
COURTNEY SANCHELLI
KIMBERLY (RAMOS) CASTELLI



PRAYERS FOR FAVORS

Serious home problems -1, For the Sisters of Charity -1, For Joseph Daxet Family and friends -1, Cancer -3, Serious health issues -2, Blindness -2, Diabetes -1, Depression 2-, Special Intentions – 6, In Thanksgiving for favor answered -2, Vocations -1, Health – 6, Loss of a dear friend -1, Family and Friends -3, Protection of immigrants -1, For a cure -3, Peace of Heart -1, Eye problems -1, Care for each other, -1, Family -12, Repentance and conversion -1

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