

The Parish Visitor



The Parish Visitor

Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate
Contemplative—Missionaries
Door-to-Door & Catechists

In the pages of this issue of The Parish Visitor you will find St. Joseph prominently featured. From December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021 Pope Francis has designated a “Year of St. Joseph.” We Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate honor him as our “Patron and Protector” so it was a joy to give him special recognition this past year.

On August 14, 2021 we marked the close of our Centenary Year. Founded on August 15, 1920 by Servant of God Mother Mary Teresa Tallon, the Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate are now serving the Church on three continents. You will find some highlights of this milestone in this issue.

We also want to pay special tribute to George Morton, who retired as Editor of this publication after nearly thirty years. He took it into the 21st century using computer skills and full-color. We owe him a debt of gratitude that will only be able to be repaid in eternity.

Cover photo: Holy Family Window Sacred Heart Church Monroe, NY
Photo by PV Associate Pam McAssey

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*Saint Joseph,
Pillar of Families
and Glory of
Home Life,
pray for us!*



By Mother Maria Catherine, P.V.M.I.

What a gift Pope Francis has given us in declaring the year, December 8, 2020 – December 8, 2021: “The Year of Saint Joseph”! In addition, on March 19, 2021 the Pope inaugurated the Year of the Family, celebrating the 5th anniversary of the publication of *Amoris Laetitia*.

For Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate, this double celebration is a special joy: Saint Joseph is our “Patron and Protector” and our missionary apostolate is to “restore family life,” as we pray in our “Prayer for the Extension of the Charism of Servant of God, Mother Mary Teresa Tallon.”

This past year we have had a wonderful example of Saint Joseph’s protection, as well as a profound experience of the Church as “The family of God”. I would like to share that experience with all of you.

The Monday after Thanksgiving, 2020, three of us at the Motherhouse came down with cold-like symptoms. Thinking we had bad colds we tried to take care of ourselves. Then we got word that someone who had come to our convent-home on Thanksgiving Day had been in contact with a person with COVID! You know what we did! All three of us got tested – and were “positive for COVID”! So, we immediately quarantined.

One by one our infirm and retired Sisters began to have symptoms, as well. Our town supervisor was able to procure home testing kits for us: 18 Sisters tested positive, 4 negative! Everyone in the infirmary – 70-, 80-, and 90-year-old Sisters were among

the positives – and one Sister turned 100 during her quarantine! Four Sisters were hospitalized, but we had no one pass away!

At the beginning of our quarantine, one young Sister from the Bronx convent came to assist the 4 Sisters who didn't have Covid here at Marycrest. These Sisters were amazing: from morning to evening they served with generous and joyful hearts. At first, our nurses' aides and diet aides were all at their stations. One by one, however, they also tested positive and could not come to work. Our Sisters from Philadelphia were called upon to come to our aid – and they, also, served with generous and joyful hearts!

Our dear friend, Father Fred Miller phoned each day to check up on us; Bishop Gerardo Colacicco, Episcopal Vicar of the Archdiocese's Northern Counties, phoned every other day – and even Cardinal Dolan called expressing his concern and his assistance if we needed his help in any way!

Our neighbor, Lorraine, kept us supplied with groceries and many other necessities; family members of our Sisters sent us dinners in case we weren't able to do any cooking; Rob Jeroloman, our town supervisor, kept us supplied with masks and sanitizer, and was able to give us the home testing COVID kits which helped us discover that we all had the virus! The priests who usually celebrate Mass at our Motherhouse prayed for us and offered Masses for us, and anyone who knew of our plight prayed for us, too.

Finally, even our night aides could no longer come in! Now, I needed the Cardinal's help and he arranged for Archcare (an Archdiocesan health service for the elderly) to do everything in its power to find night nurses' aides to help us.

However, since it was so close to Christmas, and Archcare is not in Orange County, it was not possible for them to come to our aid –though they tried very hard to do so!

When Christmas Eve arrived, we did not have our usual Midnight Mass, followed by refreshments with our friends and neighbors. However, on Christmas Day the Sisters were released from their quarantine and Bishop Colacicco celebrated Christmas Day Mass for us! What a blessing!

At around 3:00 p.m. on Christmas Day, when we have our usual “visit from Santa” Mother Agnes, Superior of the Sisters of Life, phoned to wish us a Blessed Christmas. Knowing of our plight Mother asked if there was anything that she could do to help us. I quickly replied: “Yes, would you be able to have Sisters who could be our night aides?” Without a minute’s hesitation, Mother Agnes said: “Certainly. Give me a day to organize and I will send you four Sisters.”

The very next day three Sisters of Life came to Marycrest to serve as our night nurses and the following week the 4th Sister joined them. Every night for 2 weeks the Sisters were on duty in the Infirmary, caring for our Sisters so lovingly and joyfully! What a gift they were!!!!



Two of the Sisters of Life who covered the night shift in our infirmary.

From Thanksgiving to Christmas our Community experienced God's tender love and miracles abounded! The first miracle: not one Sister passed away!

Our Sister who turned 100 years old during quarantine was very sick for 2 days, and one of the Sisters who was taking care of her was worrying that she might die.

During one day, Sister was holding a conversation with someone in her room. When asked who she was talking to, Sister replied: "The young doctor standing there. Don't you see him?" Of course, the other Sister saw no one. But Sister continued her conversation with the young doctor. Sister said: "He has been taking good care of me." The following day, you can guess what happened: Sister was asking for food and was able to stand up and looked like her old self! Was the Divine Physician caring for His loved one?

Another miracle was that the "negative" Sisters continued throughout the month to serve with generous hearts and beautiful smiles and not one of them became sick during that time nor did the Sisters of Life who came to help us!

The prayers and Masses offered by all of our friends in Christ saw us through our own pandemic at Marycrest! We witnessed, first-hand, the power of the unity we share in the Body of Christ. Truly, we are the "Family of God" – all of us together joined for the purpose of supporting one another for the glory of God and the salvation of souls.

Words could never express the gratitude in our hearts for each person who came to our aid during that month! Truly, God's love was manifested in each prayer and each loving deed performed in His Name! On our part, we continue to praise and thank Him for each person and to ask Saint Joseph to "intercede for you and your intentions to God".

Saint Joseph, our patron and protector, intercede for us with God!

St. Joseph

By Servant of God Mary Teresa Tallon

(Mother Foundress explains how Saint Joseph is truly the greatest "Servant of God" after the Blessed Mother of God.)

"Joseph, rising up, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him."

Antiphon at the Magnificat:
First Vespers of Saint Joseph

The Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate have for one of their leading patrons Saint Joseph, because this saint is a model of the Religious Life and also the patron of family life, and the Parish Visitors are especially devoted to the religious ideal and to their construction of broken-down families.



Ask Saint Joseph to keep you true, and to gain for you a share in the noble virtues that made him so reliable under every circumstance.



As Patron of the Universal Church, it is Saint Joseph's duty to bring everyone in the world safe to God. Therefore, he will help us, because this purpose is also ours—that each and all may be saved. *Conferences on Special Occasions*

The Gift of the Priesthood

“The world looks to the priest, because it looks to Jesus! No one can see Christ; but everyone sees the priest, and through him they wish to catch a glimpse of the Lord! Immense is the grandeur of the Lord! Immense is the grandeur and dignity of the priest!” (Pope Saint John Paul II)

On April 20, 2021, following a year of lockdown, and the possibility of longer months without the ability to have their parishioners in the Churches, the priests who serve us were invited to share an afternoon of fraternal relaxation at our Marycrest Motherhouse in Monroe, NY.

The day began with a Eucharistic Holy Hour and Benediction, with a homily given by Bishop Gerardo Colacicco. Following the Holy Hour, the priests were able to have



some refreshments, to relax, share conversation among themselves, and walk about on our beautiful grounds – just to give them some time to refresh their spirits.

We are so proud of our priests! They have outdone themselves in generosity during this pandemic: spending themselves in creatively ministering to their parishioners, making certain that we were able to receive Holy Communion even if they were not able to celebrate Mass for us, and praying unceasingly for all of us and the end to the pandemic!

It was because we believed they needed some “refreshment and relaxation” that we opened our home to them.

Following Evening Prayer and Rosary in common with the Sisters, the priests joined us for dinner. It was such a beautiful occasion for all of us, joined together as brothers and sisters in Christ!

After dinner, the Sisters sang some songs and shared their “thank-you” to the priests.



Because the Holy Father designated this year as The Year of Saint Joseph, each priest received a holy card of Saint Joseph with a booklet of quotes by Servant of God, Mother Mary Teresa on Saint Joseph. We even had 2 “door prizes” won by Father Reynor Santiago from St. Stephen’s Church in Warwick, NY, and Father Kevin Hanlon, M.M., provincial Superior of the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers in Ossining, NY.

Mother Maria Catherine spoke to the priests:

“Dear Bishop and Fathers,

We are so grateful that you have joined us today. This is our little way of letting each of you know what a gift you are to us – to the Church. Mother Mary Teresa’s vision was that her Sisters would be the right hand of the parish priest; the bridge between the priest and his people. She instilled in us and continues to instill in us a reverence for the priesthood and the person of the priest.

We know the sacrifices your life and ministry entail. Be assured of our continuous prayers for you and support for all you are doing to bring souls to Christ and His Church.

We are grateful for the spiritual care you take of us: offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, hearing our Confession, anointing our sick, your homilies that call us to a deeper living of our consecrated lives so that we be the saints God has called us to be.

It is often at a great sacrifice that you come to minister to us – our gratitude is in our prayerful support and the offering of our home for you to come away awhile and rest. We hope that Marycrest can be for each of you a “Bethany” when you need a place for a bit of R and R!”



Left to right: Father David Rider, Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Monroe, NY; Father Kevin Hanlon, M.M., Provincial Superior, Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, Ossining, NY; Bishop Gerardo Colacicco, DD, Episcopal Vicar for Orange County; Father Reynor Santiago, Parochial Vicar at St. Stephen's in Warwick, NY; Father William Damroth, Pastor of St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish in Newburgh, NY; with Mother Maria Catherine.

Thank you, Fathers, for allowing us to see Jesus through each of you! God bless you and be assured of our daily prayers!

— Your Parish Visitor Sisters —



O God, who in your inexpressible providence
were pleased to choose Saint Joseph
as spouse of the most holy Mother of your Son,
grant, we pray,
that we, who revere him as our protector on earth,
may we be worthy of his heavenly intercession.
Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Collect from the Votive Mass of Saint Joseph

*Our chaplains are willing to offer
the Votive Mass of St. Joseph on Wednesdays
when there is no other saint to be commemorated.*



Perpetual Vows, Nigeria



Sister Mary Anthonia professed perpetual vows on January 25, 2021 in Nigeria. Her joy in being a new Bride of Christ is evident in her radiant smile.

We join with our Sisters in Nigeria as we say:

*Sister, we joyfully
receive you as our
Sister forever!*



Our Sisters and her family celebrated the event with great joy.

Perpetual Vows, USA

On June 24, 2021, Sister Mary Imelda Labordo and Sister Jhoan Marie Taburada professed their Perpetual Vows as Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate. Both Sisters hail from the Philippines. Due to the coronavirus, with travel restricted, the event took place at Marycrest. It was live-streamed so their families back home were able to see the ceremony.



Sister Jhoan Marie pronounces her vows which were accepted by Mother Maria Catherine. Looking on at the left is Sister Maria Arlene, local superior in the Philippines, and Father Tom Byrnes who was the homilist.

Mother Maria Catherine places a crown on the heads of the newly professed as Father David Rider, principal celebrant looks on.





They sign their vows on the altar of sacrifice



Sister Jhoan Marie and Sister Mary Imelda

*Sisters, we joyfully receive
you as our Sisters forever!*

2021 Jubilees

On July 2, 2021, the community rejoiced with Sister Carole Marie as she celebrated her 60th anniversary of entrance into the Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate. Most Rev. Gerardo Colacicco was the principal celebrant of the Eucharistic Liturgy. Father David Rider, and Father Joseph Clemente were concelebrants. Michael Coleman, a seminarian served.



Fr. David Rider, Sr. Carole Marie, Bishop Colacicco, Fr. Joseph Clemente, Mother Maria Catherine, Michael Coleman, Sr. Margery Therese





Richard Troskowski, Pam Laverty, Linda Miller, Dawn and Kathy Troskowski

Sister's brother, sister-in-law and niece, with two of her sisters were on hand to share the day's festivities.



Sister Carole renewed her vows after the homily given by Father Clemente.

**Congratulations,
Sister
Carole
Marie!**



Sister Celine Marie was not able to travel to the U.S. last year to celebrate her Silver Jubilee so we caught up with her this Summer.



Father Ngozi Osuji, Sister Celine Marie Chinasa, Mother Maria Catherine, Father Michael Achanyi



The priests bless Sisters' relatives and friends after they brought their gifts to the altar.



It is our custom that when a Sister Jubilarian cuts the cake we all say a silent prayer for her intentions



ST. JOSEPH: JUST AND OBEDIENT MAN

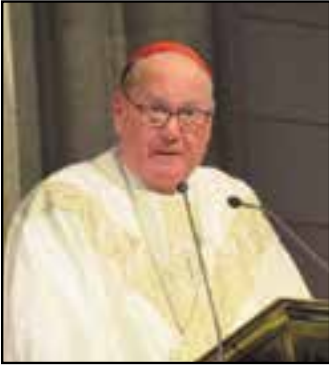
by Sister Mary Praxedes



St. Joseph was a just, obedient, and humble man. When he was engaged to Mary even before they were married, the angel of God appeared to Mary and announced to her that she would be the Mother of God by the power of the Holy Spirit. Upon knowing this, Joseph became deeply perplexed and decided to divorce Mary quietly. Joseph was a just and upright man who loved God. He did God's will and observed His commandments. He considered Mary to be holy despite the perplexity of the situation.

The angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said "Joseph, son of David, have no fear about taking Mary as your wife. It is by the Holy Spirit that she has conceived a child." (Mt. 1:20).

After the birth of Jesus, the angel of the Lord appeared again to Joseph in a dream and said "Rise, take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the Child to destroy Him. And he rose and took the Child and His mother by night and departed to Egypt until the death of Herod." (Mt.2:13-14). Here is Joseph's trusting obedience to God's command. He does not question nor doubt what the angel told him. He obeys readily and humbly and endures life's trials with serene joy.



Particularly Grateful!

By Timothy Cardinal Dolan
Archbishop of New York

Before Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral on the Feast of the Assumption, 2021 Cardinal Dolan declared to the vast congregation, "We are particularly grateful for the beautiful presence of the Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate."

"Oh, my Lord, what a gift they are to the Church and particularly to this Archdiocese! They are celebrating 100 years since their founding by the Servant of God Mother Mary Teresa Tallon. Sisters, how welcome you are! Congratulations on your hundredth. It's actually the close of your centennial year. You don't look bad at all for a century old. Way to go!

Cardinal Dolan's Homily

Follow ... Mary's ... Example

Welcome to St. Patrick's Cathedral, America's parish, for Sunday Mass for this splendid feast of the Assumption of our Blessed Mother on August 15th. And especially welcome to those who unite with us at home.

I would like to make six lessons this morning.

Lesson one: Think of this phrase: I'm going to make an example of you. That can be said in one of two ways.

Either the people saying it utter it as a threat; usually through gritted teeth: **"I'm gonna make an example out of you!"** In other words, you've just done something bad. I'm gonna make an example of you so that other people can see what happens if they do this! So that's sort of a menacing, threatening, punitive way to say it, right?

But there's [another way to say it](#). [spoken softly and kindly] *"I'm gonna make an example of you!"*. In other words, "You're so [magnificent](#), you're so [holy](#), you're so [good](#), you're so what God intended that I'm gonna make an example of you so that other people will follow your example."

And that, of course, is the way God uttered those words to Mary, the Mother of His only begotten Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.

He so loved Mary; He so honored her; He chose her and said, I'm gonna make an example out of you.

Now, today, August 15th, we celebrate one of the ways that He honored our Blessed Mother. When her time on earth was finished, He took her immediately, body and soul, to Heaven; and not only as a reward to her, but as an example to us.

He said, look everybody this is what I want to do for you some day. At the end of time, I want you all to be here with Jesus and Mary, body and soul. When we die our bodies are buried and they decay and corrupt. Our bodies have to wait for the Last Judgment to be reunited with our souls. Not Our Blessed Mother! What a great example she is in her Assumption of what God wants to do for all of us.

[Lesson two](#): What was it about the Blessed Mother that made her so special, [so appealing to God](#)? One of the ways we can answer that is by looking again at our Gospel this morning. In this little incident we see the qualities that made our Blessed Mother so appealing to God.

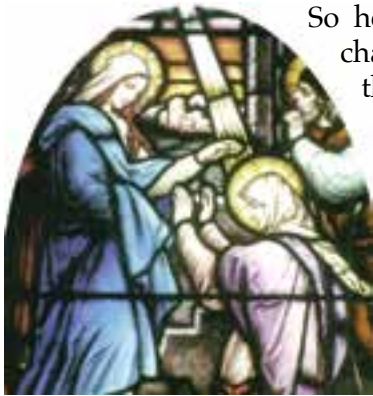
What we heard from Luke's Gospel was the great story of the Visitation. You remember what happened. Mary kind of gets a big jolt when the Archangel Gabriel says you're going to be the mother of God's only begotten Son. When you think



about it, was that ever a shocker! That could have thrown Mary into a lot of confusion and distress and then the archangel also said, by the way your cousin Elizabeth is pregnant as well.

So, here's Mary, what does she do? Does she sit around or go to a counselor? Does she take a sabbatical or take a nap or see her doctor for some medication? No.

All she cares about is going to St. Elizabeth, her cousin, because Elizabeth is old and having a problem pregnancy.



So here in a crisis of her own, Mary's charity dominates. Charity! She makes the long journey from Nazareth to Ein Karem, where Elizabeth and Joachim live to help and to serve her kinswoman. Elizabeth, of course, is pregnant with the baby who is going to have the name, John the Baptist.

Lesson three: Mary is so attractive to God our Father because of her charity! Her own needs, her own crisis, her own difficulties, they took second place. Her charity moved her to help Elizabeth.

Lesson four: She was very personal. There is nothing like the power of personal charity, a personal visit. You the know the old story. God sent us His only begotten son personally to save us and redeem us. And so, our Blessed Mother goes personally to visit.

Lesson five: She immediately became a missionary. She had been told that she had within her womb the Messiah, the long-awaited Saviour of the World. And she can't keep this to herself. She becomes a missionary. She becomes an evangelist as she goes to Elizabeth to tell her that great news that she's a missionary, an evangelist.

Lesson six: The thing that made Mary so attractive to God is her humility. You'll notice that Elizabeth first gives her a compliment.

She says, “Who am I that the mother of my Lord should come to see me?”

Mary puts her head down and says this is God’s doing: “My soul proclaims the goodness of the Lord. He Who is mighty has done great things for me his lowly servant.” That’s humility everybody. And our Blessed Mother had it.

Mary put God before everybody else. This is God’s plan. This is God’s Will. **I must praise, love and trust Him.**

I submit to you today that those are the characteristics almighty God wanted us to admire in Mary as He did.

*Cardinal Dolan introduces
the congregation to the
Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate*

It was 101 years ago in this very city that they were founded by titled Servant of God Mary Teresa Tallon whom we hope one day will be blessed and canonized.



These Sisters have been a blessing to this Archdiocese, to the Church in this country, indeed throughout the world.

Well do I recall Pope Francis almost 6 years ago when he sat at that cathedra [bishop’s chair] and said, “What would the Church in the U.S. be like without the Sisters?” And, boy, could we ever say that about you dear Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate.

And folks, if you would like to know what they are all about, I just told you, because they look to the Visitation as an example of what they do.

So, they’re big time into charity, helping other people. They’re bigtime into personal visits. They make house-calls. They visit people. They’re big time into being missionaries. They go out to tell people about Jesus and His Church.

On one visit to Marycrest up in Monroe one of the Sisters said, “I was in a house and asked if the woman I was visiting was Catholic. She said, ‘I am, but I haven’t been too serious about it. One of these days I have to get back.’”

Sister told her, “Well, today’s that day.”

They are missionaries; they are evangelists; they are humble. They don’t like bragging about themselves. This is tough for them to do, sitting up in a front pew, and celebrating a centennial.

And finally, like our blessed Mother, you Sisters put God first. It’s not about you. It’s about Jesus and His Church. And, Sisters we love you for that. We need you more than ever and we congratulate you on your centennial! Thanks be to God.



Some Highlights from this Past Year:

On June 1st, 75 Sisters of Life came to Marycrest to celebrate the 30th anniversary of their foundation. The late John Cardinal O'Connor asked Sister Rita-Mairelenes, former General Superior of the Parish Visitors, to be their first formator in religious life. Auxiliary Bishop Edmund Whalen, who was Cardinal O'Connor's secretary at the time, offered the anniversary Mass.



*Sr. Lucy Marie, Sr. Rita Mairelenes, Sister Margaret, Sr. Josemarie
These were three of the original members who were formed
by Sr. Rita Mairelenes during their first year.*



For some postulants, novices and junior professed this was their first trip to Marycrest. They were able to tour St. Joseph's building where the Sisters of Life began in 1991.

Bishop Edmund Whalen celebrated the anniversary Mass



Our Novitiate developed an evening of prayer and renewal entitled "Rise with the Risen Christ." They presented it in several parishes in Pennsylvania, Delaware, in Fresh Meadows, NY, and in Monroe, NY. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, witness talks, an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and a Eucharistic procession were part of the evening.

RISE WITH THE RISEN CHRIST

AN EVENING OF SPIRITUAL RENEWAL, ENCOUNTER AND WORSHIP
- HOSTED BY THE PARISH VISITORS OF MARY IMMACULATE -

FACING THE EFFECTS OF COVID-19 AND THE CALL TO RISE WITH CHRIST

COVID-19 SAFETY | MEASURES ENSURED
BRING A MASK | BRING A FRIEND

TIME TBD | DOORS OPEN
TIME TBD | OPENING SESSION
TIME TBD | SPEAKER
TIME TBD | ADORATION
TIME TBD | CLOSING

SPEAKER | DISCUSSION
CANDLE LIT PROCESSION
RENEWAL OFFERING
EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION
CONFESSION

Our Associates at Marycrest arranged for several fundraisers for us. A weekend of baskets was very successful as was a three-day Community Yard Sale.



*Thank you to all
our faithful friends
who helped in any way.*

- January 10 Sr. Mary Evelyn Penimber, 1993
 10 Sr. Patricia Ann Moore, 1982
 11 Sr. Laura Anne Brouillet, 1993
 12 Sr. Mary Loyola Cooney, 2004
 13 Sr. Mary Emily Crosby, 1958
 17 Sr. Marian Corinne Langan, 2015
 23 Sr. Mary Jane Quinn, 1981
 26 Sr. Mary Euphrasia O'Connor, 1976
 26 Sr. Mary Edna Granahan, 1980
 29 Sr. Mary Leona Markano, 2002
 30 Sr. Henrietta Maire French, 1999

- February 1 Sr. Jean Marie Feeney, 1930
 1 Sr. Mary Lois Eiseman, 1994
 4 Sr. Maryalice Aubrey, 1982
 6 Sr. Mary Joseph McLees, 1953
 11 Sr. Mary Veronique Chambers, 1967
 12 Sr. Mary Dorothy Reynolds, 1964
 13 Sr. Norbert Marie Molitor, 2013
 15 Sr. Mary Catherine Kerwin, 1959
 19 Sr. Agnes Cecilia Ford, 2020
 20 Sr. Mary Lucretia Benthey, 1984
 21 Sr. Alice Sweeney, 1991
 23 Sr. Mary Cepha Euell, 2020
 25 Sr. Mary Martina Stoerzinger, 2004
 26 Sr. Mary Elizabeth McCarthy, 1990

- March 3 Sr. Marie Cecile Godreau, 2020
 5 Sr. Mary Irene Fitzpatrick, 1988
 7 Sr. Mary Ethel Cahill, 1951
 7 Sr. Mary Therese Clark, 1973
 8 Sr. Mary Valery Geppner, 1990
 9 Sr. Mary Louise Coffey, 1987
 9 Sr. Mary Martine Dotzler, 1996
 10 Mother Mary Teresa Tallon, 1954
 12 Sr. Eleanor Dillon, 1990
 14 Sr. Mary Helene Schumacher, 1982
 15 Sr. Mary Aurelia Titra, 1965
 19 Sr. Mary Rosanne Grinnell, 1999
 22 Sr. Mary Pauline Lenherr, 1990
 23 Sr. Mary Regis Haskell, 1985
 24 Sr. Mary Perpetua Herrick, 1992
 28 Sr. Alice Genevieve Showalter, 1988



*In this life
 and in
 the next,
 we pray
 for you.*

*Please
 pray
 for us.
 Thank
 you!*



Sister Mary Elise Stutzenberger was born in 1920, the same year our community was founded. Nineteen years later she entered the Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate. She had been one of two living Sisters who knew our Foundress, Mother Mary Teresa Tallon, Sister Mary Elise was our most senior member. Her 82 years as a Parish Visitor were filled to overflowing with generous self-giving. An exemplary catechist, she formed both Sisters and lay catechists in Monroe, NY, Rome, NY, West Haven, CT, and Raritan, NJ. Sister Mary Elise had a heart for the poor, and a keen awareness of their human dignity.

She possessed a wonderful sense of humor and a love of music. Near the end of her long life, she would often be softly humming a tune as she sat in Tallon Terrace Lounge. Sister Mary Elise would contribute anecdotes, songs at community recreation to the delight of all the Sisters.

She served as DRE in several parishes, as superior, infirmarian, procurator, and in maintenance at Marycrest, our Motherhouse.

It seemed as if whatever needed to be done, Sister Mary Elise was willing to pitch in and get the task done.

Although in later years, her health had failed, Sister Mary Elise nevertheless survived Covid-19. She turned 100 while she was in quarantine last December! On October 9, 2021, Sister Mary Elise went home to God. She was just 3 months shy of her 101st birthday.



Sister Mary Elise with her nephew Robert Cerutti and his wife, Maria at Sister's 80th Anniversary.



Thank you,
George!



When George Morton was introduced to our readers in the pages of "The Parish Visitor" which he had begun to edit, Sister Carole Marie described him as "first and foremost a Catholic husband and father who could have had a career in the business world, but who had decided with his family to sacrifice that for the Church." He has always been "vitaly interested in both sustaining Catholic family life and religious life as well." A conference on family life he had attended in Poland placed a desire in his heart to "build Nazareths." When he learned that this was the mission of the Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate, he knew that this was where he could make that sacrificial gift to the Church.

George joined us in 1990 as Director of Public Relations and Fundraising then began to serve as Editor in 1992. He has produced over 115 issues of the magazine, been a successful grant writer, and has made the Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate better known with his customary self-introduction, "I work for nuns." He always has copies of the magazine in his car, or at hand to give out.

George has done so much more than these few words can convey. How he was ever able to get his work done when he was constantly interrupted by a Sister whose computer was not working correctly, or when something else was amiss, is hard to say. He

may not have been “George, the Dragon Slayer,” but he has rescued us from more than one snake in and around the house. Always willing to make the Lord better known and loved, he even allowed himself to be “volunteered” to portray St. Maximilian Kolbe and St. Dominic for a parish Religious Education program. He remains a Catholic husband, father, grandfather, and has been a wonderful brother to us.

Even after he officially retired, due to ill-health, George continues to help us with over-the-phone advice. I know he prays for us and he knows that we hold him in prayer and forever in our hearts. ♥

Help the Sisters at Marycrest Convent

<https://gofund.me/129302bb>

This is the link to a GoFundMe page to help us with the many repairs and purchases that our ordinary income is unable to address.

- ➔ There are two buildings that need new roofs.
- ➔ Three buildings need generators when we lose power, as often happens during storms. Because they are among our oldest buildings, new wiring will be needed to meet current code requirements.
- ➔ We also need two new cars that can be driven over long distances. Two used cars that had been gifted to us are aging out and can only be used locally.
- ➔ We have been advised that several of our Stain Glass windows in Chapel need re-leading.

If you prefer not to give through GoFundMe, and would like to make a donation to help us with any of the needs mentioned, you can send a check to Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate P.O. Box 658 Monroe, NY 10949 and put “repairs” on the memo line. We will be most grateful.

The Mother Mary Teresa Tallon Award

“Only God can give persons as gifts”
(Servant of God, Mother Mary Teresa Tallon)

As General Superior, Sister Carole Marie initiated the “Mother Mary Teresa Tallon Award” to show our gratitude and appreciation to those persons who have been God’s special gifts to our Congregation.

This year we were blessed to have Father Frederick L. Miller, STD, of the Archdiocese of Newark, with us for Holy Week. On Holy Thursday, the day Jesus instituted the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist and the Priesthood, it was our privilege to give Father Miller the “Mother Mary Teresa Tallon Award”.

As she presented the award to Father Miller, Mother Maria Catherine said: “What a privilege it is to celebrate the feast of the institution of the Eucharist and the priesthood with you, Father Miller!

For the past 40 years you have been our teacher, confessor, spiritual director, Retreat Master, brother and friend.

“In 1983, with Sister Rita Mairelenes you formed our Institute of Mary, Mother of the Church and have been Director of that Institute until recently. You have led many of us in the Total Consecration to Jesus through Mary of Saint Louis DeMontfort. You have witnessed our professions, and Jubilees, and have seen many of us “grow up” in religious life.

It is rare that a Diocesan priest would have such a true understanding of and love for consecrated religious life. Because of your love for religious life, you never cease to lead us to a deeper and more joyful living of our consecration.

We are grateful for your profound understanding of our contemplative-missionary vocation and the opportunities you take to promote our Community to priests and lay people alike.

Each year we present a Mother Mary Teresa Tallon award to a person or persons who have not spared themselves in their generous gift of self to our Congregation. Mother Foundress said: "Only God can give persons as gifts" – and in His Providence and mercy, God has given you to us as a gift for which we are eternally grateful."



Mother Maria Catherine with Father Frederick L. Miller

Litany of Saint Joseph

Lord, have mercy,

Christ, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

Christ, hear us. Christ, graciously hear us.

God the Father of Heaven, have mercy on us.

God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit, have mercy on us.

Holy Trinity, one God, have mercy on us.

Holy Mary, pray for us.

Saint Joseph, pray for us.

Renowned offspring of David, pray for us.

Light of patriarchs, pray for us.

Spouse of the Mother of God, pray for us.

Chaste guardian of the Virgin, pray for us.

Foster father of the Son of God, pray for us.

Diligent protector of Christ, pray for us.

Guardian of the Redeemer, pray for us.

Servant of Christ, pray for us.

Head of the Holy Family, pray for us.

Joseph most just, pray for us.

Joseph most chaste, pray for us.

Joseph most prudent, pray for us.

Joseph most strong, pray for us.

Joseph most obedient, pray for us.

Joseph most faithful, pray for us.

Minister of salvation, pray for us.

Mirror of patience, pray for us.

Lover of poverty, pray for us.



Model of artisans, pray for us.

Glory of home life, pray for us.

Guardian of virgins, pray for us.

Pillar of families, pray for us.

Solace of the wretched, pray for us.

Hope of the sick, pray for us.

Support in difficulties, pray for us.

Patron of exiles, pray for us.

Patron of the afflicted, pray for us.

Patron of the poor, pray for us.

Patron of the dying, pray for us.

Terror of demons, pray for us.

Protector of Holy Church, pray for us.

Lamb of God, Who take away the sins of the world,
spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, Who take away the sins of the world,
graciously hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, Who take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.

V. He made him the lord of His household.

R. And prince over all His possessions.

Let us pray

O God, in Your ineffable providence You were pleased to choose blessed Joseph to be the spouse of Your most holy Mother; grant, we beg You, that we may be worthy to have him for our intercessor in heaven whom on earth we venerate as our protector; You Who live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

Italicized invocations were recently added by Pope Francis.



The Parish Visitors and St. Joseph

By Sister Mary Josita, P.V.M.I.



It seems to me that it is nearly impossible to be a Parish Visitor of Mary Immaculate and not have a love of St. Joseph. Mother Mary Teresa often spoke of him and trusted in his unfailing intercession. She called him a “faithful friend,” and a “patron of our work.” She extolled his virtues, especially his faith and ready obedience to the will of God. A descendent in the line of King David, Mother Mary Teresa called him “God’s great aristocrat,” a title that belied his lowly human station in life.

But Mother Foundress didn’t just talk about St. Joseph, she relied on him. She prayed to him when we needed financial assistance. She prayed to him for an increase of vocations to the community. She begged him for a share of his love for Jesus and Mary.

When meditating on the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary, Mother Mary Teresa saw in him a model for each of the evangelical counsels of chastity”, poverty, and obedience. She also counseled the Sisters to imitate his virtues of faith and obedience, patience and generosity, humility and modesty.

As an aide to our life of recollection, Mother Mary Teresa encouraged the Sisters to reflect upon the various invocations of the several litanies listed in our Ceremonial, or book of prayer. The Litany of St. Joseph contains my two personal favorites: Joseph, most strong, pray for us, and Joseph, most faithful, pray for us. I often pray, “Joseph, most strong, and most faithful, help me to be strong, and faithful.”

You will find the Litany of St. Joseph in the pages of this issue of "The Parish Visitor." It contains several new invocations recently added by Pope Francis. Why not spend some time with it and see if you can find your personal favorites?



From the conclusion of the Apostolic Letter: Patris Corde:

Hail Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.



Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
obtain for us grace, mercy,
and courage, and defend us
from every evil. Amen.



A Few Words about Wills

More than a mere legal document that will be accepted in a court of human law, a well-prepared will is a statement of faith hope and love. Family, charities and others in need benefit from this final act of material kindness.

The Parish visitors of Mary Immaculate consider it a privilege to be mentioned in yours. Thank you for this and all your other gifts and sacrifices. Our legal name is:

Parish visitors of Mary Immaculate, Inc.

PARISH VISITORS OF MARY IMMACULATE

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