

The Parish Visitor



Go out to all the world
and tell the Good News.

The Parish Visitor

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

Jesus' great commission at the end of Matthew's Gospel tells us to go out to all the world and tell the Good News.

Pope Francis has reminded us in "The Joy of the Gospel" that we are all called to be Missionary Disciples because of our Baptism. This call is not just for Priests and Religious but all the baptized.

As Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate, we help and encourage those we meet to be faithful as Missionary Disciples. Mother Maria Catherine's article highlights this point.

It may seem like "Mission Impossible," as Archbishop Perez put it in the article by Sister Theresa Marie, but with God's grace, we can do much more than we could ever imagine.

During our retreat this year, we learned that each time someone lives the Fruits of the Holy Spirit, others see a glimpse of God through them.
Be that glimpse of God for others.



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“arousing the conscience of your people to loving concern for the most neglected and spiritually abandoned in our midst.”

Missionary Disciples

By Mother Maria Catherine, PVM



“Go out to the whole world and proclaim the Good News.” Jesus’ mandate to His apostles and disciples was not meant for a small band of men and women living on the shores of the Lake of Galilee in 33 A.D. He missioned His apostles and disciples to go beyond the shores of their villages into the unknown to tell those who did not know the great news of the Father’s love and mercy revealed in His Person: in His coming, His Passion, Death and Resurrection. This they did and changed the world!

Today, over 2,000 years later, this same Jesus gives all the baptized the same mission: “Go out and proclaim!” Those of us who love Jesus and His Church are called by our very baptism to go beyond our borders of comfort and draw others to “know, love and serve God.”

Have you ever heard of “doctors without borders”? These are men and women who, for the love of their brothers and sisters who would not have good healthcare, go beyond their borders

and the comforts of their home, to bring the best healthcare to those in most need. I admire them greatly!

This is what we are called to be and to do: missionary disciples who go beyond the safety and comfort of our homes to bring the Good News of Jesus' love and mercy to those who either have never heard of Him or who have forgotten the power of His Passion, Death and Resurrection!

Following the Second Vatican Council, Pope Paul VI, in his encyclical "Evangelization in the Modern World", reminded us all that the Church, by her very nature, is missionary and the duty of missionaries is to evangelize. Since then, we have heard the call from Pope Saint John Paul II, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI and Pope Francis to go not only to those who have never heard the Good News preached, but to those who have heard but have forgotten.

The Popes have been calling for a "New Evangelization". They have been reminding us that the mission of every baptized Catholic is to tell others about Jesus – to share the kerygmatic message of His Redemptive Love – to go to those "On the periphery" – who have wandered from the flock of the Church. This is the essence of the New Evangelization and it is to this apostolate that missionary disciples are needed today.

What is a missionary disciple? In Pope Francis' words from the "Joy of the Gospel": "In virtue of their baptism, all the members of the People of God have become missionary disciples (cf. Mt 28:19). All the baptized, whatever their position in the Church or their level of instruction in the faith, are agents of evangelization, and it would be insufficient to envisage a plan of evangelization to be carried out by professionals while the rest of the faithful would simply be passive recipients. The new evangelization calls for personal involvement on the part of each of the baptized. Every Christian is challenged, here and now, to be actively engaged in evangelization; indeed, anyone who has truly experienced God's saving love does not need much time or lengthy training to go out and proclaim that love. Every Christian is a missionary to the extent that he or she has encountered the love of God in Christ Jesus: we no longer say that we are "disciples" and "missionaries," but rather that we are always "missionary disciples."

Every day, each Parish Visitor of Mary Immaculate prays for the extension of the charism of Mother Mary Teresa Tallon, our Foundress. One of the things we pray for is the “arousing the conscience of your people to loving concern for the most neglected and spiritually abandoned in our midst.” It is a part of the apostolic mission of the Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate to call persons who practice their faith to that loving concern for their brothers and sisters who are away from their faith (the most neglected and spiritually abandoned in our midst).

It is our privilege to call people forth to join with us in this great mission for souls! Whether we call them “missionary disciples” or “Associates”, we seek always to draw persons to a closer intimacy with Jesus and then encourage them, in whatever vocation to which they have been called, to share that love with everyone with whom they come into contact.



We train lay persons to share in our apostolate of door-to-door evangelization; we encourage persons to become involved in the catechetical ministry in their parish; we identify persons who would be great witnesses to those in Christian Initiation classes or mentors for young people's groups in the parish.

I would like to mention a very special group of women: the Parish Visitor Associates! These women have been a tremendous blessing to our Congregation since its beginning in 1920. Mother Mary Teresa began the Associates in our New York City convent when she was the General Superior. These women meet monthly at the convent. In Mother's time, she would give them a spiritual talk and inspire them to share in the spiritual and corporal works of the Congregation.

Associates are women who wish to deepen their spiritual lives by sharing in our spiritual life. They are women who wish to share also in our apostolic mission. They do this either by directly working with a Parish Visitor in her parish mission or volunteering in their respective parish ministries. They also help to support us by their many fundraisers and donations.

Though they may not have the title "missionary disciples" our Associates are one with us in our missionary evangelization! Their prayers and support of us help us to "make every soul count" as we walk the streets of our parishes and search out the "most neglected and spiritually abandoned in our midst."



Thank You,
Associates!



Say the Word – The Impossible Mission

By Sister Theresa Marie, PVMI

(Sister Theresa Marie penned several bulletin articles before she left for our temporary mission in Ireland. They reflect the efforts being made in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia to form Missionary Disciples.)

“Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations,” Jesus told the apostles. In a movie on the early Church, while the apostles are waiting for the coming of the Holy Spirit, they encounter a small child who has lost his parents. Their efforts to help him find them are hampered by the different language he speaks. They look at each other and ask, “How can we possibly fulfill this mission Jesus gave us to all the nations if we can’t even communicate with this little boy?”

Archbishop Perez recently described this as an “impossible mission” and then turned to local Church leaders and gave us our own “impossible mission” – to build a culture of missionary discipleship in the Archdiocese. He said that the apostles were sent, not with a program, but with a compassionate heart and the fruit of an encounter with Christ. A culture of missionary discipleship is a culture where each person who has encountered Christ shares that encounter and its fruits with others.



Sister Mary Luchia and Sister Theresa Marie attended “Making Missionary Disciples: A Training Conference for Ministry Leaders” given by Dr. Edward Sri. Archbishop Perez is in the background.

This summer “Say the Word” will focus on our own encounter with Christ, especially in the Eucharist, and how missionary discipleship can flow naturally from that encounter through a compassionate heart, in our everyday lives. Our prayer this week is the Great Commission that Jesus gave His apostles before ascending into Heaven. Pray it and take heart.

Prayer

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.” (Mt 28:18-19)

“Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked the Ethiopian eunuch, as recorded in the Acts of the Apostles,

chapter 8. This question led to a conversation where Philip shared the Good News of Jesus with the Ethiopian. After hearing about Jesus, he asked for Baptism and then continued on his way rejoicing. A question can be very powerful.

“Would you like to be set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness?” Do you know anyone who would truly answer “no” to this question? In the first paragraph of *The Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis tells us that if we accept Jesus’ offer of salvation, we will be set free. Why? Because “the joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus.” He encourages us to embark on a new way of sharing the gospel, marked by this joy (the same joy experienced by the Ethiopian eunuch) – and it can begin with a simple question.

Prayer

Most Blessed Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is my heart and life full of the joy of the Gospel? If not, please help me to encounter You, that I may be set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness, and loneliness. Like the Ethiopian eunuch, may I continue on my way rejoicing after I encounter You – in the Eucharist, in Scripture, and in those I meet every day. Send me someone this week with whom I can share my joy in Your Good News. Amen.

To Catholics who are not going to Mass “you might say, gently but earnestly, how awful it is to miss Mass, where the tragedy of Calvary is renewed for their benefit in the Holy Sacrifice offered before their eyes. In the Holy Mass Jesus offers Himself for every soul. Unless



the people see the reasons why, they will not know any motive for attending Mass...What is there that influences you to go to church?" These words were spoken by Mother Mary Teresa Talon, foundress of the Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate to catechists in 1921. Did you know there were Catholics not going to Mass in 1921? It's not a new situation.

What influences us to go to church? Are we encountering Christ at Mass? Am I aware that God is speaking to me at every Mass? Am I listening? Before we can share Christ with others, we must first encounter Him.

I invite you, next time you come to Mass, to arrive a few minutes early and ask God what He wants to tell you during this Mass. Then listen. It may be in a song or a reading, a homily or a smile, in the Eucharist or in a stained-glass window. God will speak to you. Listen to Him, encounter Him. The next time someone asks you why you go to Mass, you can tell them about your encounter.

Prayer

Lord, help me to think of a time in my childhood when I encountered You. Was it my First Holy Communion, praying the rosary with my grandmother, maybe picking flowers in the sunshine or when my best friend moved out of the state? Thank You, Lord, for being with me in that moment. Please give me an opportunity to share that encounter with someone this week. Amen.



Be a glimpse of God

CHARITY

JOY

PEACE

PATIENCE

KINDNESS

GOODNESS

GENEROSITY

GENTLENESS

FAITHFULNESS

MODESTY

SELF-CONTROL

CHASTITY

Live the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

First Profession of Vows



Unbounded joy shines forth from her face as Sr. Debra Marie comes to the chapel to profess her vows.

May 6 was a day for rejoicing at Marycrest. On this anniversary of Mother Mary Teresa's birth in 1867, Sister Debra Marie Comins pronounced her first profession of vows as a Parish Visitor of Mary Immaculate.

Since religious profession is a deepening of one's baptismal consecration, it was fitting that May 6 is also the anniversary of Sister Debra Marie's baptism.

Father David Rider, Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Monroe, was the principal celebrant of the Mass of Religious Profession. Father Philip Brockmyre, Sister Debra Marie's Spiritual Director, was the homilist.



Mother Maria Catherine receives Sister's vows.



Father David Rider presents Sister Debra Marie with her medallion and black veil.



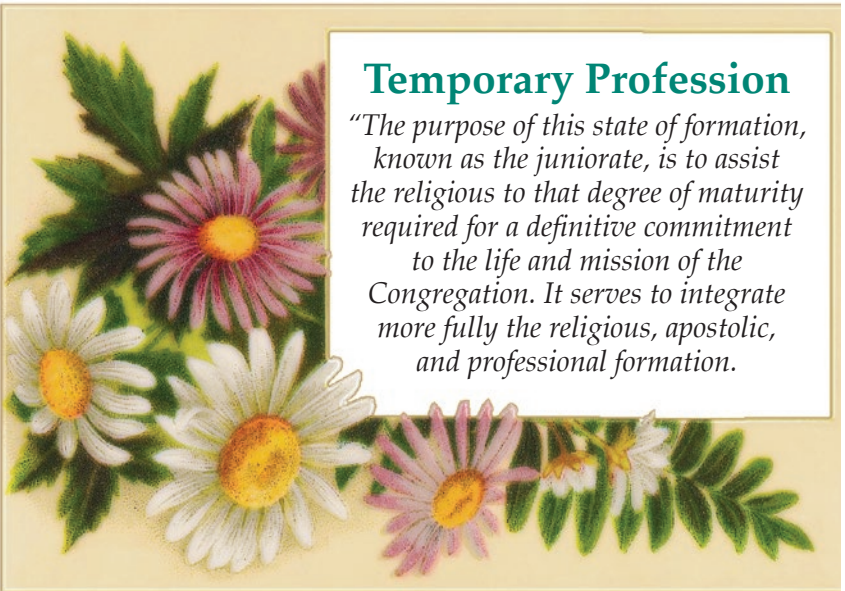
Clothed in her black veil and with her novice director, Sister Mary Beata, Sister Debra Marie brings the gifts to the altar



Fr. Christopher Cicero, Fr. Philip Brockmyre, Fr. John Hogan, Fr. David Rider, Fr. Christopher Seibt. Sr. Paul Mathis, Fr. Michael Achanyi



Sister Mylene Rosemarie, juniorate director and fellow junior Sisters - Sister Marie Meaghan, Sister Alina Marie, Sister Rebecca Miriam, and Mother Maria Catherine welcome Sister Debra Marie to the juniorate.



Temporary Profession

“The purpose of this state of formation, known as the juniorate, is to assist the religious to that degree of maturity required for a definitive commitment to the life and mission of the Congregation. It serves to integrate more fully the religious, apostolic, and professional formation.”

General Chapter 2022

Fifteen Sister-delegates from all our missions gathered at Marycrest for our 2022 General Chapter, which opened on June 16.



1st row l to r: Sr. Ann Marie, Sr. Mary Josita, Mother Maria Catherine, Sr. Carole Marie, Sr. Dolores Marie; 2nd row: Sr. Mylene Rosemarie, Sr. Mary Beata, Sr. Mary Luchia, Sr. Mary Beverly; 3rd row: Sr. Mary Emmadoña, Sr. Margery Therese, Sr. Mary Eileen; top row: Sr. Celine Marie, Sr. Maria Arlene, and Sr. Theresa Marie.

Among the principal functions of the General Chapter are to protect and foster the spiritual heritage of the Congregation; to elect

the General Superior, her Council and Assistant; to provide for the continuous, authentic renewal of its mission in the Church.

As contemplative-missionaries we will continue our rich heritage of Eucharistic Adoration, daily Mass, meditation, and Rosary. A spirit of recollection throughout the day fuels our efforts to reach those who may be on the “peripheries,” as Pope Francis often says.

Despite the setbacks caused by the pandemic, our person-to-person apostolate remains a vital means to encounter persons face-to-face and heart-to-heart. During the Chapter we were able to assess our effectiveness in our USA missions as well as those in Nigeria and the Philippines.

Our General Administration for the next five years is pictured below.



Clockwise from top left: Sr. Carole Marie 2nd Councilor, Sr. Ann Marie 3rd Councilor, Mother Maria Catherine, General Superior, Sr. Mary Josita, 1st Councilor and Assistant General Superior, Sr. Dolores Marie, 5th Councilor.

Sister Dolores
Augustine –
Outstanding
missionary-
catechist



On May 30, Sister Dolores Augustine returned to the God she had faithfully served as a Parish Visitor of Mary Immaculate for nearly eighty years.

Born almost 100 years ago in Hastings, MN, Sister grew up, as she would say, “on a typical Mid-western farm.” Her early education began in a one-room schoolhouse. She would later earn a Bachelor’s degree Cum Laude in Sociology from the University of Scranton.

Among Sister’s relatives were Religious Sisters. They were school teachers. While Sister Dolores was drawn to Religious Life, she knew she did not want to teach.

When she learned about the Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate, she was attracted to their outreach to the poor. She entered the Community in 1943. She was one of the founding Sisters in a newly opened catechetical mission in West Haven, CT.

Over the years, Sister Dolores was a General Councilor and a Superior in Brooklyn and Manhattan.

Her most extended assignment was at St. Matthew's Parish in the Crown Heights section of Brooklyn, where she was the Social Minister for nearly thirty years.

In a homily given on the occasion of Sister Dolores's 60th Jubilee as a Parish Visitor, her pastor at St. Matthew's described Sister's response to God's call to follow Jesus and how it impacted the lives of so many others. He said, "she must have visited every household in Crown Heights...and many of you became involved in St. Matthew's parish through Sister Dolores. Sister Dolores is the person who started the Food Pantry, ran the Thrift Shop, started a Bible study, and got the Legion of Mary going. Through her efforts, social action is part of our parish."

"This is one human being. Imagine, because she heard the call from God – she committed herself to follow Jesus in a particular way as a Parish Visitor of Mary Immaculate and took the special charism, the special gift of her Congregation, to heart and has been living it. This is one human being – look at how many lives this one person has touched simply because she heard the call and was willing to follow that call – a call from God."

Father Michael Achanyi celebrated her funeral Mass on June 4 at Marycrest. Several of Sister Dolores' family members were able to be present.

There are many callings – many vocations. Everyone is called to holiness of life by reason of their baptism.

What has called you to? Married life? Single life? Religious Sister or Brother? Priesthood?

The call rests on your response. Will you say Yes?

Highlights from a Parish Mission

During Lent, Sister Mary Beata, Sister Debra Marie, Mother Maria Catherine and Sister Mary Eileen traveled to Warren, Ohio, accompanied by Gen Mende, a Parish Visitor Associate, to give a Parish Mission.

Mother Maria Catherine gave a talk each of the three nights on the Father, the Son and the role of the Blessed Mother, through the Holy Spirit, to bring us to union with the Trinity through True Devotion to her. The Mission included: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, with a Eucharistic candlelight procession; a soup and bread suppe; and a presentation of the Living Stations of the Cross by the parish youth. There was something for every age group.



*Fr. Christopher Cicero, Pastor, introduced
Mother Maria Catherine*



A Eucharistic candlelight procession led the participants back to the Church for Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament



Prayer and play for the younger ones.

Older students worked with the younger ones under Sr. Debra Marie's supervision.



St. James - one of the three Churches where the Mission was held.



Sr. Mary Eileen led praise and worship music during the mission.



Sr. Mary Beata and a friend at the Soup and Bread supper.

Living Stations of the Cross were presented on the final evening of the Mission.



On Holy Communion



By Servant of God, Mary Teresa Tallon, PVMI

There is nothing that comes so near the face-to-face vision of God as Holy Communion. Jesus, God – Incarnate, comes. Why should we not see Him? He is present Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity; would it be too much to expect that we perceive Him Whom we hold and may never let go? Let me see Him, then, and look upon His blessed countenance with faith that has become vision, because the eyes of my soul will see what they have been disciplined and trained to behold. My Beloved has come to abide with me.

The power of Communion is immense; therefore, we should have the utmost confidence in the potency of this Divine Sacrament. The touch of Jesus healed everyone when He walked in Judea and Galilee; His presence in Holy Communion is far more intimate, and the fervent recipient welcomes Jesus on purpose to give Him all and to receive all. An ardent devotion at Holy Communion means the receiving of every particular grace—that all requests made for God's glory may be realized. The one great quality most necessary to the soul is confidence, and this confidence must be exercised according to the generous extent of Him



Who comes, and Who wills to continue His life of zeal through our activity.

Would that our thoughts sought only Jesus! How natural it is to remember Him Whom we love. Yes, it is natural and it is supernatural. This very lifting of the mind to Jesus is a proof of our love for Him. Why should we not think of Jesus, our Redeemer, our Lover, our Eucharistic God? Is He not worthy of our best thought, our best love? He is infinitely worthy. He is beyond all thought, all love. There is nothing else in life that can bear comparison with Jesus. He is more than all other persons and earthly possessions combined, yet the smallest attraction may absorb the mind if persons are not on their guard. To prevent this, there is no greater safeguard after the grace of God than the conviction, the deep abiding conviction, of the love-worthiness of God and of God-Incarnate in Holy Communion.

-Spiritual Directory

*Would that
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We Are All Missionary Disciples

In “The Joy of the Gospel” Our Holy Father, Pope Francis speaks of the person-to-person approach to Missionary Discipleship that is at the heart of the apostolate of the Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate.



“Today, as the Church seeks to experience a profound missionary renewal, there is a kind of preaching which falls to each of us as a daily responsibility. It has to do with bringing the Gospel to the people we meet, whether they be our neighbors or complete strangers. This is the informal preaching which takes place in the middle of a conversation, something along the lines of what a missionary does when visiting a home. Being a disciple means being constantly ready to bring the love of Jesus to others, and this can happen unexpectedly and in any place: on the street, in a city square, during work, on a journey.” EG #127

The word “preaching” may frighten off some from even attempting to share the Good News with others. But for over one hundred years Parish Visitors have visited homes, spoken to people “on the way,” and through informal conversations have met people face-to-face, and heart-to-heart.

What message do we share? The same fundamental message that is at the heart of all evangelizing efforts: *“personal love of God who became man, who gave himself up for us, who is living, and who offers us his salvation and his friendship.”* EG #128



In the Philippines, the Sisters initiated a weekly video post on Facebook called JAM-Just a Minute during the Covid-19 lockdown in that country. It was their way of keeping connected to the people they would have visited in their parishes. Sister Maria Rowena presented the one below.



Our quote from Mother Foundress this week is:

“Where the Mother is, there will the children be; as the Mother has received her crown, so will the children receive theirs also, if they have walked in their Mother’s footsteps.”

Our Blessed Mother was assumed body and soul into Heaven. As her children, we are promised to be given the reward of being where she is: eternal life in Heaven! It is only possible if we follow in her footsteps. She followed the Will of God; gave her “Fiat” or “yes” with her whole being, not holding back anything from God. We, too, must follow her and love Jesus more than anyone else regardless of the circumstances; whether in sorrow or joy, pain or comfort, peril or peace. Our Lady of Sorrows, pray for us.

We are joined by our Sisters



- July 5 Sr. Mary Rosa Zimbisky, 2004
12 Sr. Jane Marie McCormack, 2007
14 Sr. Marie Therese Beaulieu, 1977
16 Sr. Mary Regina Brockhaus, 1996
19 Sr. Mary Veronica Powers, 1994
26 Sr. Mary Inez Sexton, 1970
26 Sr. Mary Valeria Laurich, 1994
28 Sr. Margaret Sylvia Noonan, 1986
29 Sr. Mary Anna Mullin, 1953
30 Sr. Jean Marie Furr, 2006
- August 4 Sr. Mary Clarita Buonomo, 2006
12 Sr. Mary Kathleen O'Neill, 1994
15 Sr. Mary Lucy Lent, 1938
18 Sr. Mary Bernadette Hogan, 1980
19 Sr. Yvonne Therese LaRocque, 2008
22 Sr. Mary Celestine Shea, 1952
23 Sr. Mary Agnes Westlake, 1964
26 Sr. Mary Felicia Beckmann, 1976
27 Sr. Mary Vivian Brand, 1992
29 Sr. Avita Bridget Moran, 1987
- September 1 Sr. Mary Margaret Smith, 1978
2 Sr. Mary Claver Dobie, 1946
2 Sr. Mary Virginia Davies, 1957
2 Sr. Mary Laurian Buitrago, 2000
10 Sr. Mary Eymard Corcoran, 2006
14 Sr. Margaret Mary Duffy, 1955
19 Sr. Mary Thecla Baljay, 1966
20 Sr. Mary Magdalen Frank, 1933
21 Sr. Mary Gervase Krieter, 1974
22 Sr. Mary Lawrence Crowley, 1945
23 Sr. Mary Benita Carey, 1985

.... In Praying for You.

Meet **OUR** New *Novices* **IN** *Nigeria*



Sr. Mary Calista, Sister Mary Bernadette, Sister Mary Ruth

On March 25, Sister Mary Bernadette and Sister Mary Ruth began their Novitiate in Nigeria. On May 31 they were joined by Sister Mary Calista. During the next two years they will deepen their relationship to God through prayer and be immersed in the charism of our foundress, Servant of God, Mother Mary Teresa Tallon.

We rejoice with you, Sisters! And we pray for happy, holy perseverance as Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate.

Nigeria only
Vocation Directress
P.O. Box 195
Abraka, Delta State
NIGERIA, West Africa



Beginning **TO** learn
about **OUR** way **OF** life
IN THE *Philippines*

August 6 marks the day Genizza and Jyoti began their Postulancy under the direction of Sister Mary Emmadoña.

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What more
can I do for God?

**4 Steps to discern
*GOD'S WILL***

**Prayer / Eucharist
Sacred Scripture
Holy Mass & Adoration**

**Call us at Marycrest Convent
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*We are here for you!***

**Visit us!
Spend time with us!**

**Be open!
Go wherever He leads!**

