

The Parish Visitor



The Parish Visitor

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

In every Mass the Preface dialogue ends with “Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God,” to which we respond, “It is right and just.” Nearly every Preface begins, “It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.”

Always and everywhere to give thanks seems to imply not just at Mass, or on a national holiday. To give thanks is “our duty and our salvation” and it is “right and just.”

John Henry Cardinal Newman’s Meditations for Advent and Christmas were recently quoted in the October *Magnificat*. “It would be well if we were in the habit of looking at all we have as God’s gift, undeservedly given, and day by day continued to us solely by his mercy.” He urged us to “thankfully commemorate,” and “dwell upon” the many ways God has gifted us.

This might be a good resolution to take up during these years of Eucharistic Revival and beyond. Let us give thanks “always and everywhere.”

We certainly give thanks for the graces of our temporary mission in Ireland and our newly opened convent in Warren, OH that you will read about in this issue.

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Our Lady of Knock and the Eucharistic Revival

By Mother Maria Catherine, PVM

In July of this year, four Parish Visitors and I had the privilege of traveling to Ireland! Bishop Thomas Deenihan, Diocese of Meath, and Archbishop Eamon Martin, Archbishop of Armagh, and Primate of All Ireland invited us to minister in their Dioceses. Sisters Carole Marie, Margery Therese, Theresa Marie, and Alina Marie were chosen as the “missionary disciples” to bring our unique vocation to the Land of Saints and Scholars! Of course, I had to go with them to see them settle in their “home away from home” for three months!

During the ten short days that I was with them, Father John McKeever, Parish Priest of St. Patrick’s Parish in Keady, County Armagh, arranged for three of us to visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Knock. We are grateful to Father John Hogan for his excellent historical background and kindness in driving the three hours to Knock and back!

It was my first time visiting a Marian apparition site – and, although it was a quick visit, I received many graces! In the Apparition Chapel, as I gazed at the statutes depicting the actual apparition, I was awestruck by the reality of being at the site where Our Blessed Mother, Saint Joseph, Saint John the Beloved Disciple, and the Lamb of God, surrounded by His Heavenly Host appeared!

As the days passed and I reflected on the meaning of the apparition, I thought about Father Hogan’s words to us: “This is the

apparition for today.” What could he mean by that, I wondered? I want to share with you some of my reflections.

For those unfamiliar with the apparition of Our Lady of Knock, here is a brief summary.



On the evening of August 21, 1879, Mary McLoughlin, parish housekeeper, noticed a bright light coming from the front of the Church. It was pouring rain, yet the figures were clearly visible: Our Lady, Saint Joseph, Saint John the Beloved Disciple, and the Lamb on the Altar, with the Cross behind. Angels surrounded the scene. Mary quickly went to her sister Margaret to tell her what she saw. Both of them returned, with their brother Dominick – all saw the figures! Approximately fifteen people gathered — from five to seventy-five. All saw the apparition and prayed there, in the pouring rain, for almost two and a half hours. Not a word was spoken either by Our Lady, Saint Joseph, or Saint John! Yet, I believe Father Hogan’s observation to be accurate: “This is the apparition for today.”

What struck me immediately was Our Lady's posture. She is in a posture of prayer, adoration, and supplication. Her hands are in the same gesture as a priest at prayer during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Her silence is contemplative, and her feet seem to be lifted from the ground – almost as if she is ready to be on the move. She is the contemplative and the missionary – prepared to bring the good news of the Presence of the Lamb at the sacrifice.

Standing with an unmistakable gesture of reverence to Our Lady, Saint Joseph is the first beneficiary of the inner life of Mary, and he shows us the true stance of one who “has eyes to see and ears to hear” the message of Our Lady's life. He leads us to Mary and teaches us how to honor her and be true children of Mary: imitating Her virtues and way of life – the life of faith in God and surrender to His Will: the life of contemplation and worship.

Saint John the Beloved Disciple, book in hand and in preaching mode, allows us to contemplate the role of the priest as “minister of the mysteries of God” – the one who leads us in our life of worship by his ministry as “alter Christus.” It allows us, and every priest, to contemplate his relationship with Mary. John, to whom Jesus said: “Behold your Mother,” stood by the Mother's side from the moment of the Crucifixion until the day she died and was assumed into Heaven. Now, together, they stand in the same place – the Foot of the Cross – at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass – as is depicted by the Lamb on the Altar, with the Cross behind. Together, Mother and priest silently lead us to true worship.

Today, constant noise and distraction surround us! How difficult for people to detach from their devices, even at Mass! How many of us take time to adore the Lord Jesus Christ present in our Churches? How many of us take time throughout the day to turn to Him in silent prayer and acknowledge Him as “The Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world”? At Knock, Our Lady, St. Joseph, and St. John teach us the importance of silence so that we may listen and hear the Word of God, written in the Scriptures and preached by our priests.

This apparition leads us to a deeper understanding of and participation in the Mass. Today, when very few Catholics believe in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, Knock calls us to silent reflection on the Sacred Scriptures, leading to a more profound belief in the Word of God TRULY present, Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity in the Holy Eucharist.

In the United States, the Bishops have called us to a Eucharistic Revival to continue for the next three years. I believe that the apparition of Our Lady, Saint Joseph, Saint John, the Lamb of God, and the angels at Knock provide much food for thought during these years of the Revival. Though silent, they have much to teach us about reverence, contemplative silence, faith, and true worship of the Divine Lamb!

For Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate, the apparition of Our Lady of Knock is a clear witness and example of our contemplative-missionary charism. Like Mary and Saint Joseph, we live our contemplative life of silence and recollection so that, like Saint John, we will be ready to witness to the love of the Trinity, Whom we have come close to in our time of adoration.



Our Lady of Knock, pray for us.
Saint Joseph, pray for us.
Saint John the Beloved Disciple, pray for us.
All you heavenly hosts, pray for us.

O



Ireland

By Sister Carole Marie, PVM



How is it Lord that you made me free
For this short mission and brought me here?
To serve the priests, the people and to be
One in this quest for faith, strengthened and held dear.



The beauty of the countryside,
how green!
The myriads of sheep and cows
and birds galore!
The greetings, "how are ya,
good morning" seems
So frequent as we walk
to Church or store.



O Ireland! The bond of family love I see!
Let not its precious gift ever slip away:
Children everywhere, lovely, chatting happily
With Dads, and Moms, and Grans who care and play.



O Ireland! Accepting handicaps, no fear!
A father with a son's exclaiming noises,
Twins with limits now at Mass, brought near
To communion rail for blessings and rejoices.

Marriages of years so tender, and so faithful
Yet searing loss of spouses, children too.
I try to lift their eyes to Heaven's pull
Reminding them we're coming home to them
and Lord, to You!



O Ireland, some slipping from your gracious care:
"I don't believe – look evil all around"
"I pray at home, to Mass? It's kind of rare."
Good Shepherd, please help the lost be found.



O Lady of Knock, a very precious shrine –
Mary radiantly gazes to her Son in Heaven.
O Ireland, her prayer was said for all mankind
And for her Irish children to be a faithful leaven.



O Ireland, we prayed on Tara and on Slane
(where St. Patrick prayed the faith would never die),
For Mother's Cause, vocations too, amidst the rain
The sky cleared; a rainbow shone the Lord's reply!

The thrill of finding Peter Tallon's Church
The joy of meeting Tallons over there
O Ireland, you gave our Congregation birth
By sending Mother's faith-filled parents over here.



Irish Missionaries



Sr. Margery Therese, Sr. Alina Marie, Archbishop Eamon Martin, Sr. Carole Marie, and Sr. Theresa Marie

For centuries missionaries have gone out from Ireland to spread the Faith so firmly planted there by St. Patrick. So it may seem odd to have missionaries from the United States go to Ireland. Yet, that is what happened recently.

Sister Margery Therese, Sister Alina Marie, Sister Carole Marie, and Sister Theresa Marie, pictured above with Archbishop Eamon Martin, spent three months in Ireland at the requests of Archbishop Martin, County Armagh, and Bishop Thomas Deenihan, County Meath.



Before Mother Maria Catherine returned to Marycrest, the Sisters offered a Day of Reflection for Priests in County Armagh. The Sisters are pictured here visiting with Cardinal Cahal B. Daly, the retired Archbishop of Armagh.

Sr. Theresa Marie and Sister Margery Therese worked in Keady, County Armagh. Sr. Carole Marie and Sr. Alina Marie worked in Navan, County Meath.

While there, the Sisters were engaged in our door-to-door evangelization.

The Sisters worked with the Legion of Mary both in Keady and Navan. The Legion from Keady with Sr. Margery is pictured here.



With the Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal, Sister Alina Marie and Sister Theresa Marie participated in a Summer Camp at Drogheda.

They all went to Youth 2000 in Clane, County Kildare, where the five hundred participants, ages 18-35, edified them, especially during Eucharistic Adoration.



With every visit, the Sisters sought to deepen the life of Faith in those they encountered. They encouraged those who were no longer practicing their Faith to return to Mass and the sacraments.

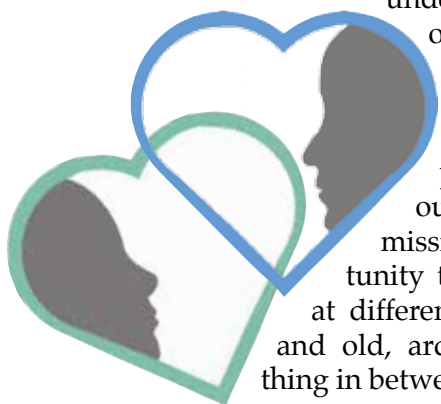
Do You Want to be Happy?



By Sister Theresa Marie, PVM I

Last summer, I spent an afternoon with some friends who had had a conversion to a living faith in Jesus Christ during the pandemic lockdown. I hadn't seen them in a few years and was eager to hear how they were doing and what had brought about their conversion. One of the first things the husband asked me was my approach to talking to people about Jesus — did I use Ephesians 6 or Romans 8? I was a bit taken aback by his directness, but I said that our approach was more to talk to people as friends and share our faith conversationally. They said that they had found it most difficult to share their faith with their friends and especially their Catholic friends, who didn't seem to want to talk about Jesus, although the Catholic friends had encouraged them for years to have their children baptized.

Many Catholics find it hard to talk about our faith, thinking that we have to have a profound theological answer for any question asked, unsure how to put our faith into words that others will understand. Over the last year, I have often returned to that conversation and thought about our PVM I "approach." Mother Foundress said that we talk "person-to-person, heart-to-heart." During our recent three-month temporary mission in Ireland, I had the opportunity to encounter hundreds of people at different stages of their faith — young and old, ardent and indifferent, and everything in between. I discovered that I was having



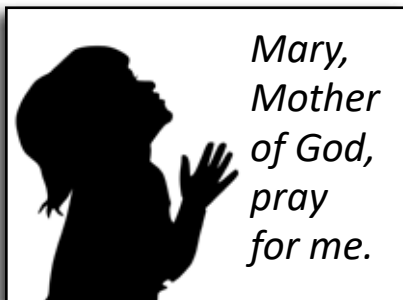
similar conversations with many people and that I have a typical approach, which I thought others might find helpful. I call it the “Do you want to be happy?” approach.

People in Ireland like to talk, have a good conversation, and have good craic (a good time) — many like to share their story, but some will shy away from a faith conversation. It helps to listen and bring in the faith where they are — some will still resist, but that’s ok, and at least we’ve helped them think of God.

I ask people, “Do you want to be happy?” During our months in Ireland, I asked this question to many people. It is almost sure to be answered with a “yes.” Everyone wants to be happy. It is part of how God made us. Even when we do something wrong, we do it because we think it will make us happy.

The next question is a little more complicated, but if you think like a P1 (kindergarten) student, you’ll know the answer — “Who knows everything?” (or) “Who knows you better than you know yourself?” The answer is God. So, if I want to be happy and God knows everything, why don’t I ask Him what will make me happy? “But Sister,” someone might say, “how can I talk to God, and how can I hear His answer?”

Let’s go back to the P1 student. “What do we call it when we talk to God?” They will screw up their little faces to think, but then one will venture to raise her hand, and “Prayer?” will come out, with the question mark in her voice. “Yes. That’s right.”



So, I made up this little prayer and printed it on heavy paper to make a prayer card, “*God, I want to be happy. You know everything, so You know what will make me happy. Please show me what will make me happy and help me to listen to You.*” Then we turn to Our Blessed Mother and ask

her to pray for us, saying, “*Mary, Mother of God, pray for me.*” and praying the Hail Mary three times.

The next question would be, “Sister, how do you hear God’s response?” I usually hear God through the peace I experience

in my heart, so I share a little story about how I was an engineer and happy on the surface, but something was missing — my spirit was unsettled. When I visited the Sisters of the Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate, I felt peace in my heart, and I knew that God was calling me to be His spouse as a Parish Visitor Sister. Another example would be when you want to do something wrong — maybe you think it would be fun, or you would like to hurt someone who hurt you — but you feel uneasy about it in your heart. That’s God talking to you through your uneasiness.

You can share your experience — think about how you hear God and then get up the courage to be a little vulnerable and share the wonders God has done in your life. The person may not listen to you — but they also may listen — and wouldn’t you like to help them be happy?



Thanksgiving to God

By Servant of God Mother Mary Teresa Tallon, PVM1

“Catholics have a way of making every day a period of thanksgiving. They live by faith; the Holy Mass is their heritage, and by this Sacrifice they can give God infinite thanks, because Christ is the offering to His Father.

God’s gifts are always coming to us. We could not move without His power; we could not live without His gifts. Our thanksgiving should, therefore, be perpetual.”





**PRAY FOR US –
WE PRAY FOR YOU.**

- October 4 Sr. Mary Colette McCarthy, 1992
4 Sr. Mary Bertille Beaudreau, 1992
7 Sr. Mary Clarissa Albach, 1980
9 Sr. Mary Hilda Broderick, 1954
9 Sr. Mary Elise Stutzenberger, 2021
11 Sr. Mary Theodora Timony, 1965
12 Sr. Mary Rita Ready, 1998
12 Sr. Mary Matilde Thompson, 2000
14 Sr. Mary Concepta Deady, 1980
17 Sr. Mary Irma Powers, 2005
22 Sr. Mary John Bosco McTernan, 1943
23 Sr. Mary Scholastica Werner, 1973
25 Sr. Rose Aimee Tremblay, 2008
28 Sr. Marion Adele Mitchell, 2008
31 Sr. Mary Verda Mutz, 2006
- November 2 Sr. Mary Lucian Keyes, 1977
3 Sr. Mary Josephine Seitz, 1978
10 Sr. Mary Martha Keville, 1953
11 Sr. Mary Alberta Moneyppenny, 1979
20 Sr. Mary Barbara Enright, 1964
21 Sr. Mary Joan Halton, 1953
23 Sr. Mary Melanie Quaid, 1969
23 Sr. Mary Celeste Taylor, 1981
25 Sr. Mary Ludivine Whitty, 2000
- December 1 Sr. Mary Claret O'Melia, 1983
5 Sr. Mary Horan, 2010
7 Sr. Mary Suzanne Burke, 2009
8 Sr. Mary Marcella Parnoff, 1994
13 Sr. Mary Mercedes Cernich, 1984
14 Sr. Mary Grata O'Donnell, 1961
14 Sr. Mary Elaine Blais, 1986
16 Sr. Mary Elizabeth Brady, 1959
16 Sr. Mary Zita Stack, 1962
28 Sr. Mary Lydia Mullen, 1966
28 Sr. Jeanne Marie Dufour, 1988
30 Sr. Mary Helen Pfundner, 1997

IN MEMORIAM

On September 28, 2022, Father Fredrick L. Miller, our beloved teacher, spiritual director, friend and brother passed away suddenly, surrounded by the many seminarians to whom he had dedicated many years of his priesthood.



Fr. Miller is seated to the left of the late Pope St. John Paul II

On October 28, Father Charles Connor of the Diocese of Scranton celebrated the Month's Mind Mass for him at our Motherhouse Chapel.

"When you look back at Father Miller's career at Mt. St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, which was just one stop on the long journey, it tells the story of his life and the story of his life is helping seminarians become good and holy priests. If anyone needs any proof of that there were around 120 concelebrants at his Funeral Mass. What an astounding and wonderful tribute to what one man did for the Catholic priesthood!" *-from the homily*





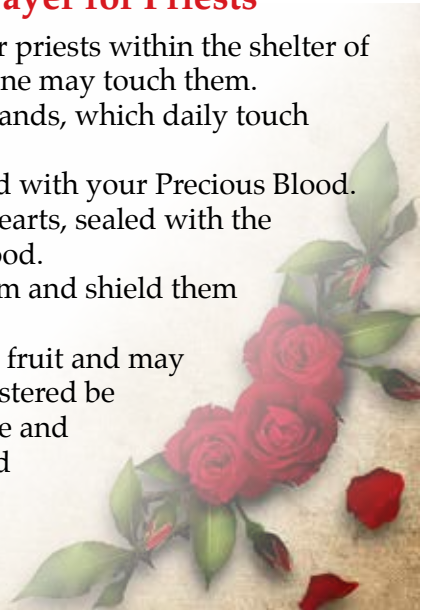
Father Miller blessing the new fire on the Easter Vigil at Marycrest last year.

While we mourn the loss of our dear friend, we take comfort in knowing that this true son of the Immaculata will enjoy the presence of Mary, all the Saints, especially Saint Therese of the Child Jesus and Saint John Vianney, praising the God He loved and served so well by his preaching, teaching and spiritual direction and whose instrument he was throughout his 50 years of priesthood!

Eternal rest, grant unto him O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him! May he rest in peace!

St. Therese's Prayer for Priests

O Jesus, eternal Priest, keep your priests within the shelter of your Sacred Heart, where none may touch them.
Keep unstained their anointed hands, which daily touch Your Sacred Body.
Keep unsullied their lips purpled with your Precious Blood.
Keep pure and unearthly their hearts, sealed with the sublime mark of the priesthood.
Let your holy love surround them and shield them from the world's contagion.
Bless their labors with abundant fruit and may the souls to whom they ministered be their joy and consolation here and in Heaven their beautiful and everlasting crown. Amen.



The Glory of the Priesthood and the message of Our Lady of Knock

by Mother Maria Catherine, PVMI

Recently, I shared my reflections on the apparition of Our Lady of Knock with a priest friend. His reflections, noted below, reminded me of my own thoughts following meditation on the apparition.

I was struck by the priestly aspect of the apparition, as well as its call to “right worship.” What is the priesthood if not the continuation, in our own day, of the sacrifice of the Cross? What is “right worship” if not allowing the whole of our being to be drawn into the entirety of the Paschal Mystery? Is it not the priest who, by the gift of his ordination graces, draws us into “astonishment at the fact that the Paschal Mystery is rendered present in the concreteness of sacramental signs...” (Pope Francis, *Desiderio Desideravi*, #24)

By his ordination, the priest shares in the ministry of Jesus Christ, the great High Priest! It is through the hands of the priest that the Sacred Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ comes to rest in what looks like bread and wine. What a sublime mystery! As the Pope continues, “To preside at Eucharist is to be plunged into the furnace of God’s love.” (DD #57)

The priest is prefigured in the apparition by the appearance of St. John the Beloved Disciple, preaching the Word. He is standing next to Mary, just as he stood at the Foot of the Cross. So, it is she who encourages him, prays and intercedes for his priestly ministry to bear abundant fruit.



l. to r. Sr. Alina Marie, Fr. John McKeever, Mother Maria Catherine, Sr. Carole Marie, and Sr. Margery Therese.

In the words of Father John McKeever, parish priest of St. Patrick's Parish in Keady, Knock "is a liturgical vision: the Lamb of Sacrifice, St. John minister of word and sacrament, St. Joseph teaching us silence, and Mary at the foot of the Cross on the altar: for the altar is Calvary and she stands beside every priest saying Mass just as she stood at Calvary. With its lack of words or commands to act (unlike other apparitions), Knock teaches us the actual participation in the liturgy that Vatican II and various popes from Pius X have called for: not the activist distraction of running round entertaining people, but the actual participation of the heart and mind in attentive meditation and contemplation of Christ in His sacred mysteries. That is why Knock is so needed today, because it foresaw and married the best of the old with the new in the liturgy."

By contemplating the apparition of Knock, I believe every priest will see expressed the glory of what it means to be priest: the awesome gift that is his, called to be "alter Christus"!

In the book: *In Sinu Jesu*, Our Blessed Mother speaks to priests: "Let them entrust and consecrate themselves to me

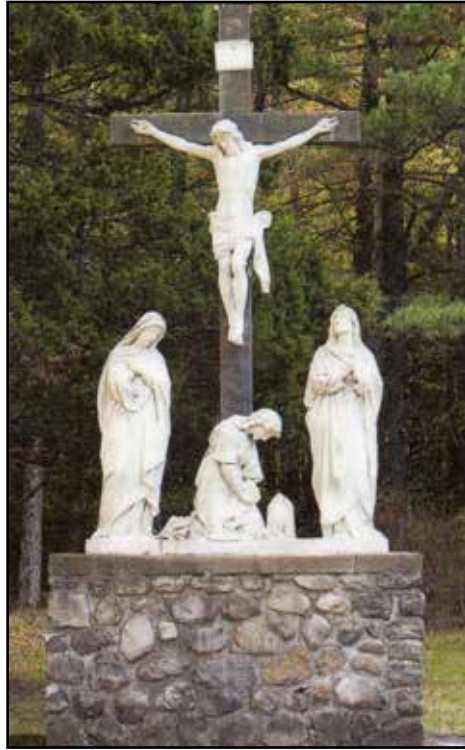
as Virgin Bride and Mother. Almighty God will do great things in them and through them. I so desire that Knock should become for all priests a fountain of living water, a place of healing, of comfort, and of renewal. My hands are ever raised in supplication for my priest sons, and my Heart is ready to receive them here.” (February 5, 2008)

Again, quoting our Holy Father, Pope Francis: “The Virgin Mother ‘watches over’ the gestures of her Son confided to the Apostles. As she protected the Word made flesh in her womb after receiving the words of the angel Gabriel, she protects once again in the womb of the Church those gestures that form the body of her Son. The priest, who repeats those gestures in virtue of the gift received in the sacrament of Holy Orders, is himself protected in the womb of the Virgin.” (#58)

Let us thank God for the gift of the priesthood, let us pray for priests daily. Let us join with our priests in giving true and right worship to God, with Mary, Joseph, Saint John at every liturgy!



The mural of the apparition of Our Lady of Knock, inside the Basilica at Knock Shrine



“Be merciful just as your Father is merciful...Jesus’s command is directed to anyone willing to listen to his voice. In order to be capable of mercy, therefore, we must first of all dispose ourselves to listen to the Word of God. This means rediscovering the value of silence in order to meditate on the word that comes to us. In this way, it will be possible to contemplate God’s mercy and adopt it as our lifestyle.” (#13)

“At the foot of the cross, Mary, together with John, the disciple of love, witnessed the words of forgiveness spoken by Jesus. This supreme expression of mercy toward those who crucified him shows us the point to which the mercy of God can reach. Mary attests that the mercy of the Son of God knows no bounds and extends to everyone without exception.” (#24)

-Pope Francis in “The Face of Mercy”

*“Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right and just.”*

A WARM WELCOME IN WARREN

On October 15, 2022, Bishop David Bonner of Youngstown, OH, Father Christopher Cicero, and the parishioners at Blessed Sacrament Parish/St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish warmly welcomed the Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate. Our newest mission is Our Lady of Providence Convent in Warren, OH.



Sr. Mary Beata, Sr. Debra Marie, Bishop Bonner, Fr. Cicero, Mother Maria Catherine, Michelle DiCarlo, and Sr. Alina Marie, amidst the altar servers.

Last year Sister Mary Beata and Sister Debra Marie, then a novice, went to Blessed Sacrament Parish/St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish for a three-month temporary assignment, returning during Lent with Mother Maria Catherine and Sister Mary Eileen to give a parish mission. This time, Sister Mary Beata, Sister Debra Marie, and our postulant, Michelle DiCarlo, will be staying.

They will serve in faith formation for young and old, youth ministry, and evangelization through family visitation.



During his homily, Bishop Bonner said, "I am here today to formally welcome the Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate to our diocese and this parish. They will live in the convent and collaborate with Father Cicero and his staff to proclaim the joy of the Gospel.

They are missionary disciples who will help us to grow in our identity as missionary disciples. They will help us to get to know Jesus more.

It is ironic that the Gospel is all about persistence. Mother Maria Catherine knows how persistent Father Cicero and I have been in pursuit of their Community coming here. We rejoice in the Good News that the Holy Spirit has brought them to us. In a world where convents are closing, we are opening one up here in Warren, Trumbull County. What a powerful sign of hope and new life! Thank you, Sisters, for your commitment to us. Know of my confidence and trust in you.

May God, who has begun the good work in you, bring it to completion. And may your prayers and pastoral outreach bring us all closer to Jesus through the intercession of our Blessed Mother. Amen.”

Following Mass, there was a reception with coffee and cake where the Sisters renewed their acquaintances.

Sr. Mary Beata greets a parishioner after Mass.



Sr. Debra Marie and Michelle visited with parishioners during the reception.



*Sr. Mary Beata, Fr. Cicero, Michelle, and Sr. Debra Marie
at the door of Our Lady of Providence Convent.*



*The heart of our convent home is the Chapel
where we adore Jesus, Eucharistic.*

Mother Maria Catherine reflected on the opening of the new convent in these words:

“I never lost confidence in God.”
(Servant of God, Mother Mary Teresa Tallon)

“October 15, 2022, is a *DAY TO REMEMBER!* The opening of our newest Convent, Our Lady of Divine Providence, in Blessed Sacrament/St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Warren, Ohio, the Diocese of Youngstown!

Mother Mary Teresa desired nothing more during her life than to have many “tabernacles for Christ” – convents of Parish Visitor Sisters – where we would live our contemplative-missionary charism to the full! How she must have rejoiced, on her feast day, St. Teresa of Jesus, on the opening of our mission convent in the Diocese of Youngstown.

From the Ordinary of the Diocese, Bishop David Bonner, the faithful and persistent prayers of Father Christopher Cicero, the parish priest, and his parishioners, what seemed impossible to us was possible with God’s Providence!

As you can see from the photos, it was a joyous day! Thank you, Bishop Bonner, Father Cicero, and parishioners of Blessed Sacrament/St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish! Our Sisters look forward to journeying with each and all of you ever closer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus!”



*Sr. Joyce Candidi,
Vicar for Religious, with
Mother Maria Catherine.*

*Balloons always
add to the
festivities.*



Mother Maria Catherine cooked meatballs and sauce for the Sisters before she and Sister Alina Marie returned to Marycrest. Mmm. Looks good, Mother. We're sure it tasted great, too!

**WE PRAISE GOD
AND THANK HIM
FOR HIS PROVIDENTIAL LOVE**



The Greatest Commandment

By Sister Mary Eileen Jewell, PVM

According to Scripture, the love of God and the love of neighbor are inseparable. "If anyone says, 'I love God,' yet hates his brother, he is a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother, whom he has seen, cannot love God, whom he has not seen." 1 Jn 4:20

In such a time as this, the witness of Christian love of neighbor is urgent. Credibility is at stake. The secular world is not willing to recognize as authentic those who profess faith in Christ while expressing hate toward fellow human beings or being indifferent in the face of any human suffering.

Christian charity is deep and demanding. It's much more than philanthropy or an occasional good deed to someone in need. It requires humility and solidarity with the neighbor we love so that their dignity is protected and uplifted. It must "hurt" or cost us something, as St. Teresa of Calcutta was fond of saying. It must be universal, in the sense that we exclude no one, whether they be of a different background, race, religion, political party, or anything else that tends to separate us.



Would any of us glibly say that we love like that? That is why we say the Christian life is “supernatural.” It requires “superpowers” that take us beyond what we can do naturally. The life of grace with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit does this. We can be more open to the Gifts through daily prayer, regular reception of Holy Communion and Confession, and using all the actual graces that God sends our way to grow in virtue.

The important thing is not how often we fail but rather that we continue on this great adventure of the life of charity. Truth be told, it’s much more exciting and fulfilling than a life of ease and indifference.

WISDOM

COUNSEL



understanding

FORTITUDE

knowledge

piety

*fear of the
Lord*



The Parish Visitors Thanking God

Servant of God Mother Mary Teresa Tallon
November 27, 1924

This Thanksgiving Day is a time set apart by the nation to thank God for all His blessings. More than any other people the Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate have a debt of gratitude which, by themselves, they can never repay. Only by union with Our Lord, who has made Himself our security for all spiritual debts, can we make proper return to Him who is the author and distributor of every kind of gift that we have received or that we ever shall receive.

The first great benefit that the Parish Visitors have to remember is that of creation. God made each one for Himself. God made each one immortal. There is something called death, but it only means a termination of this earthly life. Each one, therefore, is made to live forever. And, she is so created that her three great powers, memory, understanding and will, can only be satisfied by attaining to the purpose for which she was created, and this purpose is the possession of God. Saint Augustine exclaimed, "Thou hast made us for Thyself, O God, and our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee" ...

Though gifted with creation...we failed, we became rebels; yet God condescended to buy us back. Therefore, redemption is another entirely undeserved gift. It is a wonder how anyone in the world can refuse anything to so good a God! If he does, it is owing to a lack of faith and of gratitude...

If we humbly acknowledge that good gifts come from God, then we are very careful of them and we try to give God His own in our lives. God made us to know, love and serve, Him. This meditation is to make you know and appreciate God; then from that knowledge ought to spring ...wholehearted love and service.

*Give thanks, always and everywhere.
It is right and just.*



Ava Grace hopes you visit Jesus, too.



"God smiles to see us in His presence."
-Servant of God Mother Mary Teresa Tallon



Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate

Serving the Church in America, Africa, Asia

