

# The Parish Visitor



*From Castle...*



*to Convent*

# The Parish Visitor

In this issue, we celebrate Marycrest's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday! On February 27, 1923, Mother Mary Teresa Tallon took the title to the property we know today as Marycrest. Some of the Sisters moved in on April 1, 1923, to ready the place for its primary intended purpose, a novitiate for the newly founded Congregation of the Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate.

Several Parish Visitors will share their thoughts on Marycrest. And we will take you on a virtual tour in the hope that one day, you can visit Mary's Hill and see it for yourself.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MARYCREST!



By Mother Marie Catherine, PVM

One hundred years ago, on February 27, 1923, Mother Mary Teresa Tallon purchased the Carey Estate – all 120 acres – in Monroe, NY, so that the fledgling Community, founded in 1920, would have a novitiate in which to train its members according to the decrees of the Church.

After looking at ten available properties, Mother chose this one, eleven hundred feet above sea level, so God's praises would ring out many times daily from the highest point! She chose the name "Marycrest" in honor of Our Lady, Patroness of the Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate.

In his homily on July 19, 1923, when the Chapel and Novitiate were dedicated, His Eminence, Patrick Cardinal Hayes said, "I was very much moved during the dedication services and at Holy Mass. Our Lord is going to abide in this house. It is a Tabernacle where He will live among His children to give His love to all who come in contact with Him.

"Here, the novices and others will be inspired; they will receive that light which God alone can give. They will be touched with that fire that can come only from God. Here, they will be inspired with love and ideals that most persons do not understand, something beyond the human mind's grasp, as high above nature as Heaven is above the earth, with a power that will enable them to do all things right."

## The Angelus

The Angel of the Lord  
declared to Mary:

And she conceived of  
the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary,...

Behold the handmaid  
of the Lord:

Be it done unto me  
according to Thy word.

Hail Mary...

And the Word was  
made Flesh:

And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary...

Let us pray:

Pour forth, we beseech  
Thee, O Lord, Thy  
grace into our hearts;  
that we, to whom the  
incarnation of Christ,  
Thy Son, was made  
known by the message  
of an angel, may by His  
Passion and Cross be  
brought to the glory  
of His Resurrection,  
through the same  
Christ Our Lord.

Amen.



Each day for one hundred years, the Angelus bell has signaled the time to recite the Angelus salutation three times a day – of course, except when ice has frozen it to silence - ringing out the joys of Profession days and the somber toll of funeral processions. It has rung to announce the death of a pope and the election of his successor.

Mother encouraged Sisters to come to Marycrest for time away from the City to be refreshed and renewed in the beauty here.

Each summer, busloads of Associates from our various mission convents would come for their annual Pilgrimage and be treated to a talk by Mother Mary Teresa, visiting with the Sisters, offering raffles, and refreshments. Mother Mary Teresa never failed to take photos with each group. We continued this tradition until Covid hit, and the number of Associates has dwindled.

Marycrest's welcoming doors are wide-open for visitors from all over the USA – priests, religious, and laity.

Priests find our rectory very cozy and our grounds perfect for a meditative walk. Religious Sisters enjoy the peace and beauty that refreshes spirits.

Visitors often speak of the "peace" of Marycrest and join us for Mass and prayers. So many people call to give us their prayer requests which we post on the prayer board in the Chapel.

The appearance of the grounds has changed over the years. Still, the enduring legacy of our Foundress has never wavered: a home where Sisters are steeped in the spiritual foundations of our contemplative-missionary charism. It remains a place of prayer for those eager to know His love and enter into His Heart, a haven for those needing spiritual consolation and healing conversation. Marycrest is a place of peace and refreshment for all who allow themselves to be embraced by its spirit!



new photo is a little better,  
but still lo-res



## Reflections

By Sister Carole Marie, PVM I

Marycrest is dear to us in many ways. Our Foundress chose it out of several available properties – 120 acres. Mother’s relationship with the original artist/owner is a testament to our charism, as she made every effort to bring him to know and love the Lord. “Jesus and the Apostles on the Sea of Galilee” is the only religious painting we know of among his works. He painted it for the Community:

Almost everyone who comes to Marycrest says, “It is so peaceful here!”

On our retreat days, when we walk on our grounds, we are lifted to the Lord, sensing His presence everywhere. A walk to the cemetery brings to mind all of the saintly Sisters we have lived with. From them, we learned the spirit of our contemplative-missionary vocation.

The five dedicated priests buried here inspire other memories. I am thinking of our former chaplain Father John Mary Groves, who used to make three holy hours before the Blessed Sacrament each day. At the end of every Mass, he would recite the prayer known as the “Nunc dimittis.” He died on February 2, 1963, the feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple. In the Gospel for that feast, Simeon prays, “Nunc dimittis – now Master, you can dismiss your servant in peace.”



**SR. SUSAN  
MARIE**

I love the peacefulness of Marycrest. I remember the first time my family and I came to Marycrest 20 years ago. As soon as the wheel of our van touched the road of Marycrest, I knew this was where I was supposed to be. Even though I have been transferred to Arizona, I have the great blessing of going back to Marycrest during the summer to be with the Sisters who are stationed there and to see God’s beauty all around me.



# MARYCREST

## GOD'S HOUSE, MARY'S HILL, AND OUR HOME

By Sister Sophia Maria, PVMI

Marycrest's center is the Chapel, where Our Lord is present in the Eucharist, living with us. At Marycrest, one can find a place very conducive to prayer – peace, quiet, and natural beauty.

“The silence that surrounds Marycrest is not a silence of ‘not talking, but rather one of being stilled by the wonder of God’s love and providence.” -Servant of God Mother Mary Teresa Tallon

Mary’s Hill is on a high crest, as its name implies. In the autumn, when one drives on Route 17 from Goshen to Monroe, one can see our roof and white walls on the top of the Hill.



It is a great blessing from Almighty God that Parish Visitors can come together to the solitude of Marycrest to renew their spirit.



I like to envision a heavenly reunion of all the people who have visited Marycrest in their lifetime. There must be thousands of them by now.

In the 1970s and 80s, nearly one hundred people came to a Charismatic Prayer Group each week to pray with the Sisters.

Over the years, our Associates from New York City, Bronx, Rome, and Albany, NY, Connecticut, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania came by bus for an annual pilgrimage. High School girls in Our Lady’s Mission Club did the same.

Children from home-schooling families came for activities with the Sisters and to offer help cleaning the Chapel for Christmas and Easter.

Religious Sisters from other Congregations joined our Sisters in formation for classes in our Mary, Mother of the Church Institute, taught by noted priests and Sisters.

Since 1923, young women from various states and countries have come to Marycrest to be formed in the contemplative-missionary spirit of the Congregation.

- Sister Mary Roberta





For me, the beauty of Marycrest is to have the Blessed Sacrament with us in our Chapel twenty-four hours, seven days a week. Surrounded by the beauty and peacefulness of nature, the Lord is truly present here if we are open to Him.

– *Sister Linda Jean Marie*



Marycrest is home, given to us by Mother Mary Teresa Tallon. Here we find Jesus, the Son of God and the Son of Mary. Marycrest has nurtured us with her beauty and serenity.

– *Sister Ann Marie*



It was such a joy when I was recently assigned to Marycrest after nine years in Arizona and so many more years in various missions. Especially after my last two years in Arizona not being able to travel because of Covid, it was wonderful to see so many Sisters again. The beauty of Marycrest, on almost one hundred acres of property, is truly food for the soul. I kept taking pictures of the green trees after living nine years in the desert climate of Arizona!

I also loved getting reacquainted with our elderly and infirm Sisters and the opportunity to do little things for them.

– *Sister Mary Eileen*



I think of Marycrest as our Mother Mary's and our Mother Foundress' central house, where all their daughters, with our special contemplative-missionary charism of the Parish Visitors, can gather together. We do so periodically from the United States areas, the Philippines, and occasionally Nigeria, in person and virtually. These gatherings allow us to grow spiritually and be joyfully refreshed in Christ and our common vocation. We can renew our friendships, especially with Sisters with whom we formerly lived and worked. We are home together in our Mother's house.



– *Sister Mary*

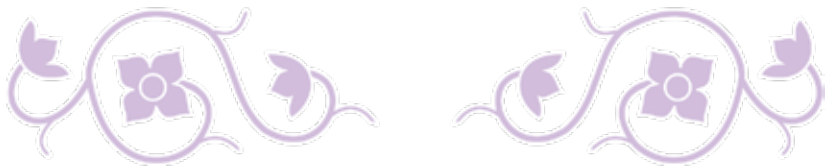




Every time I return to Marycrest, I have new memories and prayers of gratitude to God, especially for our Sisters. My favorite memory is the first time I visited Marycrest, because Jesus was leading me to join our Community. Father Benedict Groeschel, CFR, introduced me to the Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate. During my appointment with him at his office, he called Sister Eileen Marie, then handed me the phone: she warmly invited me to come, not just for a day, but for a long visit! On the day I came Sister Eileen Marie was standing in front of the Chapel, waiting for me...I will never forget her radiant smile.

She led me into the Family Room. Soon afterward, Sister Marie Cecile came in, and later, Sister Carole Marie, General Superior, joined us. The Holy Spirit enveloped me with the light and warmth of His grace and gift of our consecrated life which He fashioned in His Love.

- Sister Mary Beverly



For me, Marycrest is the womb and heart of the Community. My first years in religious life were cradled and nurtured at Marycrest in the cocoon of St. Joseph's Novitiate. I learned and grew into our charism's interior life and spirit there as Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate.



Marycrest is the heart because it is where we always come from our missions for renewal. Here we share and strengthen one another. Being together deepens and fosters our union with our Divine Spouse and our Sisterly bond with each other in Him, enabling us to go out with an ever-increasing love of God and souls.

- Sister Alina Marie



Mother Mary Teresa Tallon determined that the site chosen for the future novitiate must be one that would provide the opportunity for the contemplation of nature at its best.

She received an advertisement for a most desirable property in Monroe, NY. It was known as "Vinterholm Castle" – also the Carey Estate. After many prayers and meetings, Mother knew she had chosen the perfect spot and immediately changed the name to "Marycrest."



We can see the roof of the novitiate building from the balcony.

This beautiful property of one hundred and twenty acres, located fifty miles north of New York City, where our first Convent was, had a large stone building with eighteen rooms, steam-heat, and



*Beyond the Chapel roof, the view from the balcony is glorious.*

electric lighting. One can command an excellent view on all sides from its third-floor balcony. The water comes from an artesian well on the grounds. There was also a garage, a stable, and a farmhouse nestled within bountiful woodlands.

*-Sister Mary Gemma*



Marycrest is home. Home to Jesus, ever-present in the Tabernacle. Home to our sisters, all who visit, and all who seek Him knowingly or unknowingly.

*- Sister Marie Meaghan*



Marycrest is not just a home but a place where I feel blessed, with a sense of peace and joy from my sisters, knowing they are waiting to welcome me. Such grace awaits me!

*- Sister Mylene Rosemarie*



I always imagined the “Dream House” would be a house, aged with character and having a fireplace or two, on top of a forested mountain, surrounded by nature, and experiencing the glory of every season. My Beloved Spouse surprised me by giving us this “dream home” in Marycrest. It possesses all those beautiful qualities and is even greater than could be imagined; for it is the home of every Parish Visitor of Mary Immaculate, and Jesus Himself abides there in His Eucharistic Presence.

*-Sister Rebecca Miriam*



As I have personally experienced on various occasions, I have often seen it extended to others, Marycrest as a place of warm welcoming for Sisters returning from a visit to their family or an apostolate. It is also true for the families of the Sisters who visit and for lay acquaintances who come to Marycrest for some advice or help. Nothing is too much trouble.

*- Sister Eileen Marie*





Let's take a  
**TOUR OF  
 MARYCREST**



*The sign at the Entrance welcomes you.*



Once you turn onto "Marycrest Road," you enter a lovely tree-lined drive that curves around for about three-quarters of a mile. In every season of the year, its beauty doesn't disappoint. After taking the left fork, the road gently rises until it begins to crest.



St. Joseph, our patron and protector, will be the first to greet you on the left



The shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes follows close by on the right. Mother Mary Eymard had it built in thanksgiving for the restoration of water in our well.



The first building on the left is Visitation Hall, which was added in 1976 to provide more bedrooms. Visitation joins Tallon Terrace, our infirmary wing. We originally built it in the 1960s as a Juniorate. The statue of St. Therese is outside these buildings, pictured here with Sr. Theresa Marie. Unseen from the front is another wing named Good Shepherd. Sister Rita Mairelenes saw the need for office space and more bedrooms in the 1980s.





The Chapel of the Immaculate Conception is at the top of the Hill, built in 1942. Servant of God Mother Mary Teresa Tallon planned every detail of the Chapel, from the choice of stained glass windows to the statues. Here the Sisters come for daily Mass and morning and evening prayer together. They adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament during their holy hour each day. In this beautiful place of worship, they profess their vows and celebrate their jubilees.



We move then to the original building, the Motherhouse. Built in 1905 by its first owner, artist Ferdinand Pinney Earle, and later owned by John Carey, it became home to the Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate in 1923. A statue of

the Sacred Heart of the Good Shepherd replaced an urn in what we have called Rosary Circle.

Mother Mary Teresa used to give conferences to the Sisters in this foyer. The original Chapel was in this building in what is now the family room.



Behind the Motherhouse is the Rectory. It rises on the rock foundation of the original owner's "patio."



St. Joseph's Novitiate is next. Mother Mary Teresa permitted Father Guinivan to build a "bungalow" on the property, pictured below. When he died, we added a second floor. Set off from the main house, the Novices truly have an ideal home to learn our contemplative-missionary way of life.



A side road takes us into the woods, where we will find a statue of the Pieta near a Mausoleum. Before the cemetery was developed, the deceased Sisters were buried there.



Rejoining the main road, we pass the garages, cottage, and Quonset hut. The road now leads us to the cemetery.



The deer don't seem to mind sharing this peaceful spot with Sr. Margery Therese.

Whether we are praying the Stations of the Cross or remembering our deceased Sisters, Our Lady of the Assumption cemetery is a revered place at Marycrest.

We hope you have enjoyed your tour of Marycrest. Perhaps, one day, you can see it for yourself. You would be most welcome! ❤️



*Meet our newest Novices  
...in the Philippines*

On February 11, 2023, while Mother Maria Catherine was conducting her Visitation in the Philippines, our postulants there became novices. Sister Maria Genniza and Sister Mary Jyoti are the first to begin their novitiate in our recently opened formation house in Lipa. Sister Maria Arlene will be their novice director. Sister Mary Emmadonna will assist her.

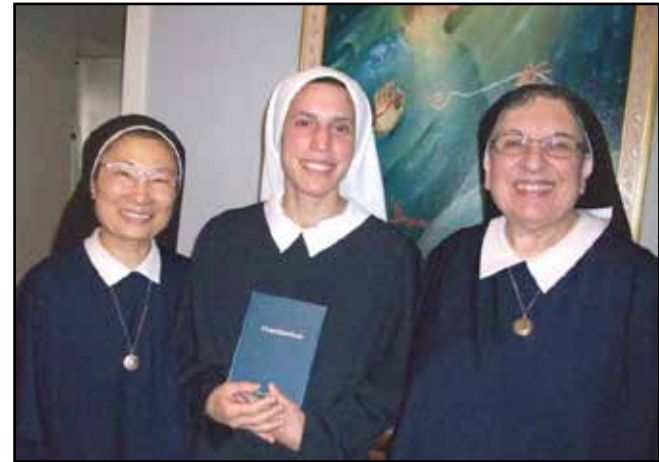


*Sister Maria Genniza*



*Sister Mary Jyoti*

*... and in the USA*



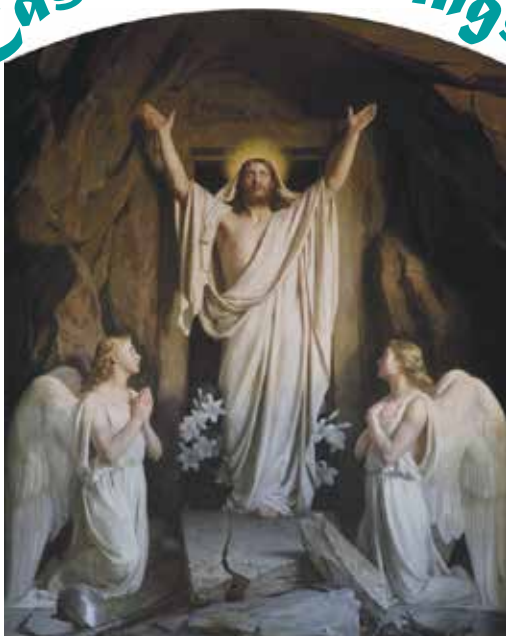
*Sister Mary Beata, Novice Director, Sister Marie Michelle, Mother Maria Catherine*

On the Solemnity of the Annunciation, March 25, 2023, we received Sister Marie Michelle DiCarlo into the novitiate at Marycrest. She will continue to serve in Warren, Ohio, during her apostolic year, then return to Marycrest for her canonical year.



*Sister Marie Michelle greets Sister Eileen Marie, who will celebrate 75 years in religious life on July 2<sup>nd</sup>.*

# Easter Blessings



Mother Mary Teresa Tallon often urged her Sisters to garner all the graces readily available from the Risen Lord for the sake of the people they served.

“This is the resurrection time, the Feast of Easter, and it is also the springtime when all the earth has a period of renewal. Christ has risen for our justification, and the graces of Easter are poured out on the souls of men.”

– Conferences of Feast of the Liturgy

“These two months of May and June are pleasant months to work in the parishes; July and August are not so cool. These coming months are months of First Holy Communion, also a time when the Easter duty is being completed, so get your people prepared. It is a Church season that arouses many to a reformed life. The parents in the families are negligent, and the children are preparing for communion, try to get the older members of the families to go to Confession and Communion with the children. It would be a very useful thing if you could do this.”

– Conferences on Feasts of the Liturgy



The Easter Season brings the fruit of new members through the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults. Several of the Sisters have journeyed with young and old catechumens and have rejoiced to see them receive the Sacraments of Initiation.



*Sister Mary Beata prepared a candidate and two catechumens for Sacraments in Warren, Ohio.*

In Delaware, Sister Jhoan Marie prepares children who, with their parent's permission, want to become Catholic.







*Sister Mary Josita and her team prepared one catechumen and four candidates in Monroe, NY.*







**WORLD YOUTH DAY**  
*not-a-world-away*  
**All high school teens invited!**

**SAT. AUG. 5, 2023**  
**MARYCREST CONVENT - MONROE, NY**  
\$50 /PARTICIPANT - INCLUDES 2 MEALS, SNACKS, WATER

 **Encounter Jesus**  
Meet Jesus in Scripture, Eucharistic Adoration, Mass, prayer, and in others.


 **Meet friends and Sisters**  
Meet high school youth from other places and share faith and friendship together. Meet Religious Sisters who love Jesus and want to spend time with you.

 **Go forth as missionary disciples**  
Be commissioned to go out to the world as missionary-disciples of Jesus Christ. In imitation of Mary, go out so others can encounter Jesus in you.

**CONTACT US** Marycrest Convent  
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845-783-2251

**SR. JOSITA** [PVM12020@GMAIL.COM](mailto:PVM12020@GMAIL.COM)  
[parishvisitorsisters.org/WYD](http://parishvisitorsisters.org/WYD)



*Able to sponsor a participant or help to defray some of the expenses? Please send your contribution to the address listed above.*

*Thank you!*

## Pray for Us – We Pray for You



- April 2 Sr. Mary Julianna Roche, 1967  
4 Sr. Mary Sophia Le Riche, 1975  
4 Sr. Mary Marcian Brennan, 1997  
4 Sr. Mary Altrude Burkhart, 1990  
4 Sr. Mary Gertrude Keating, 1941  
6 Sr. Mary Cecilia Long, 1981  
11 Sr. Mary Clare Dolan, 1932  
12 Sr. Mary Eugenia Keaveny, 1970  
13 Sr. Mary Angela Martin, 1946  
13 Sr. Mary Frances Cervone, 2016  
24 Sr. Mary Philomena Hammond, 1936  
30 Sr. Mary Adelaide Nienhaus, 1996
- May 3 Sr. Frances Walter, 2003  
3 Sr. Mary Alphonsus Eisenmenger, 1985  
3 Sr. Mary Imelda Lorrain, 1945  
4 Sr. Mary Patrice McFadden, 1986  
5 Sr. Mary Alicia Tompkins, 1997  
14 Sr. Mary Fidelis DeGroot, 1979  
15 Sr. Marianna Clotilde Del Signore, 2000  
16 Sr. Josephine Marie Kittel, 2001  
19 Sr. Mary Eudes Broeniman, 1942  
21 Sr. Anne McQuaid, 1999  
30 Sr. Dolores Augustine, 2022  
31 Sr. Mary Monica Decker, 1980
- June 2 Sr. Maria Veronica Tivador, 1996  
3 Sr. Mary Ellen King, 1973  
4 Sr. Mary Agatha Wheeler, 1953  
5 Sr. Mary Celine Jakiel, 2002  
8 Sr. Mary Clara Black, 1972  
10 Sr. Mary Florian Lenherr, 1988  
11 Sr. Mary Denise Jacobi, 1977  
11 Sr. Mary Dorothea Gastner, 2001  
24 Sr. Mary Paula McJennett, 1977

*Some thoughts on the*

# EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL



*From the Words of Servant of God  
Mother Mary Teresa Tallon*

“When we consider the meaning of the Holy Mass and realize that it is an offering of God-Incarnate, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, to His Father, and that this Mass is ours, we would wonder that there is anything wrong in the world, because of the value and influence of this Sacrifice. The Holy Mass is so great that it is enough to make millions of worlds right and undo all the wrong, and yet at the present time, as in the past, great outrages are being enacted against the true Church of God.

“We know that certain revolutionists have caused the ruin of vast countries, immense countries whose inhabitants were almost uncountable. We know, too, that these same radicals worked destruction on our mainland in a neighboring country; that officers of the law entered the most prominent churches, arrested the priests at the altars, and dispersed the congregations; and when the people resisted them they called out the militia to shoot or the firemen to turn the hose on the people. We may wonder how this could have happened when we think of the power of God in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. But we must know that the very meaning of the Holy Mass itself gives the answer. The victim offered in the Holy Mass, Our Lord Jesus Christ, was Himself done to death in His own country and by His own people. We know, too, that if He had not suffered this crucifixion patiently and willingly, and even lovingly, we would have no Mass at all...

“We might think it very desirable to have been present on Calvary; we might imagine we could have obtained anything we wanted for God and souls if we had stood at the foot of the Cross or been present even as was the good thief. But we have the Holy Mass, and if we cannot always be actually present, we can be there in spirit. Hence, the value of the liturgy, especially the prayers of the Church officially prepared for Holy Mass. We should make much of these lessons and prayers and dwell upon them, one after the other, in reverent reflection and loving appreciation.”

– *The Graces of Holy Mass* March 14, 1926  
in the *Spiritual Directory*

“In the offering of the Holy Mass it is the Body and Blood of Jesus-Eucharistic that is lifted up to God. Jesus is interceding with the Father. The thought of the Holy Eucharist ought to be with us all day. We ought to humbly beg Our Lord’s pardon that we are not more like Him. Jesus is always absorbed in God, always devoted. He gave us that wonderful Gift with His Heart overflowing with love on the night of His Passion...”

– *The Eucharistic Life* June 16, 1922  
in the *Spiritual Directory*



Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate  
and the St. Therese Classical Academies  
Present

# Golf Tournament Fundraiser



Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate

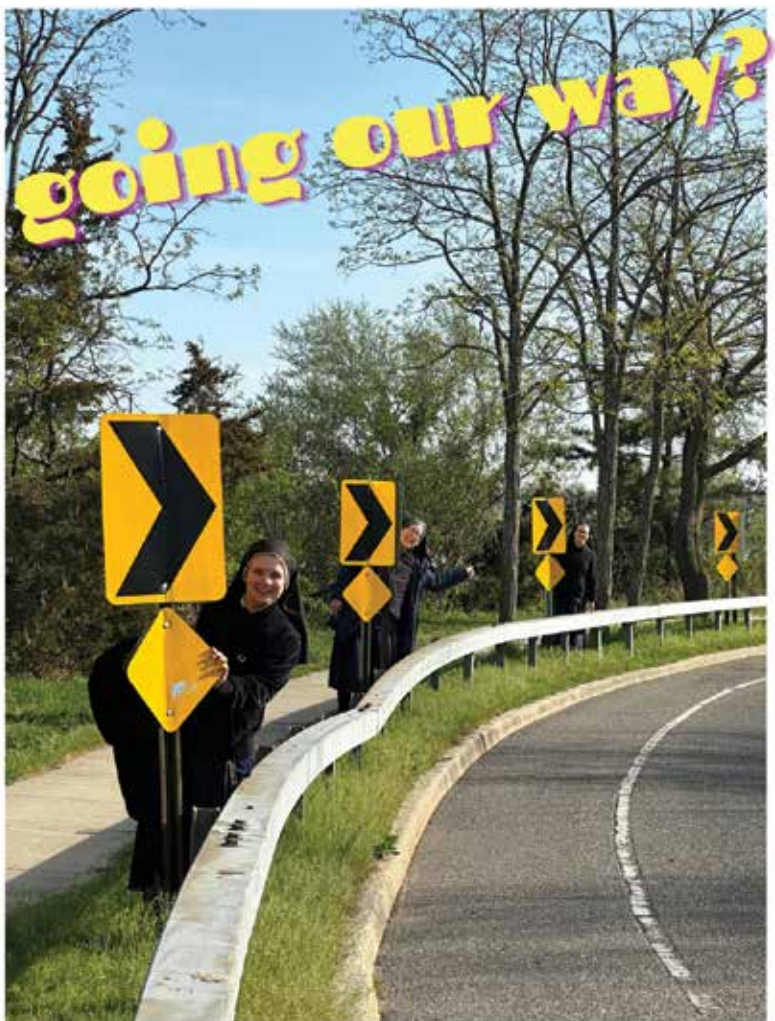


STCA  
I CAN MOVE WITH MYSELF ON NOTHING BUT TRUTH  
ST. THERESE CLASSICAL ACADEMY

## Save the Date

Friday, October 13, 2023  
Otterkill Country Club  
11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
Lunch, Snacks, Dinner  
<https://stcacademy.org/golf-outing/>  
(845) 610-5288





## **Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate contemplative-missionaries**

Check us out at [www.parishvisitorsisters.org](http://www.parishvisitorsisters.org)  
and see if God may be calling you to our way of life, as  
evangelizers and catechists.