

# The Parish Visitor



FOR ALL GOD'S GRACES IN 2024

# The Parish Visitor

The Year of Our Lord 2024 has ended, and 2025 has begun. As He has since the creation of the world, our God has graced us each and every day. In this issue of "The Parish Visitor," you will find some of the ways in which we have experienced those graces. We anticipate even more graces as we celebrate the Jubilee Year of Hope.



In June we welcomed home Sisters from our mission in Arizona as it closed following many fruitful years of ministry in the Diocese of Phoenix. Two Sisters had a temporary mission in the Diocese of Syracuse, doing door-to-door visitation and training the laity, especially members of the Legion of Mary, to carry on that wonderful outreach. In 2025 we look forward to our Nigerian Sisters opening a mission in the Diocese of Ho in Ghana.

Our Sisters in the US, Nigeria and the Philippines carried on our apostolates of missionary visitation, faith formation on all levels, youth ministry, and evangelization. They will share some of their stories in this issue.

As it is written in the Book of Job, "The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." (Jb1:21) Sister Ann Marie, Sister Eileen Marie, Sister Carmen and Sister Mary Roberta were all called home to the God they loved and served so faithfully in life. And Sister Mary Leticia, Sister Alina Marie, Sister Marie Meaghan, Sister Rebecca Miriam and Sister Mary Rowena all professed their perpetual vows – our newest Brides of Christ.

## *The Joys and Sorrows of Life and The Jubilee of Hope*



by Mother Maria Catherine, PVM I

Recently, while meditating on the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary, I was struck by the fact that, even in the midst of the joys of Her life, our Blessed Mother experienced sorrows.

Will you walk with me through the mysteries? In the Annunciation, what joy to know that the Creator of the world chose HER to be the mother of His Son; yet the sorrow of having to tell her parents, who may not understand or Joseph, who also might not understand.

In Her visit to Elizabeth, our Blessed Mother had to travel a distance over unsafe roads, yet She went "with haste" and, might I add, with trust and hope?

In the Birth of Her Son there was joy. However, the travel to Bethlehem, the disappointment at not finding shelter and having Him born in a poor stable, certainly would have been a source of sorrow for Mary and Joseph!

In the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, yes, there was a great joy and expectant hope. But, as we know from the Scriptures, Simeon told Mary "And a sword will pass through your own soul, so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." (Luke 2:35)

What mother would not sympathize with Mary and Joseph as they searched frantically and diligently for their child? Yes, they found Him in the Temple, but the sorrow of losing Him was great, wouldn't you agree?

I experienced great peace as I understood more deeply the presence of Mary in the joys and sorrows of our lives. She understands what we experience, and She is with us, leading us always to “rejoice in hope” that sorrow is merely the other side of joy and that, in our sorrow, She, Her Son and Saint Joseph are with us.

In his document announcing the Jubilee Year of Hope, Pope Francis said: “Hope finds its supreme witness in *the Mother of God*. In the Blessed Virgin, we see that hope is not naive optimism but a gift of grace amid the realities of life. Like every mother, whenever Mary looked at her Son, she thought of his future. Surely, she kept pondering in her heart the words spoken to her in the Temple by the elderly Simeon: “This child is destined for the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed, so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too” (*Lk 2:34-35*). At the foot of the cross, she witnessed the passion and death of Jesus, her innocent Son. Overwhelmed with grief, she nonetheless renewed her “fiat”, never abandoning her hope and trust in God. In this way, Mary cooperated for our sake in the fulfilment of all that her



Son had foretold in announcing that He would have to “undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again” (*Mk 8:31*). In the travail of that sorrow, offered in love, Mary became our Mother, the Mother of Hope. It is not by chance that popular piety continues to invoke the Blessed Virgin as *Stella Maris*, a title that bespeaks the sure hope that, amid the tempests of this life, the Mother of God comes to our aid, sustains us and encourages us to persevere in hope and trust.” (P. 24)

In this issue we are sharing with you many of the joys and sorrows of this past year! The mission stories of our Sisters, the joy of Community life, and yet, the sadness of losing four of our Sisters in one year! Our lives are not without the same joys, struggles

and sorrows as your own lives! Yet, we know that our Spouse is with us every step of the way. We know that our Mother Mary and Saint Joseph, our patrons, walk with us and help us to “live in hope.” You, also, can walk in that assurance, that hope, that you are not alone! Jesus, Mary and Joseph walk with you every step of the way: they see your joys, sorrows, struggles, pain and they are there to help you carry your burden and they rejoice with you in your joys! Ours is simply to surrender and trust!

On Christmas Eve Pope Francis opened the Holy Doors in Rome and the Jubilee Year of Hope! He reminds us that hope is not simply wishing things to be different. Hope is trust that, even in the midst of sorrow and suffering, our hope in Jesus “does not disappoint.”



“Saint Paul is a realist. He knows that life has its joys and sorrows, that love is tested amid trials, and that hope can falter in the face of suffering. Even so, he can write: “We boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope” (*Rom 5:3-4*). (Bull of Indiction of Holy Year, #4)

We know that hope is a theological virtue – meaning that we cannot will it for ourselves: it is something beyond our ability! Hope, the virtue, was given to each one of us as a gift (along with faith and charity) at our Baptism and is kept strong in us each time we make an act of faith in Jesus’ love and presence with us, within us and among us. We exercise hope when we surrender ourselves, our daily activities, our joys and sorrows into the hands of Jesus, Who understands all that we experience, for as the Scripture says: “He experienced everything we experience but sin.”



The Holy Father also tells us that: “Hope is born of love and based on the love springing from the pierced heart of Jesus upon the cross: ‘For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by His life’ (Rom 5:19). That life becomes manifest in our own life of faith, which begins with Baptism, develops in openness to God’s grace and is enlivened by a hope constantly renewed and confirmed by the working of the Holy Spirit.” (Bull of Indiction of Holy Year, #3)



Throughout her life, our Foundress, Servant of God, Mother Mary Teresa, had great hope in the power of God, the will of God and especially, in His Divine Providence. She knew that, amid her greatest sufferings: her exile from the work God was calling her to do; the lack of understanding and support of those whom she trusted; the working against her plans for the Congregation by those in high-ranking positions; her physical disabilities and limitations, God’s plans for the Congregation would not be thwarted! His Will was “all” to her and no matter the sufferings she would continue to do His Will, relying on Him to bring all things to completion according to His plan!

Mother Foundress reminds all of us:

*“We may cultivate hope and also have humility. When you have most humility you have most hope, because humility gives place to confidence in God and dependence on His loving power.” (Origin of the Community)*



*“Hope obtains the measure of its confidence.”*

*“Let us have hope and love; that will ensure perfect success for us.” (Parish Visitor Catechist)*

*“Now we have faith as the necessary foundation. It is the necessary foundation for hope and charity.” (Unpublished Conferences)*

*“Truth is so beautiful, so lovable that it is to be hoped it will always have one worthy and capable of making it lovely to many souls.”*

As we journey along the path of this Jubilee Year as Pilgrims of Hope, let us remember daily that “God is with us”; He is “madly in love with each one of us” (Mother Mary Teresa) and He desires nothing more than our love in return!

“There is cause for rejoicing here”, as Saint Peter says, “though now for a little while you may have to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith, more precious than gold which though perishable is tested by fire, may redound to praise, and glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 1:6-7)

“Dear sister, dear brother, on this night the ‘holy door’ of God’s heart lies open before you. Jesus, God-with-us, is born for you, for me, for us, for every man and woman. And remember that with him, joy flourishes; with him, life changes; with him, hope does not disappoint.” (Homily, Pope Francis, Christmas Eve)

## The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,  
may the **faith** you have given us  
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,  
and the flame of **charity** enkindled  
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,  
reawaken in us the blessed **hope**  
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us  
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.  
May those seeds transform from within both human-  
ity and the whole cosmos  
in the sure expectation  
of a new heaven and a new earth,  
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,  
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee  
reawaken in us, **Pilgrims of Hope**,  
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.  
May that same grace spread  
the joy and peace of our Redeemer  
throughout the earth.  
To you our God, eternally blessed,  
be glory and praise for ever.  
Amen.



## Sister Carmen



By Sister Carole Marie, PVMI

Sister Carmen's battle with cancer revealed her fighter spirit, her trust in God's promise to be always at her side, and her gratefulness for all the help given her throughout her life.

Sister was our Puerto Rican prize who was able to be assigned to several parishes in the Archdiocese of New York and the Diocese of Metuchen with her ability to minister in Spanish. She also served in our mission in Nigeria as superior and formation director for a number of years.

Sister moved from Puerto Rico to New York at the age of sixteen and lived with her sister who was like a second mother to her. She was very close to her family here and in Puerto Rico. They loved her and visited her when she was no longer able to travel to be with them. There were significant persons who God placed in her life to finally led her to her religious vocation, among them were Sister Mary Wrenn, S.C. and Sister Mary Monica, PVMI. Sister Carmen remained grateful to them her whole life.

As soon as Sister entered the Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate and read and heard the words of our Foundress, Mother Mary Teresa Tallon, she felt "adopted" by her and was highly motivated by her spirituality. Even dates tied her to Mother. Sister Carmen was born on March 10; Mother Foundress died on



that day in 1954. Sister Carmen professed her perpetual vows on May 6, which was Mother Mary Teresa's birthday. Our daily Eucharistic Holy Hour, which Mother established for us, was Sister's joy and strength.

Throughout her life, Sister Carmen manifested a tender and undying love for our Blessed Mother. This was evident in her Legion of Mary membership, as well as her service in the Hijas de Maria group before she entered.

Along with her theological studies and degrees, Sister also became an LPN. Her skill was evident in her care of our older and infirm Sisters.

Toward the end of her life, Sister Carmen entered a special experimental program of treatment at Hackensack Memorial Hospital. I drove her there many times and we would have great chats together. She always expressed gratitude for the help given her by Dr. Gutierrez and his staff. At the end of her treatments, realizing that they could no longer be of help to her, she continued several more treatments hoping what the doctors learned from the results could benefit other people.

I couldn't be at Marycrest for Sister's last days because Sister Marie Meaghan and I were assigned to a two-month temporary mission in Sacred Heart-Divine Mercy Parish in the Diocese of Syracuse, NY, but thanks to live-streaming, we were able to join our Sisters and her family for the wake and funeral.

Dear Sister Carmen, we will miss your physical presence, but we know you are interceding for us before our Savior and His Blessed Mother. Please give Mother Mary Teresa our thanks and love.



## Sister Mary Roberta



By Sr. Linda Jean Marie, PVMI  
and  
Sister Jhoan Marie, PVMI

Sister Mary Roberta was a dear friend and confidant for over forty-six years. I had the privilege of living with Sister in West Haven, the Bronx and Marycrest. She was a very prayerful woman who was able to remain calm and peaceful despite the many challenges she faced. No matter where she was assigned, Sister Mary Roberta touched lives. I have heard from many how she was an inspiration to them, a real friend. They were particularly grateful for her prayers and her love.

Sister Mary Roberta entered the Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate on December 30, 1954. Mother Mary Teresa Tallon died in March of that year, so Sister Mary Roberta often jokingly referred to herself as Mother's replacement. (*Sister Linda Jean Marie*)

I started working in the Infirmary when I was a Temporary Professed Sister, and at that time Sister Mary Roberta had just moved from the Bronx because she had become legally blind. She was grateful for every little thing that I or others did to help her. Whenever I brought Sister to the dining room, she always had a kind, encouraging word.

In her blindness, she had a telephone apostolate. Sister would ask me to dial a phone number for her. I was able to witness her patience and kindness with each person she spoke with on the phone. She truly listened to them.

Sister Mary Roberta also asked me to write letters, while she dictated them. She always included words of encouragement. She

was very articulate; and she would always speak the truth in love.

It was truly a blessing for me to witness Sister Mary Roberta's kindness, patience, and peace. I really thank God for the opportunity to work with her.

Her wake service was a beautiful tribute to her, and I have included excerpts from it below. (*Sister Jhoan Marie*)

Relationships were a key part of Sister Mary Roberta's life. Her earliest and longest were with her immediate and extended family. Sister had a strong bond with her parents, brothers and their families. She kept in touch with her nieces and nephews, with aunts, uncles and cousins from all over, keenly interested in all that they were doing. Distance did not deter her. Letters, phone calls - and her prayers - followed them around the globe.

As a Parish Visitor, Sister Mary Roberta would encounter people face to face and heart to heart. She had an empathetic heart and a listening ear. There is a great deal of talk these days about accompaniment. During Pope Francis's pontificate he has repeatedly called us to go out to the fringes of society and accompany those we meet there. Sister Mary Roberta lived that call long before Pope Francis spoke of it. It is the very life of the Parish Visitor, and Sister Mary Roberta was a faithful daughter of our Foundress, Mother Mary Teresa.

Whether she was visiting families in Kingston, Scranton or Milwaukee, or instructing children in West Haven or the Bronx, Sister Mary Roberta practiced the "Art of Accompaniment." Accompaniment is all about relationships. It is modeled on the relational life of the Trinity. Just as God draws near to His people through accompaniment, Sister Mary Roberta provided that sacred space of encounter where she always spoke the truth in love. And Sister's encounters were never one and done. She would think nothing of calling or writing to someone she met 20 or 30 years before to see how they were doing and to let them know that she was still praying for them.

Sister Mary Roberta had an incredible memory. Sometimes memorization is referred to as learning something by heart. That was the secret of Sister's incredible memory. She held people in her

heart and never forgot them and their stories. I think that this is the way she would like us to remember her.




Many of us were privileged to see this "Sister-saint" off to Heaven. Father DeSimone, our Marycrest chaplain, was asked to anoint Sister Mary Roberta on December 11 following our morning Mass. Father anointed Sister, and gave her the Apostolic Pardon, which forgives all sins and the temporal punishment due to sin. Father no sooner left her room when one of the aides said, "I think she's gone." And so, it happened. She breathed her last while she was being commended to her God and Lord.

The paper below was in her file. Mission accomplished, Sister!

A framed graphic with a red border. On the left, the text reads "From my mother, I learned,". To the right is a small portrait of Sister Mary Roberta, a woman in a black and white nun's habit, smiling. Below the portrait is a quote in a typewriter font: "There is nothing more important than to die in the 'State of Grace!'". At the bottom, another line of text reads: "My life's theme has been to pray and work for all souls to attain this goal." At the very bottom, in a smaller font, is the attribution: "- Sister Mary Roberta White, PVM".

From my  
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- Sister Mary Roberta White, PVM

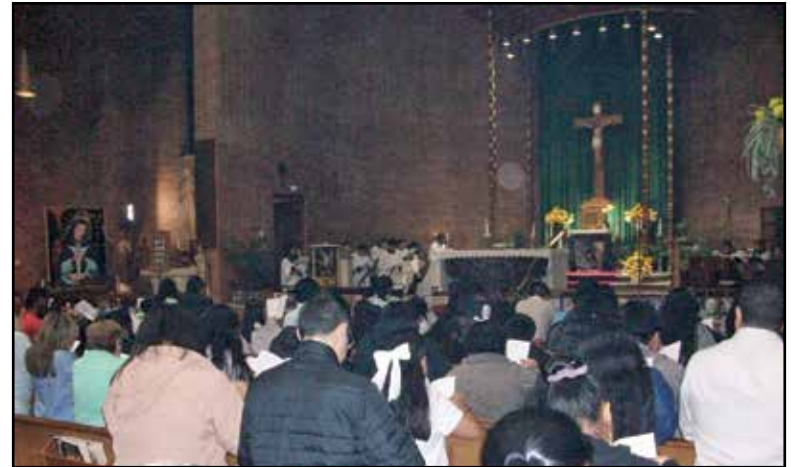
# Halloween means Holy Eve!

Sr. Dolores Marie, PVM I

Halloween was truly a Holy Eve at Holy Family/Blessed Sacrament/St. John Vianney Church, Bronx, this year.



The religious education students, the youth group, a large contingent of altar servers, families, siblings, priests and Sisters, processed from the Church hall into the Church. Forty of the children carried pictures of saints, to be put on the altar rail, and parents carried candles. Led by the cross and the altar servers, it was a beautiful sight to see those hundreds of people processing in the evening dusk along the street.



After placing the pictures of the saints, there was Exposition and Evening Prayer of the Divine Office, chanted by the children. The Litany of the Saints followed and included additional saints dear to the parishioners. After the homily and Benediction, the children and families enjoyed refreshments in the Church hall. All were grateful to Sr. Rebecca Miriam for her hard work in putting this together.

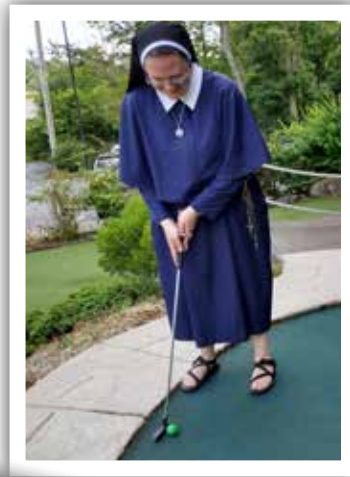
What a beautiful way to celebrate the real meaning of Halloween—Holy Eve, the eve of All Saints Day!





# Do Sisters Have Fun?

You might wonder what the Sisters do for fun. Here are some photos from this past year to give you a glimpse of what that might look like. A visit from the Easter bunny or a round of miniature golf. Maybe looking for the right bowling ball, or dressing up as your favorite saint for All Hallow's Eve. Perhaps being treated to a Mets game – with the tee shirt to go with it.



Helping others to have fun doubles our joy. We taught Fr. John McKeever how to play Chinese Checkers, and he became a grand champion while he was visiting this summer from Ireland.



Sister Mary Beata and Sister Marie Michelle often participate in events at Sacred Heart - St. Patrick Parish in Monroe where they join in the fun provided by Mama Mary's Munchkins.



# The Power of Religious Instruction

By Sister Mary Rosita, PVMI

A woman I met during visitation told me when I asked why she had not received Holy Communion in over five years, "I don't know how to go back after being away for so long."

The work of a Parish Visitor of Mary Immaculate is highly needed in a time like this, when people are so occupied by many activities, with little knowledge of God's plan for them. No wonder the Ethiopian eunuch said to Philip, "How can I understand, unless someone explains it to me?" (Acts 8:31)

The woman continued, "Now I am only concerned about building up my knowledge, so I can face other things in life." Little did she know that it was also necessary to build up her soul.



Rembrandt, *The Baptism of the Eunuch*, c. 1626

Thanks be to God that afterward she was able to ask the question, "What do I do now to go back to God?" "Jesus is always ready to have you back," I responded.

When I took her to the priest, who continued to instruct her, she was fully satisfied and happy to come back to God.

May Jesus continue to be our Theme in speech and in action, our Model.



# SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL FOR GOD

Sister Maria Josephine, PVMI



Madam Cecilia died in the second week of November 2024, after receiving Holy Communion from the parish priest of Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Oria-Abraka, Delta State, Nigeria, on the first Friday of the same month (it was his custom to bring Holy Communion to the sick and elderly every first Friday of the month). Madam was about 84 when she went to meet the Lord.

We met her during our visitation work five years ago. She told us she had recently moved to Oria village from Warri town, which was about an hour's drive from her new location. She had been attending a Pentecostal Church from her early years, but after her arrival at Oria, she began to feel drawn to the Catholic faith. Her children had built her a beautiful house and left her under the care of a paid house-help. Most of the time she was alone with this house-help since all her children were married and out of home. Whenever we went to see her, she was so happy and welcomed us warmly, and she always looked forward to another visit from the Sisters.

Cecilia couldn't read nor understand good English when read, so that gave us much work to do because giving her parish bulletins or the penny catechism to read was out of the question. We did our utmost to simplify the catechism by translating it to the 'pidgin English' which is an adulterated kind of English for the street people. She also did not have a good grasp of the local language (Urhobo), so she could not learn the rosary in the

vernacular; she had to wait for our visitation when we would say it together. Announcing the mysteries usually took a different shape. We would briefly tell the whole story in each mystery, and she would exclaim or sigh as she listened. She never heard true stories so profound as the twenty mysteries of the rosary. Our visits did not end without us bringing her the Gospel message according to the liturgical season. It surprised me that although Mama had been attending a Christian Church, she never got to know anything about the Bible. This was probably because of her inability to comprehend English, so she was an illiterate soul lost among the literate, and no one reached out to her. When our visitation eventually came to an end, Mama would beg us not to take long before returning. She always appreciated our visit each time and yearned for our return; she was like a nestling which awaited the mother bird's return to have its meals.

Cecilia's baptism was a big celebration. Although her children weren't Catholics, they respected their mother's newly found faith. They made her a lovely white blouse, wrapper and head piece (the cultural attire of the Urhobos), and got her nicely dressed up as a bride for her bridegroom, and that's what it was. She was wheeled into Church because she was suffering

from severe arthritis. That day, she was espoused to Jesus as is every Christian on the day of baptism. After her baptism, Cecilia had a few more years to live to nourish her Christian faith on the word and sacraments. She was never able to go to Church again, so we continued to see her from time to time bringing her spiritual food from the Scriptures while Father brought her Holy Communion every month.

I am glad our visitation work has given us one more candidate for Heaven. It made me reflect that there must be thousands more who are waiting for this welcome work of the Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate, little shepherds seeking out the stray sheep and leading them to good pasture.



*Shepherds and Sheep,*  
detail, by David Teniers  
the Younger

# First Profession of Vows in Nigeria



**In addition to the Perpetual Profession of Sr. Mary Leticia this past year, the Sisters in Nigeria had cause to rejoice over the First Profession of Vows of four Sisters.**



**In July, Sister Mary Bernadette and Sister Mary Callista made their First Profession of Vows. They are pictured here with Area Superior, Sister Celine Marie.**

## Philippine Mission: Grateful for 2024

This year has been full of blessings, and I'm so grateful to God for each one. We had two groups of young women stay with us to discern their vocations. One of them, Novie, was accepted as a postulant last August. We continue to pray for the others as they seek to follow God's call.



**Sister Rita Miriam and Sister Mary Joyce made their First Profession of Vows on January 25, 2025.**




*The Philippine Mission Sisters with the young women visiting. Novie is in the top row, second from the right.*



*Sr. Mary Emmadoña with Nanay Fely Santos.*

At the National Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe (NSOLG), we are blessed to have a replica of the *tilma* of Our Lady of Guadalupe. After Mass on special feasts, parishioners and pilgrims often line up, eager to be prayed over and to feel the loving embrace of Our Blessed Mother. This beautiful tradition is called *Pagyakap sa Tilma* or *Payakap*. However, there are those among us, particularly the sick, who cannot come to church for the *Payakap*. It is a privilege for me to visit them in their homes. I tell them that, while they may not be able to visit Our Lady in the church, she is visiting them just as she visited her cousin Elizabeth. The joy and peace that radiate from their faces, even in their sickness, are truly moving. Their smiles, filled with gratitude and warmth, are enough to light up any room and remind me of the deep and tender love Our Lady has for each of her children.

 - Sr. Mary Emmadoña, PVM1



*Sr. Maria Arlene with the high school and college students during Holy Hour.*

One of the highlights of 2024 for me was the launching of our Mother Mary Teresa Tallon Educational Assistance Program, which began last August. This program helps disadvantaged families regularly by providing a monthly allowance for their children’s education. By God’s providence, we secured sponsors for 49 students for the 2024-2025 school year (22 in grade school, 18 in high school, and 9 in college). Not only did we connect with families, but the program also allowed us to provide regular faith formation to the children and youth in our local community. An Advent Day of Recollection for high school and college students was a beautiful way to introduce our young people to prayer. Seeing our youth adore the Blessed Sacrament was indeed a sight to behold.

We are grateful to God for sending us generous benefactors who have sacrificed to help children attend school.

 - Sr. Maria Arlene, PVM



*The scholars of the Mother Mary Teresa Tallon Educational Assistance Program.*

God has blessed me with incredible opportunities to use my gift of singing for His greater honor and glory this year! I had the privilege of singing at both the Local Diocesan Youth Day of Manila and the Diocesan Vocation Day of Cubao, and both events were such powerful moments for me. It was also an opportunity to help the young people discern their vocations. I sang “A Million Dreams” and “Hawak Kamay,” songs that aren’t traditional for church but spoke to me deeply. The lyrics reminded me of the amazing potential God has placed in all of us when we dare to dream and how He is always holding our hands, guiding us, and never abandoning us.



*His Excellency Bishop Elias Ayuban with Sr. Maria Rowena and Sr. Maria Leah.*

As a spiritual daughter of our Mother Foundress, I share her deep love for priests and the priesthood. This year, I was blessed to assist in the liturgy for three types of ordinations. The first was the Episcopal Ordination and Canonical Possession of His Excellency Bishop Elias L. Ayuban Jr., CMF, JCD. I had the honor of singing the responsorial psalm during the Mass for the new Bishop of the Diocese of Cubao. Bishop Elias, who is also from Bohol, my home province, is the second bishop of Cubao. It was such a personal and meaningful moment for me!

Then, I had the honor of being part of the priestly and diaconate ordinations in the Archdiocese of Manila. This special occasion was for the new deacons: Rev. Erwin C. Esmaquilan, Rev. Marion Brian L. Maquiraya, and Rev. Richard Anthony A. Lim, as well as the new priest, Fr. Edward Jayson San Diego. y His Eminence Jose F. Cardinal Advincula, Archbishop of Manila, presided over the Mass. He reminded the newly ordained to pray for a ministry filled with a genuine willingness to love and be in solidarity with God’s people.

I can assure you that every Parish Visitor, including myself, is praying fervently for God’s ordained ministers, and I feel truly blessed to be part of these sacred moments.

 - Sr. Maria Leah, PVM

Last October 2024, our parish, San Isidro Labrador (St. Isidore the Laborer), celebrated its 80th anniversary, and what a celebration it was! The Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) had an excellent plan to reach out to every parishioner, and they did so by bringing the image of St. Isidore Labrador to visit different chapels throughout the parish.

I felt blessed and grateful to witness the very first chapel visit. It was a memorable experience, especially since I had never been to that chapel before! They called it "Sulukin," which means "to the very end/corner." It is quite far from the main parish church.




*Sr. Mary Imelda sharing about the life of St. Isidore Labrador*



*Parishioners from "Sulukin"*

When the image of our beloved patron arrived, I was deeply moved by the warm hospitality and the heartfelt welcome from the people. Their excitement was contagious! The chapel was filled with parishioners, all eager to be part of this special moment. We prayed the rosary together, and afterward, I had the honor of sharing a bit about the life of St. Isidore.

The PPC members also took the opportunity to discuss the various ministries and programs in the parish, all designed to help meet the community's material and spiritual needs. They encouraged everyone to get involved and participate in the wonderful activities happening within the parish. It was a beautiful day of faith, new connections, and excitement that I'll never forget!

 - Sr. Mary Imelda, PVM1



"The priesthood is the love of the Heart of Jesus. When you see the priest, think of Our Lord Jesus Christ."  
- St. John Marie Vianney


*The Sisters visited His Eminence Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales at the St. Joseph Seniorate, a home for retired priests.*

The year 2024 was a blessed and exciting year for me. I continued my work at Our Lady of Fatima Parish (OLFP), teaching at the Highway Hills Integrated School, where I gained three additional classes, totaling around 400 students.

My biggest blessing of the year was my Perpetual Profession of Vows on August 22nd, the Memorial of the Queenship of Mary. The event was so grace-filled and special, and it became even more meaningful because of the people who participated. First, the Mass was presided over by His Excellency Bishop Honesto Ongtioco of the Diocese of Cubao. Second, Mother Maria Catherine received my Final Vows, and I was blessed to have other Sisters from the US, including those Sisters from my Novitiate, join us. Third, my Mama and the rest of my family and friends were present to celebrate this momentous occasion with me.

A few weeks later, I gave a talk at my home parish, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Punta, Sta. Ana, Manila, about Mama Mary and her role in Salvation History. It was a special way to honor my Patroness and thank the Parish for its role in my formation.

I am deeply grateful for all these blessings and lift my hands and heart to glorify God.

 - Sr. Maria Rowena, PVM1



*The Facebook post from the parish inviting parishioners to Sr. Maria Rowena's talk.*



*The children who participated in the Nativity play.*

One can never truly run out of opportunities to do new things for God and be blessed by them. As I approached Christmas this year, I thanked God for allowing me to help the little children from our neighborhood reenact the first Christmas. We put on a nativity play. Like most of the children, it was my first time participating. We prepared and practiced for almost a month. However, as the performance day approached, I became nervous, unsure whether it would succeed. Thankfully, the children were so excited, which made me happy to see their anticipation. One child even approached me early in the morning with a big smile, eager to perform, even though the play wasn't until the evening. Oh, how these little ones taught me to look forward to things with cheerfulness and excitement. In the end, I found myself praising God in front of the Blessed Sacrament, praying in the silence of my heart and hoping that the children, as well as those who watched their play, were reminded of the true reason for the Christmas season — Jesus.

 - *Novie, postulant*



## Novice Notes

By Sister Marie Michelle, PVM

The first evening of Adoration at the National Eucharistic Congress held in Indianapolis from July 17-21 was amazing for all present, but in a special way for nine Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate. Lucas Oil Stadium was filled when we went down to the floor level trying to find a seat, but none could be found. Suddenly, we saw Bishop Andrew Cozzens holding Jesus in a very large monstrance at the edge of the tunnel, where normally football payers run out for their games. As he exited the tunnel to bring Jesus into the stadium, we were literally five feet away! We fell to our knees in adoration, and this was just the beginning. Throughout the following five days, we heard inspiring speakers in the breakout sessions, joined hundreds of people at Mass, prayed the daily family Rosary and spent time in adoration.



The overall message of the entire Eucharistic Congress reminded me of the very vocation of the Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate, as contemplative-missionaries, and particularly of the Eucharistic devotion of Mother Mary Teresa Tallon. As I reflected on the messages I received from the Eucharistic Congress, I was able to connect them to our charism as Parish Visitors. We knock

on doors seeking to open the hearts of those we visit to the love of Jesus. However, I recognize now the great Eucharistic missionary zeal of our Foundress in a new light since my experience at the Eucharistic Congress, for she said in our Spiritual Directory:

- ❖ *“Let us be true apostles of Holy Communion, of gaining children and adults to First Communion and frequent Communion.”*
- ❖ *“When we love much, we wish to see others love. Therefore, if we love Our Lord in Holy Communion we shall wish to bring others to Him.”*
- ❖ *“There is no better way to acquire sanctity and cooperation with our Teacher than by devotion to the Holy Eucharist.”*
- ❖ *“Jesus in the Holy Eucharist works marvels. Go to Jesus in the Tabernacle. Take others there too.”*
- ❖ *“We may help to make adorers by instructing children for First Communion.”*
- ❖ *“...for love of Jesus in the Tabernacle, try to get as many of your people as you can to visit Him, also to receive Holy Communion. Jesus longs to reach their souls. It is the purpose of every consecrated host to reach a human heart, to rest there and fulfill in each soul all the ends of the sublime mission for which Jesus instituted the Holy Eucharist. Help Jesus to do this and He will bless you.”*
- ❖ *“If we can get people to receive Our Lord worthily, He will do the rest. Jesus instructs and enlightens those who receive Him. Since this reality exists why is it that there are not more apostles of Daily Communion?”*
- ❖ *“Let us ask Our Blessed Lady of the Divine Sacrament to help us in promoting a work very dear to the Heart of her Son, the God-Eucharistic.”*

During the last night of the Eucharistic Congress as Jesus was processed out of the stadium in the monstrance, a little girl was behind me repeating, “I can’t see, I can’t see.” I asked her family if she could kneel next to me. They agreed, and she and I told Jesus we loved Him kneeling together with our hands in prayer position as our Eucharistic King left the stadium that night. I hope and pray that the Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate and all present at the Congress will work together to bring many children of all ages to “see” Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and declare with all their hearts, “Jesus is here! We love you, Jesus!”

## Pray for Us — We Pray for You.



- 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  
 20 Sr. Ann Marie Archer, 2024  
 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  
 10 Sr. Eileen Marie Laird, 2024  
 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





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Nigeria

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