

The Parish Visitor

1925-2025



Bring them to Jesus.

The Parish Visitor

At the heart of our faith is a Person. The catechism of the Catholic Church puts it this way: "At the heart of catechesis we find in essence a Person, the Person of Jesus of Nazareth." Pope Benedict XVI said in a homily that "Christianity is not an intellectual system, a collection of dogmas, or a moralism. Christianity is an encounter...a love story; it is an event."



In this issue of "The Parish Visitor," we focus on the Person of Jesus and how, through our apostolates of evangelization and missionary catechesis, we help to guide those we meet to encounter Jesus. Sometimes we do this through our prayers. Mother Mary Teresa told us that our prayers can go where our feet can't reach. There are other times when those we meet touch our hearts and invite us to be more receptive to His Presence.

We rejoice with our Sisters in the Philippines and in Nigeria as they receive new novices. As Jesus said, the harvest is great; pray the Lord of the harvest to send more laborers into the vineyard.

In the next issue, we will share the fruits of our temporary mission in Laredo, TX.



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Jesus Is Calling

By Mother Maria Catherine, PVMI

I don't know how many of our readers have heard of the series: "The Chosen". I hope some of you have and, like some of us, are ardent fans!



Recently, in *L'Osservatore Romano* (the publication of the Holy See), there was an article entitled "Life is Better with Jesus in It" by Grace Lathrop. This is a direct quote from Jonathan Roumie, the Catholic actor who plays "Jesus" in "The Chosen."

It caught my eye and my mind! Before seeing that article, I read the address of Pope Leo XIV to participants of a seminar on evangelizing the family, sponsored by the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life. The Holy Father said: "Ours is a time marked by a growing search for spirituality, particularly evident in young people, who are looking for authentic relationships and guides in life", and then he asked the question: "How many people today simply do not hear the invitation to encounter God?"

I began to reflect: what was it that drew people to Jesus so many centuries ago? Certainly, we can say it was His "signs and wonders." However, what attracted them and kept them following was His PRESENCE! As Jonathan Roumie stated, "Jesus loves them unconditionally." People experienced that love when they met Jesus – and that is what kept them coming!

I believe the key to addressing the empty pews and the half-hearted following of Jesus by our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters today is to proclaim JESUS and His unconditional love! I don't think we need more programs, more activities, or catchy phrases – we need ONLY JESUS. We only need to present HIM – the Way, the Truth, and the Life to a people hungry for a path to follow, a Truth to give them abundant Life – and Hope!

Pope Leo continues: "Faith is primarily a response to God's love, and the greatest mistake we can make as Christians is, in the words of Saint Augustine, 'to claim that Christ's grace consists in His example and not in the gift of His person.'" (*Contra Iulianum opus imperfectum*, II, 146)

His words reminded me of the words of our previous Popes:

Pope Pius X: "Restore all things in Christ."



Pope Saint John Paul II: "The definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch with but in communion, in intimacy with Jesus Christ."



Pope Benedict XVI: "The evangelization of the person and of human communities depends totally on this encounter with Jesus Christ."



Pope Francis: "Accept the risen Jesus into your life. Even if you have been far away, take a small step towards Him. He awaits you with open arms." And, "Jesus is not a figure from the past: He continues now and always to light the way for us."

Over the years, the Popes have called us not to focus on more "programs" but on the Person of Jesus Christ! This is exactly the goal of the missionary-evangelization charism given to Servant of God, Mother Mary Teresa Tallon, our Foundress, and which our Sisters are engaged in daily.

"Let the little children come to Me and do not hinder them," Jesus said to the Apostles, and He speaks so clearly to us today!

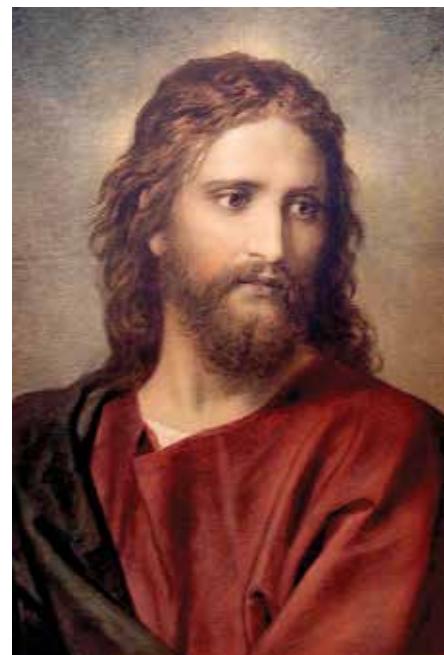
Mother Mary Teresa often reminded us of the Baltimore Catechism question: "Why did God make you? God made me to know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him in this life so as to be happy with Him forever."

This is the goal of all the Parish Visitors missionary visitations, catechesis, and chance meetings on the street, or in the shopping

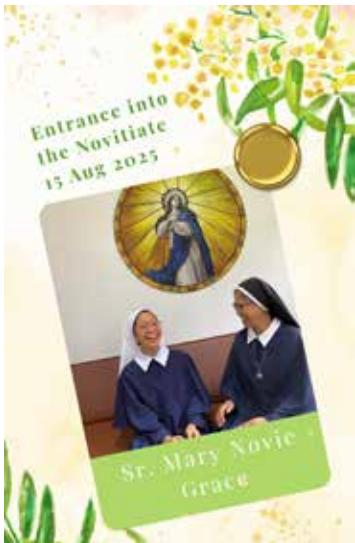
centers: to bring the people we meet to know Jesus so they may love Him and by loving Him serve Him so they will reach the goal He has in store for each of us, to be happy with Him forever in Heaven.

In his video message to the young people of Chicago and the entire world, on Saturday, June 14th, Pope Leo XIV said: "I would like to invite all of you to take a moment, to open up your own hearts to God, to God's love, to that peace which only the Lord can give us. To feel how deeply beautiful, how strong, how meaningful the love of God is in our lives. And to recognize that while we do nothing to earn God's love, God in His own generosity continues to pour out His love upon us. And as He gives us His love, He only asks us to be generous and to share what He has given us with others." (*L'Osservatore Romano*, p. 49)

So, my friends, do you know Jesus? Have you responded to His invitation to encounter Him? Have you experienced His unconditional love for you? He is waiting for you, as He speaks to you from His Heart of love:



*Come to Me,
all you who
labor and are
burdened,
And I will
give you rest*



Reception into The Novitiate

By Sister Mary Novie Grace, PVM

Last August 15 was a day of celebration, and there were many reasons to thank God. The whole Church celebrated the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Community marked its 105th founding anniversary, and I was received into the novitiate. With humility, I asked the Community to teach me their way of life and follow Christ crucified in poverty, obedience, and chastity. With God's providence, that day marked the beginning of my Religious Life, now clothed in the habit of the Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate, I received my veil, the Community's Constitution and Spiritual Directory, and my religious name. I also kept in my heart this message from Mother Maria Catherine, our General Superior, as she said,



"Spend each moment of your religious life in loving and you will find Love Himself! Spend each day in seeking Heaven and you certainly will experience the complete triumph with Mary; spend each day in fidelity to the Rule and the Spirit of this Congregation and you will be worthy to be called the faithful daughter of Mother Mary Teresa and the Queen of Heaven and Earth, Mary Immaculate!" I hope to persevere in this call and bear fruit for the Kingdom of God with the help of the Holy Spirit and your prayers.

As written in 1 Corinthians 2:9, "No eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him". He who first loved and gave Himself to me showered me with much peace and joy. There was peace in obeying and surrendering to His Will and joy in knowing that I am not alone in this journey and that He had blessed me with a beautiful Community. That day, God filled me with good memories to cherish, with laughter and surprises, and so much love from the Sisters. I am beyond blessed to be called by God in this vocation.

In God's mercy, I rejoiced and thanked Him for all the graces He has given me to yield to His will. Indeed, there is so much joy in being a fool for Christ and full of Christ.





MY JOURNEY OF FAITH

By Sister Rosemary Anastasia, PVMI

From the very first day I entered the Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate, I realized that this is where I was being called, and I embraced it with my whole heart.

During my initial stage of formation as a postulant, I accompanied our formators as we visited parishioners in their homes. Home-to-home visitation allows us to understand the challenges people face in their faith. Through the apostolate of this Congregation, I can touch the lives of people who feel there is no hope for them in Christ. Some have not had the opportunity to be prepared for Baptism or the other Sacraments.

I am happy in the midst of my Parish Visitor Sisters, working with them, and sharing in their apostolate of winning souls for Christ, in our own little way and capacity. I ask our Mother Mary to continue to intercede in our work for God, so that, at the end of our lives on earth, we all will be able to behold the face of God.



On June 27, Rosemary was received as a novice and now bears the name Sister Rosemary Anastasia. During the novitiate, she will learn more about our rule of life, the life of prayer, and the contemplative spirit, which will help her be a more effective missionary-catechist.



**due to...
prayer**

By Sister Rebecca Miriam, PVMI

A few years back, I began taking some courses at a community college about half an hour away from our Motherhouse. On the first day of my trek to school, I passed on the side of the road a small building that instantly caught my notice. It was all black with bubblegum pink trimming and a neon green sign that indicated this store was a place that greatly offended Our Lord and Our Lady. Right then and there, I determined that the store had to go...and soon! So I sent up a prayer to Heaven, "Our Lady, You are the Queen of all Heaven and earth. You are very powerful. And Saint Michael, you were the first to drive away Satan, rallying the angels to send the demons out of Heaven. You both are more powerful than any evil. So every time I pass that place, I will pray a *Hail Holy Queen* and the *Prayer to Saint Michael the Archangel*, and by the end of the semester, I am sure you both can have that building closed." That is what I did. Six times a week, when passing the black building, I prayed to Our Lady and Saint Michael the Archangel. As the last week of school came, nothing seemed to be happening. The store was still there and obviously had customers. Discouraged in heart, I still held to the conviction that Our Lady and Saint Michael could defeat the evil of that place and continued my prayer. On the very last day of class, as I passed the building, I



noticed some men working on the sign for the building. My heart jumped: *Are they taking down the sign because the place is closed? Or maybe they are just fixing the sign?* I could hardly wait to pass the building on my way home. As I came upon the place, a large banner hung where once the name of the store had been – “For Rent.” The building was completely dark, and not a single car was in the parking lot. Yes, Our Lady and Saint Michael had done it, and on the *very last* day of my semester!



Often, when we experience a situation that is difficult or wrong, we have a God-given desire to amend it, to change it. At the very least, we long for it to be different. One can feel helpless and make the comment, “Well, I guess I can pray.” As if it is the last resort. To do what we can, when we can, for what is right, is indeed a noble thing and our responsibility. However, in all things, prayer must be the first resort, not the last. I was strongly reminded of this in the experience of the closing of that store; there is nothing helpless about prayer. Prayers may not be answered in times or ways we hope, but still, they are efficacious. Servant of God Mother Mary Teresa Tallon once told her Sisters, “In proportion as I am a contemplative, seeing, perceiving, and desiring according to the stupendous truths of Faith, in that same proportion shall I be a missionary; and also in that same proportion shall I be a cheerful, generous missionary.”

Time passed, and I found myself assigned to our mission in the Bronx. Almost every day, I walked past a little hair salon that had advertisements that were less than ideal. To make matters worse, the salon was located right next to a major bus stop where many high school kids got on and off. For a long while, I would sadly walk past the salon until I finally recalled the prayer experience I had when going to school. Once again, I began a prayer campaign for the store to change its form of advertisement or close. Two months later, the store moved to another location...Though I do hope they also changed their look. The advertisements on the taxis that parked on our street were also no match for Our

Lady Queen of Angels. Two weeks later, the signs were completely removed from the tops of the taxis.

Prayer allows us to have the gaze of the Father, enabling us to recognize the need and then to provide the necessary weapons and strength to carry out our service for the Kingdom. It cannot work any other way. Prayer is always necessary. Sometimes, it may be the only thing necessary, the only thing God asks us to do to open the door for Him. Pope Leo XIV, in his Angelus Address on July 6, 2025, beautifully remarked on this. “We need laborers who are eager to work in the mission field, loving disciples who bear witness to the Kingdom of God in all places.... To do this, we do not need too many theoretical ideas about pastoral plans. Instead, we need to pray to the Lord of the harvest. Priority must be given, then, to our relationship with the Lord and to cultivating our dialogue with Him. In this way, He will make us His laborers and send us into the field of the world to bear witness to His Kingdom.” So next time you pass that store, or billboard sign, or house, or whatever, remember the power of prayer. Remember that as members of Christ’s Body, the Church, we have an inexhaustible store of riches in building up the Kingdom of God and tearing down the kingdom of Satan. All it needs is to begin with a prayer.



A S A P
ALWAYS SAY A PRAYER.



WATCH AND LEARN

By Sr. Mary Emmadoña, PVM

“Watch and learn.”

Those were words I often heard from my mother whenever she wanted to teach me something, whether it was cleaning, cutting vegetables, sewing, or even typing. Even now that I am a Sister, she sometimes still says those words to me. She doesn't give long explanations; she simply shows me how things are done. Then she lets me try it myself.

Most of the things I know, I learned at home. But among the many lessons my mother taught me, the most precious one was how to pray. She never said “watch and learn” when she prayed, but I did. I watched her make the sign of the cross, I listened to how she prayed, and I wondered why she took time to read the Bible. From her, I learned that prayer isn't just words; it's a way of trusting and loving God.

It was really through my parents that I first came to know God. They didn't just teach me about Jesus; they showed me who He is through their life of faith, generosity, patience, and love.

Now, as a Sister, I am blessed with opportunities to make Jesus known. Through visiting homes, teaching catechesis, serving my community, and simply being with others, I can share who Jesus is! Oftentimes, I cannot teach without a lesson plan, but I have

realized that the most powerful lessons are those taught silently through example and presence, just as when my mother said, “Watch and learn.”

I pray that when others “watch and learn” from me, they may see beyond who I am and catch a glimpse of Jesus Himself, He who is the best and true Teacher of hearts.

And perhaps, in the quiet of our prayer, we can almost hear Him whisper, “Watch and learn from Me.”



L-R: Femie, Sr. Mary Emmadoña, Nanay Vigie, Sr. Maria Leah, and Sr. Maria Rowena

The Boy Next Door



By Sister Mary Josita, PVM

He was the “boy next door.” Paul Francis grew up next door to our former convent on Stanwix Street in Rome, NY. The Angelicchios were great neighbors. His mom, Marie, was the first president of the Parish Visitor Associates there.

Like all the children in St. John the Baptist Parish who attended local public schools, Paul received his early Religious Instructions from the Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate. Ever curious about the Sisters on the other side of the hedges, he could frequently be found peeking through them to see what they were doing.

This was particularly true when the Sisters left for their annual retreat at Marycrest Motherhouse. In those days, the Sisters would bring all their luggage with them to the retreat because when it was concluded, the General Superior would read the assignments for the coming year, and they might not be returning to the assignment they just left. Somehow, Paul would manage to be close by when the car returned after the retreat. He would be among the first to notice who returned and who was new.

Early signs of his future vocation were evident. He used to “celebrate Mass” in his basement, with friends as his altar servers. One day, the Sisters were invited to come to his “Mass,” which they did. It was reported that during “Mass,” one of the Sisters started speaking to Paul’s Mom, and another Sister said, “Shh, he’s saying ‘Mass’.”

He told me that “the Sisters next door played a large role in my vocation. I’m so thankful to God for that.”

Paul attended Rome Catholic High School, graduating in 1969, two years after me. He studied for the priesthood at Holy Apostles College in Cromwell, CT, and St. Bernard’s in Rochester, NY. He was ordained on May 7, 1977, and offered his first Mass at St. John the Baptist the following day. By this time, I had made my perpetual profession a year earlier on May 1, 1976, having entered the Parish Visitors in 1967.

After several assignments as a parochial vicar and as pastor in the Syracuse Diocese, Father Paul Angelicchio returned home to Rome as pastor of St. John the Baptist and Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish. For the past fourteen years, he has served the parish community that formed him in faith. He has weathered storms both literal and spiritual during that time, like the River Street flooding that sent water into the rectory and church basements, and the “micro-burst” that hit the Rome area the evening before his retirement celebration, knocking out the power to St. Leo/St. Ann’s in Holland Patent, where he celebrated Mass by candlelight and flashlight.

Several speakers at his retirement celebration spoke of his many accomplishments throughout his forty-eight years of ministry. The comment that gave me the most joy to hear was that he was “a Priest’s Priest.”

Priests may retire from active ministry, but they continue to pray for us and help as needed. Let’s always keep them in our prayers.



“Prefer nothing to Christ”

By Mother Maria Catherine, PVM

What is it that makes someone a Saint? I believe that the words of Saint Benedict of Nursia, quoted above, provide the answer to that question. “Prefer nothing to Christ,” he says, and Saint Benedict lived by this principle, preferring nothing to Jesus! He came from a wealthy family, and when his parents died, Benedict heard the words of the Gospel: “Go, sell all that you have, and come follow Me.” After providing for his sister, Benedict chose to live as a hermit to deepen his relationship with Jesus. Eventually, others joined him, and he gathered men into a monastic community, living according to his own maxim. As they made Jesus the center of their lives, many more followed. Today, his community thrives – the Benedictines – and their mission endures.

Every Saint lived in the spirit of Saint Benedict’s maxim. Actually, his way of life was nothing “new.” The Apostles lived in the same way: they lived with Jesus, listened to His words, followed His example, and sought to bring others to know and love Him!

From the First Letter of Saint Peter, the Prince of the Apostles speaks to us:

“Although you have not seen Him, you love Him.”
(1:8)

“As He who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in every aspect of your conduct, for it is written, ‘Be holy because I [am] holy.’” (1:15,16)

“Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts.” (3:15)

Saint Paul’s letters give us additional encouragement.

“No one can lay a foundation other than the one that has been laid, namely, Jesus Christ.” (1 Corinthians 3:11)

“Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do

count them but dung, that I may win Christ.” (Philippians 3:8)

“For to me to live is Christ.” (Philippians 1:21)

“For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.” (Colossians 3:3)

These are just samples of the preference for Christ Jesus that Saints Peter and Paul have called us to. Now, let us look at some of the other Saints who remind us to “prefer nothing to Christ.”



“Christ is both the way and the door.” + St. Bonaventure, bishop (1221-1274 A.D.)

“Christ gave himself to us as the vine to the branches; apart from Him we cannot have life.” + St. Augustine, bishop (354-430 A.D.)

“The Lord Himself, our God Jesus Christ, is the fountain of life, and accordingly He invites us to Himself as to a fountain, that we may drink.” + St. Columban, abbot (545-615 A.D.)

“Through Christ we have gained access to the Father, for as Christ Himself says, no one comes to the Father except through Him.” St. + Cyril of Alexandria, bishop (375-444 A.D.)

"Christ dwelt for nine months in the tabernacle of Mary's womb. He dwells until the end of the ages in the tabernacle of the Church's faith. He will dwell forever in the knowledge and love of each faithful soul."
+ Blessed Isaac of Stella, abbot (1100 – 1169 A.D.)

"Make room for Christ." + Thomas a Kempis, religious (1380-1471 A.D.)



Mother Mary Teresa, Servant of God and our Foundress, understood from a very early age two important truths: 1.

That Jesus alone is the One in Whom life has true meaning. She sought to love Him with all her mind, heart, soul, and strength; 2. That Jesus calls each of us to have an intimate relationship with Him, and this relationship is what sanctifies us—making us the saints He has called us to be. Throughout her life, she strove with every ounce of her

being to love God and to make Him greatly loved. Ahead of her time, recognizing that this call to sanctity was not only for priests and religious but for everyone, she never ceased to call her students, friends, acquaintances, and anyone she met to holiness of life.

Saint Francis of Assisi: "Sanctify yourselves and you will sanctify society." Said to be the saint who most resembled Christ, Francis gives us words and prayers by which we can order our lives and draw closer to the very Heart of Jesus. Here are some of them:

"I believe that You, O Jesus, are in the most holy Sacrament. I love You and desire You. Come into my heart. I embrace You. Oh, never leave me. May the burning and most sweet power of Your love, O Lord Jesus Christ, I beseech You, absorb my mind that I may die through love of Your love, Who were graciously pleased to die through love of my love."

"It is good to read the testimonies of Scripture; it is good to seek the Lord our God in them. As for me, however, I have already made so much of Scripture my own that I have more than enough to meditate on and turn over in my mind. I need no more. I know Christ, the poor crucified One."

"May the power of your love, Lord Christ, fiery and sweet as honey, so absorb our hearts as to withdraw them from all that is under heaven. Grant that we may be ready to die for love of your love, as you died for love of our love."

So, my friends, let us "prefer nothing to Christ"; let us make Him the center of our lives, the anchor to which we cling; the Rock who upholds us and keeps us strong on our pilgrimage to our true and lasting home: Heaven!



As we continue our journey through this Jubilee Year of Hope, let us remember that Jesus, alone, is our hope. As St. Paul reminds us, "In Him we live and move and have our being." (Acts 17:28)

Our Best Friend

By Sister Carole Marie, PVM



Jesus Christ, Son of God, Son of Mary, our best Friend.

Jesus described Himself as the Way, the Truth, and the Life. (Jn. 14:6) When I was a teenager, there was a period when I was going through a difficult time, and I did not know what to do. I knelt to plead with the Lord for help, and I was surprised that I remembered these words of Jesus, which came tumbling out, "Lord, you said you were the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Please be that for me now!" Suddenly, a great peace enveloped me, and I knew that prayer was answered. Ever since then, these same words of Jesus have been with me to encourage and strengthen me.

"I AM THE WAY"

The way to pray: "When you pray, say, Our Father..." (Mt. 6:9)

The way to peace: "Come to Me, all you who are burdened and I will give you rest." (Mt. 11:28)

The way to change: "When He saw the crowds, He went up the mountain...He began to teach them." Lk 5:1)-*Live the Beatitudes.*

Remember the woman who lost her way through a life of impurity and came to Jesus weeping? Jesus told her that her sins were forgiven because of her great love and that her faith had saved her. The Pharisee in whose house this took place was scandalized. Jesus pointed out this man's lack of customary hospitality toward Jesus, who was his guest. He did not do that to scold

him, but to bring him to an awareness of the way of forgiveness. (cf. Lk 7:36-50)

"I AM THE TRUTH."

Jesus spoke life-changing truth to the Samaritan woman at the well because He thirsted for her love. When she asked for the life-giving water Jesus offered her, He told her to "Go, call your husband." When she admitted she did not have one, He said, "You have spoken rightly, for you have had five husbands and the one you are with is not your husband." He revealed to her that He was the long-awaited Messiah, and she became an apostle to her townspeople. (cf. Jn 4:7-42) Jesus saw the weaknesses and sins in people and He revealed them truthfully, only to free them and bring forth their inner beauty, and to be joined with Him.

When Jesus told Peter that he would deny Him three times, Peter strongly rejected it, hurt that Jesus would even suggest such a thing. Yet, after Peter denied knowing Jesus during His Passion, he wept bitterly, realizing that Jesus had spoken the truth. When He appeared to the Apostles after the Resurrection, Jesus allowed Peter to profess His love for Him and commissioned him to "feed my lambs, tend my sheep." (cf. Jn. 21:15-17) The truth restored Peter's discipleship and reaffirmed Jesus' words, "You are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my Church." (Mt. 16:18)

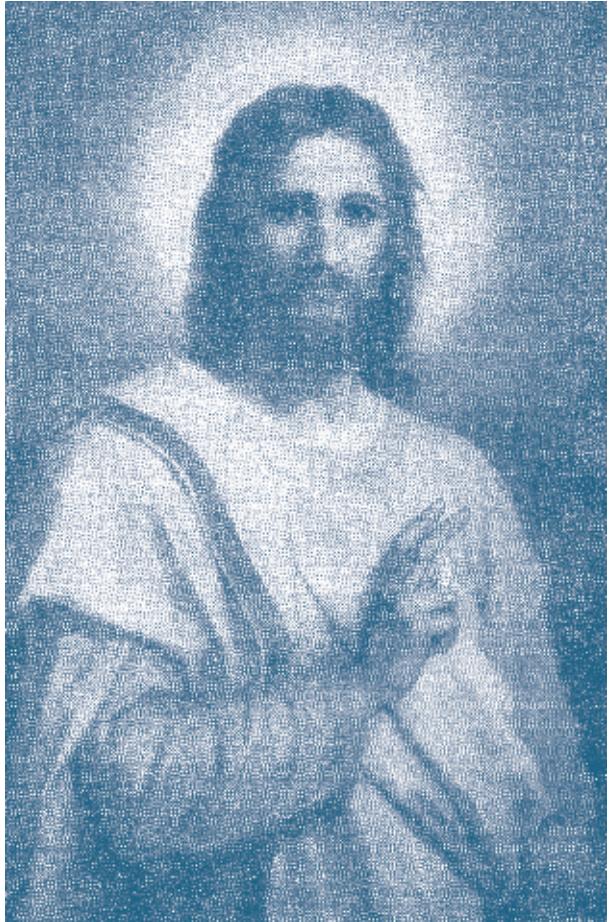
"I AM THE LIFE."

"I have come that you may have life and have it to the full. (Jn. 10:10)

If you want to see someone who is really alive, meet Jesus, the Life. Life is so precious, so sacred, and if we want to give those we love the best of life, love, peace, joy, and patience in suffering, we have the privilege of leading them to Jesus, our Life. He is so fully alive that even His bloody passion, agony, and death on the cross could not prevail against His resurrection from the grave.

Jesus has given us His Life in the gift of the Eucharist – “I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever, and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world.” (Jn 6:51)

You might enjoy taking Jesus’ words and filling in your own examples of “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.” Ask Our Blessed Mother to help you. She will show you the best way to come to Him, to know, love, and serve Him – and to serve with Him.



Seeing the Face of Christ at the Airport

By Sr. Maria Arlene, PVM

“For God is love.” - 1 John 4:8

Acts of charity and kindness reflect the very face of Christ.

Several years ago, I travelled with my General Superior from New York to attend a meeting at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows in Illinois. The organizers had assured us that volunteers would meet us at the airport and take us to the Shrine.

When we landed at Chicago O’Hare International Airport, however, nothing about the pickup instructions seemed to make sense. Mother and I found ourselves going in circles, searching for signs to the MetroLink train where we were supposed to meet the volunteers. We eventually followed the signs to a shuttle bus that would take us to the train station, though this step had not been mentioned in the directions. When the



bus reached its final stop, we found ourselves at a quiet train station with no trains and no volunteers in sight.

"Sisters, where are you headed?" the bus driver inquired. After explaining our destination, he gently informed us that we were at the wrong airport! We should have been in St. Louis, not Chicago.

The realization left us disheartened. We debated returning home rather than spending more money on new tickets. As we wandered through the terminal, trying to decide what to do, I noticed a young woman in a wheelchair whom we passed several times. She looked so fragile, clearly unwell. Ordinarily, I would have stopped to offer a prayer, but we were still trying to figure out what to do next.

Eventually, with heavy hearts, we approached the counter to purchase new tickets. Just then, I felt a gentle tap on my shoulder. Turning around, I saw a woman who looked strangely familiar, though I could not immediately place her. Noticing that I looked surprised, she handed me a twenty-dollar bill and, without a word, gestured toward someone.



Following her gesture, my eyes fell upon the young woman in the wheelchair. She smiled at us so radiantly and peacefully. In that instant, I felt the unmistakable presence of Christ. The woman who had tapped my shoulder was the one accompanying her. Everything happened so quickly that I never had the chance to ask their names, as I would normally do. Yet that experience is something I will never forget. It was, for me, an encounter with the Face of Christ.

Such encounters with the Face of Christ never truly fade away. They simply remind us to do the same—to be the Face of Christ for others.

READY FOR THE HARVEST

By Sister Dolores Marie, PVM

A sad-faced older woman responded to my gentle knock on her door. "Come in, Sister. Maybe you can help me."

Margie proceeded to tell me her story. She had been raised as a churchgoing Catholic, but in her twenties she had succumbed to the promises of a religious sect, leaving the Church. She became quite involved with this sect and, as a single woman, was also able to provide them with substantial financial support.



She was now in her late sixties and had recently been hospitalized with a serious heart condition. This scared her, and, pondering her life, she realized she didn't want to die away from the Catholic Church. "But I didn't know what to do next," she sobbed. "There was no Catholic chaplain at the hospital. I was afraid. I just prayed and asked God's help, but that's all I could do."

"Now, here you are, Sister. What should I do?"

Margie was still too weak to walk to the rectory, but I knew that Fr. John at the local parish would be happy to visit her and hear her confession. Hearing this, Margie was thrilled.



She calmed down and began telling me about her family, and how she and her older sister had given loving care to their very handicapped younger sister until her death this past year. "I'll bet her prayers for you are what brought you the grace to want to return to the Church," I told her. Smilingly, she agreed. "That would be just like her."

Fr. John came in a day or two, leaving Margie a very happy woman, now filled with God's grace. He returned every First Friday for many months until Margie was strong enough to walk to Mass.

Jesus told us that the fields are white for the harvest. Margie was an example of that, just waiting for someone to help her! Let us "pray the Lord of the harvest that He send more laborers to gather His harvest!" (Matthew 9:38)



A Few Words about Wills

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

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

Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate, Inc.

Dreams for Renovation and Repairs 2025

Dear Friends,

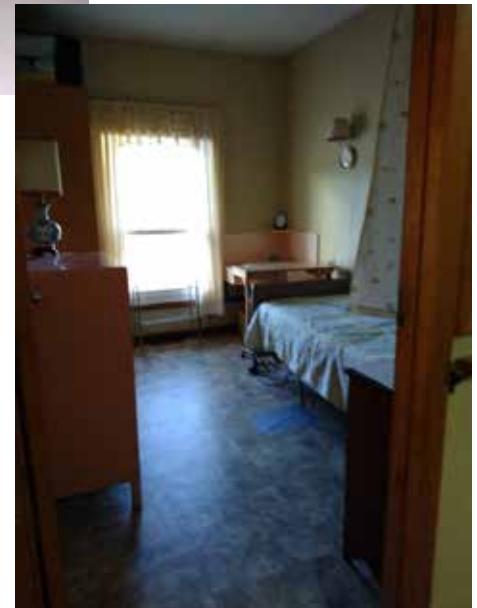
I want to thank all of you who generously responded to our request to help with my renovation and repair projects. I think you'd like to know what these involve. So, here are my renovation and repair dreams.



We have a lot of painting to do in several of our buildings. This is a picture of just one of the rooms being painted. Some hallways have never been painted.



I want to renovate the Infirmary! The doorways to the bedrooms are too narrow for EMTs to get their stretchers inside. So, we need to move all the furniture out, which takes time.





I want to install an access ramp that leads directly into the Infirmary. Therefore, we are considering renovating some bedrooms, the medicine room, and the closets to maximize space.



Also, EMTs must go through the Visitation hallway (where the Sisters' bedrooms are) to reach the Infirmary in Tallon Terrace.



Our main kitchen needs serious repairs and renovations.





Finally, our cottage is no longer usable. Therefore, I plan to tear it down and build two modular homes. This will provide our families a place to stay when they visit the Sisters, and offer space for individuals, groups, and families to come for private retreats or vacations.

I know I have big dreams! If you can help in any way, we are deeply grateful.



May God bless each of you for your generous hearts. May you have a Blessed Thanksgiving!

Mother Maria Catherine

Mother Maria Catherine

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
8 Sr. Carmen Rivera, 2024
10 Sr. Mary Martha Keville, 1953
11 Sr. Mary Alberta Moneypenny, 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
11 Sr. Mary Roberta White, 2024
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



Is God calling you to give your life totally to Him
as a Parish Visitor of Mary Immaculate?

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

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

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Visit us!

Spend time with us!

Be open!

Go wherever He leads!

