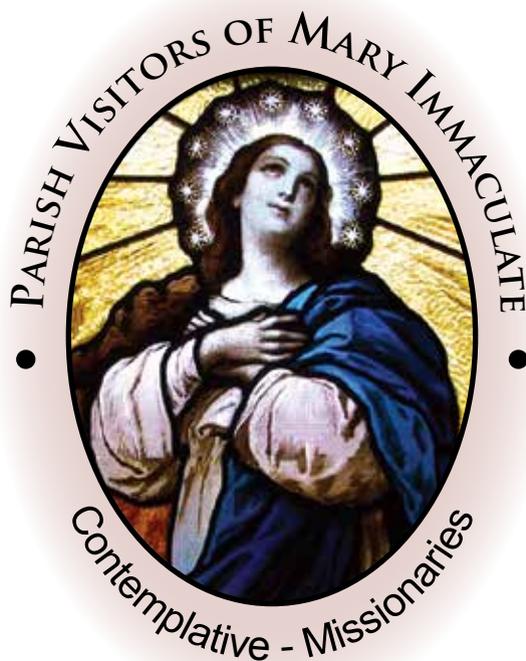


The Parish Visitor

1925-2025



FIDELITY IS
REMEMBERING

The Parish Visitor

In this issue of "The Parish Visitor," we have invited our Sisters to share highlights from the past year. One of Mother Maria Catherine's favorite sayings is on our front cover, "Fidelity is Remembering." In recalling past events, we enable ourselves to remember again the graces and blessings that accompanied those events.



Sister Rebecca Miriam penned a reflection on the first words of our then newly elected Pope Leo XIV. Sisters from several of our missions sent pictures to accompany their stories of grace. Whether they found themselves in Texas, near our southern border, or in the Eternal City, their photos proclaim that God's grace is everywhere.

Remembering allows us to open ourselves again and again in fidelity to God's call upon our hearts. Saying yes, over and over, to His invitation to be channels of His grace to those we encounter in their homes, along the way, or in formal or informal class settings.

Perhaps, after you read the stories in this issue of "The Parish Visitor," you may want to take some time to reflect on the graces you received this past year. May it be an occasion for you to give thanks and praise to the Lord our God, giver of all gifts.

Tidings of Joy



By Mother Maria Catherine, PVMi

The Christmas decorations have all come down, the presents are neatly put away, and we are now in "Ordinary Time." Yet, we continue to look back on the days of celebrating Christmas with great delight and gratitude. We are filled with "Tidings of Joy" because we have spent our days rejoicing in the birth of the One Person in history Who has changed the world, not by great programs, spending millions of dollars, or inventing something extraordinary! We rejoice because, in the words of Pope Leo XIV:

"Let us marvel, dear brothers and sisters, at the wisdom of Christmas. In the Child Jesus, God gives the world a new life: His own, offered for all. He does not give us a clever solution to every problem, but a love story that draws us in. In response to the expectations of people, He sends a child to be a word of hope. In the face of the suffering of the poor, He sends one Who is defenseless to be the strength to rise again. Before violence and oppression, He kindles a gentle light that illumines with salvation all the children of this world."

We are filled with gratitude for all the "tidings of joy" that have come to our Community this past year through each one of you! You have read each issue of our magazine; you have joined us in prayer through our Novenas, you have come to Mass in our Chapel or requested Masses to be said for your intentions, you have come to visit our Sisters here at Marycrest and in our various missions, and you have given so generously of your "time, talent, and treasure."

We are especially filled with gratitude for our spiritual Shepherd, Timothy Cardinal Dolan, who has been a wonderful friend and support throughout his 17 years as Cardinal Archbishop of New York; for our vicar, Bishop Gerardo Colacicco, for his fatherly

care for us; for all the priests who have come to celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in our Chapel of the Immaculate Conception: priests of the Archdiocese of New York, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, the Diocese of Youngstown; the Diocese of Syracuse, the Diocese of Phoenix, and even as far away as the Diocese of Armagh and Meath, Ireland!

We are grateful to Pope Francis for the Jubilee Year of Hope! This year of Jubilee has overflowed with the many graces and blessings attached to those who celebrated it with faith and charity. Three of our Sisters were blessed to be able to attend the Jubilee Celebration for Consecrated Life in Rome! Here in the USA, we celebrated our Jubilee Week of Hope with our Sisters, families, Associates, and friends.

Through the kindness of benefactors, some of the Sisters were privileged to go on pilgrimage: 2 Sisters to Medjugorje and 2 Sisters to Lourdes! How grateful we are for these graced moments, filled with hope in the tender love of our Mother, Mary Immaculate!

In his homily opening the Jubilee Year at the Midnight Christmas Mass, Pope Francis reminds us that: *“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, Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord, December 24, 2024)

Filled with the joy that the birth of Jesus brings each of us, are not our hearts burning within us? Are we not grateful for the gift of God with us? It seems to me that the fruit of such gratitude is mission! And this was the hope of Pope Francis: that the Jubilee Year would not come to an end on January 6, 2026, but that the graces of the Year would inspire “missionaries of Hope” among us. Missionaries of hope who would be on fire with the hope born in their hearts through their encounter with the God of Hope, going out to bring the message of God’s love and hope by the witness of their lives and the power of the Word!

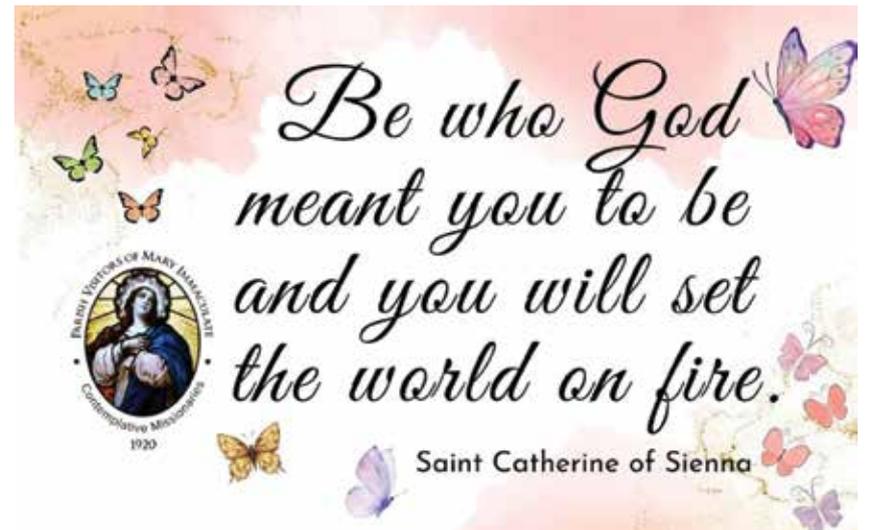
In his Christmas Eve Homily, Pope Leo XIV said: “As the Jubilee draws to a close, Christmas becomes for us a time of gratitude and mission; gratitude for the gift received and mission to bear

witness to it before the world. As the Psalmist sings: Tell of His salvation from day to day. Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous deeds among all the peoples’ (Ps. 96:2-3).”

So, our dear brothers and sisters, join us in praising God for all His marvelous graces and blessings of this past year – and then commit yourselves to being missionaries of hope to this world so in need of the hope that comes from the little Child Whose birth we have just celebrated!

“With Him, joy flourishes; with Him, life changes; with Him, hope does not disappoint.”

*(Pope Francis,
December 24, 2024 Homily)*





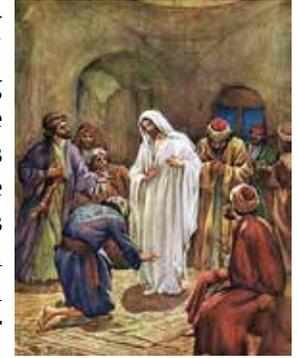
THE PEACE THAT MAKES US AUTHENTIC

By: Sister Rebecca Miriam, PVM

A quiet figure walked out onto the central balcony of Saint Peter's Basilica, wearing white with a red cape and stole. "Peace be with you all!" Pope Leo XIV's voice resounded from the balcony for the first time. "...It is the peace of the Risen Christ. A peace that is unarmed and disarming, humble and persevering. A peace that comes from God, a God Who loves us all, unconditionally."

And the world exploded in excitement and wonder; yet in a manner not of chaos and unrest, but peaceful...and life-filled. One may wonder how that is possible. Peace is often associated with tranquility, stillness, rest, and a sense of "getting away." Yet the peace of the Risen Christ is different, stronger, active, and alive – shattering every darkness in its rays. Yes, as Pope Leo XIV said, it is "unarmed," but it is also "disarming," which nothing can conquer. After Our Lord's Resurrection, He appeared to His Apostles on more than one occasion in the upper room. His first words to them were, "Peace be with you" (John 20:19; 21; 26). Here were Jesus' closest followers, who just experienced their best Friend and leader, betrayed by one of their number, given the death sentence by their own people, and crucified by their conquerors. Nothing could seem more hopeless or bleak. And Christ comes, not to outwardly change anything going on around them – but in His presence the universe is transformed; in His presence He brings lasting peace. In God is true and lasting peace that does not numb, but wakens in hearts courageous action and authentic living! Only in God's presence can we have peace. Only in God's presence can we be authentic people. That is why, after Jesus wished peace on His Apostles, "He breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit'" (John 20:22). At our Confirmation, the same thing happens to us. Right after we are "sealed"

with the Gift of the Holy Spirit, immediately the Bishop says, "Peace be with you." Yes, it is the presence of the indwelling Spirit that makes the Risen Christ's peace alive in us. How else could the Apostles go out to all the world, the martyrs give up their lives, the Saints endure hardships and difficulties, Our Lady boldly exclaim her "Fiat", with acceptance, serenity, and joy?! The peace of Christ dwelt in their hearts richly, enabling them to live transcendent to the things of this world. They were not pretending – they were authentic, because that is the way of Christ's peace.



The peace of Christ indeed is alive. It is "unarmed and disarming, humble and persevering." When we hide ourselves, when we create masks, when we pretend, we create armor around ourselves – weapon in hand – to "shield" ourselves from hurt, pain, judgment, etc. But in doing so, we cause others around us to also "arm" themselves, and we create a false image of ourselves – to ourselves and others. This is not peace, this is not truth. In order to allow the peace of Christ, this peace that is "humble", to enter into our hearts, we must be humble. We must look to God in truth and acknowledge who we are before Him. And what a delight! Because in seeing our littleness, our nothingness, our brokenness, we are open to receive from God. This is peace. We recognize that God's plans are better, and for our good, and worth surrendering our own will. This is peace. If we allow Christ's peace to penetrate through all our barriers, it will, in its "unarmed" presence, cause all our masks to fall – all our weapons and armor to drop. Peace will "disarm" us, free us, and lift us up. Indeed, Pope Leo XIV is right, this type of peace is "persevering."

If the peace of Christ is allowed to flourish within us, we shall be able to stand with and for Christ, letting go of our own wills and plans for the all-loving Divine Will, surrender and acknowledge truly ourselves before Christ (humility), and we shall have steadfast certainty that God is faithful, and all His promises are true. Then we become people of peace, who are authentic and "unarmed," having the ability to "disarm" others and the darkness that shrouds our culture and our world, through our peaceful humility and dauntless perseverance.

Pilgrims of Hope

By Sister Theresa Marie, PVM

“The Christian life is a *journey* calling for *moments of greater intensity* to encourage and sustain hope as the constant companion that guides our steps towards the goal of our encounter with the Lord Jesus.” (*Spes Non Confundit*, Bull Of Indiction Of The Ordinary Jubilee Of The Year 2025, n. 5)

Each year we set off on a new journey, and with the year 2025 being a Jubilee Year, it included more than the usual opportunities for “moments of greater intensity” as we followed Pope Francis’ call to be Pilgrims of Hope. Jubilee Years encourage the faithful to make official pilgrimages, a call heeded joyfully by the Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate assigned to Our Lady of Providence Convent at St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish in Warren, OH. It also influenced our apostolate with many opportunities to share the joy of Jubilee with our local Parish and our summer plans, as we joined in the Community-wide celebrations.

Local Community pilgrimages included trips to both official and unofficial local Marian pilgrimage sites, some of which were



designated as Official Jubilee sites. With some Sisters being transferred during the year and relatives visiting as well, we managed to make visits to Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine in Windsor, OH; Our Lady, Comforter of the Afflicted Shrine in Youngstown, OH;

Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine in Euclid, OH; and Our Lady of Lebanon Shrine in North Jackson, OH; as well as visiting some designated Cathedrals and Basilicas along the way. Sr. Susan Marie extended this local pilgrimage effort by participating with our Community’s delegation to the Jubilee for Consecrated Life in Rome!

The Vacation Bible School at St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish (also involving other local parishes) took on the theme “Pilgrimage to Rome,” with participants traveling to Rome in their imaginations, both in the present to celebrate the Jubilee and in the past to experience Rome at the time of St. Paul. They learned to write like St. Paul (and even visited him in prison). Snacks at a Roman cafe and Roman crafts were also a highlight. They took a



pilgrimage outside to a parish shrine of the Blessed Mother and got their picture taken with a backdrop of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. They also enjoyed a larger-than-life Jubilee door and decorated their own Jubilee doors to take home!

Sisters also hosted Jubilee Year and pilgrimage-themed adult faith formation opportunities. A Sister sharing her experience of the Santiago de Compostela pilgrimage has inspired at least one parishioner to plan her own pilgrimage to Compostela this year!

In the summer, the local mission took a six-week pilgrimage to Marycrest with our larger Community. We joyfully joined in the Community's Jubilee Week, the Community Retreat, and participated in the Jubilee Youth Day! Then it was back to Ohio with a new contingent of Sisters, ready to continue our local pilgrimage.



One very successful program the Sisters organized this fall was bringing the Saint Carlo Acutis "Eucharistic Miracles of the World" Exhibit to the parish at all three worship sites and the lower campus of JFK School over three weeks. This exhibit has borne much fruit and has been a catalyst for many youths to request the sacraments. Parishioners were encouraged to make a pilgrimage to the exhibit and spend a "moment of greater intensity" with Our Lord as they wondered at the great pilgrimage He makes at each Mass, to come to be with us in the Most Blessed Sacrament. May it be so with each of us in the coming year.

Jubilee for Consecrated Life

By Sister Mary Eileen, PVMI



Sister Mary Imelda, PVMI, and Sister Susan Marie, PVMI

Sister Susan Marie

We three Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate were privileged to represent the Congregation at the Jubilee for Consecrated Life in Rome, Italy, in early October. As part of the Jubilee Pilgrimage, we participated in two Masses celebrated by the Holy Father. Both times, Saint Peter's Square was packed, but it was definitely worth it!!!

At each of the four major Basilicas in Rome, there were special Jubilee Doors. We were able to go through the doors at St. Peter's Basilica, St. Mary Major, and the Basilica of St. John Lateran. Sister Mary Imelda said it was an overwhelming experience to realize we were receiving a plenary indulgence and the spiritual graces associated with this sacred act.



Sister Mary Eileen

Our trip to Rome, Italy, for the Jubilee of Consecrated Life was such an incredible blessing! The three of us represented our Community as we attended prayer vigils and two Masses with Pope Leo XIV and visited many churches, shrines, and holy places. A highlight for me was being able to pray at the places where so many saints were buried or had themselves prayed.

The Domus of Our Lady of Guadalupe, where we stayed, was only a 10-minute walk from “the Gesu”, the main Jesuit Basilica in Rome, where St. Ignatius wrote the Spiritual Exercises and the rules for the discernment of spirits. We attended Mass at the Gesu several times. It was meaningful for me to pray at the tomb of St. Ignatius, thanking him for his gift to me personally and to the Church. We also went to Assisi and prayed at the tombs of St. Clare, St. Francis, and St. Carlo Acutis. Before the body of St. Carlo Acutis, many were weeping. I think he gives so much hope to people that today’s young people can find a vibrant relationship with the Lord and become saints.

Sister Mary Imelda

The spiritual richness of Rome is truly amazing! My heart was moved time and again as we visited the tombs of many martyrs, including significant sites like the Colosseum and various churches dedicated to the saints. Notable figures include St. Catherine of Siena, St. Clare, St. Francis, the skull of St. John the Baptist, St. Carlo Acutis, St. Ignatius, St. Francis Xavier, and our late Holy Father, Pope Francis, among others. Kneeling before the resting places of those who loved the Lord and venerating their remains was a powerful and humbling experience.

Standing in these sacred spaces, I felt the weight of their sacrifices and the strength of their convictions. It inspired a deep, burning desire in my heart to renew my commitment as a consecrated Religious and strive for holiness, ultimately aiming to reach Heaven.

Every place in Rome was filled with thousands of pilgrims from every corner of the world. I believe we were all united by the same longing and hope. It was a beautiful testament to the universal Church – a family united by faith.

Another unforgettable experience was seeing Pope Leo XIV. Being in the presence of the successor of Peter, the Vicar of Christ, was an incredible honor. Seeing the Holy Father and receiving his blessing brought a sense of peace and belonging that I continue to carry with me.

Sister Mary Eileen

The Lord's providential care of us was evident throughout the trip, especially on the day we were supposed to depart. There was a travel waiver on our ticket due to inclement weather expected in New York. After checking with everyone and contacting the airline, we ended up having the special gift of two extra days in Rome! This was especially meaningful to me, as it meant the anniversary of my final vows (Oct. 13) was spent visiting and praying at more holy places rather than on an eight-hour flight! We prayed for so many intentions, including all our friends, our Sisters, our families, and our benefactors! Thank you, Lord, for such a grace-filled experience!

Sister Susan Marie

Due to that delay in our return flight to the United States, I was also able to participate in the Jubilee for Marian Spirituality, with the original statue of Our Lady of Fatima present for this special occasion. So, while Sr. Mary Imelda and Sister Mary Eileen traveled to Assisi, I attended the Holy Rosary with Pope Leo XIV and had a seat about 10-15 rows from where he was praying. After the Rosary, there was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, and it was very moving to see Pope Leo XIV in prayer before Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.



Sister Mary Imelda

Though the journey is over, the graces remain. I know I will never forget this experience. This pilgrimage was not merely a collection of sights; it was a profound spiritual awakening. It has deepened my faith and instilled in my heart the more important desire: to become holy and one day reach Heaven. The Eternal City has ignited within me an everlasting longing for holiness.



Knocking to Bring Hope

By Sr. Mary Novie Grace, PVMI



Early this year, when I was still a postulant, I had the privilege of accompanying some Sisters on their door-to-door visitations. I was able to visit parishioners in three different parishes where the Sisters are assigned.

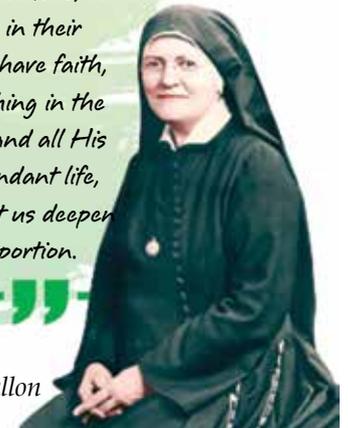
During our visits, we met people from different walks of life, ages, and situations. People with different stories.

I realized that every Parish Visitor has a beautiful call. There is beauty in being called to be a bearer of hope, to be the hand of God that knocks on every door and heart, and to be the face of the love of God to others.

I am grateful for the joy of meeting new people and most especially for the joy of sharing Christ – the Good News- with them. Thanks be to God for this opportunity!

The Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate should ask God for that great gift of hope, fulfilled right now in their everyday life. Hope fulfilled now! Oh, we shall have faith, not only that we are going to get the desired thing in the future, but that we have it now; we have God and all His blessings now, and the things of God, the abundant life, which is the Savior come to live within us. So let us deepen our faith, and we shall see hope grow in proportion.

Servant of God Mother Mary Teresa Tallon





A Missionary Year of Letting Go and Moving Forward

By Sr. Maria Rowena, PVMI

The year 2025 has been a time of endings and new beginnings for me. Early this year, another Sister and I began a one-day-a-week apostolate at SS Peter and Paul Parish (SPPP) in Makati. In May, I said goodbye with a heavy heart to my assignment at Our Lady of Fatima Parish (OLFP), where PVMI Sisters had served for more than 13 years. This transition, however, allowed me to give more time to the ministry at SPPP.

I now serve as Campus Minister in a public high school and teach catechesis in another. These roles have allowed me to accompany young people and help bring them closer to the Lord. The administrators and teachers often express their gratitude for having a religious Sister present in their schools. They deeply appreciate the parish's support through the various activities I conduct for their students, parents, and staff—Bible studies through games, catechesis sessions, guidance and counseling, spiritual direction for teachers and personnel, and conferences for parents. I, too, am grateful for the many opportunities the Lord has given me to serve Him and His Church through this apostolate.



These photos were from a conference we organized for parents. I helped invite the resource speaker for the event, Princess Mary Velasquez, a book author and one of the faithful friends and benefactors of the Philippine Mission.

Princess is on my left, while her son Ronan is on my right.

Another highlight of my year was my visit to Marycrest from June to July, together with the other Sisters from the Philippines. We gathered to celebrate Mother Maria Catherine's 50th anniversary in religious life. It was a great blessing to be reunited with the Sisters and to share in this milestone of Mother Maria Catherine's journey with Jesus and the PVMI Community. The last time I saw them face-to-face was in 2019 — six long years ago. This visit was truly grace-filled for me, a time of refreshment, renewal, and strengthening of spirit through the love and prayers of the Sisters, and with the intercession of Mother Mary Teresa Tallon in Heaven.



Renewed for Mission, Strengthened by Grace

By Sr. Maria Leah, PVMI

This year was filled with Jubilee celebrations. Our parish in Quezon City, Resurrection of Our Lord Parish, marked its 50th anniversary and was declared a Jubilee Church, offering a Plenary Indulgence through its Holy Door. We can visit daily since it's just a short walk from the convent. Other dioceses likewise designated pilgrim churches, including the National Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, where the Parish Visitors serve.



On a personal note, my parents, Leonardo and Dioscora Japos, also celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in January, a milestone made possible only by the grace of God. What a privilege to witness such abundant grace, especially in this Jubilee Year of Hope!

Another significant event for the Philippine Mission Sisters was our return to the Motherhouse. For us missionaries, the Motherhouse is more than a building; it is a place of warmth and familiarity, like coming home for the holidays or spending summer vacation with family. The Tertianship Program formed part of our schedule, and the conferences, sharing moments, and quiet times with the other tertians were truly refreshing, becoming wells of grace for all of us.



After this period of renewal, we returned to our missions. I was asked to give a series of talks on Safeguarding Minors and Vulnerable Persons at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe because Fr. Carlos Reyes is committed to ensuring a safe environment for children in the Church.



We covered civil laws and Church norms to protect minors from abuse and mistreatment. As a civil lawyer now studying canon law, this is my way of giving back—helping safeguard the least, the lost, and the last.

"With great power comes great responsibility." May we use our gifts well as we enter the coming year with hope.



When God's Kindness Comes Through Strangers

By Sr. Maria Arlene, PVM I

Scripture is filled with verses that reveal God's kindness, including Proverbs 19:17:

"Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will reward them for what they have done."

As this Jubilee Year of Hope comes to an end, I am reminded of God's kindness shown through strangers in two different encounters.



The first happened during summer at our Motherhouse in Monroe, NY. I spent a few weeks there helping in various ways. One afternoon, I was asked to go to the grocery store to buy some items for our Sisters in the infirmary. Another Sister went with me, and we managed to get everything on our list. Our cart was quite full as we lined up at the cashier and began unloading the items. Suddenly, a man behind us said, "I will pay for all of that, Sisters!" We stood there, surprised, humbled, and grateful for such unexpected generosity.

The second encounter happened in our mission in the Philippines. The Sisters and I were traveling and needed to stop for a meal. There were not many places to choose from along the way, so I suggested a restaurant recommended by a Sister from another community. The restaurant seemed more expensive than expected, so we ordered lightly. We enjoyed the food and shared everything so each could have a taste. When it was time to pay, we asked for the bill. The waitress approached us with a warm smile and said, "It's okay, Sisters. The owner saw you on the CCTV and said you don't have to pay." We looked up at the CCTV camera, smiled beamingly, and gestured with our praying hands.

This Jubilee Year sought to inspire hope and encourage acts of kindness. Truly, many kind people around us bring hope through their goodness. May we continue to witness and share this kindness—fostering love and compassion even beyond the Jubilee Year. And may it begin with us. Amen.



Children Remember Well

By Sr. Mary Emmadoña, PVM I

"Sister, aren't we praying the Rosary today?" was an innocent question from a group of children who ran up to me, breathless with excitement. They continued, "It's October! We did it last year."

I checked the date. They were right, it was October 1, and they remembered. So I asked, "Are you sure you want to do this? It means coming every day in October so we can pray the Rosary together."

"Yes!" they answered eagerly.



On the last day of October, we had our Living Rosary and Saints Parade. From then on, every afternoon around five, they returned, and we prayed before the statue of our Blessed Mother in our Santa Maria Rotunda. Some new ones also came, even as young as five. Many didn't know how to use their rosaries yet. They held them up to me or to our novice, asking where their fingers should rest. After a few Hail Marys, they'd get lost again, and we would help them find their place.

This went on for a few days until an idea came to me. I drew a big Rosary, numbered each bead of the decade from one to ten, mounted it on a corkboard, and found a red thumbtack to mark our place. At our next Rosary, I used the thumbtack to move along with every prayer.

It worked beautifully! Before long, the children were helping each other: "We're on number three!" they'd say. Soon they were asking if they could be the one to move the thumbtack, and the little ones began volunteering to lead the Our Father when they only knew the Hail Mary in the beginning.

After praying the Rosary, they would often ask if they could stay and play a bit on our grounds. One day, I teased them, "Maybe — if you don't laugh during the prayers." They really tried not to giggle or laugh. Often, they failed, but they kept trying. I'm sure our prayers weren't perfect, but as we finish the Rosary each day, the solar lamps would light up the Blessed Mother's face, like a gentle reminder that she is smiling down on us and that she's happy her children didn't forget.

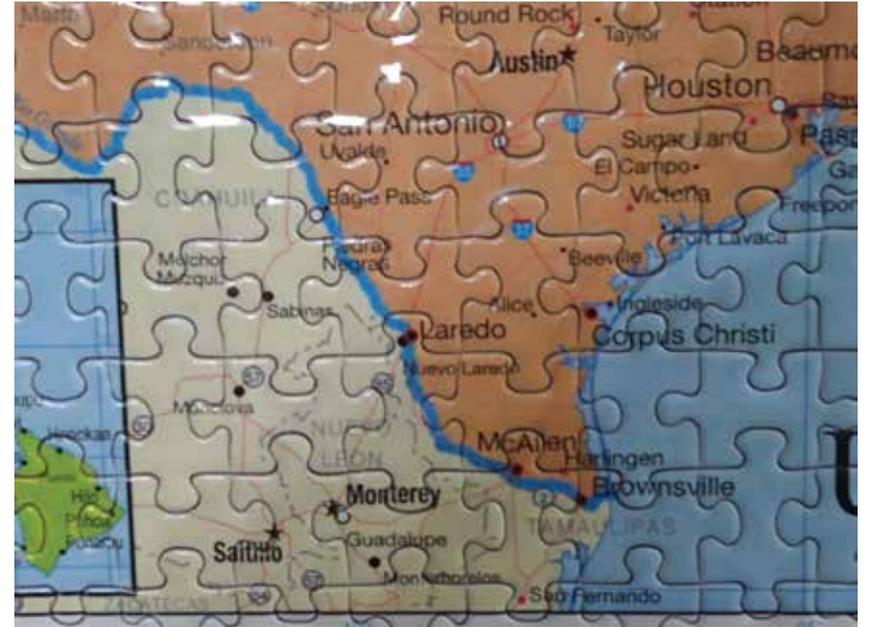


Lately From Laredo

For three months, Sister Mary Luchia and Sister Marie Meaghan were on a temporary assignment at St. Patrick's Parish in Laredo, Texas. At the invitation of the pastor, Father Anthony Mendoza, and in fulfillment of Bishop James Tamayo's long-standing desire, the two Parish Visitors Sisters were asked to visit families in the parish and train the laity in our door-to-door evangelization method. If the photo above is any indication, they adapted quickly to their new surroundings.

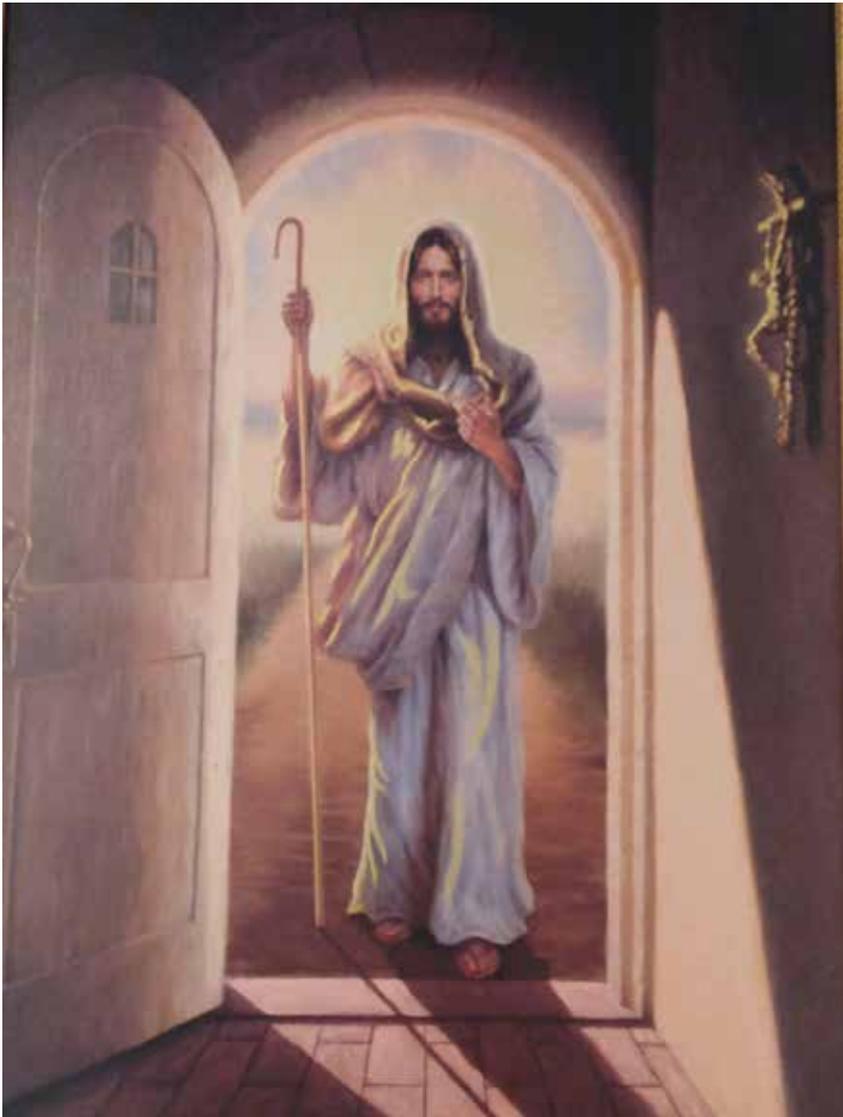


Warmly welcomed by Father Mendoza and the staff at St. Patrick's, Sister Mary Luchia and Sister Marie Meaghan attended meetings with the many active groups and societies in the Parish.



Laredo is literally just north of the border; the Sisters saw the Rio Grande and learned that Mexico was a short seven miles away.





This image in the convent is a perfect representation of what the Sisters hoped to accomplish – bringing the presence of Jesus into the homes they visited.



Alone or accompanied by others, the Sisters sought those who were no longer practicing their Catholic Faith. They found many homebound people unable to come to Church. Their zealous pastor quickly made plans to visit them and arranged for them to receive Holy Communion at home.





**English
Presentation
by Parish
Visitors of
Mary
Immaculate**

Tuesday, Oct. 14, 7 pm, Room 8

Sister Mary Luchia and Sister Marie Meaghan, religious sisters of the Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate, are here at St. Patrick's through December of this year. Their ministry is to visit residents within our parish boundaries, to pray with them and to help them especially with their spiritual needs. Join them for this short presentation on Tuesday, Oct. 14th at 7 pm in Room 8, to learn more about what they do, and maybe to join them some time in their ministry. Please keep these women and their work in your prayers!

They gave several training sessions, both in English and Spanish, and were later accompanied on their visits by some of the people they trained.



A Lifetime of Longing Fulfilled: Rose's Story

By Sister Mary Luchia, PVMI

During our temporary mission at St. Patrick Church in Laredo, Texas, Sr. Marie Meaghan and I were assigned to door-to-door visitation under the guidance of the pastor, Fr. Anthony Mendoza, who deeply cares for the spiritual well-being of every parishioner.

During one of our visits, a neighbor introduced us to an elderly woman we came to know as Rose. At first, she wasn't home, but on our second visit, she welcomed us into her modest home. Rose shared her story with us: she had been baptized in Mexico, but now, in her 80's and confined to her home by old age and broken hips, she had never had the opportunity to confess her sins or receive the Eucharist. For decades, it had been her heart-felt desire to do so, but she didn't know how to go about it.

We informed Fr. Mendoza, and under his direction, arrangements were made for her preparation and reception of the sacraments at her home. A devoted volunteer catechist faithfully prepared her for the day.



Finally, the day came. Rose received the sacrament of reconciliation and confessed a lifetime of sins. Her emotions ran high, and she was understandably nervous about confessing to the priest. Yet she experienced immense joy and peace as she received the Lord in Holy Communion for the very first time. Her lifelong longing had been fulfilled.



Rose asked that her story be shared to inspire others: it is never too late to receive the sacraments, and the Lord's grace is always available. She expressed her deep gratitude to Fr. Mendoza, the Sisters, and the catechist who helped make this moment possible. Now, she continues to receive Holy Communion weekly, lovingly brought to her home by parish ministers.

Her story is a beautiful reminder of the enduring power of faith, patience, and the Church's ministry to bring Christ to every heart—regardless of age or circumstance.



A Few Words about Wills

More than a mere legal document that will be 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.

Allegory of the Holy Eucharist by Miguel Cabrera



NEWS FROM THE HEIGHTS

(CLIFTON HEIGHTS, PA)

By Sister Mylene Rosemarie, PVM

Thriving in what was once a thrift store for those in dire need, St. Joseph's Convent of the Sacred Heart in Clifton Heights, PA, is home to four Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate. As the local Superior and director of newly professed Sisters, I, along with Sister Debra Marie, guide children in PREP and adults in OCIA. Sister Debra Marie's skill in deciphering nearly indistinguishable handwriting on registration forms enabled her to visit the children's families in their homes.

Together, we offered parish events for community service, a living Rosary, an All Souls Day prayer service, a Thanksgiving celebration, Advent wreath-making, and candle painting.

Sister Mary Luchia, the longest-serving member of our household, was on loan from us for three months. She and Sister Marie Meaghan, who was borrowed from her duties at Marycrest, were





temporarily assigned to St. Patrick's Parish in Laredo, TX. You can read all about her adventures there in another article in this issue. When she was not visiting families in Texas, Sister Mary Luchia served in the Cathedral Parish of SS Peter and Paul in Philadelphia. She directs the Legion of Mary and gives weekly spiritual talks to them. She visits and brings Holy Communion to the elderly homebound and attends the Christian Initiation sessions.



Newly professed Sister Marie Michelle travels to Wilmington in the land of warriors, from which Delaware gets its name, and has proved herself a warrior for the Lord. Sister seeks out inactive parishioners to bring them back into the fullness of parish life. She has organized pilgrimages, held private instructions for children and adults, guided elders spiritually, and welcomed many new souls into the Catholic faith.

As contemplative-missionaries, we are grounded by our life of prayer and time spent together in Community. We have chosen to make Friday our common "day off," although this term is used loosely. A communal Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament exposed on the altar in our chapel, followed by a house meeting, fills part of the day. Other activities to refresh and renew our spirits might include a walk, a visit to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, or a visit to the Lackawanna Coal Mines on vacation days. Along the way, we conducted a very discerning sampling of local soft pretzels, concluding that Philadelphia pretzels were clearly outstanding.

We also attended several youth and young adult events in the area. Our goal was to be a joyful presence among the young people and, God willing, to help plant the seeds of future vocations.

Our recipe for a balanced, joyful life together: faith-filled service in our various apostolates, fellowship, food, and fun.

Contact us:
Vocation Director
2996 Reeves Rd NE
Warren, OH 44483
pvmi@frontiernet.net
www.parishvisitorsisters.org

In the Philippines
Vocation Director
pvmi_manila@yahoo.com

In Nigeria:
Vocation Director
May_1920@yahoo.com

Sister

Mary

Remias



Sister Mary Remias, PVMI, passed away at St. Anthony's Hospital in Warwick, NY, on Sunday, December 28, 2025. Born in Chicago, Illinois, she graduated from St. Mary's High School there and entered the Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate on December 30, 1958. Known then as Sister Mary Angelita, she professed Perpetual Vows on July 2, 1966.

Sr. Mary earned a bachelor's degree in social science from Mundelein College, Illinois, and a master's degree in religious studies from the Archdiocesan Catechetical Institute at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, NY.

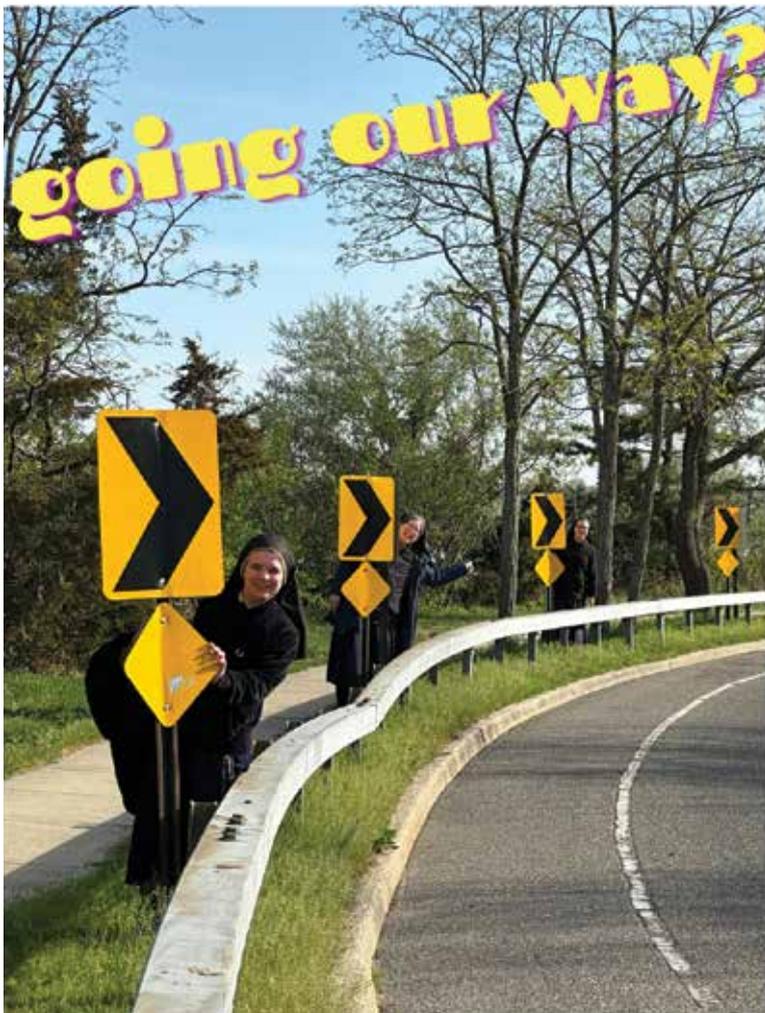
All through her 67 years as a Parish Visitor of Mary Immaculate, Sister Mary put her whole heart into every assignment she was given: Apostolate Director, Juniorate Director, local superior, General Council, Parish work in Rome, Albany, Scranton, and the Bronx. In her notes, she wrote: "continue to plunge yourself into the Heart of Christ. Be still – know that He is God – with you. Pray deeply, offer yourself to Him. Only need His grace – just love Him totally!" And that is just what she did. May she rest in peace.



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 Bentley, 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



Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate contemplative-missionaries

Check us out at www.parishvisitorsisters.org
and see if God may be calling you to our way of life,
as evangelizers and catechists.

Please consider sharing this magazine with a relative or friend.