

The Parish Visitor



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The Spring Issue of "The Parish Visitor" brings you stories of the joy and hope of our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The Church cries out, "He is risen!" and we respond, "He is risen indeed!" Good News to be sure. Good News to be shared. And that is exactly what Parish Visitors throughout the world do. We share the Good News "on the way," in the homes we visit, in our faith formation sessions, and anywhere else the Lord may send us.



We go out with the message and love of the Good Shepherd. Listening to His voice, first through our lives of contemplative prayer, then helping others to hear and heed His voice in their own lives.



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“Who are you?”

By Mother Maria Catherine, PVMI

Recently, the new Archbishop of New York, Archbishop Ronald Hicks, invited the General Superiors of men’s and women’s congregations in the Archdiocese to meet with him.



I was deeply touched by his willingness to share with us the story of his life, his hopes, his dreams, and his leadership style. What really inspired me was the impetus behind his sharing and his humility.

The Archbishop related his experience in receiving a phone call from Cardinal Timothy Dolan on the announcement of his appointment as the next Archbishop of New York. After introducing himself, Cardinal Dolan said, “Who are you?” That question gave rise to the way Archbishop Hicks introduced himself to the people of the Archdiocese and to us, the General Superiors.

Since that meeting with Archbishop Hicks, I have asked myself that question many times and continue to ask the question and take note of the interior responses! When preparing this article, I thought of that question again, and decided to ask you, our readers, to ask yourselves that same question – and not to be afraid to explore the responses!

Who are you?

For us, Catholic Christians, the most important response is **I am a child of God!** That is our greatest identity! God is our Father; Jesus is our Brother and Redeemer; the Holy Spirit is our Advocate and Guide, our helper in time of need. Our welcome into the Family of the Most Holy Trinity and the Church begins with our Baptism. It continues throughout our lives as we draw closer to our Father by receiving the Sacraments of the Eucharist, Reconciliation, and Confirmation. The graces we receive from these Sacraments of Initiation draw us into the very heart of God, our Creator, Redeemer, Lover!

Throughout our lives, we are drawn more deeply into that family as we worship God and enter the Paschal Mystery by participating in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass each Sunday, and as often as we are able. Here we are exposed to God's Word through the readings and the homily. We join with our brothers and sisters in praising the God of all goodness and love! We receive the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ, the most intimate union with God this side of Heaven. Through the Mass, we have a glimpse of Heaven, and we enter the heavenly worship and adoration of the Trinity that is always being celebrated!

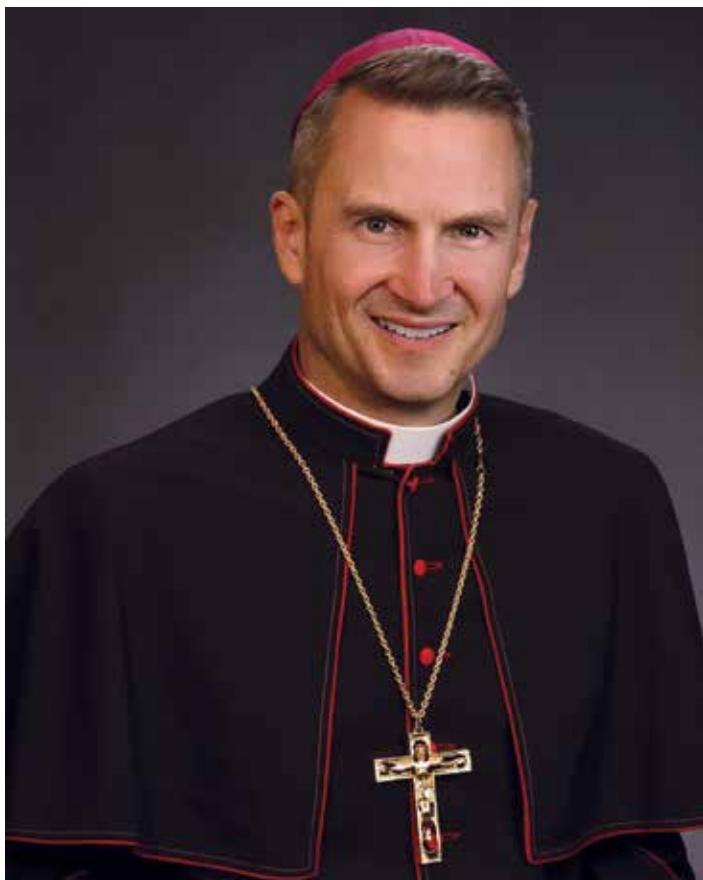
We are the sons and daughters of God; brothers and sisters of one another; we are mothers and fathers of all those we bring to know, love, and serve God!

We are the sheep on the shoulders of Jesus; we are the branches on the vine, tended with the love and mercy of the Father; we might be the prodigal daughter/son whom the Father runs to greet and welcome back to the fold, or Zacchaeus, in whose home Jesus wishes to come and enjoy a meal.

No matter where you find yourself at this present moment, ask the question: *Who are you?* know that the Most Holy Trinity is holding you close and pouring out grace to allow you to know, without a doubt, Their love, and your true identity in Them!

In this issue of our magazine, you witness the interior response of our Sisters to that question. We are Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate, contemplative-missionaries, evangelizers and catechists, brides of Christ, daughters of Mary Immaculate. We are women whose love for God and His Church impel us to go out to find those who have forgotten that Love! We are women who take God seriously through our hours of prayer and recollection and then bring that love to others in face-to-face, heart-to-heart, person-to-person missionary outreach through personal visitation of families and faith formation in the parish.

May each of you know the joy of your identity in God, of being a child of God and a temple of the Holy Spirit!



*Thank You,
Archbishop Hicks!*

*Welcome to the
Archdiocese of
New York*

ASHES

By Sister Dolores Marie, PVM

I would often see Maria at the store where she worked, and we would have a few friendly words. On Ash Wednesday, my ashes were quite obvious, and I made a light remark to Maria, "Don't forget to get your ashes."



"Oh, I'm not Catholic anymore," she replied.

"But you were baptized Catholic, and in your heart you're always a Catholic," I answered. We were in a public place, so I couldn't have a long conversation.

"Remember, whenever you're ready to return, you are welcome! Don't forget, you're welcome to return." Tears filled her eyes as she had to turn from me to prepare for the next customer.

She moved shortly after that, and I couldn't follow up on the conversation. May those tears be the beginning of her return to the Catholic Church.





Just One More House

By Sr. Mary Emmadoña, PVMI

It was Ash Wednesday, and I was going door-to-door visiting homes and reminding people of the beautiful season of Lent, a time to repent and be reconciled with the Lord. I was also inviting them to attend Mass.

I checked the time and realized I only had 15 minutes left before the 12 noon Mass. I felt the Lord gently prompt me to continue—*just one more house.*

I knocked, but there was no response. “All right, Lord,” I said silently, “I’ll knock one more time. If no one answers, I’ll head back to the church.”

I knocked again.

This time, a young man came out. He looked disheveled... and was he crying? I introduced myself and explained the purpose of my visit. As we spoke, I asked who he lived with. He told me he was caring for his sick mother.

I asked if I could see her. He agreed and led me inside.

His mother was lying on the bed, restless—tossing and turning, clearly uneasy. As I continued talking with him, I learned they had just returned from the hospital. While they were there, a fire had broken out in the compound where they lived. No one was home, but everything was destroyed. They had lost everything. The house I knocked on was just a new apartment they were renting.



I could sense how exhausted he was. He felt overwhelmed and helpless because no one was there to help him. His only sister, who was the family's provider, left the other day to return to work abroad. He was also the one caring for his sister's two young children. His mother had stopped eating and was no longer herself. A priest had already visited and administered the Anointing of the Sick, but he didn't know what else to do to comfort her.

I simply listened.

Several times, he broke down and apologized for crying. I gently reassured him that it was all right, that God knew how heavy his heart was, and that was why He sent me to visit them that day.

He was deeply grateful.

Meanwhile, I noticed that his mother was still uneasy. But when he told her that a Sister had come to visit, she suddenly opened her eyes. She became alert... responsive... even animated. As I spoke with her, she answered clearly and warmly. She shared how she had been active in the Church when she was younger and how, until she became ill, she attended Mass regularly.

Her son looked on in amazement. Seeing this change, he took the opportunity to feed her, and she ate.

At one point, she even insisted on offering me food before I left.

I gently explained that I needed to go, but I offered to pray with them. After our prayer, I said goodbye and left, quietly reflecting: *If I had not listened to that gentle prompting to visit just one more house, I would have missed this moment of grace. Thank you, Lord!*

The following morning, I was at the parish office preparing to go out again. I noticed a man by the window asking about arrangements for a wake at the parish memorial chapel. Then suddenly, he called out, "Sr. Mary! Sr. Mary!"

I looked out, and it was the same young man.

I went out to him and asked what had happened.

He shared that after I left, his mother ate and then fell asleep. This time, though, she was deeply at peace. Later in the evening, when he checked on her, she was no longer breathing. They called an ambulance, but she had already passed.

The distress on his face from the previous day had been replaced with a quiet, grateful relief. He knew that his mother had died peacefully.

Once again, I could only thank God for the grace, for the timing, and for the simple invitation to visit *just one more house*.



Every Season is a season to evangelize



Whether they live or serve in Nigeria, Ghana, Lipa, or Quezon City in the Philippines, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Ohio, Bronx, NY, or Marycrest, every Parish Visitor of Mary Immaculate will find ways to connect with people to draw them closer to the Heart of Christ.

*Sister Esther Miriam
and Sister Vivian Mary*



*Sister Mylene Rosemarie and Sister Mary Luchia
make palm crosses to distribute.*

Sister Dolores Marie sent us pictures of the Living Stations presented each year on the streets in the Bronx near our convent, and at Holy Family Church.



Young and old learn through participation.

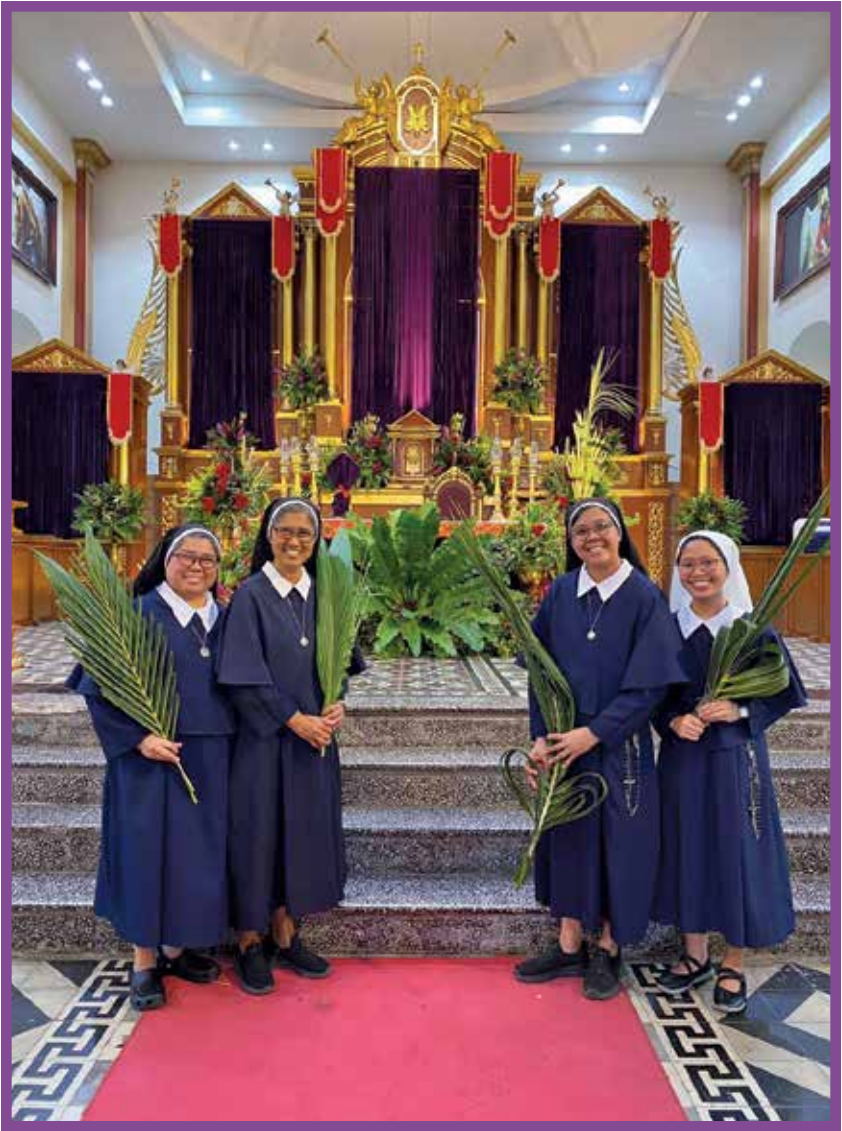




Sister Marie Michelle with young adults in Delaware.



*Sister Maria Rowena
and Sister Maria Leah
with the parish priest
in Manila.*



*Sister Mary Imelda, Sister Maria Arlene, Sister Mary Emmadoña,
and Sister Mary Novie Grace in Lipa.*



*Sister Marie Meaghan, Sister Sophia Maria,
and Sister Carole Marie at Marycrest.*



*Sister Susan Marie with a student in
Catechesis of the Good Shepherd in Ohio.*



An unexpected snowstorm briefly interrupted Sister Theresa Marie and Sister Rebecca Miriam's vocation promotion trip.



Do you know the Shepherd's Voice?



By Sister Theresa Marie, PVM

We hear many voices in our noisy world, but also, at times, in our noisy heads. As we incorporate times of silence & recollection, pray with Scripture, and reflect regularly on our day, we will notice many voices. It can be hard to tell which voice (or movement of the heart) comes from Jesus, the Good Shepherd.

*"The sheep hear His voice. He calls His own sheep by name and leads them out. When He has brought out all His own, He goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow Him because they know His voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from Him because they do not know the voice of strangers."
- John 10:3b-5*



St. Ignatius of Loyola gave the Church a great gift in his Rules of Discernment, also known as the practice of Discernment of Spirits. These rules can help us to know which voices to listen to as we discern God's Will.

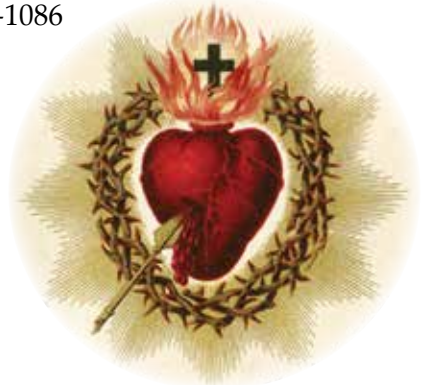
His first lesson is that if we are living a life that, in general, is moving away from God, the evil one will encourage us to keep going in the same direction, while the good spirit will try to get our attention and point out areas where we need to change. However, if we are moving toward God in our lives, truly seeking to follow His will, even with many stumbles along the way, the good spirit will encourage us and help us along the path to holiness. The evil one will be quite displeased, put up roadblocks, attack our weak points, and try to get us to give up.

In the Apostolate

A woman once asked me how her son could have fallen away from his Catholic faith so completely. I used this teaching of Jesus to show that the Christian needs to know the voice of the Good Shepherd to follow Him. Unfortunately, many Catholics (and other Christians) receive the sacraments, but are not evangelized - they don't know the voice of the Good Shepherd, or they have chosen to follow other voices.

As Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate, we are privileged to go out with the Good Shepherd to "seek and save the lost and straying." Our hearts burn with the love of the Sacred Heart of the Good Shepherd for His little ones who have wandered away. Have you felt this burning in your heart? Perhaps Our Lord has placed this mission in your heart as well. Bring it to prayer, and then, if the good spirit is at work in this area, reach out and let's have a conversation.

Sr. Theresa Marie, pvmi
Vocation Director
Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate
845-542-1086



ENTERING THE PASCHAL MYSTERY

By Sister Mary Josita, PVMI

Each year, the Church gives us the inestimable privilege of entering more deeply into the Paschal Mystery during Holy Week, especially the Sacred Triduum. This singular event, celebrated over the three days of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Vigil of Easter, is the culmination of the greatest Love Story the world has ever known.



This Love Story precedes time itself, for it is the eternal Trinitarian love of God Himself. The Father pours out the total gift of Himself to the Son, who in turn pours out the total gift of Himself to the Father, and the Holy Spirit is the Love poured out.

According to the set purpose and plan of God, this mystery of love was gradually revealed throughout the history of our salvation, that *we* may “become partakers of the Divine Nature” (cf. 2 Peter 1:4) and so enter into that Communion of love.

In the beginning, after the fall of Adam and Eve, it seemed as if this union with God and with each other was irrevocably lost. But God’s love would not be thwarted by our disobedience. He promised redemption and salvation. And more than that, He promised eternal life in Communion with the Trinity.



God began to fulfill His promise through the Incarnation of His Son, through the power of the Holy Spirit. The Word became flesh in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Jesus' very Body becomes GIFT.



On the first day of the Triduum, we have the opportunity to sit with this mystery. Jesus gives us the gift of His very Body and Blood to be our food so that we can be *in communion* with Him and with each other. The Church gives us time following the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday to ponder this gift in His presence before the Repository into the night. By contrast, in the church, the altar is stripped bare.

On Good Friday, we enter the Celebration of the Lord's Passion, remembering the total outpouring of the Father's love. "God so loved the world that He gave His only have eternal life." (Jn. 3:16) Jesus, in perfect union with the Father's will and the Father's love for us, willingly poured out His life in sacrifice on the Cross. At the Last Supper, He had said, "This is My Body which will be *given up* for you," "This is the Chalice of My Blood, which will be *poured out* for you." He, "who for us men and our salvation came down from heaven," as we say in the Creed, now says, "It is finished." (Jn. 19:30)



And yet, there is more. The altar remains bare, the tabernacle empty on Good Friday and Holy Saturday. We wait in hope. Death is not the end of this Love Story. It was never intended to be.



The Easter Vigil begins in darkness, a darkness pierced by the light of a single candle, “Lumen Christi – Light of Christ.” “Deo Gratias – Thanks be to God.” We can no longer remain in the dark. The light of Christ has come into the world, and the whole Church rejoices in this blessed light.

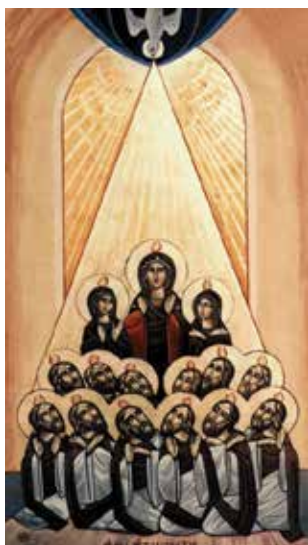
The readings of the Vigil rehearse the story of salvation, beginning with Creation. The Church begs us to *remember* the promise as it unfolds through the Exodus and throughout the succeeding centuries, culminating in the proclamation: Christ has conquered sin and death. The grave cannot hold the Lord of Life. He bursts forth to bring us light and life through the Resurrection of His Body.

We who have entered this Love Story through Baptism welcome those newly baptized members, who, with us, continue to tell the Good News. Love conquers.





Sister Alina Marie



Through the power of the Holy Spirit poured out upon the Church at Pentecost and on each of us personally at Baptism and Confirmation, we are His witnesses. We are made for Communion with the Holy Trinity. We live that out through love for one another.

The Sacred Triduum unfolds these sacred mysteries over three days, allowing us to ponder them, to enter them more deeply. At every single Mass we celebrate, we are present as Christ gives us His Body and Blood in the Eucharist. We are present as He pours out His Body and Blood on the Cross. We are present as He rises triumphant from the tomb. The Love Story lives on. And we are privileged to be a part of it.



In February, Mother Maria Catherine and Marie Martin traveled to the Center for Sainthood Studies in Menlo Park, CA. Mother Maria Catherine is the Vice-Postulator, and Marie is the Notary for Servant of God Mother Mary Teresa Tallon's Cause for Canonization. There, they gained the needed information to proceed with the ongoing stages of our Foundress's Cause.

Dr. Waldery Hilgeman and Dr. Emmanuele Spedicato conducted the course along with Msgr. Brian Taylor, a priest of the Archdiocese of New York. Dr. Hilgeman is the postulator for Mother's Cause, along with Dr. Spedicato.



Dr. Hilgeman, Mother Maria Catherine, Marie Martin, Dr. Spedicato

Mother Maria Catherine shared with the other participants her experiences in preparing the material to be sent to the Dicastery for the Causes of Saints, following the initial stage. She was delighted to receive a copy of the Positio from Msgr. Taylor, who wrote a brief biography for it.



Msgr. Taylor with Mother Maria Catherine

*Announcing our
Annual Youth Day at Marycrest
We hope you will join us.*



"YOU ALSO ARE MY WITNESSES, BECAUSE YOU HAVE BEEN WITH ME"
(JOHN 15:27)



Marycrest Youth Day

HIGH SCHOOL TEENS AND YOUNG ADULTS (up to age 25)
SATURDAY-AUGUST 1, 2026
9:30AM-7:00PM

**\$50/PARTICIPANT-INCLUDES 2 MEALS, SNACKS, T-SHIRT
(6PM "TO GO" SUPPER OPTION FOR EARLIER DEPARTURE)**

Register Now!

845-783-2251 MarycrestYD@gmail.com
parishvisitorsisters.org/youth-day



Marycrest Convent, Monroe NY 10950





*Congratulations to Sister Mary Emmadoña,
who recently graduated from
De La Salle University in the Philippines.
She is pictured here with her mother.*



Thank you

TO ALL WHO
SUPPORTED OUR
DINNER DANCE
FUNDRAISER

- by sending a donation
- buying raffle tickets
- contributing to the 50/50
- bidding on baskets
- donating food or beverages
- attending the event

AND TO OUR GREAT COMMITTEE

*Thank you to Sammi Finch for the photos
from the Dinner Dance.*



*The gym at Sacred Heart was filled with our guests
for the 2nd Annual Dinner Dance fundraiser.*



*They enjoyed a delicious meal and tried their luck to
win one of the over 60 beautiful baskets on display.*



The dance floor was rarely empty.



*At the end, the Sisters sang
"May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May He make His face to shine upon you.
May the Lord hold you in His holy glance
and give you peace, all your days."*



*Where will the feet of these
New York seminarians
take them?*

*We pray for priestly and
religious vocations daily.
Won't you join us?*

Psalm 42

*As the deer longs for the running waters,
So my soul longs for you, O God.
Athirst is my soul for God, the living God,
When shall I go and behold the face of God?
Send forth your light and your fidelity;
They shall lead me on
And bring me to your holy mountain
To your dwelling place.
Then will I go in to the altar of God,
The God of my gladness and joy,
Then will I give you thanks upon the harp,
O God, My God!*

Pray for Us — We Pray for You.



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

Parish Visitors evangelize

*Face-
to-
Face*



*Heart-
to-
Heart*

Contact us:

pvmi@frontiernet.net

www.parishvisitorsisters.org

In the Philippines:

pvmi_manila@yahoo.com

In Nigeria:

May_1920@yahoo.com

Please consider passing this magazine on to a friend or relative.