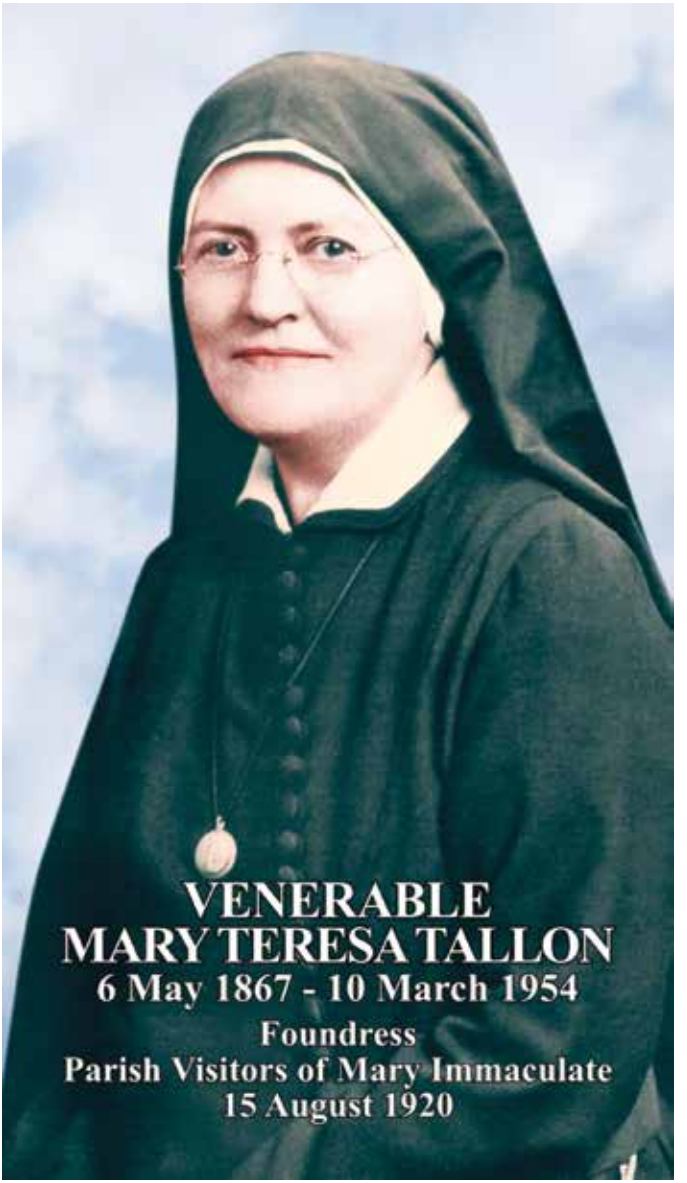
# The Parish Visitor



Vol. 101, No. 2
2026

# The Parish Visitor



## Rejoice with us!

On June 18, 2026, our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, recognized our Foundress, Mother Mary Teresa Tallon's life of heroic virtue and declared her to be Venerable.



And we have been celebrating ever since.

This issue of *The Parish Visitor* will highlight some of the ways we have observed this milestone in her Cause for Canonization. This decree marks the completion of the second stage. Now we will be praying for the miracle that God has chosen to advance her to being named Blessed. Won't you join us in prayer?

### PRAYER

*(for private use only)*

Heavenly Father,
through the example of
Venerable Mary Teresa Tallon,
you summon all your faithful
to become apostles
to the most spiritually deprived.
Through your loving kindness,
we pray that you heed this special
favor which would confirm the
holiness of your faithful Servant:
*(here make your request)*.
We ask you this in the name of Jesus,
Your Son, loving Shepherd of us all.
Amen.

With Ecclesiastical Approbation
+ Timothy Cardinal Dolan
Archbishop of New York
27 December 2012

For any favor obtained, kindly notify the
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Editor: Sr. Mary Josita, PVMI Subscription: $5.00

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P.O. Box 658, Monroe, NY 10949 • Phone: (845) 783-2251
www.parishvisitorsisters.org

# I am the Vine

By Mother Maria Catherine, PVMI



Growing up Italian in Brooklyn, NY was a blessing! I especially remember with gratitude and joy Sunday dinners with Grandma and Grandpa Iannotti!

Grandpa made his own wine in the basement of their 4-family apartment home. He was so proud to take me there and show me the casks of fermenting grapes, the winepress, and explain the process! Of course, Sunday dinner was only complete with a glass of Grandpa's wine. Well, for those of us too young for alcoholic beverages, our wine was mixed with cream soda! It was still "Grandpa's wine!"

Honestly, I never thought about the process from the beginning: the vineyard and planting the grapes, the harvesting, and then the final product. My visit to Our Lady of Divine Providence Convent in Warren, Ohio provided the opportunity to see a vineyard "up close and personal."



Father Christopher Cicero, Pastor of Saint Teresa of Calcutta Parish, recently planted a vineyard! I asked Father: "Why a vineyard?" Here are some of his reasons for its planting.

**1.** Because of Jesus' words: "I am the Vine, you are the branches." Our people do not have the experience of seeing vines growing. Seeing them with one's own eyes

helps us to make Jesus' words real and understandable. Jesus tells us: "Without me you can do nothing."

2. Community. It is Father's desire to bring multiple parish communities together as one parish. Working together in the vineyard makes that possible.

I would like to reflect with you on this image of the vine and branches – and the meaning it has for each one of us. Jesus says to His disciples:

***"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."*** *Jn. 15:5*



Jesus is calling each one of us to cling to Him alone. He is the vine. As you know, we (the branches) will not survive if we are cut off from the Vine. Jesus is calling each one of us to be so connected to Him that our lives of faith and prayer will be fruitful. He is calling each one of us to a life of intimate union; and that union, my friends, is nothing less than a deep relationship with Jesus: so deep that it resembles the branches clinging to the vine!

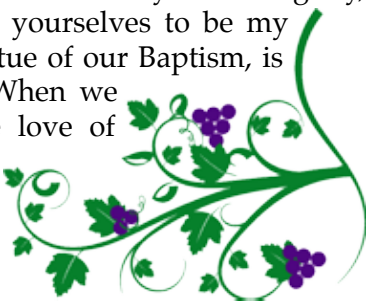


Just as it takes time for the vine to grow and produce fruit (I understand that St. Teresa's vine will produce its first fruits in 2028!), so, also, our relationship with Jesus grows slowly and matures with time and patience!

That relationship to which Jesus calls us is meant to draw others to relationship with Him. I believe that is what Jesus means when He says: "you will bear much fruit." When we look at the vine in its various stages (as you see from the photos), we can see the fruit growing. The closer we come to Jesus in our life of prayer, the more we will see much fruit developing. Have you ever had someone say to you: "I want what you have"? When people see the abundance of our life in Christ, they will want to share in that abundance.

The parishioners of Saint Teresa of Calcutta parish are experiencing that abundance by the number of persons desiring to attend OCIA and journey toward full communion with Jesus' Church! That is the fruit of the prayerful lives of the parish priests, the religious and the laity who have committed themselves to living Jesus' words: "if you remain in Me and I in you, you will bear much fruit."

Jesus further said to His disciples: "This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples." (vs. 8) Each of us, by virtue of our Baptism, is called to be missionary disciples. When we live that calling, remaining in the love of Christ and grafted to Him, the true Vine, we WILL bear fruit and give glory to the Father! What a call and what a promise!



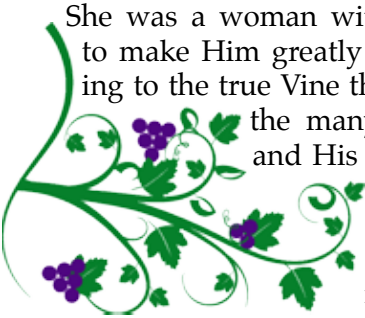
What is a missionary disciple? One who allows Jesus to be the center of his/her life so that He will send that person to proclaim the Good News that He has come to reveal the love of the Father for each person, by His Incarnation, Passion, Death, and Resurrection! Again, His words: "If you remain in Me and My words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you." (v. 7) A missionary disciple is fruitful because of the intimate communion he/she has with Jesus, the Beloved.

Whenever I visit Saint Teresa of Calcutta parish, I am always impressed by the spirit of joyful community that is palpable, vibrant, alive! It is always a joy for me to witness the beauty of the Trinity that flows out from the family of faith that defines this parish.

***In this issue, we are celebrating Pope Leo XIV's declaration, on June 18, 2026, that our Foundress, Mother Mary Teresa Tallon, is now "Venerable."***

Jesus' words: "If you remain in Me and I in you, you will be My disciples and bear much fruit" certainly describe the life of our Venerable Foundress! Mother Mary Teresa, from the age of nine, understood what it meant to remain on the Vine that is Jesus Christ. She tells us that after receiving Communion for the first time, her relationship with Jesus deepened. This was so evident in the way she lived.

The fruit of her relationship with Jesus drew her mother's heart to the children of the migrant workers on her father's farm; to the elderly who could not attend the parish Church for Mass; to the young ones who needed to be catechized at the parish. As a Religious Sister, her heart was always with the young people and their families who did not know the beauty of the Person of Christ, and she sought always to draw them to His most Sacred Heart!

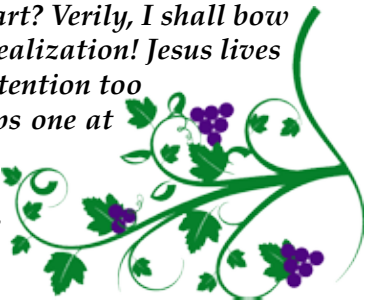


She was a woman with one idea: to love Jesus and to make Him greatly loved! It was her life of clinging to the true Vine that produced abundant fruit: in the many people she brought to Him and His Church through her witness of love and union and through the Sisters of the Congregation that she founded under His inspiration.

I would like to share with you these words from *The Spiritual Directory*, a book of conferences given to the early members of our Congregation by Mother Mary Teresa, which she considered as part of our Rule of Life.

In the quote below, Mother reveals her own intimate relationship with Jesus. Within this excerpt you will see the ending section of Jesus' words about the vine: "If anyone love Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him, and will make Our abode with him" (John 14:23).

***"Behold, I stand at the door and knock (Rev. 3:20). This is one of the greatest statements that was ever expressed. God-Incarnate presents Himself at the door of my heart. Must He be forced to say: 'Nobody at home'? No, rather shall I let Him enter and abide. Then will my spiritual communion be constant: 'Live, Jesus, forever in my heart!' In the picture of Jesus knocking at the door, He looks and listens. Is the step a truant one or is it coming to open the door for His entrance? How much concerned He is! What a reward He offers for hospitality! 'If any man shall hear My voice and open to Me the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me' (Rev. 3:20). 'If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and will make Our abode with him' (John 14:23). Glorious offer! Shall I not open to my Beloved, and beg of Him to come, and never more to depart? Verily, I shall bow in whole-hearted welcome. Blessed realization! Jesus lives within my heart. Is not my whole attention too little to give Him? Recollection keeps one at home, at home to Jesus the Beloved. Live, Jesus, forever, in my heart!" (Spiritual Directory, Venerable Mother Mary Teresa Tallon, p. 28-29***



**Live, Jesus, forever in my heart!**

# Masses of Thanksgiving



As soon as we received word that our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, had declared our Foundress, Mother Mary Teresa Tallon, Venerable, we rang the Angelus bell at Marycrest. The joy at the Motherhouse was palpable, with all the Sisters smiling and hugging each other. We were able to have a Mass of Thanksgiving that very morning, celebrated by Father Michael Coleman, who happened to be at Marycrest for a couple of days of recollection. Mother Maria Catherine notified all the convents, so Masses and prayer services were celebrated there, as well

**Father Von Eric Maria Sandoval, O. Carm., offered a Mass of Thanksgiving in our Bronx, NY convent.**

**Father Christopher Cicero, pastor of St. Teresa of Calcutta Parish, offered Mass in Our Lady of Divine Providence Convent in Warren, OH. Some of our newly installed Associates were at Mass and the breakfast that followed.**

**Mother Maria Catherine had previously installed our newest Associates in Warren during her Visitation of the Sisters**.

**Msgr. George Majoros and Father Michael Davis joined the Sisters and guests for a prayer service honoring our Foundress being declared Venerable**.

# Local Celebrations


Bronx


Warren, OH


New Associates




Clifton Hts, PA

# REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE



By Sr. Celine Marie Chinasa PVMI

Coming to Mother Foundress' quotes, the one that touches me most is when she advised all her spiritual daughters of the importance of remembering who they are. "You are a Religious, and you must live what the name implies."

I always carry these words of our Foundress in my heart. It is a constant reminder that I am a Religious and that a Religious should radiate the light of Christ in the world. It is my guiding principle in all that I do. Every day I thank our Foundress for her motherly advice, which is helping me live my life as a Parish Visitor of Mary Immaculate in a world consumed by materialism and atheism.

# A Mother's Heart



By Sr. Marie Michelle PVMI

"Saint Paul tells us: 'The charity of Christ urges me" (2 Cor 5:14). Certainly, this was what beat in the heart of Mother Mary Teresa Tallon: that charity which urged her to heed the words of Jesus: "Let the children come to me and do not hinder them, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven." (Mt. 19:4; Lk 18:16) … Mother Tallon expressed the burning desire of her heart just before founding the Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate when she said, "I felt a new burden of something more to be procured for God and souls. Now it was the religious instruction of neglected children."

The great love for spiritually neglected children that Mother Teresa Tallon had touched me deeply, as I myself was not baptized as a child, but only later at the age of 16. She described in her writings that the spiritually neglected children went up to the throne of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and pleaded their cause for the birth of the PVMI, and they prevailed! Praise be to God

for it! Mother Tallon sacrificed her life for such children, at the cost of great humiliations and sufferings, to bring them to Christ. She was a spiritual Mother to them and all the lost sheep who had fallen away from the practice of their Catholic Faith. She was ahead of her time, as a missionary disciple, not waiting in the convent and churches, but going out with great zeal and courage to seek out and find the needy children and lost lambs for Christ, by personal visitation to their homes, and along the way, in the streets.

However, what most impresses me about Mother Tallon is that contemplation, the life of prayer, and constant recollection were always the first and most important in her life, and she desired all the Parish Visitors to follow this way. I am still striving to learn from her words and teachings how to live the 'Life of Communion' as she described it, of a constant spiritual communion in one's soul, and maintaining a recollected heart for Jesus, even in the midst of much apostolic activity. Mother Tallon expressed the means she used to attain this recollected spirit as she said in her letter, November 1, 1943, "Your Mother Foundress obtained everything through confident union with Jesus, trusting to Mary's intercession with her Divine Son. Hail Mary, full of grace! Recollection seals this union of holy love: Mary kept all these words, pondering them in her heart.



## The Gaze of Christ

By Sr. Rebecca Miriam PVMI

Whenever I look at a picture of Mother Mary Teresa Tallon, I see in her a rare combination of both her own features and simultaneously the Face of Christ. It is as if she is alive and looking right at me; yet in her eyes I also see Jesus gazing at me as well – seeing deeply within me. Her look is one of understanding, encouragement, yet not without gentle rebuke at times, and always reminding me to strive higher for God alone. When I come to Marycrest, one of my greatest joys is going to kneel at Mother Foundress' sarcophagus. Though I may not see her face, I still experience her gaze that tells me I am her beloved daughter, that my dignity is cherished, and that I belong. Mother

Foundress truly exemplifies Saint John Henry Cardinal Newman's prayer, *Radiating Christ*: *"Dear Jesus…Penetrate and possess my being so utterly that my life may only be a radiance of You. Shine through me and be so in me that every soul I come in contact with may feel Your Presence in my soul. Let them look up and see no longer me, but only Jesus…"*



## Here With Us!

By Sister Mary Gemma, PVMI

We were delighted and overwhelmed with joy upon hearing our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, declare our Foundress as Venerable Mary Teresa Tallon.

We are also very fortunate to have the well-preserved body of Venerable Mary Teresa Tallon right here in our Marycrest Chapel, where she receives many visitors and is kept busy with many prayer requests.

## The Original Vocation

By Sr. Mary Josita PVMI



When we received the news that Mother Mary Teresa was declared Venerable, a spontaneous prayer arose in my heart. "Mother, help us live the Original vocation in all its fullness." I knew I needed to recover that singular love of God and zeal for the most neglected that Mother had. It is so easy to live from day to day without the passionate love of God motivating all that I do. Our beautiful contemplative-missionary charism calls me to more. With God's grace and Mother Mary Teresa's intercession, I pray that all her daughters will live the Original Vocation in all its fullness, to the glory of God.



## *Formed*

By Sr. Julia Marie PVMI

When I heard how Mother Mary Teresa prepared the young women who worked with her in St. Paul the Apostle Parish in New York City, I was truly amazed. Her remote preparation for these future Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate was inspiring. She formed them first in the love of God, showing them how love-worthy He is. She taught them to love and value every child in their classes, and to seek out those not attending religious instruction.

## A TRUE MOTHER

By Sr. Theresa Marie PVMI



Mother Mary Teresa always held the Sisters in this Community to high standards, as clearly evident in the conferences (talks) she gave them. At times, this has been intimidating for me as I encounter difficulties on my journey of faith. However, as part of the Cause for Beatification, I heard stories from Sisters who knew Mother. They shared her kind, loving, motherly response to the Sisters when they were struggling. This inspires me to follow Mother's example of giving everything to God and, when I fail to do so, to go to Him with confident faith in a loving response. It also helps me, in both Community life and the apostolate, to respond similarly when I encounter others who stumble on the journey. It is a great grace to be a Parish Visitor of Mary Immaculate now, when so much is happening to further our knowledge, understanding, and love of Venerable Mother Mary Teresa Tallon, a true mother.

## Make Every Soul Count



By Sr. Linda Jean Marie PVMI

One of my favorite sayings from our Foundress is "Make every soul count." To me, this means from conception to natural death. Back in the 1960's, there was a saying, "God doesn't make junk." Each of us is special in the eyes of God. It would be heaven on earth – truly a peaceful world, if each of us accepted and lived this truth.

## Her Words Still Speak



Sr. Mylene Rosemarie PVMI

Although I have not had the opportunity to meet or live alongside our Foundress, Venerable Mary Teresa Tallon, I often feel as though I know what it would have been like to live in her presence. Through her letters, writings, and inspiring words, she continues to speak to my heart as if she were with us today.

One example that deeply touched me was a letter she wrote to a Mother Superior while serving as a Sister of the Holy Cross. In the letter, she addressed several accusations made against her. What struck me most was her response. Rather than placing blame on others or defending herself, Mother Foundress reflected on the situation with remarkable humility. She considered how she herself could have responded better and acknowledged her own shortcomings with honesty and grace.

This reveals her spirit of kind judgment and her surrendering heart. She chose understanding over criticism, self-examination over self-justification, and humility over pride. Her example

reminds me that true holiness is not found in proving ourselves right, but in entrusting ourselves to God, remaining humble, and seeking to grow through every circumstance. Even today, her words continue to guide and inspire me to live these same virtues in my own life.

## Complete Trust

By Sister Susan Marie, PVMI



One thing I have always appreciated about Venerable Mother Mary Teresa Tallon is her perseverance and her trust in our Merciful Lord. Even when things seemed not to be working out for the Foundation of the Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate, Mother Foundress did not give up. She knew that God wanted the Community established, and she continued to fight for it because she believed that, with the grace of God, many souls would be saved through it.



## God Provides!

By Sister Mary Luchia PVMI

There are many PVMI community mottos, but the one that resonates most deeply with me is "God provides." Our Mother Foundress often reminded the Sisters to trust in Him, saying that God always provides for us.

This has been a true experience throughout my entire religious life. One specific occasion comes to mind: I once locked my car with the keys still inside. I was fervently praying to St. John Neumann and placed a third-class relic of his holy card on the window. As I looked up, I noticed two men approaching and asking, "Sister, can we help you?" I explained my situation to them. They looked around and noticed a tiny opening by the driver's side window. The operation began! Two of them pushed down the window, and in no time, they fashioned a loop to click up the lock and got my keys.

I was overjoyed and thanked them endlessly. As they were leaving, they jokingly said, "Just don't report this to the police!"

In every circumstance, God never fails to provide. Praise the Lord! I trust Him.



## *Overwhelmed!*

By Sister Alina Marie, PVMI

When I visited the Community in 2015 and first began reading the spiritual conferences of the then Servant of God, Mother Mary Teresa, I was overwhelmed by how clearly the depths of my longing to "belong totally to God" and to "go out to those who will not come to Jesus on their own" were right there before me, under my nose, on the pages I held containing Mother Foundress' words! I read and read and was blown away! I desired the contemplative life… and there it was, so directly explained! I desired the missionary life… and there it was, with no ifs, ands, or buts! Mother Foundress does not mince words. She says it as it is and as it needs to be. I hungered for that strong and high ideal in my life - nothing less than a total gift of myself to the One who gave Himself totally to me! Once I encountered Mother Foundress, my call was completely confirmed, with zero uncertainty. I knew she would lead me directly to great holiness of life, as long as I held fast to her example and words. What an awesome gift and what an immense vocation! I pray that many more come to experience and be transformed by the great gift of Mother Foundress' life, writings, and the vocation to the Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate!

# Jubilee 2026



On July 2nd, 2026, we celebrated with Sister Mylene Rosemarie Lindo the 25th anniversary of her vows and the 70th anniversary of her entrance for Sister Rita Mairelenes Kotmair. Family and friends joined the Sisters for Mass and dinner.

Most Rev. Efren Esmilla, Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia, was the principal Celebrant of the Mass and Msgr. Casper Furnari, pastor emeritus of Holy Family Parish in Queens, delivered the homily. Concelebrants included: Abbot Gerard Jonas Palmares, OCSO; Rev. Larry Magdasoc, Rev. George Majoros, Rev. Joseph Meagher, Rev. Rodem Ramos. Rev. Von Eric Maria Sandoval, O. Carm., Rev. Sean Sukiel, and Rev. Greg Zannetti.








I CAN DO
all things
THROUGH
Christ
WHO
strengthens ME.



Sr. Mary Novie Grace

"This convent is a school of perfection, and Our Lord is the Teacher."

I remember seeing this quote from Mother Mary Teresa Tallon posted in the Parish Visitors convent in the Philippines when I visited during my discernment. These words immediately caught my attention because they revealed that this Community truly belongs to God and that He Himself is the Teacher who guides, forms, and lovingly leads each Sister.

I remember saying to myself, "Wow! What a great privilege! How wonderful it would be to belong to a Community where God is the Teacher." This realization strengthened my conviction to enter the Congregation. Now, as a novice, this quote continues to inspire me. It reminds me to strive for perfection, a perfection of charity and to remain humble, open, and eager to learn from our greatest Teacher, Our Lord Himself.



Sr. Maria Rowena

"GOD is TRUTH, GOD is LOVE, and since GOD is infinite, He is INFINITE LOVE."

This is one of my favorite quotes from Mother Mary Teresa Tallon. Whom do you love? Your parents, siblings, spouse, children, boyfriend/girlfriend, friends? When we love, we always want what's best for the ones we love. And we're mere mortal beings. So just imagine God – who is LOVE Himself – how much could He love us? Infinite ...without limits! He gave His life for us on the cross; what else could He not give us? Let us make much of that love. God is willing to pour out many graces and blessings to us, if only we would let Him. Some would ask: "if God loves us, how come there's so much pain and suffering? Why are we still in a pandemic?" Let us remember that our pains and sufferings do not come from God. He allows us to experience these things so that we may grow in strength and faith in Him. Just like a parent, allowing his toddler child to run around and maybe fall and get hurt so that the child would learn and be more careful to avoid getting hurt again.

So my dear friend, let God, with His infinite love, love you.



Sr. Mary Imelda

"Make every soul count."

The immortality of the human soul is at the very heart of the Parish Visitors' mission and the reason for the existence of our Community. The constant aim of every Sister is the salvation of souls, because we know that God created each person in His own image and likeness and desires that all be saved. This conviction gives meaning and purpose to our apostolate. It also calls each Sister to persevere generously in her efforts to seek out and bring souls closer to God, never losing hope in His grace and mercy.



Sr. Maria Arlene

"May God help me to know and love Him, to help others to know and love Him, until all come to the truth of holy Faith in its fullness." — July 14, 1941

Mother Foundress' deep desire to know and love God, and to help others know and love Him, was truly the heartbeat of her life. This longing, together with her profound love for the Sacred Liturgy, became one of the central themes woven throughout her writings and conferences, which she lovingly passed on to us, her spiritual daughters, and to all who share in her charism.

The joyful news that she has been declared Venerable fills my heart with gratitude and renewed zeal. It inspires me to speak more readily about Our Lord and to touch hearts through her example and intercession. Venerable Mary Teresa Tallon, pray for us!



Sr. Maria Leah

"Jesus is voluntarily imprisoned in the Eucharist for His great love for me."

One way or another, we have experienced imprisonment, that is, being restrained from going anywhere at any time we wish. During the pandemic, after a few days of lockdown that turned into weeks and months, we all wanted to break free! And yet, Jesus chose to be a tiny white bread and locked in 24/7 inside the tabernacle so that when you visit the church, there He is- Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity- in the Most Blessed Sacrament! He knows that there will be times when you will need to speak to Him in prayer, times when you will feel alone and need assurance that there is someone always ready to listen even when you come unannounced and without any prior appointment. Let us give back that love by frequent visits to the Blessed Sacrament and by spending a few minutes or an hour "wasting time" with The One who truly loves us. Let us receive Him frequently in Holy Communion.



Sr. Mary Emmadoña

"If we love God, we give Him everything."

This quote not only reminds me and challenges me to give my whole self to God, but it also fills me with confidence and gratitude because it reflects the life of our Mother Foundress herself. She did not simply encourage others to love God wholeheartedly—she lived it. Knowing that she gave herself completely to God makes me proud and grateful to follow in her footsteps. She was a woman whose words were matched by her actions, whose counsel flowed from personal conviction, and whose life was spent loving God with her whole heart. Her example encourages me to keep offering everything to God, trusting that no sacrifice made out of love is ever wasted.

# Litany of Mother Mary Teresa

(for private/community use)

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Christ, hear us.
Christ, graciously hear us.
God, the Father of heaven, have mercy on us.
God, the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy on us.
God, the Holy Spirit, have mercy on us.



Julia Teresa, given the gift of life through the love of Bridget and Peter Tallon, *pray for us*.
Julia Teresa, child of God through the grace of baptism, *pray for us*.
Julia Teresa, who knew the love of family life, *pray for us*.
Julia Teresa, who grew in faith at Grandma Duffy's knee, *pray for us*.
Julia Teresa, who loved the Lord and desired to share that love with others, *pray for us*.
Julia Teresa, who could not wait to receive Jesus in Holy Communion, *pray for us*.
Julia Teresa, who was drawn to religious life, and let no obstacle deter her, *pray for us*.



Julia Teresa, who, as Sister Mary Berchmans, shaped the minds, hearts, and souls of countless children to be faithful to Christ, *pray for us*.

Julia Teresa, who in 1900 was inspired to seek greater spiritual perfection, *pray for us*.

Julia Teresa, who in 1908 received the fullness of the inspiration to found a new religious congregation in the Church, *pray for us.*

Julia Teresa, who trusted that God would supply for all her needs, *pray for us*.

Julia Teresa, who never wavered from the original inspiration, *pray for us.*

Julia Teresa, who joyfully received the teachings of the Church and reverenced the Vicar of Christ on earth, *pray for us.*

Julia Teresa, who gathered others to go out in search of the lost little ones for Catholic instruction, *pray for us*.



Mother Mary Teresa, who in 1920 founded the Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate, for the personal sanctification of its members and for the redemption of the most abandoned souls, *pray for us.*

Mother Mary Teresa, who sought union with God, *pray for us.*

Mother Mary Teresa, who guarded that union with silence and recollection, *pray for us.*

Mother Mary Teresa, who always put God first, *pray for us*.

Mother Mary Teresa, who told her Sisters to give God His own, *pray for us.*

Mother Mary Teresa, who was zealous for the most abandoned souls and counseled "make every soul count," *pray for us*.

Mother Mary Teresa, who called all to holiness, *pray for us*.

Mother Mary Teresa, re-builder of families, *pray for us*.

Mother Mary Teresa, who asked what more she could do for God, *pray for us.*

Mother Mary Teresa, who sent her Sisters out in imitation of the Good Shepherd, *pray for us.*

Mother Mary Teresa, who taught her Sisters to rely on the Holy Spirit, *pray for us.*
Mother Mary Teresa, who desired to draw all to Jesus in Holy Communion, *pray for us.*
Mother Mary Teresa, who gave her Sisters as their Patroness and model, Mary in her Visitation to Elizabeth, *pray for us.*
Mother Mary Teresa, who entrusted her Congregation and the families they serve to the care of St. Joseph, *pray for us.*
Mother Mary Teresa, who was inspired by the simplicity of St. Therese's "Little Way," *pray for us.*
Mother Mary Teresa, who gave her Sisters a love of all the saints, *pray for us.*
Mother Mary Teresa, who desired that her Sisters be faithful daughters of the Church, *pray for us.*
Mother Mary Teresa, who willingly embraced the crosses of disappointment, setbacks, illness, and misunderstandings, *pray for us.*
Mother Mary Teresa, who bequeathed to her Sisters a legacy of Eucharistic adoration, *pray for us.*
Mother Mary Teresa, prophetic voice in the Church, *pray for us.*
Mother Mary Teresa, whose vision was as broad as the whole world, *pray for us.*
Mother Mary Teresa, who loved all the Sisters and taught them to love one another, *pray for us.*

Let us pray:

God, our Father, send us the Holy Spirit of Your Son, Jesus, so that we may be faithful to the original charism and spirit of Mother Mary Teresa. May we, in imitation of her, always seek to put You first in our lives. Like her, may we be filled with zeal for the most abandoned. Draw us to a holy life and help us to come at last to Your Kingdom where, with Mother Mary Teresa, we may sing Your praises for all eternity. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

*-Compiled by Sister Mary Josita, PVMI*

# *Soul to Soul: "Make every soul count."*



By Reverend Joseph J. Clemente
Retired Priest of the Diocese of Syracuse and
Parish Visitor Priest Associate

On June 18, 2026, Pope Leo XIV declared Mother Mary Teresa Tallon Venerable. This second step toward sainthood is cause for great rejoicing for the Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate, the Religious Congregation she courageously founded on August 15, 1920, in New York City, and for those of us who have come to know her through the witness of her Sisters. I was introduced to her in 1993 when I became Pastor of a parish in Rome, NY where the Sisters had worked since 1935. I immediately perceived that these were extraordinary Sisters who were doing great work in the parish but would also raise my spirituality and give a needed boost to my ministry. As my pastorate progressed, I read talks that Mother Mary Teresa gave to the Sisters. I was always moved by her keen pastoral sense and deep humanity. The more I got to know her, the more I was focused on the Motto she chose for the founding of the Order, "Make every soul count." This motto prompted me to imagine her and the Sisters looking at the brownstone neighborhoods of New York and seeing them as the challenge of ferreting out thousands of souls who would otherwise be lost. She realized that collective programs could not replace "person to person" ministry. She saw this ministry in light of the visit of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth. As John the Baptist leapt in his mother's womb at the visit of the Mother of God who was carrying her Incarnate Son, the visit of a Parish Visitor would inspire new faith, return to the Church, and the grace of the Sacraments. Mother Mary Teresa saw this work of evangelization as personal and intimate. She was not impressed with numbers but with the agency of grace that one soul to another can produce.

Mother Mary Teresa's insight into evangelization is powerful for today's Church. Those in official ministerial positions often rely on programs that gather numbers of people but fail to leave a personal "soul to soul" touch of grace. Souls are embodied by diverse personalities and backgrounds. Mother Mary Teresa's legacy reminds me to pause and allow God to meet people where they are on the road of life and speak clearly of the love of God and the need for repentance. She reminds the world that God desires that every soul be visited by grace. Every soul counts and needs to be saved by Our Lord Jesus Christ. I am praying with the Sisters that before I die, we can go to Rome and rejoice in her canonization. Her life is a testimony that we need to hear and venerate.



Most of the Sisters listed in the necrology knew Mother Mary Teresa. Sister Jane Marie McCormick, a gifted musician and poet, composed this tribute to Mother Foundress.

*We sing of one whose presence we have known*
*Love is her scepter, loyalty, her throne;*
*With grateful hearts we hail her as our own.*
*While seeing flourish the seeds which she has sown.*

*Noble her aim and kind each deed and thought,*
*Constant the theme of virtue she has taught.*
*This be the message of our song today –*
*Mother and Foundress and guardian of our way.*

# We are joined by our Sisters ....



| | |
|---|---|
| July 5 | Sr. Mary Rosa Zimbisky, 2004 |
| 12 | Sr. Jane Marie McCormack, 2007 |
| 14 | Sr. Marie Therese Beaulieu, 1977 |
| 16 | Sr. Mary Regina Brockhaus, 1996 |
| 19 | Sr. Mary Veronica Powers, 1994 |
| 22 | Sr. Joan Germaine Riley 2023 |
| 26 | Sr. Mary Inez Sexton, 1970 |
| 26 | Sr. Mary Valeria Laurich, 1994 |
| 28 | Sr. Margaret Sylvia Noonan, 1986 |
| 29 | Sr. Mary Anna Mullin, 1953 |
| 30 | Sr. Jean Marie Furr, 2006 |
| August 4 | Sr. Mary Clarita Buonomo, 2006 |
| 12 | Sr. Mary Kathleen O'Neill, 1994 |
| 15 | Sr. Mary Lucy Lent, 1938 |
| 18 | Sr. Mary Bernadette Hogan, 1980 |
| 19 | Sr. Yvonne Therese LaRocque, 2008 |
| 22 | Sr. Mary Celestine Shea, 1952 |
| 23 | Sr. Mary Agnes Westlake, 1964 |
| 26 | Sr. Mary Felicia Beckmann, 1976 |
| 27 | Sr. Mary Vivian Brand, 1992 |
| 29 | Sr. Avita Bridget Moran, 1987 |
| September 1 | Sr. Mary Margaret Smith, 1978 |
| 2 | Sr. Mary Claver Dobie, 1946 |
| 2 | Sr. Mary Virginia Davies, 1957 |
| 2 | Sr. Mary Laurian Buitrago, 2000 |
| 10 | Sr. Mary Eymard Corcoran, 2006 |
| 14 | Sr. Margaret Mary Duffy, 1955 |
| 19 | Sr. Mary Thecla Baljay, 1966 |
| 20 | Sr. Mary Magdalen Frank, 1933 |
| 21 | Sr. Mary Gervase Krieter, 1974 |
| 22 | Sr. Mary Lawrence Crowley, 1945 |
| 23 | Sr. Mary Benita Carey, 1985 |

## .... In Praying for You.

# Holiness

## In Our Own Backyard



By Reverend Thomas J. Byrnes
Parish Visitor Priest Associate

When the news of Mother Teresa Tallon's elevation to the status of Venerable was announced and shared with me by Mother Marie Catherine, it almost seemed surreal. These things just don't take place in our own backyards! When we read the lives of the saints and hear their stories, as powerful as they are and as timeless as they can most certainly be, they can seem like voices from a very distant past or from a faraway place. For someone so close to us who has walked among us in our own recent time and on our very own soil, her being declared Venerable makes the hope and promise of our own sainthood even more of a reality. Truly, by God's grace, even here in our "ordinary" backyard, something as extraordinary as becoming a saint is a possibility *for all of us*.

The extraordinary in the midst of the ordinary is a favorite reflection of mine. It puts us in touch with the mystery and gift of the Incarnation…*God with us by becoming one of us*. Are we that lovable by God, or could God be that loving? Reflecting on this, we might find ourselves, like our brothers and sisters in the time of our Lord, oscillating in our minds and hearts between the doubtful words of those in His hometown saying, "Isn't he just the carpenter's son?" or falling to our knees in faith as Saint Thomas did, proclaiming, "My Lord and my God!"

One of Mother Tallon's teachings that has stayed with me is her description of us as mobile tabernacles. She was clearly ahead of her time, anticipating the modern age of mobile phones and other devices that would soon consume our lives. She helped us recognize what it means to be temples of the Lord, especially when we receive Holy Communion. We realize the gift of who we are by first recognizing Whose we are. We are made for so much more than this world. We are made for heaven. What makes heaven

a place of eternal joy is Holy Communion, or oneness with God… God raising up what had fallen into "ordinariness" into "extraordinariness" by uniting us to Himself in and through His Incarnation. This rising has been happening ever so quietly, humbly, and simply, through a very powerful brand of yeast, namely, the charism of the Venerable Mother Mary Teresa Tallon and the Parish Visitors. Her title Venerable is perhaps God's way of alerting us to the need for more of the yeast of the Parish Visitors in our lives, particularly in our parishes. Anyone who has been as blessed as I have been, not only during my time at Sacred Heart but also now in my current parish, to have the Parish Visitors knocking on the doors of the hearts of God's people has witnessed the fruits of such heroic devotion and love of our Lord.



*The Heavenly and Earthly Trinities*
by Murillo (c. 1677)

I am sure if Mother Tallon could speak directly to us in this moment, she would be quick to point out, as did our Blessed Mother of herself, that her title of Venerable isn't so much about her as it is about Christ within her. As a Venerable soul united to that of the Blessed Mother, as Queen proclaims the greatness of the Lord, the world is now more able to hear her prayer of praise and recognize the voice of the One who from the heavens said of our Lord at His baptism, "This is my Son listen to Him!" With each step in the canonization process, that voice will grow louder and bolder, so the roots of faith in our Savior may

grow ever deeper into the hearts of all of God's people, especially those closest to her heart, namely, those most spiritually deprived. With this singular blessing of being named Venerable, perhaps this is God's way of saying of Mother Tallon, "This is my daughter, listen to her!" Those words cannot be said of just anyone. We need the assurance of our heavenly Father speaking through His Church, assuring us of the holiness and faithfulness of His servant. In declaring her Venerable, God has not only provided that assurance, but He has also shed His light upon the community of Parish Visitors He formed through Mother Tallon and our need to open the doors of our hearts and our parishes to these faithful spouses of our Lord.

How extraordinary it is, and what cause for celebration we have, to witness the power of doing little things with great love in the simplicity and humility of the call to become God's yeast in the midst of the world as did Mother Teresa Tallon. Declaring Mother Tallon Venerable lifts our hearts just a bit more in hope, letting us know He is near. Indeed, He is, and always has been, so powerfully and yet humbly present in Mother Foundress and in all of the Parish Visitors who live the charism of sprinkling that yeast into the hearts and homes of countless people and families, especially among the poor, the overlooked, and the disadvantaged. As we pray that her beatification and canonization be not far away, so may we too be lifted up one day with her to share in the fullness of heavenly joy as God's future saints.



# MARYCREST YOUTH DAY
























***Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate serve the Church in America, Africa, and Asia through door-to-door evangelization and catechesis. Is God calling you to be a daughter of Venerable Mary Teresa Tallon as a Parish Visitor of Mary Immaculate?***


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