



Blessed Trinity

Weekend Magazine

Over 60 YEARS COURAGEOUSLY *Living the Gospel*

May 7, 2023 ▪ Fifth Sunday of Easter

What Does it Mean to Evangelize?

Juan Ávila Estrada



To evangelize is to show the open arms of Jesus on the cross, saying: “I did it all for you.” That is what really transforms the heart and brings us to experience a new life.

Evangelization (the act of “preaching the good news”) is the Church’s “Great Commission”; it is the reason for which she was founded, sent, and supported by the power of the Holy Spirit.

This good news is nothing other than the love of God – an unconditional love that is as absolute, as truthful as the cross; a love that is not just “for humanity” (an expression that speaks much but says nothing), but for me and for you. It is a love that is not the product of greed or personal achievement, but rather the benevolent generosity of the Lord.

It is a love so freely given that it is neither deserved nor contingent on changes in our attitude and behavior (although we can choose to accept or reject this love by means of our actions).

It is not easy to evangelize, for it requires a personal experiencing of God’s love: his tenderness, his compassion, his desire to “make all things new” in me. Without it, we can simply convey the truths of faith as revealed in Scripture, but at the risk of becoming cold Christians who advocate these concepts without allowing them to transform their lives.

Evangelizing is not the act of threatening all those who do evil with eternal damnation, nor is it the raising

Continued on page 2



PASTOR

Rev. Wayne C. Genereux

DEACONS

Deacon Bill Lovelace
Deacon Lionel Roberts,
Deacon Emeritus

CLERGY ASSISTANCE

Fr. Jack McDowell, OFM
Fr. Anthony Fortunato, OdeM
Fr. Victor Bartolotta

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday Masses

Monday - Saturday 8:00 AM

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil at 4:00 PM
Sunday

8:00 AM, 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM

Follow the Sunday Mass on our
website, btsp.org.

Confessions will be held
Saturdays 2:45-3:45

PARISH OFFICE

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1600 54TH AVE S.
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... Continued from cover

of the sword of justice against all sinners, marginalizing and labeling them as lost. Neither is it declaring them enemies of the cause itself, for their ignorance may be preventing them from seeing the truth, which is Jesus.

To evangelize is to show the open arms of Jesus on the cross, saying: "I did it all for you." That is what really transforms the heart and brings us to experience a new life.

To evangelize is to kindle a light. But how is this done? By showing truth. What truth? The truth of a person, the truth that is Jesus Christ: "I am the way, the truth, and the life." But this knowledge of the person of Jesus is not limited to "know things" about him; rather, to truly know him is to live the experience of his love, to understand that what he did directly relates to me.

One does not evangelize by filling heads with abstract concepts. A faith that is perceived only by reason can make religious fanatics out of us; on the other hand, a faith that only touches the emotions can become unstable. But a faith that interacts with our reason, will, and emotions is a powerful thing that transforms life significantly.

It is here that our behavior is transformed. It is here that we learn that by faith, one surrenders his life for the good of others.

To evangelize is not to open the gates of hell for sinners, but to declare the love of God to each person so that this love leads to conversion. It is to show the face of the Church: a face of mercy and respect; a kind and welcoming face of a Mother and Teacher.

To evangelize is to heal the wounds that afflict us by means of God's love.

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Finding New "Life in the Spirit"



It is God's desire that we live in the fullness of the Holy Spirit!

If you feel that you have not been growing in the Life of the Spirit, could it be that the Gifts of the Holy Spirit received at Baptism and strengthened at Confirmation have been neglected or are lying dormant in you and need to be re-awakened?

You will have the opportunity to receive a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit, experience an intensified awareness of the Presence and power of the Holy Spirit and find "New Life" in the Spirit when you join us...

- On Saturday, May 20 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm in the Parish Center
- Bring "Brown Bag" Lunch. Drinks will be provided. **and**
- On Saturday, May 27 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm in the Parish Center

Call the Parish Office @ 867-3663 to SIGN IN or for more information.

All are welcome!



May 7, 2023

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 6:1-7 | 1 Pt 2:4-9 | Jn 14:1-12

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Recently, I went through a period of spiritual dryness, and I questioned my ability to make faith the central tenet of my life. Although I had always loved reading Scripture, I felt I needed reassurance that God was truly present with me. So I did what many people do: I asked God for a sign that he was real. Nothing happened. The sky didn't open; doves and rays of light didn't magically appear announcing God's presence. Although I didn't receive what I envisioned as a "heavenly sign," I looked down at the Bible in my hands and realized that God's word, handed down through the millennia, had been my companion all this time and was indeed the "sign" I was looking for. Which is why Jesus' question to Philip in today's Gospel struck a chord with me: "Have I been with you for so long a time and you still do not know me?" If Jesus asked me this same question, I want to be able to answer, "Yes, Lord, I know you through your sacred word, through partaking of the Eucharist and through the strength and guidance of the Holy Spirit who is with me each and every day."

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

What does "knowing Jesus" mean for me in my everyday life? It means hearing his words and acting on them: "I am the way and the truth and the life ... If you know me, then you will also know my Father." In following Christ, we know that Jesus is in the Father and the Father is in him. Jesus Christ is God! And as we heard in the second reading from Peter, we are not Christians on a lonely road; we are living stones that form a spiritual house. We are "called out of darkness into his wonderful light," as he describes it. Therefore, let us not be afraid to lean on our fellow Christians when we need support. And then, of course, we turn to Jesus, the cornerstone, the bedrock of our faith, and rejoice in his love for us.

ACTION Faith is rarely a straight path – sometimes there are sharp curves, steep hills, or roadblocks. If you feel lost or could use someone to talk to about faith, reach out to your parish and ask about contacting a spiritual director. *Come, Holy Spirit, and fill me with your grace.*



Are You Hoping to Receive One of the Seven Sacraments With Us?

Matrimony

Congratulations on your engagement! Every Diocese in Florida requires at least six months preparation before marriage. Please call our Pastor, Fr. Wayne Genereux, at the Parish Office for an appointment before setting a date.

Baptism

We are honored that you would like to choose Blessed Trinity Catholic Church for the baptism of your child! We ask that you please call our Pastor, Fr. Wayne Genereux, at the Parish Office for information regarding the pre-baptism class before scheduling a baptism.

Office Hours

Monday—Friday 9-12 and 1-4
Closed for Lunch Noon to 1 pm

Mass Intentions

Saturday, May 6, Easter Weekday

8:00 a.m. William Isaac (Dec)

Saturday, May 6, Vigil for Fifth Sunday of Easter

4:00 p.m. James Lawler & Pat Sullivan (Dec)

Sunday, May 7, Fifth Sunday of Easter

8:00 a.m. Gerald Hayman (Dec)

9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners

11:30 a.m. Marlene Romani (Dec)

Monday, May 8, Easter Weekday

8:00 a.m. Lu Ann Kenning (Liv)

Tuesday, May 9, Easter Weekday

8:00 a.m. Dennis Dutilly (Dec)

Wednesday, May 10, Feast of Saint John of Avila, Priest and Doctor of the Church, and St Damien of Molokai, Priest

8:00 a.m. Mass for Vocations

Thursday, May 11, Easter Weekday

8:00 a.m. Rosemary Smith (Dec)

Friday, May 12, Feast of Saints Nereus and Achilleus, Martyrs, and Saint Pancras, Martyr

8:00 a.m. Gerald Hayman (Dec)

Saturday, May 13, Feast of Our Lady of Fatima

8:00 a.m. William Isaac (Dec)

Saturday, May 13, Vigil for Sixth Sunday of Easter

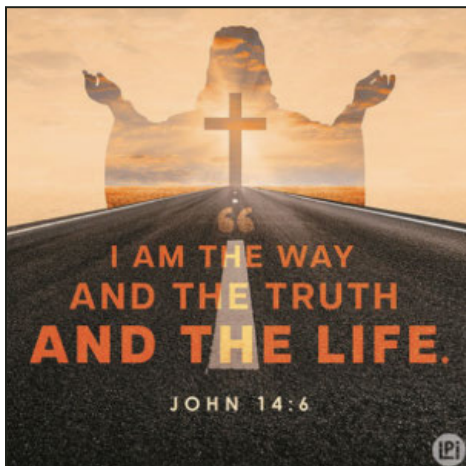
4:00 p.m. Bill Hueston (Dec)

Sunday, May 14, Sixth Sunday of Easter

8:00 a.m. John Gray (Dec)

9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners

11:30 a.m. Gerald Hayman (Dec)



Priestly Ordination Deacon Christian Galvan

May 20, 2023 | 11:00 a.m.

Cathedral of St. Jude the Apostle, St. Petersburg

Save the Date for Mary and the Eucharist

Bishop Gregory Parkes invites you to the fifth annual Diocese of St. Petersburg Marian Congress! The theme this year is *'Mary and the Eucharist.'* The Eucharist is the source and summit of our faith and we encounter the risen Christ each time we receive our Lord in Holy Communion. Our Blessed Mother has a special role in leading us to her son, Jesus in the Eucharist. Save the date to participate in the Marian Congress on May 13 at the Cathedral of St. Jude the Apostle .

This day of joy, renewal and prayer will include dynamic speakers, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, a multicultural Rosary and Mass with Bishop Gregory Parkes. Also, renew your consecration or be consecrated to Jesus through Mary for the first time. To learn more, visit www.FloridaMarianCongress.org

Journeying Through Grief



"Grief is not a sign of weakness. It is a tribute to the loved one who died, and a healthy response to our heart ache."

If you would like to be part of a Grief-Support "group" or you would prefer "one on one" support, please call Rachel between

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the parish office, 727-867-3663

RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

What do you think is the value of your stewardship? Do you believe that through your actions both great and small that God can touch people, heal them, and change their lives? Too often we can mistakenly assume that what we do, say, or offer can have little effect in the grand scheme of life. We are simply poor sinners in need of salvation so what could we do anyway?

Jesus speaks very powerfully to what can be done by those who believe in him and follow him. He says in John's Gospel, "Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these, because I am going to the Father." Greater ones than these? Think about all the miracles of Jesus recorded in sacred Scripture. You and I can do works greater than those?

St. Teresa of Avila said, "Christ has no body now on earth but yours." We are Christ to a world that needs him. It is the Christ in you that responds to the Christ in me. If it were only you alone going about doing good works and deeds, then your stewardship would amount to little. But if you bear the name Christian, and you approach your discipleship seriously, you can truly do greater things. If you understand your stewardship as a way that Jesus works in our world, then this way of life, cultivating and sharing your gifts at every turn, becomes more valuable than all the gold in the world.

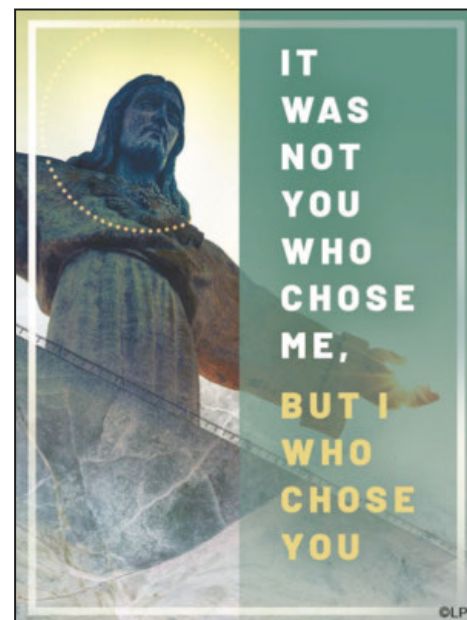
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Bl. Teresa Demjanovich

Miriam Teresa Demjanovich was the seventh and youngest child of Ruthenian immigrants to the USA from what is now Eastern Slovakia. She grew up in Bayonne, NJ. After high school, she wanted to become a Carmelite sister. Instead, she stayed in the family home to care for her mother who later died of the influenza. Teresa then went on to graduate summa cum laude from the College of Saint Elizabeth at Convent Station, NJ with a degree in literature.

After years of discernment and a novena specifically prayed to help her discover which congregation she was called to join, she entered the Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth and received her religious habit as a novice on May 17, 1925.

During her short time as a postulant and novice, before her death, Teresa taught at the Academy of St. Elizabeth in Convent Station. Prompted by her spiritual director, she wrote a series of conferences on the spiritual life for use in the education of the other novices. These 26 conferences would later be published under the title *The Greater Perfection; A means of achieving union with God through prayer* and the book is still available to this day from the Sisters of Charity's online bookstore.

Shortly into her second year in the congregation, Teresa became very ill. After a tonsillectomy, months of illness, and, eventually, an operation for appendicitis, she passed away on May 8, 1927. She made her profession of permanent religious vows from her hospital bed.

Throughout her life, Teresa was known for her contemplative and mystic relationship with God as well as her compassion and selflessness toward others. Despite all of her activities she was known to always find time to go to the chapel to pray and could be frequently found there in-between classes and social engagements.

Her life mission resonates clearly throughout her writings — to educate people about the universal call to holiness. In the first of the conferences in *The Greater Perfection* she writes, "The saints did but one thing — the will of God: But they did it with all their might." Teresa, too, strived to do the will of God with all her might and, after the official recognition of a miracle through her intercession, Pope Francis declared her Blessed on Oct 4, 2014, at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark, New Jersey. This was the first ever beatification ceremony held in the United States.

Official Prayer for the Canonization of Blessed Miriam Teresa Demjanovich

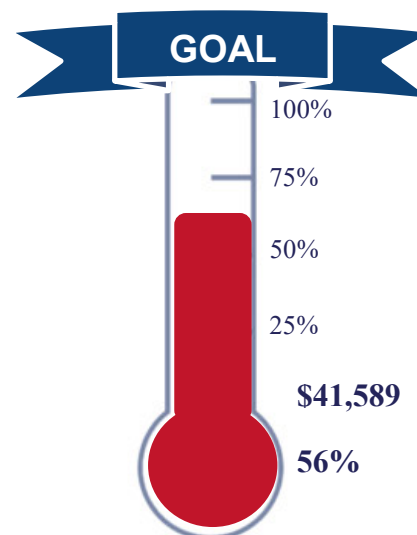
Most Holy and Blessed Trinity, whom Blessed Miriam Teresa loved so ardently, grant that we like her may become ever more conscious of Your Divine Presence within our souls. We implore You to continue to show signs that Your humble servant enjoys glory with You in Heaven, and to hasten the day when we may render her a lasting tribute of our veneration and love. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Prayer Source: [Source: https://www.scnj.org/blessed-miriam-teresa](https://www.scnj.org/blessed-miriam-teresa) © LPi



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prayerful giving!**



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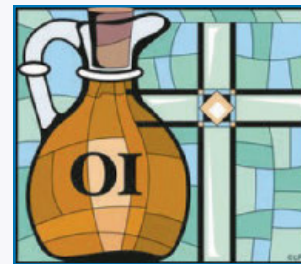
PART-TIME COOK NEEDED

Missionaries of Africa Community Retirement Home (9 men) in St. Petersburg has an immediate opening for a cook, to provide meals for lunch and supper on Saturday and Sunday. If you, or someone you know may be interested in this hourly position, please send an e-mail to star30@verizon.net.

Contact Denise at 813-215-9535 with any questions you may have regarding this position.

Arnold, Barbara
Barr, Bill
Brown, Bob & Beverly
Christ, Kathryn
Comeau, Teresa
Curtis, Sherlyl
Daniels, Joshua
DeZarn, Vickie
D'Azzo, Lina
Feldes, Chuck & Lauren
Ferrara, Antoinette
Fitzgerald, Dan
Forbes, Monica & Tom
Genereux, Carol
Grimberg, Carol
Hawkins, Barbara
Helbig, Len
Hoffman, Bette
Huff, Walt
Irvin, John and Marsha
Kindel, Helen
Kirchgessner, Marie
Lanigan, John
Lashley, Diana
Lawler, Matthew

LeVan, George
Lewis, Cynthia
Maharne, Cecile
Manley, Jan
Manley, Paul
Mays, Susan
Membreno, Mary & Gus
Mesick, Phil & Nancy
Nagy, Matthew
Newcomb, Jeff
O'Connor, Mary
Parmigiani, Valerie
Preeper, Helen
Privitera, Sandy
Riley, Marie
Roberts, Deacon Lionel
Romani, Angelo
Shelby, Ron & Montez
Stankiewicz, Cy
Thompson, Susan E.
Thuline, James and Lil
Vanderbeck, Jay
Walsh, Thomas
Youngman, Ruth



Anointing of the Sick

To request the Anointing of the Sick for yourself or a loved one, please contact the parish office, 727-867-3663.

If you or a close family member would like to be added or removed from our prayer list, please contact the parish office at 727-867-3663.



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