



April 2015 NEWSLETTER

SAINT OF THE MONTH:

SERVANT OF GOD MARY TERESA TALLON

DEAR CHALLENGE CLUB LEADERS,

I hope you are all doing well and had a wonderful Easter. Nationally, we are working hard getting the material for the new school year and finishing our new Challenge website which should go live in the next month. We have added in new sections so that you all can share your best practices with each other – making it a place where you can find inspiration and inspire others. The new site should be up before May 1. Summer Camp registrations are still going on as well and I can't emphasize enough how incredible a camp experience can be for the girls. If you have a camp near you (there are 18 this summer) – hopefully you can work with the families to help the girls attend. Thanks for all you do!

Nadine McMillan

Challenge National Director

YOU CAT # OF THE MONTH:

#158: WHAT IS HEAVEN?

Heaven is the endless moment of love. Nothing more separates us from God, whom our soul loves and has sought our whole life long. Together with all the angels and saints we will be able to rejoice forever in and with God.

VIRTUE OF THE MONTH:

Perseverance

We need to persevere to be virtuous people because virtue is the habit of doing good – and habits come about because we repeat something over and over again, persevering and not giving up at the first difficulty. The kind of person who tends to give up when she faces difficulties lacks perseverance.

Julia Teresa Tallon was born in 1867 on a farm in the Mohawk Valley near the city of Utica, New York. She was the seventh of eight children born to Bridget and Peter Tallon, both of whom had emigrated to the United States from Ireland. They brought with them the deep faith of their homeland as a heritage for their children. When she was 19, Teresa joined the Holy Cross Sisters in South Bend, IN. For 33 years she remained with the Sisters teaching a variety of subjects in Catholic schools. All the while God was preparing her for her future work. In 1920, she founded a new congregation of nuns in New York City, dedicated to go door to door, person to person, to teach the faith and help people. The congregation of nuns was called the Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate. Though Mary Teresa was quiet by nature, she was strong-willed and courageous, as well as intelligent. Most people, though, remember her for her eyes, very kind, warm with understanding, seemingly able to read the hearts of others. She worked with the nuns visiting people home to home, in prisons, and in hospitals. They helped teach the faith to adults and children, as well as offering special programs for teachers and parents to learn about God. During the last twenty years of her life, she suffered great physical illness but continued to work. Many of the nuns did not even know that she was sick. In 1954, when she was almost 90 years old, Mary Teresa died after praying her rosary. Her cause for canonization began and she has been declared a servant of God in 2013. The order now has convents in the Bronx, Arizona, Nigeria and the Philippines.

**“DEAR YOUNG PEOPLE, DO NOT BE AFRAID OF
MAKING DECISIVE CHOICES IN LIFE. HAVE FAITH;
THE LORD WILL NOT ABANDON YOU!”**

– Pope Francis

**“JESUS CAME AND NEVER WENT AWAY. HIS
LOVE CHAINED HIM IN OUR MIDST. HE PROVED
THAT HE LOVED US, BY GIVING US A
TABERNACLE AND STAYING WITH US IN THE
MIDST OF THE PARISHES.”**

–MARY TERESA TALLON



APRIL FAQs

ANSWERS TO A FEW QUESTIONS WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM CLUB LEADERS THIS MONTH

1- WHEN WILL THE EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION BEGIN FOR NEXT YEAR? Early Bird registration will start at in the next few week, as we do every year. We will be offering the same discount - \$100 off for those who register and renew their clubs early. All of the material ordered in the Early bird season does not ship until July. Our full explanation of how to renew, coupons needed and what is new in the material will be sent out in a few weeks.

2- WHAT CHANGES ARE YOU PLANNING ON MAKING TO THE CHALLENGE MATERIALS FOR THE UPCOMING SCHOOL YEAR?

We have started working on the new materials for the 2015-16 school year. Our curriculum will be updated and improved as we do each year. The team leader guidebooks will have new content and new service projects. As always our member kits will have a new look and feel with new content in the calendar and prayer book, as well as a journal and custom Challenge bag. Our club leader kits will also have some major changes with a new book series as well as new promo items. Another huge improvement will be our new Challenge website to launch by May as well as our new online store. We will be sending out instructions how to renew and register on the new store, but it will be much simpler to use. The new Challenge website will have a much needed and improved news section and resource center.

BEST PRACTICES: HOT DOGS FOR THE HOMELESS

The Challenge group in Oklahoma City participated in a great service project called Hotdogs for the Homeless Project. Robyn Duginski shared the experience with us, "The girls helped assemble 250 lunches-- filled with a hotdog on a bun, chips, cookie, and bottled water. After loading up all the lunch sacks, we drove downtown where this ministry hands out the lunches to the homeless people in our community. This ministry takes place every week- rain or shine- so many of the homeless community know when and where to show up! It was a great experience for our club-- to not only help-- but to be the ones who deliver the food directly to these people. It gave us a chance to see the faces of the people we were serving. One time this winter, we even brought big igloo jugs filled with hot chocolate-- for a special treat!!



OF CATHOLIC INTEREST:

A MONTH AND A YEAR OF MERCY

With Pope Francis announcing this year of mercy and this month being the month that we celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday, it would be appropriate to help the girls in Challenge understand the beautiful meaning of mercy and how to pray the chaplet of Divine Mercy. Many girls in the clubs probably have never heard of it or done the chaplet. These devotions in our Church are important for the girls to understand and experience so hopefully you can take a moment this month to teach the girls about God's love and mercy. You can find Pope Francis' message about Divine Mercy Sunday [here](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/francis/messages/mercy/messages_mercy_20131203_01_en.shtml).

CHALLENGE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

The launch of the new Challenge website is coming soon and with it we have updated our Challenge facebook page and youtube channel. If your club has a local facebook page, let us know so we can connect it to the national page. You can also follow the Challenge Google Page as well.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/ConquestChallenge

Youtube: www.youtube.com/channel/UCs6b0bFvJdNODPRfvkrObWA

Google Page: <https://plus.google.com/112689658261957344616/videos>

CLUB LEADER *Monthly* Poll

Each month we will ask one question to all the club leaders and present the results of the poll the following month. It is anonymous and only one question!

MARCH POLL RESULTS: WHICH SOCIAL MEDIA SITES WOULD YOU PREFER TO USE TO HEAR ABOUT CHALLENGE NEWS AND IDEAS?

90% SAID CHALLENGE & CONQUEST FACEBOOK PAGE

APRIL POLL: WHICH SOCIAL MEDIA OUTLETS OR MEANS OF COMMUNICATION DO YOU USE TO SHARE NEWS ABOUT YOUR CHALLENGE GROUP?

- 1) LOCAL FACEBOOK PAGE
- 2) EMAIL
- 3) MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
- 4) OTHER:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DVWR3WC>



CHALLENGE SUMMER CAMP INSPIRE



The 2015 Challenge Summer Camp theme is INSPIRE. Every day we will try to help the campers find their inspiration and be an inspiration! At camp they will have the opportunity to participate in activities to strengthen their bonds of friendship! They will enjoy prayer and spiritual growth through participation in Mass and Confession. Sports, games, workshops, team dynamics, exciting night activities, swimming and fun in the sun, are typical Challenge camp activities. To find out what activities are offered at specific camps, visit the local camp websites or download the local camp flyer.

Visit our Camp Headquarters

To download camp flyers, registration forms and visit specific camp websites.

www.challengeclubs.com/girls/events

ORDERING MATERIALS & SHIPPING TIMES

Our online store will be closed temporarily for restocking of material and setting up things for the upcoming school year. It will reopen in May. If you need to place an order, please contact customer service. When you place an order, please expect 48 hour processing time and 3-5 days shipping depending on how far you live from PA. We are now shipping with FedEx and USPS.

CONTACT US IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS!

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