

Our Ideal

The rapid spread of the MI in Poland and in many other nations was a reason for Fr. Maximilian's ongoing gratitude. His missionary zeal, however, moved him to dream of winning the whole world and each soul for God through Mary Immaculate.

In the June 24, 1936, issue of the *Maty Dziennik* newspaper, he published an article that would also appear in the *Knight of the Immaculata* magazine. It seems as if he felt the urgency to stop and ponder: "Why have we come all the way to the 'country of the blooming cherry trees,' and why do our aspirations embrace the entire globe? What are we aiming at? What is our ideal?... I shall sincerely affirm that it is not easy to understand our ideal and it is even more difficult to examine it in depth; or, rather, we can always delve deeper into it and know it in a way that is ever more explicit, but we shall not be able to get to the bottom of its sublime depth. For what reason? Because in this case it has to do with the Mother of God...From the Divine Maternity flow all the graces bestowed upon the Most Holy Virgin Mary, and the first of these graces is the Immaculate Conception. This privilege must be particularly dear to her if, at Lourdes, this is how she herself wanted to be called: 'I am the Immaculate Conception.' We too desire to call her with this name which is so dear to the heart. *The Immaculata: here is our ideal*" (KW 1210).

Suddenly Maximilian seemed to tear the veil, so to speak, to allow his readers to understand the ideal at the heart of the MI life and mission: "To approach her, become like her, permit her to take possession of our heart and all our self, that she may live and act in and through us, that she may love God with our heart, that we may belong to her without any restriction: this is our ideal. To radiate in the surroundings, conquer souls for her in a way that, before her, the hearts of our neighbors may be opened so that she may extend her dominion in the hearts of all those who live in any corner of the earth, without regard for racial, national, linguistic differences, and similarly in the hearts of all those who will live in any moment of history till the end of the world: this is our ideal" (ibid.)

Fr. Maximilian did not hesitate to point to the high ideal: "Besides, may her life be ever more rooted in us from day to day, from one hour to another, from one moment to another, and this without any limitation: this is our ideal. Again, may her life develop in the same way in every soul that exists and will exist in any time: this is our cherished ideal" (ibid.).

Printed as a small poster, this article would be posted in the friars' cells and workshops in Niepokalanów, as an invitation never to lose sight of the Ideal, to penetrate the heart of the Immaculata, the Mother of Jesus our Brother, the Mother of our supernatural life, so that each daily action, small or great, may be a continual letting oneself be led by the Holy Spirit to the ultimate goal: holiness, the high measure of Christian life whose luminous sign is Mary herself.

ADP