

will plunge into the mysteries of Love: the Cross and the Eucharist. Through her, God's Love shall kindle the world, set it on fire" (The *Writings of St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe*, 991 Q). Once he was arrested and eventually taken to the Auschwitz death camp, Maximilian continued to follow the Gospel call to the Christ-like emptying of himself (cf. Phil 2:7). Not only did he share his scanty food and water with fellow prisoners while ministering to their spiritual needs, but he persevered in charity toward his Nazi captors who singled him out because he was a Catholic priest. He willingly endured the torture of the starvation bunker by offering his own life in place of another prisoner condemned to death. Pope St. John Paul II stated, "Fr. Maximilian did not die but gave his life for... his brother" and thus became a sign and a prophet of the new era, the civilization of love.

"Prayer, sacrifice and suffering attract divine graces."
St. Maximilian Kolbe

HOW DO I JOIN THE KFC?

If you are already a member of the Militia of the Immaculata, you can join the KFC by registering with the MI National Center. Recite the KFC consecration prayer and send to the MI National Center-USA the completed form found in the MI brochure. You may also enroll online at MissionImmaculata.com.

If you are not an MI member yet, you can join the KFC with your enrollment in the MI. Please find more information about joining the MI at MissionImmaculata.com or in the MI brochure. As you consecrate yourself to Mary in St. Maximilian's Militia of the Immaculata movement, you will be placing yourself under the maternal guidance of the Immaculata, Mother of the Church and Comfort of the Afflicted. Through your MI total consecration, you will cooperate with Mary in the work of building up and renewing the Church of the third millennium. As our Mediatrix, she will intercede for you and guide you in responding to the call to holiness. Moreover, you will share in the intercessory prayers of our MI Family throughout the world, who prays daily for the sanctification of its members.

KNIGHTS AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS CONSECRATION PRAYER

O IMMACULATA, Queen of heaven and earth, health of the sick, and our most loving Mother, God has willed to entrust the entire order of mercy to you. You stood at the foot of the Cross, uniting yourself with the sufferings of Jesus, and so you became for all the Church a model of compassion. I, (name), a repentant sinner, cast myself at your feet, humbly imploring you to take me with all that I am and have, wholly to yourself as your possession and property. Please make of me, of all my powers of soul and body, of my daily sufferings and crosses, of my whole life, death and eternity, whatever most pleases you. If it pleases you, use all that I am and have without reserve, wholly to accomplish what was said of you: "She will crush your head," and "You alone have destroyed all heresies in the whole world." Through my prayers and sufferings, let me be a fit instrument in your immaculate and merciful hands for introducing and increasing your glory to the maximum in all the many strayed and indifferent souls, and thus help to extend as far as possible the blessed kingdom of the most Sacred Heart of Jesus. For wherever you enter you obtain the grace of conversion and growth in holiness, since it is through your hands that all graces come to us from the most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

V. Allow me to praise you, O Sacred Virgin.

R. Give me strength against your enemies.



**MILITIA OF THE
IMMACULATA**

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THE KNIGHTS AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS



*Let Our Lady Lead You
to Make Your Suffering
Fruitful!*

**MILITIA OF THE
IMMACULATA**

“The mission of the Militia of the Immaculata – leading all to Christ through Mary – gives me a great goal in bearing and offering my daily sufferings.”

(Peter, Knight at the Foot of the Cross)

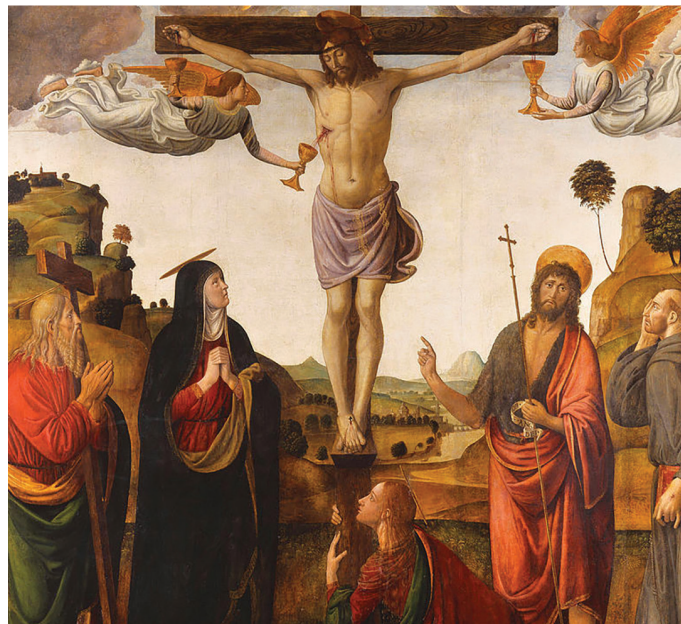
The Knights at the Foot of the Cross (KFC) is a special vanguard within the Militia of the Immaculata (MI) movement, consisting of Catholics who, regardless of age, are afflicted by suffering, whether physical, spiritual or emotional. As MI members, they consecrate themselves to Mary, so as to respond with her to the universal call to holiness. As she did at the foot of the Cross of her Son, they too participate in Christ's redemptive suffering (also called sacrificial or reparational suffering), by offering their daily prayer and trials to Jesus through Mary for the conversion and sanctification of all people and for the success of the MI's evangelizing mission, ultimately fostering the reign of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in all people.

Knights at the Foot of the Cross, though often unable to evangelize more actively because of illnesses, nonetheless become fruitful instruments of grace as they join their sufferings with those of Our Lord Jesus Christ through the intercession of Mary. As stated in the MI General Statutes, “Their consecration to the Immaculata makes the entire MI Family a participant in the redemptive mystery of Christ and renews its missionary thrust.” They truly become a spiritual powerhouse.

UNDERSTANDING REDEMPTIVE SUFFERING

“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.” (Matthew 11:28-30)

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* teaches that, “The cross is the unique sacrifice of Christ, the ‘one mediator between God and men’ (1 Tim 2:5). But because in His incarnate divine Person He has in some way united Himself to every man, ‘the possibility of being made partners, in a way known to God, in the paschal mystery’... is offered to all men. He calls His disciples to ‘take up [their] cross and follow [Him]’ (Mt 16:24), for ‘Christ also



suffered for [us], leaving [us] an example so that [we] should follow in His steps’ (1 Pet 2:21). In fact, Jesus desires to associate with His redeeming sacrifice those who were to be its first beneficiaries. This is achieved supremely in the case of His Mother, who was associated more intimately than any other person in the mystery of His redemptive suffering.” (CCC 618)

When we experience suffering in various ways, we are reminded that, just as Jesus confronted the Evil One with the power of the love that came to Him from the Father, so too can we confront and live through our trials “keeping our heart immersed in God’s love” (Pope Benedict XVI).

MARY IMMACULATE AND ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE: MODELS OF REDEMPTIVE SUFFERING

Mary Immaculate is our paramount model in embracing redemptive suffering. As she presented the Child Jesus at the temple, she consented to be associated in the mystery of His life, passion and death for our redemption. As she followed Jesus during His public ministry and ultimately when she stood at the Cross, her soul was indeed “pierced by a sword” (Lk 2:35). Pope St. John Paul II taught that on Calvary her suffering “reached an intensity which can hardly be imagined from a human point of view, but which was mysteriously fruitful for the redemption of the world... a special sort of sharing in the redeeming death of her Son.” She encourages us to make our own sufferings fruitful through our MI consecration as a Knight at the Foot of the Cross.

The founder of the MI, St. Maximilian Kolbe, is also a special example of redemptive suffering. Throughout his whole life he embraced the Gospel logic of self-giving out of love for God and others. He was convinced that through total consecration to Our Lady, “souls will love the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus as they had never loved Him before, because, like her, and in ways they have never experienced before, they