

THE KNIGHT OF THE *Immaculata*

E-PUBLICATION OF THE MILITIA OF THE IMMACULATA, USA

ON AUTHENTIC MARIAN SPIRITUALITY

PAGE 3

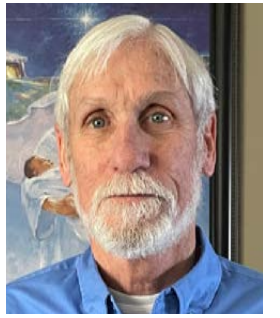
Jubilee of Prisoners - Page 7

MI Groups in the USA - Page 15



PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS

BY RONALD L. RODRIGUES, MI NATIONAL PRESIDENT



Maria! To all Knights of the Immaculata, Merry Christmas.

Most of the world looks forward to this special time of the year. Even non-believers are drawn into the glory and awe of the Christmas season. There is something extremely special about this time and everyone, in their own way, wants to be a part of this joyous occasion and feel the happiness and joy that Christmas brings. We as Christians know that only with Jesus in our hearts can we experience the real joy and happiness we are made for. But did you ever notice especially around Christmas how everyone is seeking and wants to feel that joy? We are made for God and can only be happy once our hearts rest in Him.

Is it magical or does it have another miraculous aurora? Everyone wants to be part of something bigger than themselves. No one wants to be left out. I love Christmas and all its splendor. I enjoy the crisp air and all the excitement and smiles you see on people's faces at this time of the year. I especially enjoy the Christmas treats and all the good food and fellowship that the season brings. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could always see this joy in everyone?

Is our mood built on the worldly events of our secular society? In many ways I think it is. Have we lost our way and want so much we forget the little pleasures of life that bring us joy? I wonder sometimes the Christmas season for many begins before the birth of Jesus, since most seem to have forgotten the Advent season. Advent is such a special time as we prepare our hearts for the coming of our Savior. It is a wonderful time in our liturgical year to prepare our hearts and minds for His coming. Is it the commercialization, glitter or greed that lead many to think Christmas starts right after Thanksgiving and ends midnight on the 25th, the day of Christ's birth? It seems that on the 26th of December Christmas is over, and

Daily Holy Mass

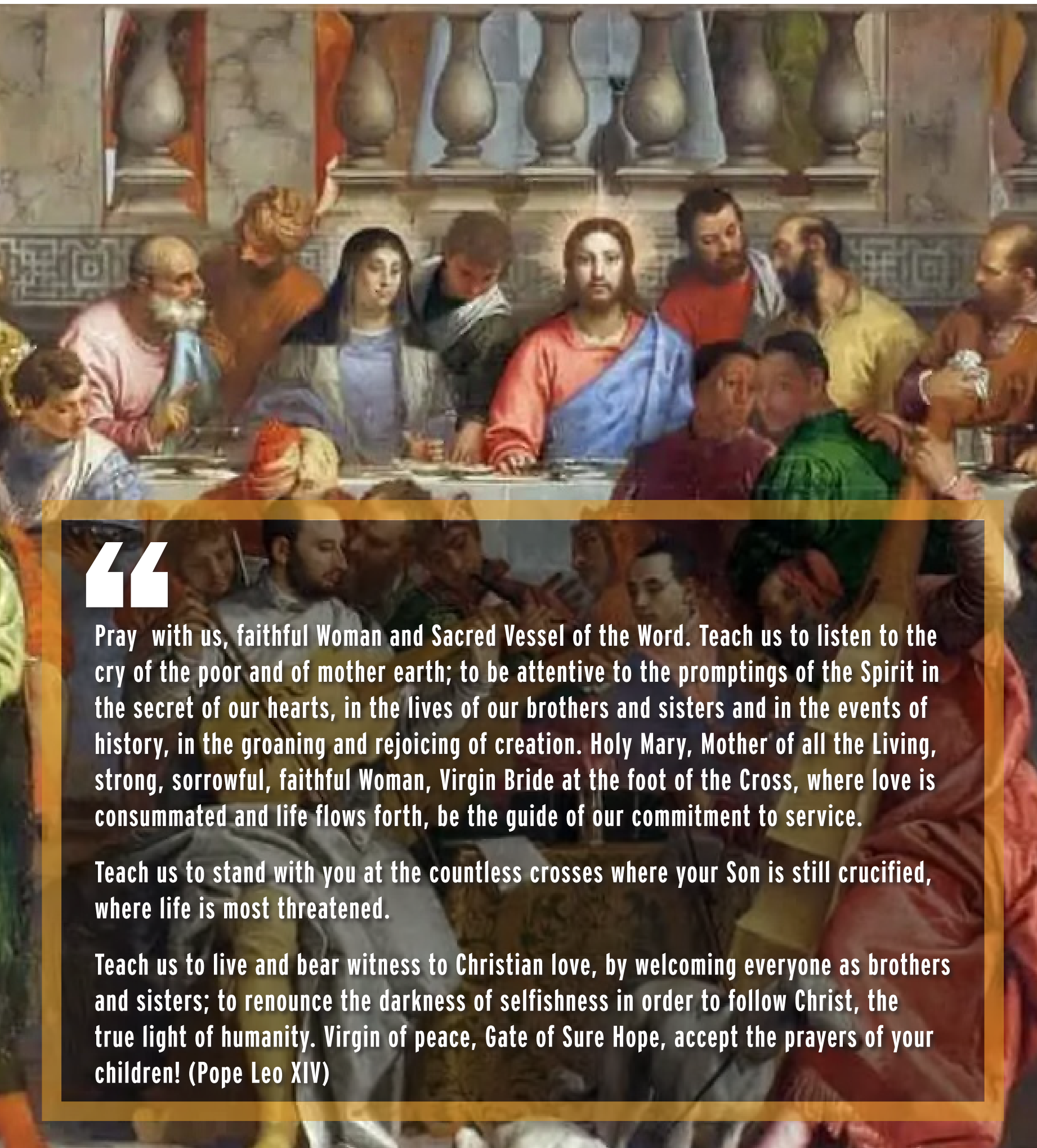
will be offered throughout 2025 for the MI-USA and all MI Members, living and deceased, at the City of the Immaculata established by St. Maximilian Kolbe near Warsaw, in Poland.



Send your prayer intentions to be placed in the MI Book of Intentions at the feet of Our Lady and St. Maximilian Kolbe's first class relic:

PrayerRequest@MissionImmaculata.com

everyone is focused and planning for the next big event. The sales that lead up to Christmas day, the shopping, the hype of it all. Yes, all the beautiful displays, lights, and decorations are wonderful. I, like most of us, enjoy them. But is this Christmas, and are we taking advantage of Advent to get our hearts ready for the real spectacular event? We see the beautiful displays being torn down right when the Christmas season really starts. The Christmas tree, which brings the light of the world into the our homes, gets tossed out on the second day of Christmas. So, when does Christmas really start? December 1st? Or earlier? The Church calls us to celebrate the Octave of Christmas, 8 days of Christmas, beginning on the 25th of December and ending on January 1st, the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. I don't know about you, but my Christmas begins on the night before Christmas, Christmas Eve, as we have a special dinner and complete our final preparations for the birth of our Savior. We celebrate the 12 days of Christmas that comes to completion on the Epiphany of the Lord, January 6, the day Christ is revealed to the world, the day the three Magi visited Jesus in Bethlehem. (Continues on pg. 10)



“

Pray with us, faithful Woman and Sacred Vessel of the Word. Teach us to listen to the cry of the poor and of mother earth; to be attentive to the promptings of the Spirit in the secret of our hearts, in the lives of our brothers and sisters and in the events of history, in the groaning and rejoicing of creation. Holy Mary, Mother of all the Living, strong, sorrowful, faithful Woman, Virgin Bride at the foot of the Cross, where love is consummated and life flows forth, be the guide of our commitment to service.

Teach us to stand with you at the countless crosses where your Son is still crucified, where life is most threatened.

Teach us to live and bear witness to Christian love, by welcoming everyone as brothers and sisters; to renounce the darkness of selfishness in order to follow Christ, the true light of humanity. Virgin of peace, Gate of Sure Hope, accept the prayers of your children! (Pope Leo XIV)

ON AUTHENTIC MARIAN SPIRITUALITY

EXCERPTS FROM THE HOLY FATHER'S MEDITATION AT THE PRAYER VIGIL FOR PEACE DURING THE JUBILEE OF MARIAN SPIRITUALITY, ON OCTOBER 11

During this Jubilee of Marian Spirituality, we believers turn our gaze to the Virgin Mary, who guides us on our pilgrimage of hope. We look to her human and evangelical virtues, the imitation of which constitutes the most authentic Marian devotion (cf. Dogmatic Constitution on the Church *Lumen Gentium*, 65.67). Like her, the first of all believers, we aspire to be a welcoming vessel for the Most High, a “humble tent of the Word, moved only by the motions of the Holy Spirit” (Saint John Paul II, Angelus, 15 August 1988). Like her, the first of the disciples, we ask for the gift of a listening heart that opens itself as part of a welcoming cosmos. Through her, Woman of sorrow, strength, and faith, we ask for the gift of compassion toward every brother and sister who suffers and toward all creatures. Let us look to the Mother of Jesus and the small group of courageous women at the foot of the cross. May we learn from them to stand beside the countless crosses of the world, where Christ is still crucified in his brothers and sisters, in order to bring them comfort, communion and help. We can identify with Mary as a member of the human family, and borrowing the words of a poet, we say to her: “Mother, you are every woman who loves; Mother, you are every mother who weeps for a child killed, a child betrayed. These children who are never fully killed” (D. M. Turolto). We seek refuge under your protection, Virgin of Easter, together with all those in whom the Passion of your Son continues. During this Jubilee of Marian Spirituality, our hope is guided by the gentle and persistent light of Mary's words as recounted in the Gospel. Her last words at the wedding feast in Cana are particularly precious. Referring to Jesus, she said to the servants, “Do

“Do whatever he tells you. ‘Blessed are you, the peacemakers’ (Mt 5:9). We are dedicated to embodying the Lord’s profound words, making them a part of our very being, our legacy and our actions.”

whatever he tells you” (Jn 2:5). This was the last time she spoke. These words, which almost seem to be a testament, must be treasured by her children, as any mother's testament would be.

Whatever he tells you. She is certain that the Son will speak; that his word is not yet final; that he continues to create, generate and work; that he fills the world with springtime and the amphorae of the feast with wine. Like a beacon, Mary points beyond herself, showing that the final destination is the Lord Jesus and his word: the center toward which

everything converges; the axis around which time and eternity revolve.

Follow his word, she urges. Live the Gospel: embody it, living it out with determination and joy. Live the Gospel and life will be transformed from being empty and dull to something full and vibrant.

Do whatever he tells you: the Gospel in its entirety, with all its demands and consolations, reproaches and embraces. Do what you understand and even what you do not. Mary urges us to follow the example of the prophets, not letting even one of the Lord's words fall to the ground (cf. 1 Sam 3:19).



Members of the MI Village in Peoria assisted in various ways with the move of their beloved Little Garden of the Immaculata -- the MI National Home for the past seven years. *Thank you!*



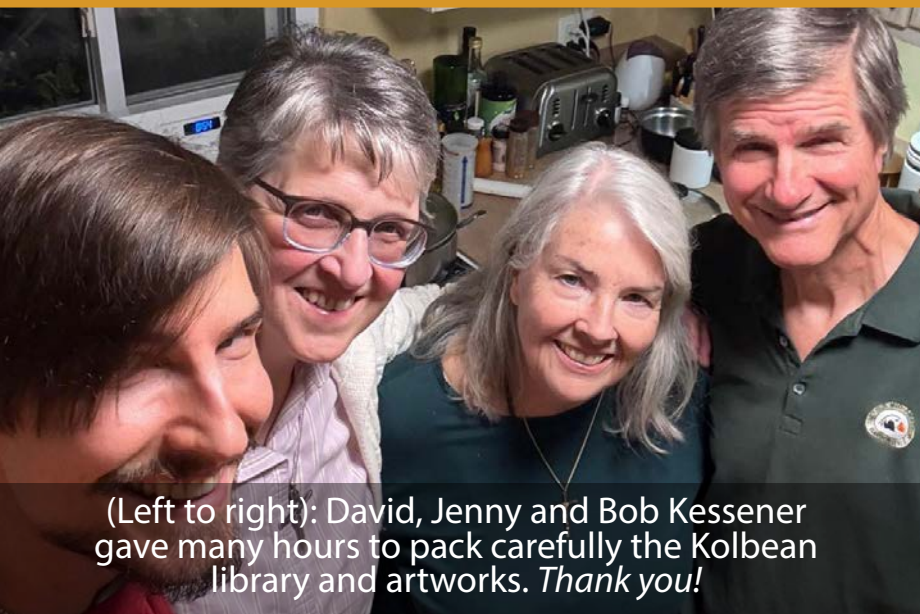
Neighbors Louis and Brian Stear lended a helping hand! *Thank you!*



Rachel Muck and Mary Beth Staub came from Carmel, Indiana, to visit and help with packing! *Thank you!*



Many helpers came to load the container heading to the MI new home! *Thank you!*



(Left to right): David, Jenny and Bob Kessener gave many hours to pack carefully the Kolbean library and artworks. *Thank you!*



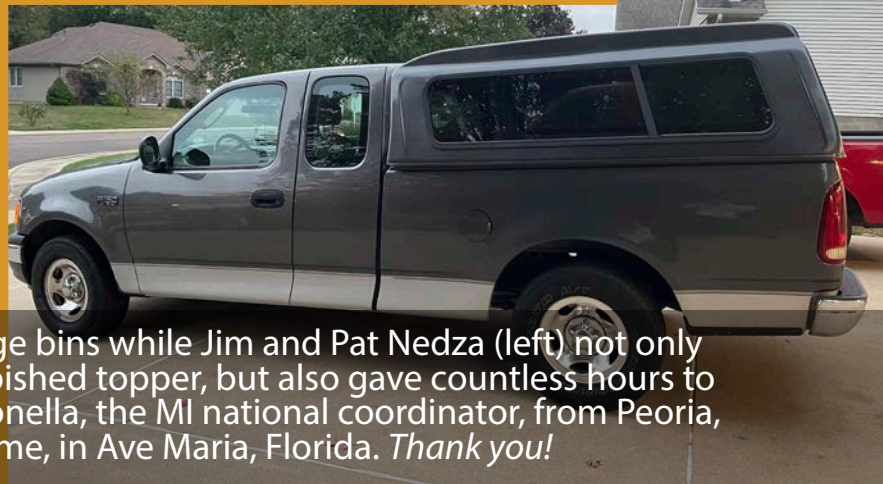
Sue Shingle, who had wonderfully created Our Lady's garden, came early on to help get the whole packing process started...! *Thank you!*



Mary and Harold Weil assisted with lodging during the long drive to Ave Maria. *Thank you!*



(Right) Kathy Ward provided storage bins while Jim and Pat Nedza (left) not only equipped the MI truck with a refurbished topper, but also gave countless hours to help, especially accompanying Antonella, the MI national coordinator, from Peoria, Illinois, to the MI new home, in Ave Maria, Florida. *Thank you!*



With a smile, Misty Brooks helped pack up the MI National Office. *Thank you!*

JUBILEE OF PRISONERS

KELLY, MI

On December 14, let all MI Knights celebrate with the universal Church the Jubilee of Prisoners. The following is a testimony from an MI member who is currently incarcerated. God bless you all! This letter-style is unfamiliar to me, so bear with me... I am writing from a position of great humility as I write from a prison cell.... a story becoming all too familiar. A life plagued by addiction, gangs, violence, selfishness, and obvious crime. My life since thirteen years of age has been in the custody of the state more than not. I am serving a natural sentence without the possibility of parole. I am guilty of almost every sin you can imagine, and some maybe you can't even imagine. I have destroyed lives in extreme ways... and the wake of my life's ripple effect is beyond any earthly scale of measurement, and sadly I must face this. In 2020, I was blessed with a paradigm shift of sorts, allowing me a new perspective. I soon renounced my affiliations, placing an extermination order out on me by those who once called me brother, those I placed my life on the line for time and time again. After prison administration attempted to have me request protective custody, and me signing a refusal, after failed attempts on my life, the administration was inspired to deem me to be high profile, and that meant it was no longer an option for me. They would not allow for my ego to lead me into a brutal and violent death. I was humiliat-

ed by being placed in protective custody, a major shame, but one I needed to begin my journey of self discovery. In renouncing my affiliations, being placed in P.C. I essentially renounced the person I had spent 40 years existing as. That reputation no longer mattered. Fast forward. I am currently a Mental Health Peer Assistant serving the 200+ peers in my location. I didn't just arrive here with no struggle. I had to process all my past traumas, abuse, and then all the guilt and shame for all my life's choices. I came into an all out spiritual battle... that had been going on all my life, but I became ever so aware of, finally. The adversary beat me down with guilt, shame, loneliness, and a hopeless outlook in regards to my existence with a natural sentence. When suicide was the only thing I believed [could] bring me some liberation, without any Catholic upbringing, one day I cried out and I experi-

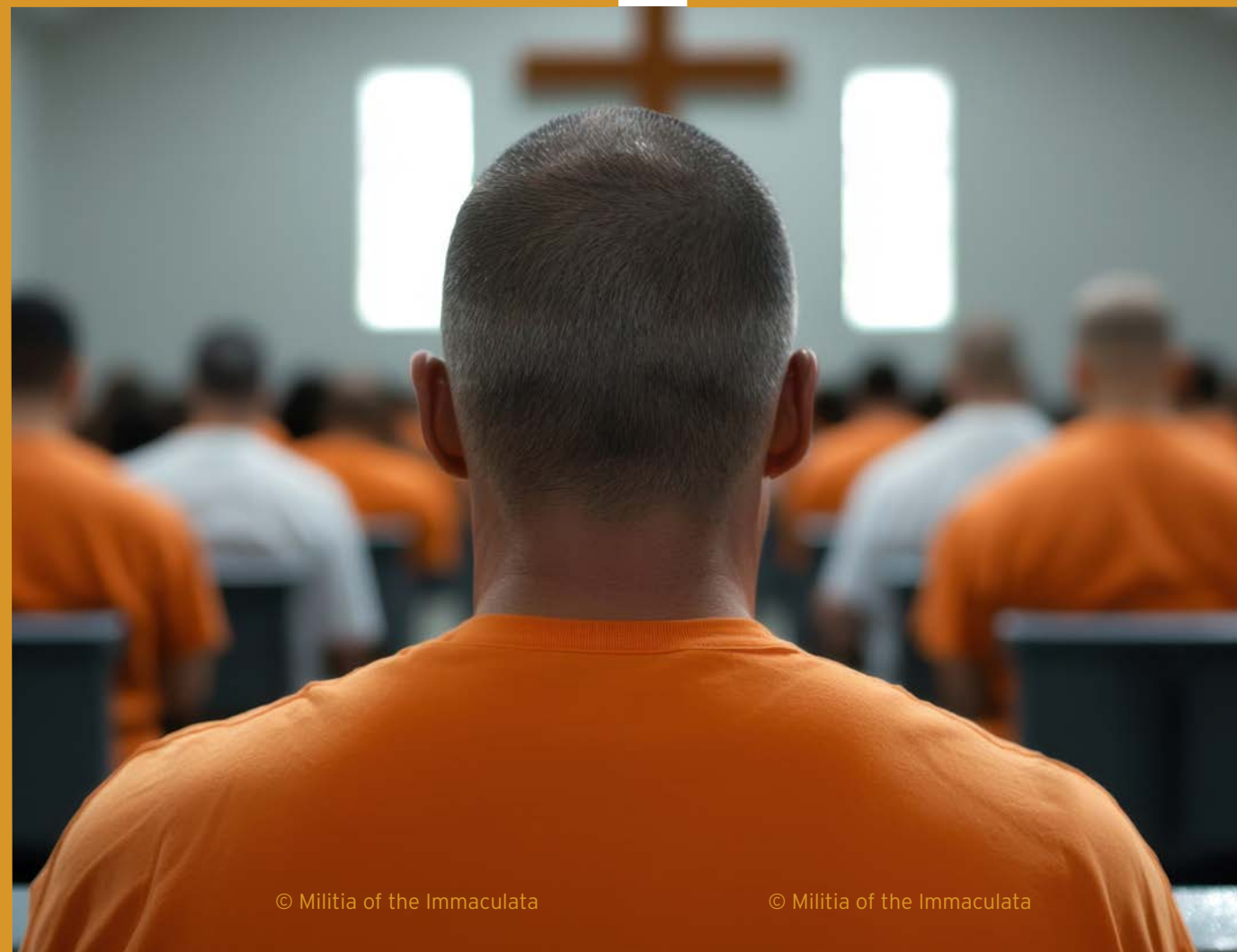


enced our Blessed Mother's presence (beyond words, so I go silent in my explanation of the experience). She tended my wounds...This led me to reach out to the [Catholic] Archdiocese... I knew Catholics venerate Mary, full of grace and truth. I began OCIA last year after meeting every third Tuesday with Fr. J. who came from the Archdiocese. I had no classroom setting, I studied alone and eventually brought in another peer, and on May 13, Our Lady of Fatima day, we received the Sacraments of Initiation, confirming me a member of Holy Mother Church. I took on the baptismal name of Maximilian as St. Maximilian Kolbe became my patron saint. I knew only a little bit about St. Maximilian, but I felt attracted or drawn to him. I love how he asked for both crowns and wore them courageously. I believe that our Holy Queen, enveloping me within the safety of her womb, allowed me to grow closer to Christ as well, and I was nurtured beyond words. This makes me feel closer to St. Maximilian Kolbe, and I know my journey is just beginning. I believe I'll become a certified catechist, and over ten people have agreed to enroll in OCIA this year.... I feel I have been restored to life... yes, a life sentence, but one now to serve God. I believe that our Blessed Mother Mary nurtured me for some significant [purpose], and I yearn to share Mary, for it has been through her womb that I personally discovered Christ. Now when I speak of the Gospel, I speak of its fullness, to include the *Theotokos*, as without her the Gospel does not exist; all those sects birthed from the reformation are missing out on the Good News of eternal salvation, while everyone will find our relationship with Jesus strengthened once we choose to act as the beloved disciple who, at Jesus' request upon the cross, "took Mary" as Mother, and cared for her from that moment on. God bless you all, and thank you for your time. With our Beloved Mother and our St. Maximilian Kolbe, *Kelly Maximilian*

JUBILEE PRAYER TO THE IMMACULATE MOTHER OF HOPE

Immaculate Mother of Hope, we turn to you during this Jubilee Year. Fill our hearts with renewed and revolutionary hope as we journey as pilgrims on this earth, fixing our eyes towards heaven. Accompany us now and always, as we entrust to you our cares and concerns, our sorrows and hopes, knowing that you will present them to your Divine Son on our behalf. We implore your tender help and protection, confident that everyone, especially the suffering and those most in need, will come to know your closeness, as the most affectionate of mothers, who never abandons her children and who, for the holy people of God, is "a sign of certain hope and comfort." Amen.

(Inspired by the Bull of Indiction of the Jubilee Year 2025)



GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT

The Children's Consecration Book is

the perfect Christmas gift for
your children, grandchildren, Godchildren!



Reading age: 6-11 years
Grade Level: Kindergarten - 5
96 pages
Dimensions: 8.5 x 11 inches

**Follow the Star! is available for a free-will donation
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Order the book, by writing to:
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Please, include your mailing address. Thank you.

Follow the Star! is designed to help children grow in their relationship with Our Lady and prepare for consecration, in the company of St. Maximilian Kolbe and other saints, our heavenly friends. The book provides lessons and activities created specifically for their young souls. Parents and teachers are invited to accompany and assist their children on this consecration journey, working through the book at their own pace, and pondering the message of each saint. The book is great for the whole family. It allows adults and children to journey together.



PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS

(CONTINUED FROM PG. 2)

No matter how or what days you celebrate Christmas, let all of us remember the real reason for the Christmas season. The first Christmas must have been a very special night but also one of wonder and awe. Were Mary and Joseph concerned, not finding a place to rest and bring the Christ child into this world? Were they concerned about what the future may bring? It seemed they may have been anxious, being unable to find a place to rest and give birth to the Savior of the world. Mary surely knew who this Child was, whom she was about to give birth to. Imagine arriving in Bethlehem frantically searching for a place to stay, and no one would listen or help. They had to put their trust in the Lord and settle for a lowly place, a cave, a home for animals. Jesus was laid in the manger, a food trough. He was wrapped in swaddling clothes. Most likely the clean linen preserved for the newborn lambs. The shepherds were watching their flock and received the news of Christ's birth. An angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The Angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is messiah and Lord. And this will

be a sign for you; you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger" (Lk 2:8-12). The place of this great event is believed to be in Beit Sahour, a village a mile or so east of Bethlehem. The first recreation of Jesus' birth in a manger, and midnight Mass, happened in December 1223, orchestrated by St. Francis of Assisi in Greccio, Italy. We can continue to enjoy the recreation of the spectacular birth in many churches throughout the world. Can you imagine the feeling that the shepherds must have felt on that special night? Or the three magi who paid Him homage bringing gold, frankincense, and myrrh? As I visit these special sites of the nativity of our Lord, I try to imagine and immerse myself into this night. It brings tears of joy and hope. Christmas is such a great time of peace and joy, a feeling within me I wish I could preserve and cherish always. I pray for all our MI members that they will embrace this Christmas season with a new sense of joy and hope and pass this excitement onto everyone they meet. It is through us that the love of Christ is shown to the world. Let everyone reflect on their intentions this Christmas season and seek inspiration from Mary to share kindness and goodwill with others around the world. Let our Blessed Mother lead and guide all of us. May all your gifts include a Miraculous Medal to pass that love of Mary to all.

Mary, pray for us!
Merry Christmas and God bless you.
Ronald L. Rodrigues
MI National President

Invite Friends to Be
Consecrated to Our Lady!



Behold Your Mother! The Path to Total Consecration to Our Lady in the Spirit of St. Maximilian Kolbe

This beautiful 56-page booklet and its **No-venas** companion may be used individually or as a group activity (in a home or parish setting, for example), or as a series of classes led by a facilitator, or during a day of preparation for MI consecration to Our Lady. If you can offer a series of meetings, you can read each chapter with the group and invite the participants to reflect and comment on it. Alternatively, you can invite them to read each chapter beforehand and come together for discussion. While St. Maximilian Kolbe did not indicate a specific format, if you wish to use a 9-day plan or a 33-day format to prepare for consecration to Our Lady, click here.

The suggested donation for the two booklets is \$ 8.00, shipping included

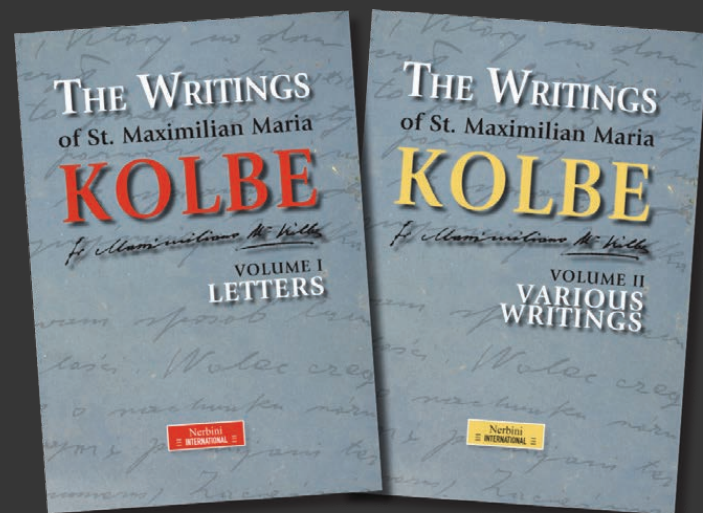
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VOLUME I: **LETTERS** • VOLUME II: **VARIOUS WRITINGS**

The Definitive English Edition!

The Martyr of Charity, St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe (1894-1941), before his death in the Auschwitz concentration camp, had spent the previous twenty-three years as a priest, evangelizer, media mogul, social commentator, missionary and religious reformer. His life's work cut short at age 47, St. Kolbe nonetheless left behind an impressive body of writings. In the 1950s the English-speaking world first began reading bits and pieces of those writings translated from the original Polish, Italian and Latin. The publication of the first English critical edition, *The Writings of St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe*, constitutes a historic event for the English-speaking readership. The sublime inspiration of the Saint's Marian thought and spirituality transpires from every page of his writings, whether it be a treatise on the relationship between the Holy Spirit and the Immaculate Conception, an evangelization plan, a message of counsel to religious and laity, or a filial letter to his mother. His deep personal relationship with the Immaculate Virgin Mary colors and enflames nearly every page. His leitmotif is love for God, the Church, the world and all its peoples. His goal is the conversion and sanctification of that world.



Because the frenetic pace of St. Kolbe's active ministry afforded him no time to compose a theological Summa, this edition assembles together the wide scope of his extant writings into a unified synthesis. It represents a virtual magnum opus of Kolbean thought-- at one and the same time pastoral, anthropological, philosophical, spiritual, ascetical and mystical. In the person of St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe, the first half of the twentieth century found a fresh voice fearlessly defending timeless values in the contemporary context. These two volumes give vigorous new life to this prophetic voice of truth.

— Fr. James McCurry, OFM Conv.

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Introduction to The Writings of St. Maximilian Kolbe"
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ON THE DOCTRINAL NOTE ON SOME MARIAN TITLES

Dear Friends,

I share some reflections after my initial reading of the document from the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, which I found rather uplifting.

The document, "without intending to be comprehensive and exhaustive," as stated in the *Introduction*, reflects beautifully on Our Lady's unique role, willingly and joyfully subordinate to her Son, on her maternal participation and cooperation in the work of Salvation carried out by her Son, our Savior and sole Mediator, and on her spiritual motherhood and the effectiveness of her maternal intercession.

This is a Doctrinal Note, not a papal document like an Apostolic Exhortation or Encyclical, and yet it's indeed replete with references to Scripture and the teaching of saints and popes. In fact, a careful reading of the document reveals how it resonates with many of St. Maximilian Kolbe's teachings!

The document in no way seeks to diminish our devotion to Our Lady, but rather to enhance it, as stated in the *Presentation*: "Rather than proposing limits, the Note seeks to accompany and sustain the love of Mary and trust in her maternal intercession." It does want to call our attention to a couple of Marian titles that have been used for centuries by the people of God, including saints and popes, but that the Dicastery, with the approval of the Holy Father, deems could cause some theological confusion. Therefore, the document suggested that they are to be either avoided as "not appropriate" in defining Mary's unique cooperation in the salvific work of her Son (as is the case of "co-Redemptrix") or used with caution "or special prudence" (as in the case of "Mediatatrix"), preferring other titles that convey the correct, rich meaning of Our Lady's cooperation and maternal care without risking to cause doctrinal ambiguity.

Indeed, many popes and saints, including St. Maximilian Kolbe and the newly proclaimed Doctor of the Church, St. John Henry Newman, used the titles co-Redemptrix and Mediatatrix of Grace/Mediatatrix of All Graces. They unambiguously emphasized that her unique maternal role is subordinate to and totally dependent on Christ, the only Savior of man and our sole Mediator. Their teaching reechoes in St. John Paul II's Encyclical *Redemptoris Mater*: "'Mary's maternal function towards mankind in no way obscures or diminishes the unique mediation of Christ, but rather shows its efficacy,' because 'there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus' (1 Tim 2:5). This maternal role of Mary flows, according to God's good pleasure, 'from the superabundance of the merits of Christ; it is founded on his mediation, absolutely depends on it, and draws all its efficacy from it.' (*Lumen Gentium*, n. 60). It is precisely in this sense that the episode at Cana in Galilee offers us a sort of first announcement of Mary's mediation, wholly oriented towards Christ and tending to the revelation of his salvific power." (n. 22 and ff. - See also Part III - Maternal Mediation, nn. 38-50). As for St. Maximilian in particular, he was a contemporary of Cardinal Mercier, who promoted the definition of the dogma of Mary's universal mediation. Not surprisingly, St. Maximilian, in his great love for Our Lady, supported those efforts. And yet, how would he respond to the current document? I believe he would have responded with respectful, whole-hearted obedience and prayer, and likewise, he would want us to do the same.

The Church, through this Doctrinal Note, is not calling for a "revision" of the writings and teachings of the saints (whose writings have been carefully scrutinized in the process leading to their canonization!) and, in the case of popes, the Magisterial documents that are part of the patrimony of the Church. It is important to note that this document does not negate what saints and popes have said, nor does it declare it inappropriate. It's a prudential judgement (and not necessarily the last word on the subject) that should be respected and not vilified, even if one does not fully agree with it.

The most important thing is not to jump on it (as some commentators, unfortunately, tend to do), but to take time for reflection, prayer, and listening to wise, trusted voices. Let us continue with peace, joy, and zeal to promote love and devotion to our beautiful Mother, who always leads us to Jesus!

Antonella Di Piazza, FKMI

fr. Maximiliano M. Villet

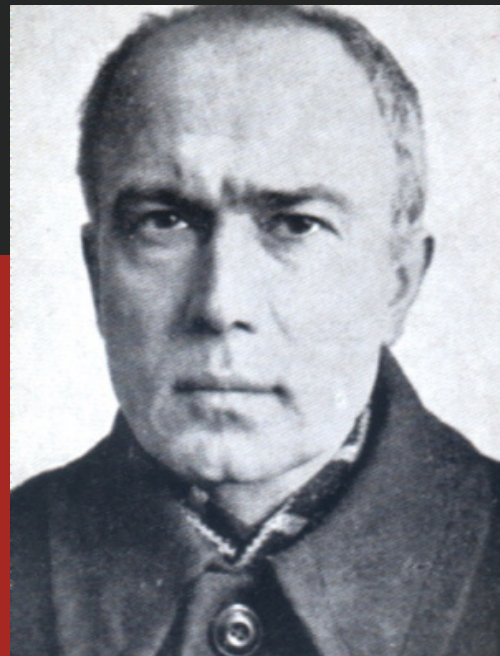
ST. MAXIMILIAN WRITES...

AN ARTICLE ABOUT THE MI SPIRITUAL CARE OF INMATES (KW 1121).



For some time now we have been receiving letters in which we are asked to concede to action in favor of the spiritual care of prisoners. And rightly so, because, as is written in one of these letters, the Militia of the Immaculata has as its purpose the conversion of sinners, and it is precisely in prisons that offenders are collected. One person suggests a concrete project for such assistance, on the basis of an experiment carried out in a small town: "In our town we have a preventive prison. Here one cannot create a school, because the detainees are kept only for a short time, but with respect to the possibility of opening a reading room, the chief warden has stated that such a thing would be very desirable. So I took out a subscription to several Catholic publications... and I have delivered them to the chaplain who celebrates Holy Mass in prison every month. There is no chapel, but on that day an altar is set up in the hallway. We have up to 340 prisoners, half of whom are Catholics, the rest coming from other denominations. Furthermore, I invited other people to give me their magazines and books, and they have willingly gone along with my proposal. In this way, by providing continuously and reliably something to read, a reading room will be set up in prison, without great effort and expense. If only we could do something like that in every city where there is a prison, especially in smaller cities and towns where society does not think at all about prisoners and does nothing for them!" And this activity has not been fruitless, because right from

A PRISONER'S PRAYER



O Prisoner-Saint of Auschwitz, help me in my plight. Introduce me to Mary, the Immaculata, Mother of God. She prayed for Jesus in a Jerusalem jail. She prayed for you in a Nazi prison camp. Ask her to comfort me in my confinement. May she teach me always to be good. If I am lonely, may she say, "God is here." If I feel hate, may she say, "God is love." If I am tempted, may she say, "God is pure." If I sin, may she say, "God is mercy." If I am in darkness, may she say, "God is light." If I am unjustly condemned, may she say, "God is truth." If I have pain in soul or body, may she say, "God is peace." If I lose hope, may she say: "God is with you all days, and so am I." Amen.

“

Rekindle love and trust in Mary Immaculate everywhere and you shall soon see tears flowing from the eyes of the most hardened sinners. You shall see prisons emptied... peace and happiness will destroy discord and pain, for it will be already a new era.”

that very prison we received a letter from a repented prisoner, arrested in August 1925, in which, among other things, he expresses himself in the following terms: "Here in prison I have for the first time held in my hands the magazine that you, Reverend Fathers, published and which is consecrated to the devotion of the Blessed Virgin Mary conceived without sin, and after reading the very edifying examples of piety and devotion offered at the altar of the Most Holy Mother, I, a man stained with sins and iniquities, longed to become one of her Knights." He concluded his confession with a sincere desire for improvement: "I burn with the desire to repent of all my past life, and do not exclude, when merciful God will allow it, to come to you, Reverend Father, to ask for spiritual nourishment. Today I present you, Reverend Father, with only one request: Please allow me to become a Knight of the Immaculata, recommend me to the prayers of the faithful, and I hope that the Blessed Virgin will obtain the grace for me from the Lord of hosts, and will pull me out of the moral misery into which sin has plunged me and allow me to become her devoted son, while her graces will never again allow me to abandon the path of virtue and will make me a believer and faithful child of God the Father." That member of the Militia of the Immaculata, therefore, has completely fulfilled the purpose of the Militia.... Who knows how many souls can be saved in this way!... In how many souls the Immaculata will be able to consolidate her kingdom! How many will she make happy!...

MI GROUPS IN THE US

Washington State:
 Seattle
 Bremerton, Washington
 Toledo, Washington

California:
 Fort Bragg, California ADA
 Sebastopol, California
 Castro Valley, California
 Pismo Beach, California
 Westlake Village, California
 San Diego, California
 Hilo, Hawaii

Utah:
 West Haven, Utah
 (Including a KFC Online Village)
 Layton, Utah

Colorado:
 Denver and Lakewood, Colorado

Arizona:
 Flagstaff, Arizona
 Tempe, Arizona

New Mexico:
 Albuquerque, New Mexico

Nebraska:
 Columbus, Nebraska
 Bellevue, Nebraska

Kansas:
 Hays, Kansas
 Atchison & Hays, Kansas
 Wentzville, Missouri
 Lees Summit, Missouri
 Blue Springs, Missouri

Missouri:
 St. Louis

Illinois:
 Bettendorf, Iowa
 Peoria, Illinois
 Chicago area, Illinois
 (Including an Online Village)
 Volo, Illinois
 Mokena, Illinois
 Munster, Indiana

Wisconsin:
 Fond du Lac, Wisconsin
 Milwaukee, Wisconsin
 Elroy, Wisconsin
 Libertyville, Illinois
 Mundelein, Illinois

Michigan:
 Royal Oak, Michigan
 (Online Village)

Ohio:
 Steubenville, Ohio

Pennsylvania:
 Bethel Park, Pennsylvania
 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
 1. St. John Neumann Parish
 2. St. Paul of the Cross Parish

Maryland:
 Chepachet, Rhode Island
 Eagleville, Pennsylvania
 Malvern, Pennsylvania
 Narberth, Pennsylvania
 Carlisle, Pennsylvania
 Leonardtown, Maryland
 Frederick, Maryland
 Emmitsburg, Maryland
 Mount Laurel, New Jersey

Virginia:
 Virginia Beach, Virginia

North Carolina:
 Winston Salem, North Carolina

South Carolina:
 Acworth, Georgia
 Savannah, Georgia

Georgia:
 Atlanta

Alabama:
 Hoover, Alabama

Tennessee:
 Ashland City, Tennessee

Mississippi:
 Meridian

Arkansas:
 Fayetteville

Louisiana:
 New Orleans, Louisiana
 (Online Village)

Florida:
 Jacksonville
 Orlando
 Tampa
 Pembroke Pines, Florida
 Pensacola, Florida
 Del Ray Beach, Florida
 (Online Village)

Want to connect and pray with other MI members? Looking for support in deepening or preparing for your consecration? Join an MI Village and live out your consecration with others. In addition to MI Villages that meet in person, we have several Online MI Villages (see page 18).

DECEMBER MI INTENTION

This year, the monthly reflections are provided by Fr. Thomas Czeck, OFM Conv., the MI-USA National Spiritual Assistant.

**O Immaculata,
please intercede...**

That Advent and Christmas seasons may be times to deepen our relationship with you and your Son.

"Once again I warmly reciprocate the good wishes sent to me on the occasion of Christmas and the New Year that is now approaching, and hope that the Immaculata may ever more perfectly take possession of the hearts of all of us and of all people throughout the world." (KW 655)

Reflection - In December, we celebrate the Immaculate Conception and Christmas. St. Maximilian Kolbe meditated on Mary's identity as the Immaculate Conception and on the mystery of the Nativity of the Lord. May we turn to the Immaculata, whose love was pure, so she may help us to respond fully to the love of God revealed to us this

Christmas. "The Immaculata never had any stain of sin, which means that her love was always full, without flaws. She loved God with all her being, and love united her with God in this perfect fashion from the first instant of her life, such that on the day of the Annunciation, the Angel could address her saying: 'Full of grace, the Lord is with thee' [Lk 1:28]." (KW 1320). May we allow the Immaculata to lead us to the Sacred Heart of Jesus where His mercy will purify us and His love will fill us. May we ask the Immaculata to help us enter more deeply into the mystery of the Nativity as we remember the birth of Jesus through her heart. "There He is before you now, in the form of a weak newborn child. What feelings of humility, love and gratitude must have filled your heart at that time. . . as you marveled at the humility, love and gratitude that the Incarnate had toward you. I beg you, fill my heart too with your humility, your love, your gratitude!" (KW 1236)

Prayer - Act of Total Consecration to the Immaculata.

Act of Total Consecration to the Immaculata

(Prayer composed by St. Maximilian Kolbe)

O Immaculata, Queen of Heaven and earth, refuge of sinners and our most loving Mother, God has willed to entrust the entire order of mercy to you. 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 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 world."

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 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.



Online MI Villages

For information about an MI Village in your area, email the MI National Center. For *online MI Villages*, email the Moderators listed below.

****Moderator: Joseph Willis**

Email: mi.la.adm@outlook.com

Mtg Day: Friday

(Last Friday of each month)

Mtg Time: 8:00pm CST

Weekly Consecration Renewal & Virtual Village Rosary Tuesdays @ 8:30pm CST

****Moderator: Douglas Eschbach**

Email: MI.village.marytown@gmail.com

Mtg Day: Sunday

(3rd Sunday of each month)

Mtg Time: 5:00pm CST

****Moderator: Donna Masek**

Knights at the Foot of the Cross (KFC)

Village of the Immaculata

E-mail: miutah.stmary@gmail.com

Mtg Day: Every Friday evening

Mtg Time: 8:00pm-9:00pm MST

****Moderator: Bill Bielawski**

Email: william.bielawski@gmail.com

Mtg Day: Sunday

(3rd Sunday of each month)

Mtg Time: 7:00pm CST

****Moderator: Lisa Fulgenzi**

Email: drisafmi@gmail.com

Write to request Google Meet join info

Mtg Day: Monday

Mtg Time: 12:00 – 1:00 pm EST

****Moderator: Patti Schwartz**

Email: cljm100@gmail.com

Mtg Day: Wednesday

Mtg Time: 8:00 pm EST

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MI RESOURCES

AVAILABLE FROM THE MI NATIONAL CENTER

Disseminate the Miraculous Medal and introduce Our Lady and the MI to others!

Miraculous Medals and various MI resources can be requested from the MI National Office via email: MINational@MissionImmaculata.com



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minational@missionimmaculata.com

Check the MI website
MilitiaoftheImmaculata.com
often for updates and follow us on



Support Our Lady's Work
by Helping the MI
DONATE HERE

"Through Mary Immaculate to Jesus: that is our watchword. The more you spread veneration and love for the Immaculata the more souls you win over to her, and, through her, to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, who loved us unto death on the Cross."

– St. Maximilian Kolbe