

THE KNIGHT OF THE *Immaculata*

E-PUBLICATION OF THE MILITIA OF THE IMMACULATA, USA

FAREWELL BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

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by Ronald L. Rodrigues, MI National President

Maria! Dear Knights of the Immaculata, This month is a very special month for the MI. The month of August is dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. We have the whole Church joining us in celebration to our Blessed Mother. On August 15th we celebrate the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, her being assumed body and soul into heaven. Unlike Jesus, who was resurrected and ascended into heaven by His own divine power, Mary, the Mother of Jesus, was taken up ("assumed") by God's power body and soul into heavenly glory at the end of her earthly life. The Assumption was defined formally as an infallible dogma by Pope Pius XII in 1950 in the Apostolic Constitution *Munificentissimus Deus*. Though formalized as Catholic dogma only in 1950, liturgical celebrations of Mary's entry into heaven date back to at least the 4th century. The Solemnity of the Assumption is celebrated annually on August 15, but in many countries, with strong Christian roots (such as Italy, France, Spain, and parts of Latin America), it is also a public holiday.

The following week, on the 22nd we celebrate the Queenship of Mary. In Catholic tradition, Mary's title as "Queen of Heaven" or her "Queenship" is directly tied to her role as the Mother of Jesus

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Christ. Because Jesus is recognized as the "King of Kings," Mary is honored in the tradition of the ancient Davidic kingdom, where the mother of the king held the influential title of Queen Mother. The feast was formally instituted by Pope Pius XII in 1954 through his encyclical *Ad Caeli Reginam* (To the Queen of Heaven). It is intentionally placed eight days (an octave) after the Solemnity of the Assumption, signifying that her crowning as Queen followed her being taken body and soul into heaven.

Not only is it a great month to celebrate Mary, but on August 14 we celebrate our founder, St. Maximilian Kolbe, who started the MI to defend and protect the

Church. He is our patron Saint, who, with pure and near flawless heart, excelled in his devotion and love for the Blessed Virgin Mary.

On 7-9 August, in Ave Maria, Florida, we will hold our MI U.S. National Assembly, during which we will elect the next MI National President and Council, for the next four years. This is a very important event for our future.

Dear MI Knights, I would like to take this opportunity to say farewell and thank all the MI Knights scattered across this great nation, for the blessing and opportunity you gave me, allowing me to lead the Militia of the Immaculata these past four years.

Four years ago, I stood before you, deeply humbled and acutely aware of the great responsibility placed in my hands. Today, as I conclude my term as your President, my heart is overflowing—not with a sense of personal accomplishment, but with profound gratitude to Our Lady and to each of you.

When St. Maximilian Kolbe founded the Militia of the Immaculata, he envisioned a vanguard of souls completely consecrated to Mary, working tirelessly for the conversion of hearts and the building up of Christ's Kingdom. Over the last four years, we have strived to live out that bold vision here in the U.S.

(Continues on pg. 9)

Daily Holy Mass

will be offered throughout 2026 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

Cultivate a Strong Eucharistic Life

Pope Leo XIV's Message on the Occasion of the Conclusion of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage celebrated on July 5, 2026, in Philadelphia, PA.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, I am happy to greet you at the conclusion of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage. As you know, pilgrimages are deeply rooted in the Judeo-Christian tradition and are often undertaken to mark significant anniversaries as the community comes together in prayer. In this light, it has been particularly appropriate to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the United States of America with a pilgrimage centered on our Lord. As you walked through many of the thirteen original colonies, you have prayed for unity, renewal and healing for the country, under the motto "One Nation Under God." These intentions are also close to my own heart. For this reason, I express sincere gratitude to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and all who have contributed to organizing this event, along with everyone who has participated in person or virtually. This Nation, united "under God," has been imbued with a sense of faith that recognizes God's sovereignty even before its formal establishment. Your pilgrimage began in Saint Augustine, Florida, where on September 8, 1565, the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated by Spanish explorers and settlers upon their arrival, followed by a feast shared with the local Seloy tribe. This historical event, accompanied by many others, attests to the strong, though largely unknown, Eucharistic heritage of the United States of America. This heritage, far from being forgotten, must continue to serve as source of both renewal and unity. With the blessing of Almighty God, this heritage has continued to bear fruit by leading new generations of American Catholics to Jesus Christ. The Lord also inspired certain men and women to bear witness to the Gospel in a radical way. I think for example of the martyrs in New York and Georgia, Saint Kateri Tekakwitha, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Saint Katharine Drexel, Saint John Neumann and Venerable Fulton Sheen, who will soon be beatified. The route you followed was named after another saint, Frances Xavier Cabrini, the foundress of a religious congregation whose mission was to care for the spiritual and material needs of poor immigrants. The intense apostolic activity of these holy men

and women, and others like them, would not have been possible without the strength they drew daily from moments of silent prayer before the tabernacle. Brothers and sisters, by participating in this Eucharistic Pilgrimage, you carry on this great legacy of faith. Along your journey, the celebration of Mass, Eucharistic processions and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament were not lacking, providing you with the strength and nourishment needed to continue your course. Perhaps you have even experienced for yourselves a hunger for "the living bread that came down from heaven" (Jn 6:51). Indeed, the true body and blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ is the life of the pilgrim Church on earth. Saint John Paul II expressed this beautifully in his Encyclical Letter *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*: "The Eucharist, as Christ's saving presence in the community of the faithful and its spiritual food, is the most precious possession which the Church can have in her journey through history" (No. 9). As the country marks the anniversary of the founding of its earthly homeland, it is my hope that this experience as pilgrims will also help you to fix your eyes on the heavenly one (cf. Hb 11:16), and likewise serve as a reminder that the Eucharist is an invaluable gift, our indispensable sustenance. It is precisely through her recognition and reception of this gift that the Church in the United States will find strength to carry on her charitable service to the wider society, especially in the areas of education, healthcare and basic social services, while at the same time continuing her mission to evangelize.

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The Eucharistic heritage of the United States of America... must continue to serve as a source of both renewal and unity."

Congratulations, Bishop Emilio Biosca Agüero!

*The Militia of the Immaculata welcomes with gratitude the new Shepherd of the Diocese of Venice, Florida, and assures prayers for his pastoral ministry!
Ad Multos Annos!*



Thank You Bishop Emeritus Frank Dewane for welcoming the MI in the Diocese of Venice.



Explanation of the Coat of Arms

In the upper portion of the shield, the two crossed arms before a cross represent the bare arm of Jesus Christ crucified, the hand bearing the wound of crucifixion, reminding believers of Christ's sacrificial love and redemption, and the arm of Saint Francis of Assisi clothed in simplicity, emphasizing poverty, humility, and discipleship. Saint Francis also bears the stigmata, the wounds of Christ, which he received on Mount La Verna in 1224. The cross behind the arms signifies that both Christ and Francis are united through the mystery of the Cross. It reflects the Franciscan desire to follow Christ completely, especially in humility, suffering, and love.

In the lower portion of the shield, the silver background represents transparency, truth, and justice. The Sacred Heart of Jesus symbolizes Christ's divine love for humanity, self-sacrificing, merciful, and redemptive. It is usually shown aflame, in the passion, pierced, and crowned with thorns. The Immaculate Heart of Mary represents her pure and immaculate love, her obedience to God, and unity with her son's mission. It is usually depicted pierced by a sword, recalling her sorrow and joy. The Chaste Heart of Saint Joseph signifies the faithful, protective, and self-giving love, marked by chastity, humility, and loving obedience to God's will. The three hearts together symbolize that the human person is revealed through love and is made for self-gift and communion. It expresses that human love, marriage, and the family is a communion of persons, central to the new evangelization, that truth, goodness, and beauty are united. The red hearts also recall the first Franciscan Missionary Martyrs in 1220. When Saint Francis of Assisi heard of their deaths, he declared, "Now I can truly say that I have five Friars Minor," recognizing in them the authentic spirit of humility, sacrifice, and evangelical love that he desired for his brothers.

The Bishop's motto, ITE AD JOSEPH, is from Genesis 41: 55, "Ite ad Ioseph; et quicquid ipse vobis dixerit, facite." (Go to Joseph; and whatever he says to you, do.) "Vayan a José y hagan lo que él les diga.")

The coat of arms was devised by Bishop Emilio Biosca Agüero, OFM Cap. with advice from Very Rev. George E. Stuart and Georgina Wilkinson.

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What would the 'sound' of St. Maximilian be?

Would it be the sound of a printing press?

Or perhaps the sounds of a train or a ship? Then, during a holy hour, it dawned on me...."

The Sound of the Saints

by Antonella Di Piazza, FKMI

Some time ago, I was invited to speak at a Retreat. The theme was "The Sound of the Saints" and I was to present on St. Maximilian Kolbe. I shared that I was introduced to Father Kolbe when I was about nine years old at my parish. His story, vividly depicted in the filmstrip we watched, struck my young mind and heart. We were told that this Polish Franciscan traveled the world to share the love of Jesus and Mary with everyone. He established a movement to win all hearts for Christ through Mary, the Militia of the Immaculata, and even little children like us could be part of it! We heard lots of great stories about him, how he loved math, science, and new technologies... he was a genius in many ways. But what *really* struck me then was to hear that he had been sort of a troublemaker at my age! He got in trouble because he disobeyed his mom who, after the latest incident, told him: "Raymond, what will become of you...?!" As a child, I recall thinking that when I got in trouble and was grounded, I would cry a bit, feel sorry for myself... and maybe plan the next thing that would inevitably get me in trouble. Instead, he ran to the parish church, knelt in front of the image of Our Lady of Victory and asked Our Lady: "What will become of me...?" That touched me. She appeared to him with a smile and two crowns in her hands: one white, signifying purity of heart, and one red, symbolizing sacrificial love, heroic love, to the point of giving one's life in charity. She asked him if he wanted them, and he replied, "Yes, I would like them!" In the smile of Our Lady and the two crowns she offered him, Raymond (who later took the name Maximilian as a Franciscan friar), saw an almost tangible reflection of the love of God who had created him for a unique purpose and mission. He perceived a glimpse of who he was and was to become. Most importantly, thanks to that experience (which he shared only with his mother – she was the one who under oath reported it after his death in Auschwitz), he knew that he could trust Our Lady to be his guide toward becoming what and who God had called him to be. When little Raymond accepted those two crowns from the hands of Our Lady, he embarked on the "journey of the

two crowns" with her: he began walking the way of purity of heart and sacrificial love, day by day, in every choice he made. Striving for purity of heart, and mind, and body, he became able to see God: to see God who dwells in our souls, to listen to Him who speaks to the heart, who is really present under the form of bread and wine in the Most Holy Eucharist, and to see Him, who said "...whatever you do to the least of my people you do to me," in other people, in every person he ever met. Not only that. As Friar Maximilian walked the path of the white and red crowns, he became day by day more like Jesus, more like Mary in his dealing with others. And people noticed it. His heart was being transformed. His heart was beating at unison with Our Lady's and Jesus' Hearts. Back to the theme of the retreat: "The Sound of the Saints." When I began thinking about it, I wondered what would be St. Maximilian's "sound." I thought first of the sound of a printing press, since he started what became the largest Catholic publishing house run by Franciscan friars in the whole world. I thought of the sounds of a train or a ship, since he traveled extensively by both to reach his mission posts in Poland and Japan, and his unfulfilled desire to start one in India. Then, during a holy hour, it dawned on me: the "sound" of St. Maximilian was, or rather is, a heart-beat. He was so united with Our Lady and

Jesus in his daily life, in every choice he made, that the heartbeat of Mary's Heart, of Jesus' Heart became his very heartbeat, and he reverberated, reechoed their heartbeat wherever he went. People who knew him, who met him, recognized that "heartbeat," even when he was arrested and taken to the Pawiak prison in Warsaw by the Nazi and eventually to Auschwitz. Even there, 85 years ago, he brought Mary's and Jesus' heartbeat through the purity of heart and heroic love he displayed in his interactions with everyone, his fellow prisoners and even their captors. He "saw" God even in the hearts of those men who were subject to an evil ideology; he loved them to win their hearts for God. If you ever want to read his great story, the book that you won't be able to put down still is *A Man for Others*. What will our "sound" be? May St. Maximilian's story inspire each of us to trust Mother Mary with our hearts, with your lives. May she be our companion, Mother, and guide. Let's allow her to lead us ever closer to Jesus. Let's give her and the Holy Spirit permission to continue to form Christ in us, and to make of us into another Christ in this world. May she guide us to find and ring loud and clear our unique "sound" so as to be martyrs for Christ, that is, His witnesses in this world!



Farewell but not Forgotten

Continued from page 2

It has been a blessing and great joy to me to have been able to work for our Blessed Mother and for all the MI Knights who share that love and devotion to Mary.

Reflecting on our journey together, I realized we did not walk this path alone. Looking back over these four years, I am incredibly proud of what the Immaculata has accomplished through our hands. Together we have been able to increase our membership and we have witnessed so many new members make their total consecration, stepping forward to become instruments in her immaculate hands and becoming Knights of the Immaculata.

We anchored ourselves in prayer, the Sacraments, and the Rosary, weathering challenges with the same faith that guided St. Maximilian in the darkest of times. But nothing is without challenges and there have been many hurdles to jump over along the way. I pray that I am leaving the MI on a great path for future generations and in a position to be very successful in winning the world for the Immaculate Heart of Mary and, through her, for the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

I know with all things, especially leadership positions, you cannot please everyone. I pray that most of you appreciated and were able to enjoy or see the fruits of what I was able to accomplish during my time as your MI President.

To the MI Council, the spiritual Assistant, and every single Knight of the Immaculata, thank you. Thank you for your tireless hidden sacrifices, your late nights, your prayers, and your unwavering support. You made my burden light, and you showed me the true meaning of Marian charity.

While my time as President comes to an end, my consecration does not. I step down from leadership, but I remain shoulder-to-shoulder with you as a Knight of the Immaculata.



The world needs the message of the Immaculata now more than ever. We live in times that require the gentle, crushing heel of Our Lady to bring peace to troubled hearts. As the next MI Council takes the lead, I urge you to give them the same loyalty, energy, and prayers that you so generously gave to me. It truly has been a pleasure and honor to represent you. My prayers and heart go out and will be united with you and our new President and MI Council. If all MI Knights put their trust and lives under the guidance of our Blessed Mother, we will, as St. Maximilian Kolbe envisioned, be able to win the world for Mary. "Let us abandon ourselves to the Immaculata. Let us allow ourselves to be guided by her" (St. Maximilian Kolbe).

Let's pray that all the MI Knights be united and support our new President and MI Council ensuring the future success of the MI in the United States. Let us never tire of being her property. Let us continue to conquer the world for Christ, one heart at a time, through her intercession.

May the Immaculata bless you, protect your families, and keep you always close to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Thank you for the honor of serving as your President.

You will not be forgotten and forever in my heart. God bless all of you.

Yours in the Immaculata,
Ronald L. Rodrigues
MI National President

Prayer for the MI National Assembly August 7-9, 2026



Heavenly Father,

We lift up to You the MI representatives who will gather together for the National Elective Assembly.

Pour out upon them an abundance of Your Holy Spirit. Grant them humility, wisdom, and courage.

As they discern and deliberate, illuminate their minds so that their decisions may always align with Your holy will.

May their discussions be marked by charity, unity, and a steadfast commitment to the truth of the Gospel and the authentic charism of the Militia of the Immaculata.

Grant them a clear vision and fervent zeal as they make plans for the next four years.

May those who will be elected to serve as leaders of our MI-USA Family be encouraged by our communion in prayer and our shared responsibility in carrying out St. Maximilian Kolbe's legacy with renewed dedication to our mission.

We commend our brothers and sisters to your loving protection, O Immaculata, as together we renew our total consecration to you for the coming of the Kingdom of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus in each soul and the whole world.

Amen.



St. Maximilian Teaches...

In this article, he invites us to contemplate and desire Heaven, with the help of the Immaculata (KW 1065).

On the 15th of this month, the Holy Church, in celebrating the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, sings with exultation: "Mary is assumed into heaven; the angels rejoice, praise and bless the Lord." On that day, we naturally strive to picture the longed-for paradise in our imagination, but we are not satisfied, despite all our efforts. We tell ourselves that it must be different in some way up there from what we have been told or what we read in books. And rightly so. For in heaven things will not be different "in some way" but, it can be said with confidence, completely different in every way from what we could possibly imagine. And why? Because we draw all our concepts from the things around us, from material realities that we see here on this earth or amid the wide expanse of firmament. And because it is

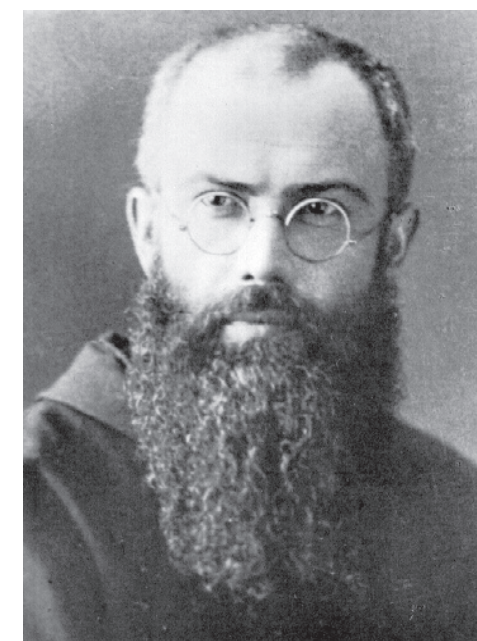
by starting from that, via concepts of similarity and causality, that we ultimately form some idea about paradise. And yet we end up with a most inaccurate idea of it. Everything around us, even the most beautiful and attractive things, is still very much limited, always and from any point of view. No infinite or unchanging beauty exists here. Everything we see, hear, or experience does not fully satiate our desires. We want something more, but that "more" is never there. We want it to last longer, but inevitably and inexorably we are here faced with its end. It will be quite the opposite in heaven. There is Good and Infinite Beauty: God and everlasting happiness. The difference is therefore absolutely infinite. In the Holy Scriptures and in the works of the Fathers of the Church we find many similes, drawn from our earthly knowledge. Thus, for instance, St. John compares heaven to a happy

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Remember that those who ask of the Immaculata with humility and perseverance [to be able to exert self-control so as to achieve happiness in Paradise] will certainly achieve it, because she is unable to deny us anything, nor is the Lord God able to deny her anything."

city and writes: "The city had no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gave it light, and its lamp was the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light" (Rv 21:23-24). He goes on to imagine that it is built with the finest and the most beautiful materials we can possibly imagine, with gold, then, and the most precious stones.... Paradise was described even better by the man who, in this life, was plucked up to it for a short time: by St. Paul, who says: "What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love him" (1 Cor 2:9). It is a description even closer to the truth, because it shows the infinite difference between the ideas that we hold about heaven and its reality. However, those who, here on earth, have had the chance to enjoy a small foretaste of paradise should be able to form an idea of what it will be like. And anyone may achieve that. One need only approach Confession with sincerity and great care, with deep sorrow for sins and firm resolve to make amends. Then they will immediately experience a peace and a happiness compared to which all the fleeting but dishonest pleasures of the world are, rather, loathsome torments. Let everyone come to receive Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament with a good preparation; let them never allow their souls to remain in sin, but purify them right

away. Let them perform all their duties well; raise humble and frequent prayers to the throne of God, especially through the hands of Mary Immaculate. Let them also embrace their brothers with charitable hearts, enduring suffering and difficulties for God's sake. Let them do good to everyone, including their enemies, only for the love of God and not in order to be praised or thanked by men. Then they shall realize what it means to have a foretaste of heaven and find peace and happiness even in poverty, in suffering, in disgrace, in sickness. Such foretaste of paradise is also a sure harbinger of eternal bliss.



fr. Maximiliano M. Kolbe

Invite Friends to Be
Consecrated to Our Lady!



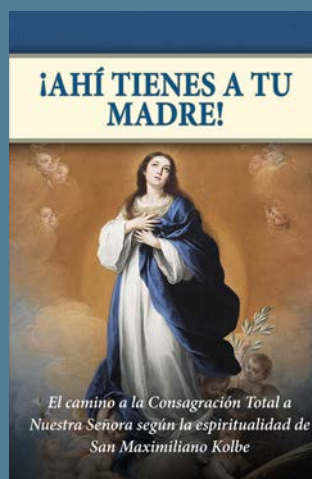
Behold Your Mother! The Path to Total Consecration to Our Lady in the Spirit of St. Maximilian Kolbe

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

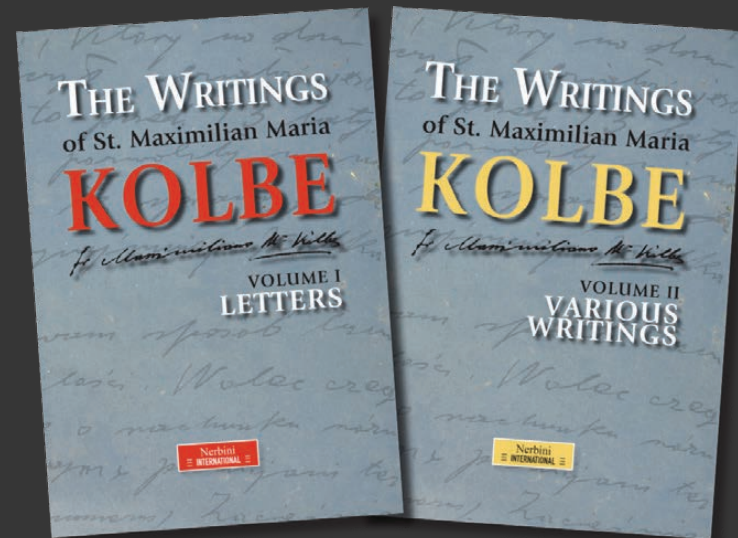
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The Definitive English Edition!

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.



I heartily welcome this first English critical edition of The Writings of St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe. Its pages are suffused with Christian hope. Under the general editorship of Antonella Di Piazza, FKMI, the text has meticulous footnotes, comprehensive indices, and a brilliant introduction by the Fr. Giuseppe Simbula, OFM Conv. 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. — Fr. James McCurry, OFM Conv.

The hardcover edition may be ordered from
MarytownGiftShop.com - Click Here

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Amazon.com or BarnesandNoble.com

Watch the online series "Dive in Search of Pearls:
Introduction to The Writings of St. Maximilian Kolbe"
Subscribe to the MI YouTube channel.

The Children's Consecration Book is the perfect gift for your children, grandchildren, Godchildren!

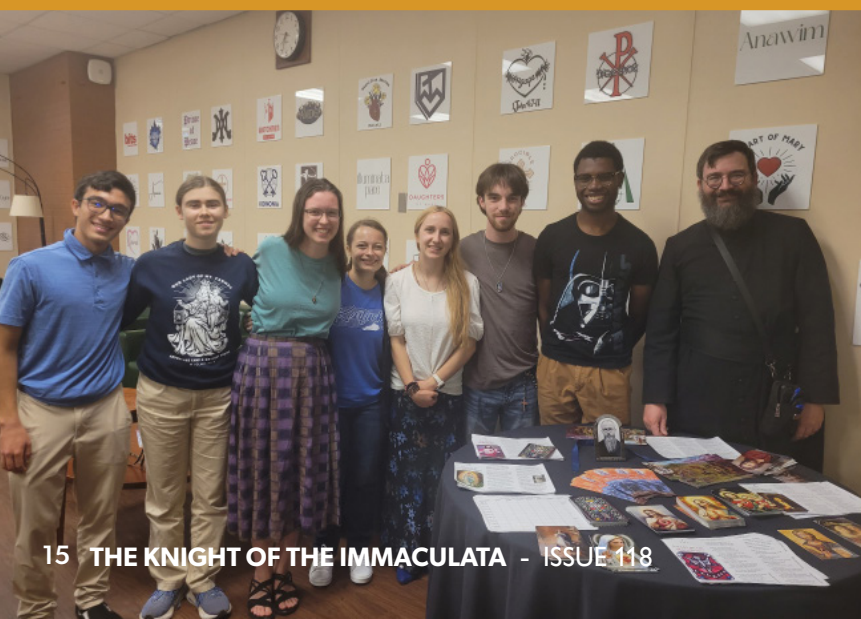


Follow the Star! is designed to help children grow in their relationship with Our Lady and prepare for Marian consecration, in the company of St. Maximilian Kolbe and other saints, our heavenly friends. The book provides lessons and activities created specifically for their young souls. Parents and teachers 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.

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
(\$6.50 each plus shipping & handling).

Order the book, by writing to:
MINational@MissionImmaculata.com
Please, include your mailing address. Thank you.



CHECK OUT THE MAP FOR NEW MI VILLAGES.

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).

For more information about an MI group on the map, please contact the MI National Office: MINational@MissionImmaculata.com

August MI Intention



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

O Immaculata, please intercede...

That, following the example of St. Maximilian, we may respond to emerging types of poverty with new forms of charity.

Reflection - I was blessed to meet Franciszek Gajowniczek, the man whose life was saved by the heroic charity of St. Maximilian Kolbe, when I was in formation in 1991. I was inspired by meeting the man saved by the Saint of Charity. It was this experience that led me to learn more about St. Maximilian Kolbe and the power of consecration to the Immaculata. He sought to respond to the sufferings of his time during World War I and to change the world with charity. With six of his classmates, he sought to save the world through consecration to the Immaculata as they began the Militia of the Immaculata in the fall of 1917. The consecration movement flourished in Poland and expanded to Japan until political ideologies led to the rise of the Second World War, which began with the invasion of Poland in 1939. In 1941, Fr. Maximilian was arrested and on May 28 was sent to Auschwitz. It was at Auschwitz where, responding to the brutality of the concentration camp, that his charity would oppose the cruelty displayed. He had taught the oppressed prisoners to find hope in the love of the Immaculata and the kingdom of her Son, our Lord Jesus. He turned the barracks into a refuge and a school of prayer. He sought to comfort the suffering and share his bread rations with the hungry and sick prisoners. His final act

of charity was to voluntarily take the place of a condemned prisoner. This sacrifice becomes almost inconceivable when you realize Fr. Maximilian didn't know Franciszek Gajowniczek, the man for whom he would lay down his life, and yet he made the sacrifice. One prisoner had escaped. The Nazi guards at the camp had decided 10 must die in his place, and so they counted Gajowniczek as the tenth. He fell to his knees in the midst of his fellow prisoners and begged for his life, exclaiming, "My wife and children, my beloved sons!" St. Maximilian responded to the plea and stepped forward offering himself to take Franciszek's place. While in the starvation bunker, Kolbe ministered to the other prisoners, hearing their confessions, praying with them, and preparing them for death. On August 14, presuming that all would be dead after two weeks of starvation, soldiers entered the bunker astonished that Kolbe was weak but still alive. They gave him an injection of carbolic acid and he died shortly thereafter. His body and those of his fellow cellmates were cremated the next day, August 15, the solemnity of the Assumption of Mary. Beginning on August 5, let us pray the Novena in preparation for St. Maximilian Kolbe's feast (August 14), seeking to open our hearts to heroic charity in our time through his intercession and example. Let us pray that, through our total consecration to Mary, the Immaculata, we may be led to the Kingdom of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and learn to love God and neighbor like St. Maximilian Kolbe, the Apostle of Marian Consecration.

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.

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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



**MILITIA OF THE
IMMACULATA**
MI NATIONAL CENTER - USA
5251 Clancy Avenue, Ave Maria, FL 34142
331-223-5564
MIoftheImmaculata.com
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
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"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