

THE KNIGHT OF THE *Immaculata*

E-PUBLICATION OF THE MILITIA OF THE IMMACULATA, USA

**Our Greatest Treasure:
The Most Holy Eucharist - PAGE 3**

Confession & Consecration - PAGE 5

**Planting an MI Garden
in Los Angeles - PAGE 6**



Consecration of Russia and Ukraine

What Are We to Do...?

By John W. Galten, MI National President

Dear Knights of the Immaculata,

As I write this message from the heart of the MI, many themes and issues swirl around: the brutal invasion of the Ukraine; Lent and the Paschal mystery; and on March 25th, Pope Francis' historic consecration of all humanity, and especially of Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary in union with all bishops. What do all these have to do with us Knights of the Immaculata? How do I harmonize and reconcile these seeming opposites? What possibly can dark tragedy have to do with consecration to Our Lady and with the blinding light of the Resurrection?

First, Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Mary, did not rid the world of evil—He broke its power and gave us the means to overcome it. He did not spare Himself nor did He spare His Mother from suffering at the hands of evil. We must, like Mary, keep vigil at the foot of the Cross and be spiritually present in the martyrdom of Ukraine. Of course, we must be prepared to ask what charity demands of us in the aftermath of this tragedy. We must hope in His promises that good can and will come out of evil.

St. Maximilian and his Friars endured the scourge of war in their native Poland. He seems to have had premonitions of the impending war, the emptying of Niepokalanow, and his own personal death, perhaps as a martyr. He often reminded his fellow Friars of all these things, encouraging them to have trust in the Immaculata and that even if they were scattered they carried the reality of the city of the Immaculata in their hearts.

There came a time when the Nazi occupiers forbade *The Knight of the Immaculata* to be published. What did he fall back on as the essence of the work: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and sheltering of their refugee brothers and



(Continues on pg. 2)



“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

Editorial

(Continued from pg. 1)

sisters. So, let us have recourse in these most difficult times to Our Lady's Holy Rosary, Eucharistic adoration, fervent reception of the Sacraments, and whatever practical means that our Church offers to lighten the suffering of the people of the Ukraine. Just as St. Maximilian did in the dark days of war and amid the hell of Auschwitz—never give up faith, hope and, most of all, charity. Let us not waste one second of sacrifice for those in need. And let us keep on sharing the gift of total consecration to Our Lady!

What greater reform and conversion signs could we ask for in Lent than the precariousness of this life, our advocate the Immaculata and the example of Our Lord's sacrifice to conquer evil?

Let us strive to our utmost for holiness, that our lives may dispel the darkness of these times. The Light has overcome the darkness. Let us trust that. Let us rejoice that that we are, and will continue to be, called to be the children of Light. As ever—"Arise, let us be on our way!"

May you have a blessed Easter with your family and friends!

John W. Galten
MI National President



Daily Holy Mass

will be offered throughout 2022 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



**Please join in prayer
for the
MI National Assembly,
August 5-7, 2022
Peoria, IL**

**Let us hear from you
to make our MI Family
grow and be a more
effective evangelical tool
in Our Lady's Hands!**

**Please take time to respond
prayerfully to the following
questions by letter or email to
MINational@MissionImmaculata.com**

- What should the MI seek to provide in terms of support and ongoing formation for individual members?
- The mission of the MI is "to win all hearts for Christ through the Immaculata." What are your suggestions to make progress in achieving this goal?

**Feel free to add any
additional comments, ideas
or questions you may have.
Thank you taking the time
to reply and make your
voice heard!**



Online MI Villages

Want to connect and pray with other MI members? Looking for support in deepening your consecration? *Join a virtual MI Village* and live out your consecration with others. Email Scott Richard at Virtual.MI.Village@gmail.com or Douglas Eschbach at MI.village.marytown@gmail.com or Donna Masek at miutah.stmary@gmail.com or William Bielawski at william.bielawski@gmail.com for additional information.

MI Village Moderators

Dear MI Village Moderators,

Hello and greetings in April 2022. I would like to welcome you to join our *monthly moderators meetings* held via Zoom on the now 4th Saturday of the month. We come together and discuss news about the MI and apostolic initiatives our villages may be involved in. This means of sharing has proved beneficial for those moderators who Zoom in.

If you have not joined us yet, please consider taking part. We would welcome your participation. If you have not received the email announcements, please confirm your contact information with the National MI Center via email: MINational@MissionImmaculata.com.

Julie Elkinton
MI Liaison for MI Villages

This is Part Four of the document *The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church* published by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. May it lead us to an ever-greater appreciation of this unfathomable Gift. We reprint it here for the ongoing formation of all MI members.

C) Communion with Christ and the Church

When we receive Holy Communion, Christ is giving Himself to us. He comes to us in all humility, as He came to us in the Incarnation, so that we may receive Him and become one with Him. Christ gives Himself to us so that we may continue the pilgrim path toward life with Him in the fullness of the Kingdom of God. The fourteenth-century Orthodox theologian Nicholas Cabasilas described this sacrament by saying, “*unlike any other sacrament, the mystery [of the Eucharist] is so perfect that it brings us to the heights of every good thing: here is the ultimate goal of every human desire, because here we attain God and God joins Himself to us in the most perfect union.*” Through this sacrament, the pilgrim Church is nourished, deepening her communion with the Triune God and consequently that of her members with one another.

The Sacrament of the Eucharist is called Holy Communion precisely because, by placing us in intimate communion with the sacrifice of Christ, we are placed in intimate communion with Him and, through Him, with each other. Therefore, the Eucharist is called Holy Communion because it is “*the efficacious sign and sublime cause of that communion in the divine life and that unity of the People of God by which the Church is kept in being.*” How can we understand this? The Gospel of John recounts that, when Jesus died on the cross, blood and water flowed out (Jn 19:34), symbolic of Baptism and the Eucharist. The Second Vatican Council teaches, “The origin and growth of the Church are symbolized by the blood



Our Greatest Treasure: The Most Holy Eucharist - Part IV

and water which flowed from the open side of the crucified Jesus,” and that “it was from the side of Christ as He slept the sleep of death upon the cross that there came forth the wondrous sacrament of the whole Church.” In this image from the Gospel of John, we see that the Church, the Bride of the Lamb, is born from the sacrificial love of Christ in His self-offering on the cross. The Eucharist re-presents this one sacrifice so that we are placed in communion with it and with the divine love from which it flows forth. We are placed in communion with each other through this love which is given to us. That is why we can say, “*the Eucharist makes the Church.*”

We are first incorporated into the Body of Christ, the Church, through the waters of Baptism. Yet Baptism, like the other sacraments, is ordered toward Eucharistic communion. The Second Vatican Council teaches,

The other sacraments, as well as with every ministry of the Church and every work of the apostolate, are tied together with the Eucharist and are directed toward it. The Most Blessed Eucharist contains the

entire spiritual boon of the Church, that is, Christ Himself, our Pasch and Living Bread, by the action of the Holy Spirit through His very flesh vital and vitalizing, giving life to men who are thus invited and encouraged to offer themselves, their labors and all created things, together with Him.

The Council Fathers continue,

In this light, the Eucharist shows itself as the source and the apex of the whole work of preaching the Gospel. Those under instruction are introduced by stages to a sharing in the Eucharist, and the faithful, already marked with the seal of Baptism and Confirmation, are through the reception of the Eucharist fully joined to the Body of Christ.

That is why the Council calls the Eucharistic sacrifice “*the source and summit of the Christian life.*”

St. Paul emphasizes that this communion exists not only among ourselves but also with those who came

(Continues on pg. 4)



Our Greatest Treasure: The Most Holy Eucharist - Part IV

(Continued from pg. 3)

before us. In addressing the Church at Corinth, he praises them for holding fast to the traditions, just as I handed them on to you (1 Cor 11:2). Later, he highlights the Eucharist as a sacred tradition handed on by Christ to the Apostles, and in which we now share: For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you (1 Cor 11:23). During every Mass we are united with all the holy men and women, the saints, who have preceded us

The obligation to attend Mass each Sunday, the Lord’s Day, on which we commemorate the Resurrection of Jesus, and on other holy days of obligation, is therefore a vital expression of our unity as members of the Body of Christ, the Church. It is also a manifestation of the truth that we are utterly dependent upon God and His grace. A third-century instruction on the life of the Church points out one of the

consequences of willful absence from Mass: “Let no one deprive the Church by staying away; if they do, they deprive the Body of Christ of one of its members!” St. John Paul II, writing of Sunday as “a day which is at the very heart of the Christian life,” further asserts, “Time given to Christ is never time lost, but is rather time gained, so that our relationships and indeed our whole life may become more profoundly human.” We have been reborn in Baptism and nourished by the Eucharist so that we may live in communion with God and one another, not only today but also in the fullness of the heavenly Kingdom. To worship God on Sundays, then, is not the mere observance of a rule but the fulfillment of our identity, of who we are as members of the Body of Christ. Participation in the Mass is an act of love.

(to be continued)

Copyright © 2021, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved.

The document *The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church* was developed by the Committee on Doctrine of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). It was approved by the full body of the USCCB at its November 2021 General Meeting and has been authorized for publication by the undersigned.

Rev Michael J. K. Fuller
General Secretary, USCCB

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.



Confession & Consecration



Excerpts from the homily given by Pope Francis on March 25, 2022, during the Celebration of the Sacrament of Penance and the Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

In the Gospel reading for today's Solemnity, the angel Gabriel speaks three times in addressing the Virgin Mary.

The first is when he greets her and says, "Rejoice, full of grace, the Lord is with you" (Lk 1:28). The reason to rejoice, the reason for joy, is revealed in those few words: *the Lord is with you*. Dear brother, dear sister, today you can hear those words addressed to you. You can make them your own each time you approach God's forgiveness, for there the Lord tells you, "I am with you." All too often, we think that Confession is about going to God with dejected looks. Yet it is not so much that we go to the Lord, but that He comes to us, to fill us with His grace, to fill us with His joy. Our confession gives the Father the joy of raising us up once more. It is not so much about our sins as about His forgiveness. Our sins are present but the forgiveness of God is always at the heart of our confession. Think about it: if our sins were at the heart of the sacrament, almost everything would depend on us, on our repentance, our efforts, our resolves. Far from it. The sacrament is about God, who liberates us and puts us back on our feet.

Let us recognize once more the *primacy of grace* and ask for the gift to realize that Reconciliation is not primarily our drawing near to God, but His embrace that enfolds, astonishes and overwhelms us. The Lord enters our home, as He did that of Mary in Nazareth, and brings us unexpected amazement and joy—the joy of forgiveness. Let us first look at things from God's perspective: then we will rediscover our love for Confession. We need this, for every interior rebirth, every spiritual renewal, starts there, from God's forgiveness. May we not neglect Reconciliation, but rediscover it as the sacrament of joy. Yes, the sacrament of joy, for our shame for our sins becomes the occasion for an experience of the warm embrace of the Father, the gentle strength of Jesus who heals us, and the "maternal tenderness" of the Holy Spirit. That is the heart of Confession. Dear brothers and sisters, let us go forth and receive forgiveness....

A second time the angel speaks to Mary. She was troubled by his greeting, and so he tells her, "Do not be afraid" (v. 30). *Do not be afraid!* In this

way, he sends us a clear and comforting message: once our lives are open to God, fear can no longer hold us in thrall. For fear can truly hold us in thrall. You, dear sister, dear brother, if your sins frighten you, if your past worries you, if your wounds do not heal, if your constant failings dishearten you and you seem to have lost hope, please, do not be afraid. God knows your weaknesses and is greater than your mistakes. God is greater than our sins. He asks of you only one thing: that you not hold your frailties and sufferings inside. Bring them to Him, lay them before Him and, from being reasons for despair, they will become opportunities for resurrection.... The Blessed Virgin Mary accompanies us: she cast her own anxiety upon God. Those words—do not be afraid—were sufficient for her; God's reassurance was enough for her. She clung to Him, as we want to do tonight. Yet so often we do the exact opposite. We start from our own certainties and, when we lose them, we turn to God. Our Lady, on the other hand, teaches us to start from God, trusting that in this way everything else will be given to us (cf. Mt 6:33). She invites us to go to the source, to the Lord, who is the ultimate remedy against fear and emptiness in life. There is a lovely phrase written above a confessional here in the Vatican that reminds us of this. It addresses God with these words, "To turn away from you is to fall, to turn back to you is to rise, to abide in you is to have life" (cf. Saint Augustine, *Soliloquies* I, 3).

A third time the angel speaks to Mary and says, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you" (Lk 1:35). That is how God intervenes in history: *by giving His very Spirit*. For in the things that matter, our own strength is not enough. By ourselves, we cannot succeed in resolving the contradictions of history or even those of our own hearts. We need the wisdom and gentle power of God that is the Holy Spirit. We need the Spirit of love who dispels hatred, soothes bitterness, extinguishes greed and rouses us from indifference. The Spirit gives us concord because he is concord. We need God's love, for our love is fragile and insufficient. We ask the Lord for many things, but how often we forget to ask Him for what is most important and what He desires most to give us: the Holy Spirit, the

power to love. Indeed, without love, what can we offer to the world? It has been said that a Christian without love is like a needle that does not sew: it stings, it wounds, and if it fails to sew, weave or patch, then it is useless. I would dare to say that this person is not a Christian. This is why we need to find in God's forgiveness the power of love: the same Spirit who descended upon Mary.

If we want the world to change, then first our hearts must change. For this to happen, let us allow Our Lady to take us by the hand. Let us gaze upon her Immaculate Heart in which God dwelt, "our tainted nature's solitary boast." Mary is "full of grace" (v. 28), and thus free from sin. In her, there is no trace of evil and hence, with her, God was able to begin a new story of salvation and peace. There, in her, history took a turn. God changed history by knocking at the door of Mary's heart. Today, renewed by forgiveness, may we too knock at the door of her Immaculate Heart.

In union with the Bishops and faithful of the world, I desire in a solemn way to bring all that we are presently experiencing to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. I wish to renew to her the consecration of the Church and the whole of humanity, and to consecrate to her in a particular way the Ukrainian people and the Russian people who, with filial affection, venerate her as a Mother. This is no magic formula but a spiritual act. It is an act of complete trust on the part of children who, amid the tribulation of this cruel and senseless war that threatens our world, turn to their Mother. It is like what young children do when they are scared; they turn to their mother for protection. We turn to our Mother, reposing all our fears and pain in her Heart and abandoning ourselves to her. It means placing in that pure and undefiled Heart, where God is mirrored, the inestimable goods of fraternity and peace, all that we have and are, so that she, the Mother whom the Lord has given us, may protect us and watch over us.

Mary then uttered the most beautiful words that the angel could bring back to God: "Let it be to me according to your word" (v. 38). Hers was no passive or resigned acceptance, but a lively desire to obey God, who has "plans for welfare and not for evil" (Jer 29:11). Hers was the most intimate sharing in God's plan of peace for the world.

We consecrate ourselves to Mary in order to enter into this plan, to place ourselves fully at the disposal of God's plans. After having uttered her "Fiat," the Mother of God set out on a long journey to the hill country, to visit a relative who was with child (cf. Lk 1:39). She went with haste. I like to think of this image of Our Lady going with haste. She comes with haste to help and take care of us. May she now take our own journey into her hands: may she guide our steps through the steep and arduous paths of fraternity and dialogue, along the way of peace.

Pope Francis

Planting an MI Garden in Los Angeles

by Adrianna de Monier, MI Member

Los Angeles indicates one of our most beautiful Franciscan names!

When the Franciscan fathers built the first little mission here they dedicated it to Our Lady of the Angels. The town that arose had the same name, and now the city has the same glorious Patroness. Of course, the name “Our Lady of the Angels” was too long so they shortened it to Los Angeles.

World Atlas provides a historical background for the naming of the Los Angeles River: “Captain Fernando Rivera Y Moncado led the first European land expedition through California in 1769. Franciscan priest Fr. Juan Crespi accompanied the Captain. On August 2, 1769, the priest described a beautiful river in his journal located at ‘34 degrees, 10 minutes.’ He named the river Nuestra Señora de los Angeles de la Portiúncula (Our Lady of the Angels of the Portiuncula) in honor of the Feast Day that takes place on August 2nd in the Franciscan calendar. The Feast Day was in honor of the Our Lady of the Angels of Portiuncula Church near Assisi, Italy, where the Franciscan movement started. Today, this river is called the Los Angeles River.”

Monsignor Francis J. Weber, the archivist for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, holds that the name of the city was closer to the name of the river. Msgr. Weber claimed that the city was called El Pueblo de Nuestra Señora de los Angeles de Portiúncula meaning “The Town of Our Lady of the Angels of Portiúncula.” The City of Los Angeles, has retained this name since its incorporation in 1850. If you ever go to beautiful California and visit the city of Los Angeles, remember you are in the old Franciscan city of Our Lady of the Angels.

Being named after one of the titles of the immaculate Virgin Mary Mother of God, is an immense privilege for any area. Sadly, in contrast to this privilege, Los Angeles has garnered some unfortunate monikers, including: *La-La Land*—A phrase describing a dreamlike mental state detached from reality; *Lotusland*—Derived from Homer’s *Odyssey*, in reference to the inhabitants of the “Land of the Lotus-eaters.” Here, natives eat the intoxicating fruit of the lotus, losing all thought and becoming forgetful, forgetting everything they ever

knew and longing for nothing more than to remain there, eating more fruit; *Tinseltown*—Refers to the shiny, bright, and unreal nature of the film industry in Hollywood. To name but a few.

Yet, even though L.A. is best known for having an anything-and-everything-goes fantasy attitude towards life, still the ecclesiastical territory comprises the California counties of Santa Barbara, Ventura and Los Angeles. Today with approximately five million professing members, the Archdiocese of Los Angeles is the largest in the country in terms of Catholic population and geographic area.

As Catholics we are called to live out our faith. Pulsing joyously at the very heart of what it means to be Catholic, is evangelization. Pope Paul VI affirms in his letter on Evangelization in the Modern World (*Evangelii Nuntiandi*): “We wish to confirm once more that the task of evangelizing all people constitutes the essential mission of the Church. It is a task and mission which the vast and profound changes of present day society make all the more urgent. Evangelizing is in fact the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity. She exists in order to evangelize.” By promoting total consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, we can help ourselves and others to live this “*grace and vocation*.” To date, there are no MI groups in the LA area. How sad. Yet, the situation affords us a special opportunity, by joining in prayer for the intention of winning every Los Angelen heart for the Immaculata. Praise God! “*Prayer revives the world. Prayer is the indispensable condition for the regeneration and the life of every soul.*” (KW 903)

Since the time of my consecration to the Immaculata in late 2020, and frequently thereafter, I have begged the Blessed Virgin Mary, in prayer, to give me something to do, “*please make me into something more useful!*” It wasn’t until December 9th, 2021, that my answer came.

Browsing the MI website in effort to learn more about the life of St. Kolbe, I read a webpage previously unnoticed: “How To Start an MI Village.” Admittedly, the idea seemed a little social for my reticent personality. Nonetheless, I read with keen interest St. Maximilian’s letter to Fr. Florian Koziu-

ra on December 2, 1931, discussing the future of the MI: “*Being that we must conquer the entire world and every single soul and keep watch so that no one in the future can take the Immaculata’s banner from the souls that there are now and that will be in the future, it is clear that an organization will also be necessary. Therefore, I imagine that eventually there will no longer be a soul anywhere that does not wear the Miraculous Medal around their neck and does not belong to the MI-1 (according to the registration card). Moreover, an MI-2 group [village] will spring up in every location.*” (KW 382)

(Continued on pg. 7)

New Book Study

Book study on St. Maximilian’s Marian teaching begins in May 2022.

This is a follow-up to *A Man for Others* that we completed last year.

The book is titled *Immaculate Conception and the Holy Spirit* by Fr. H.M. Manteau-Bonamy, O.P. and can be purchased at the Marytown bookstore.

Get your copy early and read the introductory pieces by Pope Paul VI, Cardinal Wojtyla (future Pope St. John Paul II), Fr. George Domanski and Fr. J.F. Villepelee. These are most helpful to getting started in the “meat” of the book—the Marian teachings of St. Maximilian Kolbe. Study questions will be provided in the May Newsletter. Stay tuned.

Father Manteau-Bonamy gives a clear and inspiring summation of St. Kolbe’s brilliant insight into the relationship between the Immaculata and the Holy Spirit. Without any doubt, this book will give you a very clear and up-to-date picture of Mary’s collaboration with the Holy Spirit and will benefit your spiritual life with new inspiration and depth.

Please join us.



Planting an MI Garden in Los Angeles

(Continued from pg. 6)

These words of Maximilian had a very profound impact on me! Here was something important, appealing to my own deep longing for order and structure. Without pause, an email was sent to the MI national coordinator (whom I came to know as our lovely Antonella Di Piazza), asking how to start an MI Village Group in Los Angeles. We've been in contact ever since. Emails were exchanged back and forth and I mentioned that if she needed help with anything, to let me know. Well, Antonella was quick off the draw: "*what can you do?*" She said that the MI is aiming to expand their outreach to Spanish speaking neighborhoods.

"*Oh, we have a lot of Spanish parishes in Los Angeles, if you like, maybe I could visit a few of them?*" That's basically how I became involved with evangelizing in Los Angeles. "A few" quickly became forty-seven, and forty-seven is fast becoming a 100. The list keeps on growing!

Halting for a self-assessment check: "*am I spiritually mature enough to do this?*" But unable to provide an unbiased answer, I took the question to our pastor at St. Vitus (my parish church in San Fernando, L.A.). Fr. Fryar gave a good response "*If we're too scared to do anything, nothing ever gets done.*" He was right, of course!

Now, on Saturday mornings, with my husband Matthew (Matt), we go from parish to parish, presenting priests with MI literature sample packets and asking whether they would be interested in promoting total consecration to the Immaculata within their parish. What a blessing! Though it is not without some personal struggle: being a quiet and sometimes painfully shy person, speaking with strangers

and initiating conversations can be unsettling, to say the least. In my entire life, I have never done anything even vaguely resembling this.

Matt and I enjoy driving, especially into the sparse horizon of the Mojave Desert. Sitting together in comfortable silence, taking in the scenery. That we now incorporate evangelism into our outings, makes it even more enjoyable. We are having so much fun together, working for Our Lady! In subtle ways, this experience is deepening our friendship with one another. Whereas previously our journeys had a mere entertainment value, now, in this ministry, our travels are expressed towards the virtue of charity, in efforts to live out the Knight at the Foot of the Cross (KFC) consecration renewal prayer: "*...may I ever be an unselfish instrument for the spread of the Militia of the Immaculata movement and the growth of the Church.*"

If we were to take a packet of Mixed Variety Wildflower seeds and sprinkle them in haphazard fashion, only Divine Providence would know exactly which seed and at what location is going to germinate, take root and eventually bloom! This oft-used analogy explains adequately our experience of going around from parish to parish. There's no way of knowing where or even if the MI will take root, until it happens. So, we watch and pray. It is delightful to imagine that every soul who totally consecrates themselves to the Immaculate Heart, becomes like a beautiful flower, offered to the Queen of Heaven!

Most pastors we approach are immediately receptive and interested, but not all. Many have never heard of the Militia of the Immaculata—unsurprisingly, as there are numerous Catholic societies. Often, when we arrive at a church location, the priest is celebrating Mass, or there is a wedding, baptism or quinceañera (a Mexican cultural celebration of a girl's 15th birthday, marking her passage from girlhood to womanhood), sometimes a funeral service is in progress.

In these instances, we may wait for the pastor or leave an MI information packet for him with the parish manager or receptionist. We might, on the rare occasion, get treated by church staff just like any other door-to-door salesman: "We get so much stuff! So much propaganda!" I can only imagine what they must have to deal with on a day-to-day basis. As with planting a garden, we rely on Divine Providence. Patiently praying for seeds to germinate—to bloom in their own season. The best part is giving someone an MI consecration prayer card. We meet a considerable number of Catholics who have never heard of, or bothered with, entrusting themselves to the Mother of Christ. It's not easy work, but it is

rewarding. Mainly, we get the chance to find out about life in other parishes.

One recent conversation with a priest in the San Fernando region was particularly disquieting. He lamented that right now he's just "*focused on getting people to come back to public worship.*" Since the COVID lockdowns, "*people have stayed away and they can't make up their minds if they want to come back or not.*" The heartbreak and frustration in his voice moved me to the point of tears. We stood together in a shaded courtyard for a long while discussing the troubles besetting his parish. He wants to go back to having flourishing ministries and to see total consecration to the Immaculata, but the numbers just aren't there yet. Too few souls have come back from the mandatory hiatus of self-confinement. Even though bone-weary of the situation, he still maintains a hopeful and cheery disposition. Father waved me off on my way out, but not before imparting some solid gold advice, primarily, that I speak with Bishop Aclan and Archbishop Gomez; approval from the diocese would officially open the doors for the MI in Los Angeles. Our Lady of Perpetual Help, pray for us!

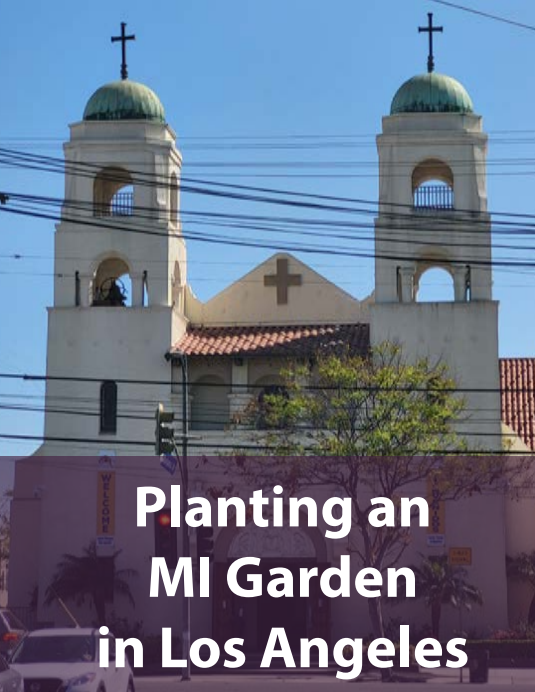
Driving back home, the conversation weighed heavily on my mind. What's preventing people from going back to Church? A lackadaisical attitude, perhaps? Could it be ignorance of, or disbelief in the Real Presence? There are a hundred possible reasons, but Our Lady is waiting to help us when doubts surface. Mary the Cause of our joy, intercedes for us as a loving Mother.

The life and death of St. Maximilian Kolbe, provides example of the immeasurable benefits of having childlike love and devotion for the Immaculata. So, we remain ever confident in our glorious and immaculate Virgin Mary. Undoubtedly, Los Angeles County, as with other large urban centers, is suffering a crisis.

An estimated 66,433 people live on the streets of L.A.—in the doorways and on steps of churches, in the exits and entrances of the freeways, on public walkways, under bridges and overpasses, in parks and vacant lots. Everywhere one looks, it seems that a tent city has sprung up.

It is easy to forget that, inside these same struggling neighborhoods with smashed windows and rusty broken down cars, are straight-forward impoverished people living in humble and dangerous conditions. Some good Catholic families live here, surrounded by crime on all sides, doing their best to hold fast while still supporting their local parish communities with food drives and fellowship. Trying to stay positive and being decent role models for their children. Here are tomorrow's Saints!

(Continues on pg. 8)



Planting an MI Garden in Los Angeles

(Continued from pg. 7)

There's this very real and urgent sense of needing to make MI consecration prayer cards and Miraculous Medals available to the Homeless Aide drop-in centers. No soul is too far gone for Our Mother of Mercy. "You well know that a child needs a mother: You Yourself established this law of love..." (KW 1145)

These MI evangelizing excursions, marked by sleeping bags, shopping carts and plastic bag covered cardboard lean-to's, are opening up areas of the city where we would not have previously ventured. Yet, it is another grace-filled opportunity to practice our Catholic faith with almsgiving and other Corporal Works of Mercy.

Though it's not all gloom under the California Sun! Intermingled in these areas, are astounding ecclesiastical architectural treasures! Impressive church buildings, long-rooted in traditional Spanish design, provide safe anchorage for the weary soul. It's an absolute joy upon entering through substantial wood doors, to see candles burning in front of every saintly statue and locals kneeling in quiet prayer.

We are incredibly grateful to Our Lady for taking us outside of our comfort zone and to see at grass-root level, what's really going on in our city. Although only just getting started in evangelization, I'm being taught a lot. Frankly, it can get a bit overwhelming. Mainly, I'm learning that opening the door of my heart to God is just the first step. The next part is telling Him that He can stay, without any interference or resistance on my part.

My religious education began in 2018 and continues today at St. Vitus Catholic Church in Los Angeles, an Apostolate of the Priestly

Fraternity of St. Peter (FSSP), dedicated to the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite. On February 11, 2022, the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, the FSSP solemnly consecrated their Order to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The desire to become acquainted with Our Lady, to truly begin the life-long process of accepting Mary Regina Mother of God, as my own spiritual mother, prayerfully navigating the sometimes-painful changes and adjustments that are necessary in my life to accommodate a holier lifestyle, is instilled in me: a result of careful pastoral ministry.

The hard work of our priests, their collective wisdom and genuine concern for the community help to provide needed direction and stability. Our Fraternity priests encourage us to dig deeper into our religious practice and to do more than the bare minimum. Without this encouragement, I would not today, be counted among the thousands of MI international members, who are working "to win the entire world for the Immaculata and, through her, for the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus." [St. Maximilian Kolbe].

If you would like to plant an MI garden in your own area, here are six easy steps to get you started:

STEP 1: Contact the MI and tell them of your plan.

STEP 2: Find out if you need permission from your Diocese.

STEP 3: Collect the names and addresses of churches that you plan to visit and enter them into a spreadsheet.

STEP 4: In the spreadsheet, make six columns, each with its own header: PARISH-CHURCH; PRIEST; ADDRESS; PHONE; EMAIL; PROMOTE MI CONSECRATION IN PARISH? (this column houses a Yes/No selection box).

STEP 5: Using an online mapping service, such as Google Maps, plan a route that allows you to visit between 5-10 churches in a single trip, grouping them together by region to save on gas. (In L.A., we can only visit about 4-6 in a day, as it takes forever to get anywhere around here).

STEP 6: Check to see if the parishes you are visiting have websites. If they do, take down any provided contact information, and place in the appropriate column.

We printed our spreadsheet for the convenience of being able to make corrections on the spot (the more tech savvy may prefer a smart tablet), as not all parish websites are kept up to date. Also, a large sturdy envelope is ideal to keep the MI sample material you're going to present. A label on each envelope with the name of the church you are visiting, is a

nice touch. These little details can make a big difference. It's helpful to include a short thank you letter in each packet, briefly outlining on a single sheet what the MI is about and whom to contact for more information or to order MI materials for their parish.

The rest is prayer and foot work.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us.

St. Joseph, pray for us.

St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe, pray for us!

Adrianna de Monier, MI Member

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 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.

Many people have expressed the desire to promote total consecration to Mary in their parish and local area. **Behold Your Mother!** offers you an effective tool for making that possible!

Available also in audio book form.

Listen anytime, anywhere!

The suggested donation for multiple copies of the booklet is \$1.00/ea. plus shipping; for a single copy, the suggested donation is \$4.00 shipping included.

Now available in Spanish



Order copies today from the

MI National Office:

MINational@MissionImmaculata.com

Or call: 331-223-5564



MI Intentions - April

This year, the monthly reflections provided by the MI International Office on the 2022 MI Intentions include:

- *A Scripture reading.
- *A text from St. Maximilian Kolbe's Writings.
- *A quote from the Pope's teachings.
- *A brief commentary.

The goal is to offer MI leaders the possibility to adapt the material to the need of the group and/or the current reality.

April: O Immaculata, please intercede that we may embrace your Fiat in living our MI ideal to win the greatest number of souls for the Sacred Heart of Jesus through you.

Luke 1:26-38 – In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there

will be no end." But Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no relations with a man?" And the angel said to her in reply, "The holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, Elizabeth, your relative, has also conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren; for nothing will be impossible for God." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

KW 654 – On the devotion to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, many wonderful things could be said, such as on aspiring to love the Immaculata with the Heart of Jesus, and so on. I just would like to mention that we cannot possibly settle for any ordinary type of love for the Heart of Jesus, but—in keeping with what is written on the MI enrollment card—must aspire to a most perfect love, that is, to loving with the Heart of the Immaculata, and only with a love of that kind.

KW 1331 – The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus is the love of God toward mankind. His Kingdom is the domain of this love in the hearts of men, the love that Jesus manifested in the manger, throughout His life, on the Cross, in the Eucharist, and in giving us His own

Mother as our Mother; and He wants to kindle this love in the hearts of men. To infuse and to enhance the glory of the Immaculata, to conquer souls over to her, means to win souls over to the Mother of Jesus, who introduces the Kingdom of Jesus into them.

KW 991Q – We must constantly strengthen the love for the Immaculata in souls, so that they may become one with her—become her herself; so that she herself may live and love (act) in them and through them. Just as she is of Jesus and of God, so each soul will become of Jesus and of God through her and in her. Then souls will love the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus as they have never loved Him before, because, like her, and in ways they have never experienced before, they 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.

Excerpts of the Homily given by Pope Francis on the Solemnity of the Annunciation, March 25, 2022 (see pg. 5)

Commentary

We are called to imitate Our Lady in her docility to the Will of God and her openness to the Holy Spirit, as St. Maximilian did, so as to be fitting instruments of her love in our world.

Prayer: Act of Total Consecration to the Immaculata



St. Maximilian Writes... Another apologetic article to enjoy (KW 1052).

The mystery of faith! This phrase excites love and gratitude in some people, discourages others, and to others still it becomes a stumbling block. These last assert: "I only believe what my reason is able to fathom."

Let me start by glossing over the obvious absurdity of such a statement, since if we experience something personally, we no longer need to lean on another person in order to believe. Besides, is it really true that these gentlemen consider true only what they themselves have examined? Have they possibly traveled to every city in Poland, the whole of Europe, America, Asia, in a word throughout the whole world in order to make sure that geographical maps do not deceive them? Is it absolutely necessary to physically accompany Napoleon in his exploits to accept the evidence that history presents about him? And does not that young gentleman set off after all toward the station to start his journey, just at the time he has looked up in the train schedule? What then are all, including these gentlemen, led by in their everyday life? In sum, by believing what others say and write; by leaning on their authority, namely on the fact that these other people have a given piece of information and pass it on to us.

That is what happens in everyday life with regard to real events, many of which

may also be checked through our personal experience.

The matter is quite different when it comes to the mysteries of faith. Not only are we, and for that matter all others as well, unable to experience these in person, but we will in fact never be able to understand them fully with our reason or to grasp their deepest meanings.

Why?

For the simple reason that these truths imply the concept of infinity. Thus, for example, on the 25th of March, on the Feast of the Annunciation to the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, we worship the incarnation of God: an infinite God becomes man. An infinite divine person and infinite divine nature form one being with a human nature.

Even when it comes to defining human nature or the human person more precisely philosophers rack their brains. What then of a divine nature or a divine person? Here the idea of the infinite comes into play. Our intelligence, though, is far too small to be able to grasp it: even if it were millions and billions of times wiser, it would never be able to know the infinite.

And why not?

In fact even the sharpest created intellect will always be finite and, for that very reason, unable to comprehend the infinite. When, on a beautiful evening, we

lift our eyes to the glittering stars, a question creeps into our mind: What lies beyond them? There must be other stars, other nebulae. And beyond those, farther, farther still? We do not know. In any case, there can be no borderline "fence," since space probably extends well beyond such a "fence." We realize that we may not be able to venture out into the infinite with intelligence, or to grab it with our reason. Therefore we only say that there are no limits, that is, we deny the existence of limits. And that is all there is to our imperfect idea of infinity, which is expressed by way of negation.

What could we possibly respond, then, to the question: Can there possibly exist a being, who is at the same time infinite God and limited man? By only straining our intelligence we get lost, just as we do when we strive to reach the "border" of infinite space through reason. At that point, any mind, even the most penetrating, yet still limited, is lost and unable to utter anything. The only answer is: I do not know.

Who, then, can teach us about that? Only One whose understanding is infinite, and therefore able to penetrate that truth, and that person is precisely and only God Himself. He and *He only* can thus tell us. Only He can reveal it to us. As a result, these truths *must* to our limited minds remain a mystery. Our minds may only know about them what God deigns to reveal, to His greater glory, for our salvation and sanctification.

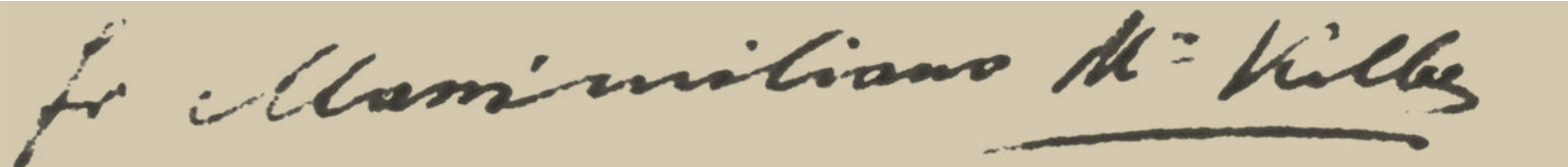
Rycerz Niepokalanej



**Icon of
St. Maximilian
Kolbe Holy Card
and Print**

This beautiful icon of St. Maximilian Kolbe painted by an MI member is now available as a holy card and framable 8x10 print.

Order copies today from the MI National Office:
MINational@MissionImmaculata.com
Or call: 331-223-5564



MI RESOURCES

Available from the MI National Center



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

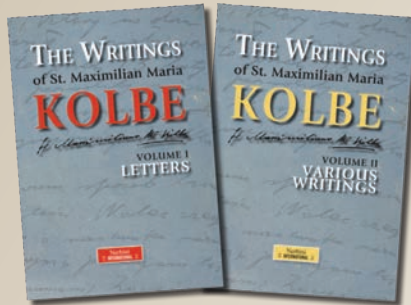
Miraculous medals and various MI brochures can be requested from the MI National Office at 331-223-5564 or via email: MINational@MissionImmaculata.com

The Writings of St. Maximilian Kolbe

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 a full and fruitful life. The Polish-born Franciscan Friar 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. Now, at long last, devotees and scholars alike can find the entire wide-ranging array of those writings collected together in a two-volume compendium, published by Nerbini International.



Available also in e-Book Format!



Ave Maria! The complete works of the great Franciscan martyr of charity are finally available in English! St. Maximilian was a theological and Mariological genius and this opera omnia is sure to be one of the greatest tomes to ever grace a bookshelf. It provides the wisdom, the answers, and the weapons that are needed for our times: total allegiance to Christ and the Church, consecration to the Immaculata, the mediation of Mary, the bullet of the Miraculous Medal, and the spiritual sword of the Rosary! --Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC

Enjoy reading them on your computer, phone or ipad
Order e-books online at Amazon.com or BarnesandNoble.com

Hardcover edition may be ordered from MarytownGiftShop.com - [Click Here](#)



MILITIA OF THE IMMACULATA
MI NATIONAL CENTER - USA

P.O. Box 5547, Peoria, IL 61601
331-223-5564
MilitiaoftheImmaculata.com

MINational@MissionImmaculata.com

Check the MI website MilitiaoftheImmaculata.com often for updates, resources, special events and more!



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



"If you love the Immaculata, if your heart burns with gratitude to her, offer your contribution to this work, according to your capabilities! It is worth making such an effort! The Immaculata will not forget it! May all MI Knights be zealous in winning the world over to the Immaculata!"

St. Maximilian Kolbe