

# THE KNIGHT OF THE *Immaculata*

E-PUBLICATION OF THE MILITIA OF THE IMMACULATA, USA



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## 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the First MI Magazine

### Be Light in the Darkness

Dear Knights of the Immaculata,

Maria! August is a special and unique month for all of us in the Militia. It is the anniversary of the martyrdom of our patron, St. Maximilian, and the great feast day of the Immaculata's being assumed into heaven body and soul. It is a time for us to rejoice that we have such a spiritual ideal to measure ourselves in terms of our own commitment to sanctity and to the missionary/evangelizing call of each of us.

I want to sketch, however briefly, some of the tone of St. Maximilian's self-oblation. In doing so I want to highlight how he carried on the apostolate in the most difficult of conditions. I wish to hearten ourselves to take up our own apostolic work in spite of less than than ideal conditions. He was of course rounded up by the Gestapo and moved to Auschwitz, which was a name equivalent to death. Of the millions of persons who passed through the infamous gates, only a pitiful few survived. One calls to mind the terrible sign over Hell in Dante's *Inferno*, "Abandon hope all you who enter here." We cannot begin to imagine what it means to have no hope!

For St. Maximilian, this was not a land of complete darkness, which was how all saw it, but rather another opportunity to give life in the form of witnessing to the Gospel. He continued as he always had to be what Christ named us: "You are the light of the world." Even there the light that is Christ shone in his demeanor and words. St. Maximilian, at great risk to his life, endured savage beatings, continued to encourage, heard confessions, gave little conferences, prayed with and, most of all, forgave over and over again his enemies. He frequently gave others his starvation rations and found strength in enormous fatigue, in the face of his own tubercular condition, the hopelessness that smothered hope, and the

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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

# Editorial

(Continued from pg. 1)

crushing weight of all the hatred that saturated that hellish place.

Finally, when all was finished—his strength gone and the opportunity to make a final witness statement arose—he gave his life for another man. There is no further eloquence that can eclipse that sacrificial gift. He had given all that another might live. We must not succumb to the oppressive atmosphere or the magnitude of the task. We must reject the nagging temptation, “What good can one person do?”

We live in hard times, when even those who are considered “great” in the eyes of the world seem to have lost their minds. The atmosphere seemingly is filled with luxury, toys and illicit behavior and is not delivering anything even remotely satisfying; you can almost taste the emptiness of it all.

We have three gifts we can give, like Maximilian, to our sisters and brothers. They constitute the gifts of Faith, Hope and Charity in the form of a Person—Jesus the Redeemer. Are we willing to make this sacrifice for others—to witness in thought, word and deed to Him who has saved us?

Once again, “Arise and let us be on our way.”

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



## Online MI Villages

Want to connect and pray with other MI members? Looking for support in deepening or preparing for your consecration? Join a virtual MI Village and live out your consecration with others. Email Moderators for information.

**\*\*Moderator: Scott Richard**

Email: Virtual.MI.Village@gmail.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**

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: drlisafmi@gmail.com

Write to request Google Meet join info

Mtg Day: Wednesdays

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

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

*This is the last section 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.*

#### **D) Food for the Journey**

The lives of the saints and blessed show us the importance of the Eucharist on our journey as disciples of Jesus. Many testify to the power of the Eucharist in their lives. We see the fruits of Holy Communion in their lives of faith, hope, and charity. It was their intimate union with Jesus in Holy Communion and frequently their prayer before the Blessed Sacrament that nourished and strengthened them in their journey to heaven. They teach us that “growth in Christian life needs the nourishment of Eucharistic Communion, the bread for our pilgrimage until the moment of death, when it will be given to us as viaticum.”

Blessed Carlo Acutis, a young Italian teenager, who died at the age of fifteen and was beatified in 2020, used to say: “The Eucharist is my highway to heaven.” Blessed Carlo attained sanctity at such a young age because the Eucharist was at the center of his life. He attended Mass daily and prayed each day before the Blessed Sacrament in adoration. He discovered the joy of friendship with Jesus and brought that joy, the joy of the Gospel, to others. He was an apostle of the Eucharist through the internet. He said: “To always be united with Christ: This is my life’s program.”

Likewise, St. José Sánchez del Río, a Mexican teenager who was martyred at the age of fourteen and canonized in 2016, was so filled with love of Christ and his Church that he was willing to give up his life rather than renounce Christ and his Kingship. While imprisoned, St. José Sánchez del Río was able to receive the Blessed Sacrament when it was smuggled into his cell along with a basket of food. Strengthened by this viaticum, he was able to endure torture and to remain faithful to Christ when his captors told him he must renounce his faith or be executed.



# Our Greatest Treasure: The Most Holy Eucharist - Part VIII

He replied to his persecutors: “My faith is not for sale.” We encourage all, especially our young people, to learn about the lives of these holy teenagers. In the midst of many distractions in our life, Blessed Carlo and St. José Sánchez del Río teach us to focus on what is more important than anything else.

There are many people who have been attracted to the Catholic Church and entered the Church because they came to believe in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Our first U.S. born saint, Elizabeth Ann Seton, is one of these converts. She was drawn to enter the Catholic Church after she witnessed the devotion of Catholics to the Blessed Sacrament. She wondered about that devotion. God’s grace led her to faith in the Real Presence. While still an Episcopalian, she found herself at worship in her church in New York looking out the open window and praying to Jesus in the tabernacle one block away in a Catholic church. On the night after her entrance into the Catholic Church and her First Communion, St. Elizabeth Ann wrote in her journal: “At last GOD IS MINE and I AM HIS.”

For the rest of her life, her deep faith and pioneering service to the Church in

our young nation was nourished by the Holy Eucharist.

In recent years, increasing numbers of Christians in our country have left their churches and become religiously unaffiliated. We invite Catholics who have left the Church or who no longer practice the faith to come home. We miss you and we love you. We pray that Jesus will draw you back to your Catholic family, his Mystical Body, through his Eucharistic Body. We repeat words attributed to St. Teresa of Calcutta: “Once you understand the Eucharist, you can never leave the Church. Not because the Church won’t let you but because your heart won’t let you.”

#### **Sent Forth**

Pope Benedict XVI reminded us that the “love that we celebrate in the sacrament is not something we can keep to ourselves. By its very nature it demands to be shared with all.” We are not the only ones in need of the love that Christ has shown us. We are called to help the rest of the world experience it. “What the world needs is God’s love; it needs to encounter Christ and to believe in him. The Eucharist is thus the source and summit not only of the Church’s life, but also of her mission.”

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# Our Greatest Treasure:

## The Most Holy Eucharist - Part VIII



(Continued from pg. 3)

Jesus is sent by the Father for the salvation of the world. At the very end of the celebration of the Eucharist, we who have received the Body and Blood of Christ and have been incorporated more profoundly into his Mystical Body are likewise sent out to proclaim the Good News for the salvation of the world: “Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.”

Pope Francis has insisted that evangelization—spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ—is a task that belongs to every member of the Church, not just a few specialists:

All the baptized, whatever their position in the Church or their level of instruction in the faith, are agents of evangelization, and it would be insufficient to envisage a plan of evangelization to be carried out by professionals while the rest of the faithful would simply be passive recipients. The new evangelization calls for personal involvement on the part of each of the baptized.

He exhorts us all to become missionary disciples: “Every Christian is a missionary to the extent that he or she has encountered the love of God in Christ Jesus: we no longer say that we are ‘disciples’ and ‘missionaries,’ but rather that we are always ‘missionary disciples.’” What is essential is not that one have advanced training, but rather that one discover through Christ the love that God has for us and that one desire to lead others to that same joyful discovery: “[A]nyone who has truly experienced God’s saving love does not need much time or lengthy training to go out and proclaim that love.” All that is needed is for one who has known that love—the

love that is displayed most preeminently in the Eucharist—to tell other people about it.

All of us are called to offer others an explicit witness to the saving love of the Lord, who despite our imperfections offers us his closeness, his word and his strength, and gives meaning to our lives. In your heart you know that it is not the same to live without him; what you have come to realize, what has helped you to live and given you hope, is what you also need to communicate to others.

We have offered these reflections on the Eucharistic faith and practice of the Church as a starting point. There is much more that could be said, but what is most important is that we enter more deeply by faith and love into this great Mystery of Mysteries. Let us all ask the Lord to call us into a time of Eucharistic renewal, a time of prayer and reflection, of acts of charity and sincere repentance. The Lord is with us in the Eucharistic Mystery celebrated in our parishes and missions, in our beautiful cathedrals and in our poorest chapels. He is present and he draws near to us, so that we can draw nearer to him. The Lord is generous to us with his grace; and so we, by his grace, should always humbly ask him to give us what we need.

*I am the Alpha and the Omega*, the Risen Christ says to us, *the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give a gift from the spring of life-giving water* (Rev 21:6). Brothers and sisters, let us thirst for the Lord who first suffered thirst for us (Jn 19:28). Let us adore Jesus who ever remains with us, on all the altars of the world, and lead others to share in our joy! (*The End*)

## 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.



## St. Max's Two Crowns & the Task Ahead

A few reflections as we move forward after the Dobbs decision.

By Antonella Di Piazza, FKMI

June 24, 2022, the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, will remain engraved in our memories and souls as the day of the historic Supreme Court's Dobbs decision, whereby the unjust *Roe v. Wade* ruling was overturned.

Catholics all over the country couldn't help but see Divine Providence in the details. Even the hour and minute at which the decision was issued, 10:10 a.m., seemed to have a providential connection with Jn 10:10: "A thief comes only to steal and slaughter and destroy; I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly."

In many places, churches were soon filled with faithful people, moved to attend Holy Mass in thanksgiving for this landmark decision that affirmed the constitu-

tional protection of preborn children. Here in Peoria, where our MI national headquarters is located, the beautiful Sacred Heart church was packed. The next day, the memorial of the Immaculate Heart of Mary became a natural extension of grateful praise to the Lord of Life. And yet, it was apparent that this decision is not the end of the efforts in rebuilding a civilization of love and life. A notable quote from Winston Churchill was aptly echoed by many pro-life leaders: "This is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning."

Many initiatives have already been set in motion for the post-Roe mission of the pro-life movement, and more will come. As MI Knights, in the footsteps of St. Maximilian,

we will certainly find ways to get involved according to our individual calling and situation.

However, as we discern the course of action moving forward, it might be inspiring to recall the path that Our Lady herself marked for little Raymond, later known as Friar Maximilian. When he had run to pray before her altar after having gotten in trouble, she presented him two crowns: the white one, signifying purity, and the red one, representing sacrificial love, even to the point of martyrdom. Our Lady, he reported to his mother Marianna, had asked him if he wanted them and he simply replied yes. From that hour, he embraced the path of the two crowns—purity and heroic charity—which led him to become a saint and the first canonized Martyr of Charity.

*What does this have to do with me, with us at this time...?* Let's pause for a moment. We are engaged in a spiritual warfare, not with flesh and blood, as St. Paul reminds us in the letter to the Ephesians (6:12), but with the principalities and the powers, with the evil spirits whose mission is to obscure and mislead, "seeking the ruin of souls," as we repeat in the prayer to St. Michael the Archangel. These evil forces have infiltrated the culture and many consciences so deeply as to turn them away from God's magnificent, life-giving plan.

We have seen God Himself and His creation being under attack in concerted ways: strikes against marriage and family, the pervasive contraceptive mentality, steriliza-

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## St. Max's Two Crowns & the Task Ahead

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tion, abortion, the gender ideology, euthanasia, human trafficking, pornography... the list could go on and on. It is heart wrenching especially as we consider that all this is not simply causing intellectual “disagreements.” Human souls have been led astray into embracing as “freedom” the distortion of *authentic freedom in Truth*; as a result, innumerable lives have been destroyed. We could feel overwhelmed and even disheartened at times. But we should not. We should never forget that our Crucified and Risen Lord has won and the enemy of mankind, the devil, is just... a big “loser,” and his time is short.

The path of the two crowns, that Our Lady herself embodies and pointed out to St. Maximilian, reveals two critical components in our mission moving forward: *purity and sacrificial love*, which are interconnected and lead us to embracing the integral core of the Gospel message.

Take the time to ponder how beautifully and clearly the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (2518-2519) explains that “*Pure in heart*

*refers to those who have attuned their intellects and wills to the demands of God's holiness, chiefly in three areas: charity; chastity or sexual rectitude; love of truth and orthodoxy of faith. There is a connection between purity of heart, of body, and of faith:*

The faithful must believe the article of the Creed ‘so that by believing they may obey God, by obeying may live well, by living well may purify their hearts, and with pure hearts may understand what they believe.’ (St. Augustine in *De fide et symbolo* 10, 25: PL 40, 196).

*The ‘pure in heart’ are promised that they will see God face to face and be like Him. Purity of heart is the precondition of the vision of God. Even now it enables us to see according to God, to accept others as ‘neighbors’; it lets us perceive the human body—ours and our neighbor’s—as a temple of the Holy Spirit, a manifestation of divine beauty.”*

St. John Paul II’s theology of the body and authentic Christian anthropology could shed even more light on what the path of the two crowns of purity and sacrificial love suggests!

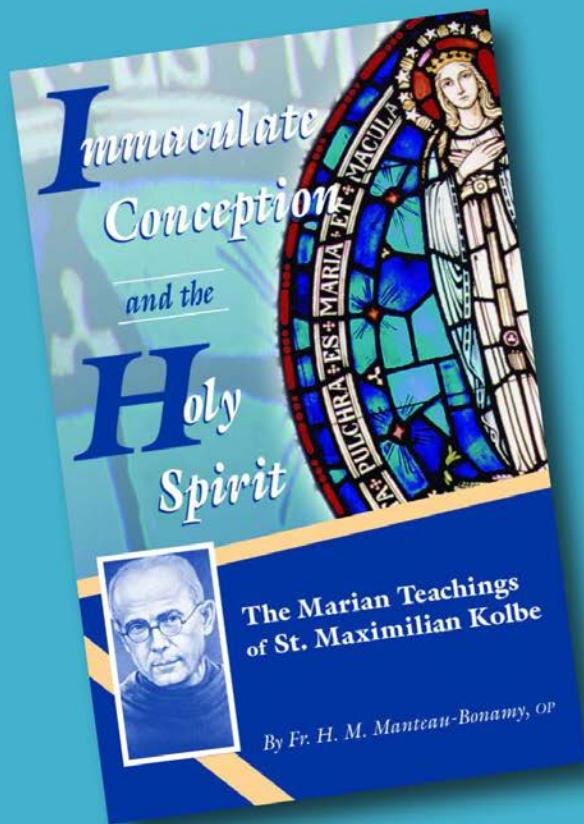
Our MI mission is “*to win souls for Christ through the Immaculata,*” to evangelize and even “*marianize*” hearts and thus the culture. This universal mission begins with ourselves. It begins with our persevering commitment to live out our total consecration, that is, to cooperate with divine grace and walk the path of the two crowns in our personal life.

The more we let the Holy Spirit and the Immaculata carry out their transforming work in our individual souls, minds, consciences and in entire lives, the more God’s grace will radiate around us and affect our families, our social life and ultimately the culture at large with the life-giving splendor of Truth.

Not only that. The path of the two crowns of purity and sacrificial love, properly understood, is a powerful universal antidote against the deadly poisons being injected especially in young hearts and minds. In its integral implications, this wholesome path can contribute to the restoration of the moral fabric of our culture and of individual consciences. St. Maximilian’s life and mission and the timeless fruits of his martyrdom prove the effectiveness of Our Lady’s simple instruction as she guided him on the path of the two crowns. There should be no hesitation in trusting God who has chosen her as His special messenger...! As we celebrate his feast day, let us ask St. Maximilian to make us ready to walk the walk as he did and truly become champions of the civilization of life and love.

Antonella Di Piazza, FKMI  
*(to be continued)*

# New Kolbe Book Study



## Immaculate Conception and the Holy Spirit

The Marian Teachings of St. Maximilian Kolbe

By Fr. H. M. Manteau-Bonamy, OP

Dear Knights,

As Father Manteau-Bonamy continues his study of the Immaculata and the Holy Spirit, he analyzes her as summit of creation, her relationship to the Church, and as Mediatrix of all graces.

Please read pages 67-103.

1. Pages 67-75. Just as we are concerned with our place in the order of creation, St. Maximilian posits the place of

the Immaculata in God's order of creation.

What did you learn from this chapter? What is her place in creation in relationship to her Son?

2. Pages 77-86. In teaching about the Immaculata's place in the Church, St. Maximilian's speculations have influenced the Church's teachings on Mary as found in the Vatican Document *Lumen Gentium*, chapter 8.

How does his teaching af-

fect your view of Mary and her place in the Church?

What difference does that make to your spiritual life?

3. Pages 87-102. In this chapter, St. Maximilian examines the role of Mary in the order of redemption and the work of grace.

How essential is her role? What is total consecration in light of this teaching? How has this chapter helped you in your daily life?

John W. Galten



## My Journey to the MI

A testimony from an MI member.

I recently had the wonderful opportunity to interview our National Coordinator, Antonella Di Piazza and our National President John Galten for a Catholic radio program that I co-host on Annunciation Radio in Toledo, Ohio. I became an MI member last December and I wanted Antonella and John to share with our audience the amazing life of St. Maximilian Kolbe and his founding of the MI which they were both so very kind to do. It was during our conversation after the show that I felt compelled to share with them my appreciation of the MI movie. I had many reasons to do this particularly in regard to its cinematography and production quality but, most important, I had to share how it spoke to me and moved me with such an intimacy late last fall that I immediately began taking steps toward consecration and membership. I am grateful that they have asked me to share that with all of you.

My previous spiritual director Diane and I continue to keep in touch. She had sent an email late last October

that I failed to read later that day and I was reminded of this the following morning during prayer. I was pretty good about only accessing my email during prayer to retrieve and read a few emails with daily Scripture reflections but there was her email sitting there unopened as obvious as could be. I felt bad for missing it so I made an exception and took some of my prayer time to read it. At the bottom, Diane included a postscript to share some last minute thoughts about a talk that she had just given about St. Maximilian Kolbe. She included the following statement attributed to him: *“Courage my brothers! We are traveling and they are even paying our fare! What a piece of good luck! Now we must thank the Immaculata. Our mission is now to go forth and wins souls for Christ!”* I had previously heard about St. Maximilian and I was pretty familiar with his martyrdom but I was unfamiliar with this quote.

What struck me most was the name *Immaculata* and while I tried to return to my normal prayer routine,

this name kept coming to mind as if I should have known to whom or what it referred. This eventually prompted a Google search which is also something that I would not have done during prayer but curiosity had simply gotten the best of me.

The very first result of that search was a link to the Militia of the Immaculata which I didn't hesitate to click. Once the page loaded, it became immediately obvious to me that Immaculata was a name for Mary but I was stumped as to why I felt that I should have known this. I didn't browse any of the information at the top of the site but I did scroll down the page and I noticed the MI movie. It was at that moment that I realized that I was there for a reason and that this movie was something that I needed to watch.

My words here will not come close to adequately explain what I experienced as I watched the film, but I can generalize by saying that I knew that I was being provided an explanation. To what, exactly, I did not know, but I first found myself relating to St. Maximilian in unexpected ways. Many of the scenes used while discussing his life and early mission work were places that I had visited with my wife Kristie on a pilgrimage in 2017. He was using the media to evangelize which continues with the MI today and I was beginning to do the same as a substitute host on various programs at Annunciation Radio. It then seemed that I was provided an affirmation with the quote: *“Let yourself be led by the Holy Spirit through the Immaculata in Love.”*

I realized at that moment that I had just been led to this film by a series of unusual events and my attention then turned to the involvement of Mary. I recall so well having a desire to know her more and that's exactly where the film headed.

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## *My Journey to the MI*

(Continued from pg. 8)

Ten years ago in my early forties, I could not have said very much about Mary other than some common misunderstandings regarding her role within the Catholic Church. I was more of an agnostic and an occasional atheist and I had practiced no religion since my youth in a Protestant church. All that changed early in the summer of 2012 after being moved by an Annunciation Radio bumper sticker during a drive home from work. That was just the beginning of a series of miraculous events with Catholic radio that shook me to the core much like St. Paul, prompting me to begin following Christ and to become Catholic. I begin RCIA that fall and I entered the Church on Easter 2013. That's another story, but suffice it to say that my overall conversion came to mind in a most beautiful way during the remainder of the MI film, particularly as I recalled the radical growth of my faith up to that pilgrimage in 2017 and then the deepening of my spiritual life and an amazing richness in love of Christ afterward.

I then found myself in tears as I realized that this was all because of Mary. It was at the point in the film when her spiritual motherhood was being discussed that I came to know her in a most intimate way. She was indeed my

spiritual mother, always nurturing and leading me, as a mother would, closer to Christ and deeper in transformative Love. The scene was then the candlelight procession at Fatima and I was reminded once again of our pilgrimage. We were at that same place participating in one of those processions because the main purpose of that trip was to attend the 100th anniversary. However, the next scene of Lourdes provided to me an entirely different perspective and perhaps future reason for that trip. We toured Lourdes where St. Bernadette heard from Mary that she was the Immaculate Conception. This was the significance behind my familiarity with the name Immaculata. We also had Mass in the chapel at Rue du Bac where Mary appeared to St. Catherine with instructions for the Miraculous Medal. The film obviously highlights this medal which I purchased at that chapel in Paris and I had it blessed and I've worn it ever since.

It was so clear to me at that point that I was to become part of the MI. After all, the MI movie had just won me for the Immaculata in such a beautiful way so why would I not work with the MI to do the same for others? My life at that point was rich in love of Christ and I knew without a doubt that it was Mary who led me there through the power of the Holy Spirit. I then re-

searched over the next few days all that I needed to do for MI membership and I consulted my spiritual director, who is a priest, to help me properly care for all of the details. It was already late November and I was experiencing a pressing urge to consecrate myself as soon as possible. I knew the date should be significant to me, but I was still uncertain why. Would it be the Immaculate Conception on Wednesday the 8th or Our Lady of Guadalupe on Sunday the 12th? I felt drawn toward the Immaculate Conception because of the name Immaculata but I turned the matter over to prayer.

I struggled with this because time kept passing and these dates were approaching and I didn't hear or see anything as a possible answer. I had begun reading Marian theology because of my newfound love of Mary and even in all of that I found no clue. It was at the most unexpected time and in the most unexpected way that I finally heard it... not a voice but a most profoundly clear and singular thought of Our Lady of Guadalupe. This was accompanied by a rush of emotions because everything that I had experienced with this Marian endeavor seemed to be affirmed once again. I turned my life over to Christ after 42 years of wandering because of those miraculous events through Catholic radio. I heard Truth for the first time in my life during that broadcast and I was forever changed. Again, that radio station was Annunciation Radio. While I was already a member of the Board of Directors last fall and I was becoming even more involved, I had forgotten the legal name of the station... Our Lady of Guadalupe Radio, Inc!

I have been so blessed by the MI and I pray that my work with the MI will profoundly bless others too. May God be praised!!!

His,  
Shayne Stanfield



## St. Maximilian Writes...

He addresses the urgent need for Catholic press (KW 1249).

*The original manuscript of this writing, entitled Catholic Action, was composed before the beginning of the publication of the Rycerz Niepokalanej magazine.*

*Most likely this was the outline of a conference given to lay knights in Krakow during a monthly meeting. We may consider its content in reference to all media.*

Considering the huge extent of evil caused by the press even Lassalle, who is a socialist, cannot refrain from condemning it: "In its falsehood, cowardice and immorality," he writes, "it is probably surpassed only by its own folly. If such press continues to rage in this manner for fifty more years, and if at the same time change does not take place in our press, the spirit of the people will have been utterly poisoned. That is the greatest crime that I know of."

It is high time, and a very suitable time, for us to make a change. To bring about such change, however, the first step is a firm boycott of the bad press, to be followed by support for the good press.

Wetzel has poignant words in that regard: "The atheist press would never have known an increase of this magnitude unless millions of Catholics had given it support by subscribing or even by directly collaborating with magazines and newspapers hostile to the Church and reputedly independent."

For his part, during the Fifth Congress of Catholics in Austria, Fr. [Victor] Kolb even used severe words: "What can one say about a people who subsidizes its own degradation? I do not know how to define such behavior! Yet such infamy weighs heavily on Catholics, who are relentlessly offended by thousands of newspapers. And these newspapers, which shamelessly mock Catholics, are printed for us, Catholics! And yet they are not sent out anonymously in the form of lampoons: we request them ourselves; we are the ones who grant them our subsidy. Could anyone be more blind to such threatening danger? Yet this blindness of ours even becomes a crime, not only because we fail to defend ourselves in the face of such danger, but also because we subsidize the insult and mockery of our faith, because we hold in our hands and we read bad publications! The words of the prophet are indeed fulfilled with regard to us Catholics: 'Like blind men we grope along the wall, like people without eyes we feel our way. We stumble at midday as at dusk, in Stygian darkness, like the dead' [Is 59:10]." ...

In 1911, Cardinal Nagl wrote: "It is the duty of every Catholic to stand up in defense of the Catholic press and support it through prayer, word and deed." During the congress of Catholic journalists, held in 1910, the Archbishop of Zaragoza [Msgr.

Juan Soldevilla y Romero] did not hesitate to say: "Many wealthy Catholics use their wealth to found new churches and monasteries, or to adorn them with pictures of saints. Now that is undoubtedly a beautiful thing! Yet an accident may unfortunately destroy it all, while the fruits of a good newspaper are simply indestructible. Would not it be better, then, to establish large-circulation newspapers for the good of the people? Nowadays a newspaper is a cannon ready to shoot. God wants it."

The Popes think no differently on this issue. Pius IX declared: "It is the sacred duty of every Catholic to support the press and propagate it among the people. A good press is the most useful type of work, seeding countless merits." And Leo XIII: "Bad press has ruined Christian society, so it is necessary to set a good press up against it. Catholics should never tire of working for the benefit of their good press, bearing in mind that a good press is an ongoing mission." Also, when he talked to Catholic editors (on February 21, 1879), the Pope said: "We believe that our times call precisely for these means (Catholic publications) and for energetic defenders... Subversive men have endeavored to spread among the people a range of newspapers, whose main purpose is to challenge the principles of the truths of faith, to defame the Church and to inculcate pernicious beliefs in every soul... But since the publication of daily newspapers is now recognized as the primary means to action, Catholic writers today have the main duty to transform this means—which the enemies employ to ruin society and the Church—into a means of salvation for the people and to use it for the purposes of defending the Church."

In 1905, the Holy Father Pius X wrote to the Mexican bishops: "Speaking of newspapers and magazines, I would like to convince once and for all those who think it through realistically,

(Continues on pg. 11)

*fr. Maximiliano M. Kolb*



# St. Maximilian Writes...

(Continued from pg. 10)

we should endeavor with all our strength to ensure that Catholics hold only truly Catholic magazines and newspapers in their hands. That is nowadays, in my opinion, *the most important problem.*"

In 1908, addressing priests during an audience, the Pope conveyed his thought even more forcefully: "Neither the people nor the clergy realize the importance of the press. They say that in the past the press did not exist, and fail to realize that times have changed. It is a good thing to build churches, to preach, to establish missions and schools, but all those efforts will be in vain if we neglect the most important weapon of our times, namely the press."

And the Cardinal of Pisa [Pietro Maffi] added: "You preach your sermons on Sundays, while newspapers preach every day, every hour. You speak to the faithful in the church, while newspapers follow them home. You talk for half an hour, or an hour, while newspapers never stop talking..."

The enemies of the Church have millions and billions (of dollars, for example), while those who are active in the Catholic press cannot increase their efforts to perfect their work and make it more effective, because they quite simply have to struggle to ensure the material survival of their publishing activity. Also, we have very few lay people sufficiently experienced to be

able to wield a pen in the Catholic world. That is why our Catholic publishing heritage is still very, very modest. To train lay workers and ensure the material survival of publishing houses: that is possibly the most burning issue in the activity of our press.

Also, distribution is far too weak. Those who consider the propagation of good press their personal *duty* are few and far between....

May it please God that in the coming future there should be no cities or towns without libraries and reading rooms for good books and magazines, in an adequate number, at a very low price or possibly even free. May there everywhere rise circles committed to handing out and propagating good press, and in a short time the face of the earth will be transformed.

In addition, may those whom God has endowed with an effortless use of the pen and natural skills or ability in any field of literature come together in special circles and use God's gifts to produce the greatest possible amount of good press in every field of journalism.

Obviously, we should not address the faithful only, but also write for non-Catholics and offer them good spiritual nourishment.

These are also the current goals of the "Militia of the Immaculata" and by these means, more than one conversion has already occurred.

M.K.



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# Thank you deeply!

Over the past six years, several generous MI volunteers and friends shared their time and talents in various ways at the service of Our Lady's MI Family.

Their generosity has been an invaluable treasure in carrying out the many daily operations of the MI national center! They are listed here, so we may lift them up in grateful prayer: Karen Kasprzycki, Mary Weil, Faith Phillips, Pamela Corrado, Lydia Tsai, Mary Farrow, Andrew Warrender, Jennifer Rosal, Ginger Hamilton, Adriana Perino, Inmaculada Rodrigues, Eileen and John Wikoff, Deacon Fred and Gail Kruse and, last but not least, Susan Shingle who recently created a beautiful

garden for the MI headquarters, named the Little Garden of the Immaculata, after St. Maximilian's Japanese Mugenzai-no-Sono (the Garden of the Immaculata).

A special thanks goes to neighbors and friends for their help in carrying out many practical chores: Louis and Brian, Terry, Nancy and Brian, Jim and Pat, Ken and Sam and all those anonymous helpers, whose names are written in the Heart of Our Lady!

*Thank you deeply* and... let us continue to place our gifts and talents at the service of the Best of Mothers for the spreading of the kingdom of her Son in all hearts!

ADP





## MI Intentions - August

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.

*August: O Immaculata, please intercede that in serving you faithfully, according to our MI ideal, through our actions and words we may invite everyone to join your MI Family.*

**Jn 15:1-11** – “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and every one that does he prunes so that it bears more fruit. You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you. Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you

can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete.”

**KW 647** – Let us love the Immaculata every day more, always more. On this point, there is not and there cannot be any limits as she increasingly purifies our hearts of naturalism and transforms us into herself. Devotion to the Immaculata is a secret many people are not yet familiar with; or rather they know it and practice it only superficially, whereas, by the will of God, it is the substance of all holiness.

### From Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*

The Gospel offers us the chance to live life on a higher plane, but with no less intensity: “Life grows by being given away, and it weakens in isolation and comfort. Indeed, those who enjoy life most are those who leave security on the shore and become excited by the mission of communicating life to others.” When the Church summons Christians to take up the task of evangelization, she is simply pointing to the source of authentic personal fulfillment. For “here we discover a profound law of reality: that life is attained and matures in the measure that it is offered up in order to give life to others. This is certainly what mission means.”

### Commentary

Like the vine and the branches are intimately united, so we, MI Knights, are called to be united with Christ and with one another and to make of our lives a gift. As we share our MI ideal through generous service, we become instruments in passing on the love that the Immaculata enkindles in our hearts.

**Prayer:** Act of Total Consecration to the Immaculata

# MI RESOURCES

Available from the MI National Center



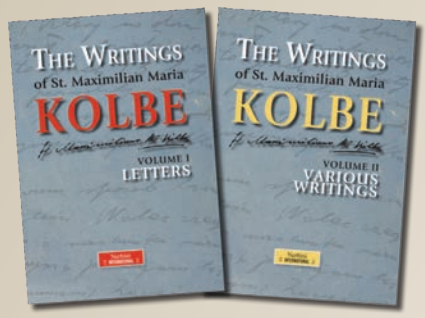
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Miraculous medals and various MI brochures can be requested from the MI National Office at 331-223-5564 or via email: [MINational@MissionImmaculata.com](mailto:MINational@MissionImmaculata.com)

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*"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