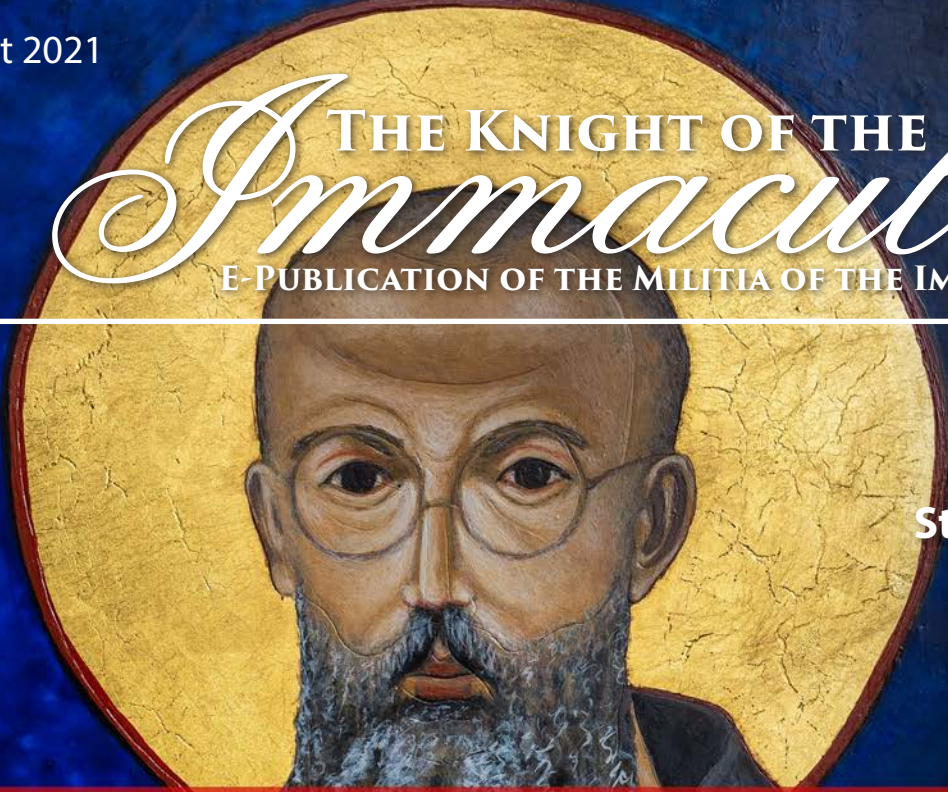


THE KNIGHT OF THE Immaculata

E-PUBLICATION OF THE MILITIA OF THE IMMACULATA, USA

S
T.
M
A
X
I
M
I
L
I
A
N



Praying for the Shepherds - PAGE 3

St. Maximilian, Champion of Friendship - PAGE 4

When an Oil Change Turns into... - PAGE 10

80TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. MAXIMILIAN'S MARTYRDOM

Patterns & Convergences

By John W. Galten, MI National President

Dear Knights of the Immaculata,

Maria! This month, in particular the feast day of St. Maximilian on August 14th, concludes our year of meditating, study and prayer on the 80th anniversary of the Saint's heroic martyrdom of charity. In another part of *The Knight of the Immaculata* newsletter you will find study questions for the book *A Man for Others*. If you haven't ordered the book, or haven't read it, do so. You will be deeply inspired to live your Total Consecration in a more fervent manner.

I find some interesting patterns and convergences in the life of the Immaculata and the life of her spiritual son, St. Maximilian. First, the Blessed Virgin Mary was conceived immaculately and sin never touched her soul. Her holiness was from the beginning of her existence and grew, expanding with greater fullness as she matured. St. Maximilian's immaculateness begin at his Baptism and gradually expanded as he progressed in virtue and holiness, especially in charity.

The Virgin received a call to bear the Messiah—the Only Begotten Son. She knew the Old Testament prediction in Isaiah of the Messiah being the Suffering Servant. She said yes to that also in her choice. Kolbe received a call as a child from her to a mission—to sanctity and martyrdom, for which he prepared all his life by fervor and virtue.

The Immaculata lived a life of humble and unknown service at the Holy Family's home in Nazareth. St. Maximilian founded friaries that were totally consecrated to the Immaculata, to living a Marian style of service, becoming what he called schools for saints.

The Immaculata said to the servant at Cana, "Do whatever He says." St. Maximilian led others to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus through Mary.

(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

The Mother of Jesus followed Him to the foot of the Cross and she entered into the depths of His Passion as no other human person has mystically or in practice experienced it. St. Maximilian, in his living from the Love of God and in embracing his suffering and death for another man, so too entered that mystery of victorious death.

The Immaculata united her heart to her Son's sacrifices, crushed the head of the Serpent and his legacy—sin and death. St. Maximilian so too by his martyrdom crushed the head of the serpent-inspired hatred and the atmosphere of hell in the fiendish place called Auschwitz—the temple of doom surmounted by the hellish mantra: "Work makes you free." St. Kolbe proclaimed the opposite—"Christ's Love makes you free."

The Immaculata prophesied that "all nations would call her blessed." St. Maximilian died in faith, hope and charity, trusting in His Promises and her intercession. All generations call him blessed.

I find these parallels helpful in remembering not only the deeper meaning of St. Maximilian's martyrdom but in assisting all of us Knights, her Knights, to commit ourselves ever more deeply to our Consecration—to be hers ever more fully.

Why? That she might fashion us into a replica of the perfect God-Man, Jesus.

Long live Christ the King!

Immaculata, intercede for us!

St. Maximilian, Martyr of Charity, pray for us!

As always, until next month, "Arise, let us be on our way."

John W. Galten
MI National President



As we observe this special year dedicated to St. Joseph, we are encouraged to imitate his unconditional fidelity to God and to ask his powerful intercession. The following prayer might be useful:

Joseph, strong and gentle saint,
dear to God and His faithful shadow,
remember me in all
my spiritual and material needs.
Be my advocate before the Father.
To you I bring my heart and soul
and all my longings.

Sanctify them with your burning faith,
your unfaltering hope, and with that great,
self-sacrificing love that was the secret of
your hidden sanctity.

Christ was your peace: give Him to my
heart, then by His light I will see the way
that I must walk to stay with Him.

Give me the courage not to turn back
because of darkness, sorrow, or sufferings.
Teach me the joy of loving God's Will, and
help me to live, as you have done, within its
calm and peaceful depths.
Amen.



Daily Holy Mass

will be offered throughout 2021 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

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

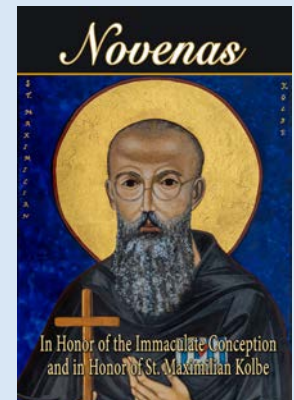
This beautiful 56-page booklet may be used individually or as a group activity (in a home or parish setting, for example), or as a series of classes led by a facilitator, or during a day of preparation for MI consecration to Our Lady. If you can offer a series of meetings, you can read each chapter with 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. **The Path to Total Consecration** offers you an effective tool for making that possible!

Now available in audio book form.

The suggested donation for multiple copies of the booklet is \$1.00/ea. plus shipping; for a single copy, the suggested donation is \$3.75 shipping included.

New! Order Today!



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



Praying for the Shepherds

This homily for the XVI Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B * by Fr. William Miller, MI member, may inspire our response even in challenging times.

“The Lord is my Shepherd: there is nothing I shall want.” This reassuring truth sometimes gets confused because we have lost the original meaning of the word “want” which was basically “need” as in “to be in want” meant to lack the necessities of life. Our materialistic and consumer driven society has trained us to want things that we do not really need, creating an artificial dissatisfaction that blinds us to how blessed we really are.

I recently came across a valuable lesson that a Catholic writer learned from overhearing a mom in a grocery store tell her child: “Not everything you want is good for you.” Now there is a line worth remembering and pondering: not everything I want is good for me. And so it’s possible that not everything that I pray for is good for me, even though it’s not a bad thing I am asking for. Trust and confidence are needed in the Lord our Shepherd who is also our justice and our peace—that He loves us enough to not give us everything we want. For He certainly knows what is good for each one of us and He wants only our good, in the here and now and forever.

In today’s Gospel we see how our Good Shepherd let go of a good plan—to rest awhile with His disciples—for the sake of a greater good, to shepherd those who flocked to Him. Moved with pity for these sheep without a shepherd, our Lord began to teach them many things. In this He showed our need to be taught and hopefully that we want to learn. This passage also highlights the solemn duty to teach on the part of those who are shepherds in His Church, in particular bishops and priests.

We have a duty to pray for these shepherds to become more and more like the Good Shepherd. Pray especially for those priests or bishops that you may not like or have some difficulty with. It could be just a personality clash but it also could be a more serious difference over some policies or practices of theirs. It could be a clergyman near or far because we hear about many things from all over the Church throughout the world.

It is okay to have questions and to disagree but there is a Christian way to do it. First of all, give the benefit of the doubt when it comes to motives. Presume good faith rather than bad motives as much as possible. Mother Angelica used to say that we get ourselves into the most trouble by presuming to know other people’s motives—but we don’t!

What you cannot agree with, then disagree with charity and respect. This is a practical case of “do unto others what you would have them do unto you.” What also applies here is: “If you are angry let it be without sin,” as St. Paul wrote to the Ephesians.

I am reminded of the Exodus as recorded in the Book of Numbers that “with their patience worn out by the journey, the people complained against God and against Moses.” Who hasn’t been there? Maybe that is where you are right now. On our journey with the Church, the People of God, we can lose patience, get fed up, ticked off and irritated. That is when we need to be careful about complaining, particularly how, where and with whom we vent. This is especially true if you are on social media. Again, there is room for healthy disagreements but there is a big difference between challenging something and attacking someone. Don’t feed “attack mode” and don’t feed into it. This applies to the dynamics going on in our country, in our world, in our Church and in our families.

This is no time to be sheepish but we must also not lower ourselves to be like wolves who are not satisfied until their prey is torn to shreds. Be informed and be engaged. Remember that all our battles are ultimately spiritual ones. Spiritual battles call for spiritual tactics that are tried and true. When Padre Pio would say: “Bring me my weapon,” he was talking about his Rosary! There is good reason for praying daily – Saint Michael the Archangel defend us in battle...

When so many things seem wrong or unjust, keep your gaze on “the Lord our justice.”

When you are unsettled, come to Jesus “for He is our peace.”

When you feel pulled apart by the divisions around us, cling to the One who “broke down the dividing wall of enmity” through His flesh and blood that was torn, pierced and poured out for us.

When you are frightened or dismayed, thank our merciful Savior for His promise that the gates of Hell shall not prevail, and that He will be with us always.

“The Lord is my Shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.”

Stay with that.

Fr. William Miller

* 1st Reading: Jeremiah 23:1-6

Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 23:1-3, 3-4, 5, 6

2nd Reading: Ephesians 2:13-18

Gospel: Mark 6:30-34



St. Maximilian, Champion of Friendship

Recently I read a fascinating book by Mike Aquilina, *Friendship and the Fathers – How the Early Church Evangelized*. In his introduction, the author shares how the book came about in light of studies that maintained that in the first three centuries of Christian history the Church grew at a steady rate of forty percent per decade. He argues that, in a time where there were no institutional programs or strategic evangelization plans, Christians shared the Faith and converted the world simply by befriending their next-door neighbors and persevering in friendship.

This Christian revolution started of course with Jesus Himself. Our God chose to become incarnate in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary for our salvation, to become our brother and to call us His friends (cf. Jn 15:15). Aquilina goes on to propose that, if the Almighty and Most Holy God—who has no equal—has befriended us to invite us into His Divine life, we should have no qualms in engaging in genuine friendship with everyone to share the greatest gift received: our Faith.

A collection of brilliant texts from the Fathers illustrates how saints of the caliber of Ambrose, Augustine and John Chrysostom experienced and

valued friendship in their lives and ministry.

As I progressed in reading, I could not help but think of St. Maximilian, and recall how he practiced Christian friendship throughout his life, even unto death: “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends” (Jn 15:13). This could very well be the topic for a book on St. Maximilian, but let us bring to mind just a few examples as we approach his feast day.

When his superior asked him to disclose how the Militia of the Immaculata started, he related the facts with simplicity. He recalled how, during the summer vacation outside Rome, for the first time he shared the idea of starting a Marian association with his Franciscan confreres, the same band of “friends in the Immaculata” with whom he eventually began the MI on October 16, 1917 (cf. KW 1278).

Upon his return to Poland in 1919, during a highly motivational talk he gave to launch the MI, he stated, “*Even if a whole army of bitterest enemies were to plot against us on one side, we will also find true friends on the other, joined to us with sincere love in the unity of a common ideal. They will comfort*

us in sadness and come to our rescue when we fall, so that we never drop our guard but fight on with tenacity and firmness unto death, trusting only in God through the Immaculata” (KW 1248).

As MI membership expanded, St. Maximilian emphasized that love for one’s neighbors is one of the most effective spiritual weapons the MI employs in its mission for the conversion and sanctification of souls. After listing the other means, he wrote, “*Finally, love for one’s neighbor. Loving one’s neighbor not because he is ‘nice,’ worthwhile, wealthy, influential, or just because he is grateful. For such would be very petty reasons, unworthy of a male or female Knight of the Immaculata. Genuine love rises above the creature and plunges into God. In Him, for Him and through Him it loves everyone, be they good or bad, friends or foes. It offers a helping hand, full of love to everyone; it prays for all, suffers for all, wishes good to all, wishes happiness to all, because that is God’s Will!*” (KW 1075).

He often reminded the knights of the Immaculata that family, acquaintances, co-workers are to be their first field of action, but Christian friendship is to be extended even beyond these boundaries. A knight “*does not confine his heart only to himself or to his family, his relatives, his neighbors, his friends, his fellow countrymen. Rather, along with them he embraces the whole world, each and every person individually, for all were redeemed by the Blood of Jesus without exception, and all are our brothers and sisters. He desires true happiness for all, enlightenment through the light of faith, purification from sin, a rekindling of the heart through love for God, a love that sets no limits. The happiness of all humanity in God through the Immaculata: there lies his dream*” (KW 1088).

In another article he suggested that “*In order to express their love for the Immaculata, everyone should labor, according to their abilities of in-*”
(continues on pg. 5)

(continued from pg. 4)

tellec, cleverness, strength of will, and zeal, in whatever way possible, so that Rycerz Niepokalanej reaches everywhere, maybe even among non-Catholics, among the Jews, if there is a hope that they can read it. No one should neglect any of their relatives, their friends, the people known in the present as well as those known in the past, both at home and abroad” (KW 1113).

He practiced what he urged others to do, of course. In his introduction to *The Writings of St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe*, Fr. Giuseppe Simbula, OFM Conv., points out that “he expresses a firm, clear and open desire for the conversion of all non-Christians and of the brothers and sisters separated from Catholicism. Yet he exchanges views with them as his equals and above all with the utmost honesty, driven primarily by the concern that such discussion be logically tenable. He does not endorse proselytism at all costs, but advocates resolute and motivated conversion. He knows that conversion is the work of grace, and relies less on the strength of his arguments than on prayer. For his part, he is on terms of heartfelt friendship and cooperation with everyone” (pg. 330).

His abundant correspondence reveals that St. Maximilian enjoyed and cherished many friends, not only among his Franciscan brothers, but also among diocesan clergy and laity. His often-witty letters to Fr. Bronislaw Stryczny, whom he usually addressed by the familiar diminutive “Broniu,” are an enjoyable read.

In his apostolic journeys, he engaged in friendly conversation with everyone, whether Catholics or non-Catholics, as testified by his friendship with the self-proclaimed atheist patients he met during his stay at the sanatorium in Zakopane and with the Protestant pastor Yamaki, one of the most faithful and precious helpers for the Japanese magazine *Kishi* (cf. KW 357; for other

non-Christian collaborators, see KW 1167). Another remarkable example is the friendship he developed with the Japanese Plenipotentiary Minister in Warsaw, who eventually asked to be baptized (cf. KW 530).

Friendship was a treasured feature in his path to holiness and mission. In his 1938 *Spiritual Exercises* resolutions, he wrote: “Jesus wants to be loved... in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. Lead your friends to Him” (KW 984). And in his *Meditations* we find this simple entry: “Friendship, of which God is the bond, is a valuable help in the work of expanding the glory of God” (KW 987).

Soon after the Second World War started, he was arrested along with



other 36 Franciscans. During his internment, he managed to befriend a German officer, Hans Mulzer, who treated the Franciscans with generous kindness (cf. Claude R. Foster, *Mary's Knight*, pp. 607-615). He was in fact a Protestant pastor who had been drafted against his wish. According to the propaganda, the two men were enemies, and were supposed to hate each other, but instead they regarded each other as friends, because they acknowledged their shared primary loyalty to Christ and their ultimate citizenship in Heaven. The Franciscans were released on December 8, perhaps thanks to Mulzer's intervention.

Only two days after his return to Niepokalanów, the friary welcomed 3,500 refugees, among whom about 1,500 Jews. In his book, Foster record-

ed a moving event (cf. *ibid.* pp. 624-626).

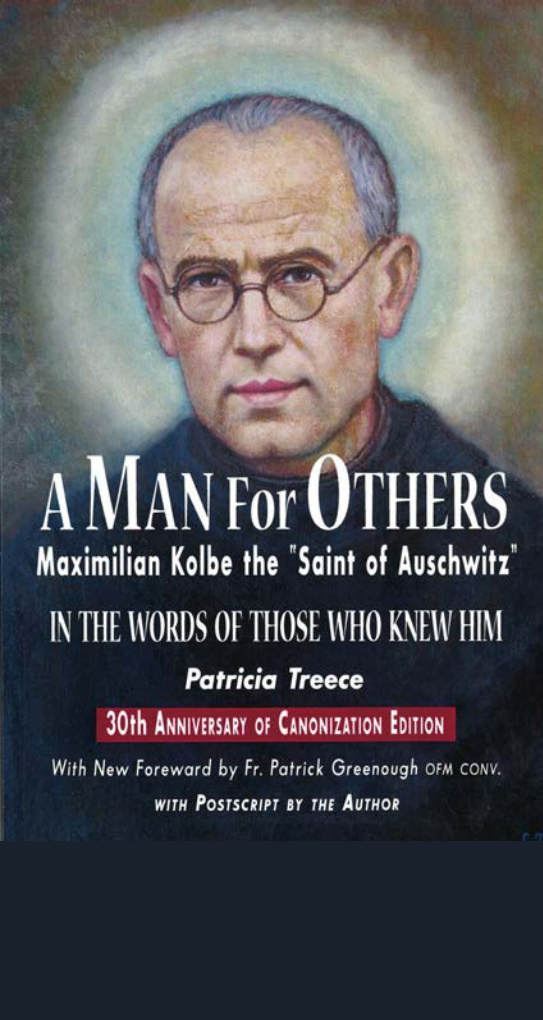
On Christmas Eve, he arranged for carols to be sung and cookies to be distributed to the children. However, he made sure that the Jewish children would have their celebration also, because they had to forego their Hanukkah festival as their lives had been disrupted by the war. When the Jewish refugees eventually left Niepokalanów, they expressed their gratitude to Fr. Maximilian and the friars for the loving hospitality and friendship they had experienced, “We will never forget.”

In the biography *A Man for Others*, Patricia Treece recorded numerous amazing reports by those who knew him during his life and his final imprisonment at the Auschwitz camp. Everyone testified to the authentic, charming, contagious friendliness that St. Maximilian exhibited toward others, toward his fellow prisoners, and even toward their captors. There, in Auschwitz, the luminous authenticity of this Christ-like man shone brightly when he stepped out to offer his life for Francis Gajowniczek. Literally stripped of everything, he became a living icon of the Divine Samaritan, the ultimate Friend of broken mankind.

As we are faced with the challenge to re-evangelize the culture, perhaps we should learn from our dear friend St. Maximilian to appreciate the consoling gift of Christian friendship and to engage in “winning hearts for Christ through the Immaculata” by striving to be genuine, Christ-like friends to the people He brings into our lives.

If this were not enough, let us recall also Our Lady's own example about the power of friendship. Her loving presence and intercession on behalf of her friends at the wedding of Cana resulted in Jesus performing His first miracle, thus revealing His glory and “His disciples began to believe in Him” (Jn 2:11).

Antonella Di Piazza, FKMI



A Man for Others A Study Guide

The year 2021 has been declared by the MI International Council as the Celebration of the 80th Anniversary of St. Maximilian's martyrdom at Auschwitz on August 14, 1941.

The MI-USA has called all members to recognize this heroic act by reading/studying the book *A Man for Others* by Patricia Treece, a beautiful and sensitive introduction to the Saint's life through the words of those who knew him. This book can be ordered through the Marytown Bookstore. MI members may receive a 20% discount when ordering it online with the code MI2021.

As we conclude the book study, we enter the last phase of his life—his martyrdom. We celebrate the 80th Anniversary of this event on August 14, 2021. This luminous act of self-sacrificing heroism for another man's life bisected the most horrific blood-letting century of recorded humanity.

In the darkest place and darkest hour of humanity, through St. Maximilian's martyrdom the light from Heaven pierced the hellish darkness of the death camp. His gift and sacrifice of self vindicated the true dignity of man and revealed again the triumph of the Cross and the Love of Christ. Let us enter into this mystery of love with our Guide, the Immaculata.

To prepare read pp. 213-239.

Chapter 15: The last Battle

1. Kolbe, although as a priest he was singled out for particular brutality, remained serene. What do you think was his secret for this reaction?
2. How did other prisoners react to the process of selection of those to die on August 14th? What was Kolbe's reaction?

Chapter 16: The Tabernacle

1. How did Kolbe conduct himself in the starvation bunker? Why were the SS guards loath to have Kolbe look at them?
2. The end of this chapter records the reactions of the whole camp. What was the result? What is your reaction to our Saint's martyrdom? What effect, if any, will it have on your life?

Epilogue

1. What effect did the story of St. Maximilian have on Karol Wojtyla, the future Pope St. John Paul II?
2. How is the Saint's victory a victory of "faith and love"?
3. What have you learned from the martyred Saint about becoming a Saint?

John W. Galten

See and Share the MI Film!



This important short film beautifully and eloquently captures the essence of the MI: total consecration to the Immaculata in the evangelical spirit of St. Maximilian Kolbe.

"Simply excellent!"
"Inspirational!"

Share the link
<http://militiaoftheimmaculata.com/mi-movie/>
with your family and friends and promote the new film by posting on your favorite social media platform!

*Let's reach
as many people
as possible
to win the world for Christ
through the Immaculata!*



MI

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS



St. Max's Final Hours

The heart of every Catholic institution is the chapel with its tabernacle housing the living God. From there, believers feel powerful, sweet radiations. Auschwitz, too, had a spiritual heart from which radiated agony, despair, and death. This was the prison within the prison, the penal Block called the bunker, where in the basement the SS "interrogated" prisoners with unspeakable cruelty. In one of these cells, made airtight for the occasion, the first gassings would be done on hapless hospital patients, Jews and Russian prisoners of war.

It was here Kolbe entered like a sliver of light into a black pit [after having offered to take the place of Francis Gajowniczek]. He who without prudery was so modest was naked. The SS guard had snarled, "Strip," while they were still outside the Block. No sense in his having to carry their garments up the stairs. Then it was in the door of the innocent-looking brick building and descent into the dark, fetid basement where they were shoved into one of the rank-smelling cells. "You'll dry up like tulips" their jailer sneered as he slammed the door. How do we know? Former SS men do not exactly come forward in droves to testify to their heartlessness. Their victims are dead. There were, however, prisoner secretary-interpreters even in this infamous Block 11. To ensure their silence on what went on there, these men were liquidated from time to time like the later crematorium workers.

By some act of God, the prisoner-interpreter who would watch Kolbe's last days came out of Auschwitz alive. Number 1192, Bruno Borgowiec was a Pole from Silesia, the rich, coal-mining region whose ownership has changed hands among several countries, including Germany and Poland. He worked with the other earliest prisoners building the camp; then, because of his perfect German, he was given the very dangerous job of interpreter in the penal Block. One can only imagine the things he was forced to see, to hear. Suffice it to say Bruno Borgowiec died on the Monday after Easter in 1947, when he was only about forty years old. But not before he had written Niepokalanow on December 27, 1945, with many details of what he had seen and left two notarized, sworn statements, one brief, the other more detailed, of the last days of the man he considered "*a hero and a saint.*"

It is Borgowiec who provides the details of what those who know Kolbe would suspect: *The starvation cell, far from defeating him, would become a tabernacle in this cruellest part of Auschwitz, as if hidden in the heart of the humble Franciscan God had snuck into hell.* In spite of thousands having died in that bunker, he remembered even such isolated details about Father Kolbe's last days "with absolute clarity," he maintained, "because of the absolutely extraordinary behavior with which the noble Father faced death." Borgowiec continues: *The naked victims were in one cell near those [dying in reprisal because] of the two previous escapes. The foul air was horrible, the cell floor cement. There was no furniture whatsoever, except for a bucket for relieving themselves. You could say Father Kolbe's presence in the bunker was necessary for the others. So they could join him, he prayed aloud.*

The cell doors were made of oak. Because of the silence and acoustics, the voice of Father Kolbe in prayer was diffused to the other cells, where it could be heard well. These prisoners joined in. From then on, every day from the cell where these poor souls were joined by the adjoining cells, one heard the recitation of prayers, the Rosary, and hymns. Father Kolbe led while the others responded as a group. As these fervent prayers and hymns resounded in all corners of the bunker, I had the impression I was in a church. Sometimes Father Kolbe's group was so deeply absorbed in prayer that they didn't notice the SS opening the door. It took loud shouts to get their attention. He looked directly and intently into the eyes of those entering the cell. Those eyes of his were always strangely penetrating. The SS men couldn't stand his glance, and used to yell at him, "Schau auf die Erde, nicht auf uns!" (Look at the ground, not at us.) I overheard the SS talking about him among themselves. They were admiring his courage and behavior. One day they sent for the German criminal Bock from the hospital to give the prisoners injections of carbolic acid... When Bock got there, I had to accompany them to the cell. I saw Father Kolbe, with a prayer, himself hold out his arm to the executioner.

I couldn't bear it. With the excuse that I had some work to do, I left. But as soon as the SS and their executioner were gone, I returned. The other naked, begrimed corpses were lying on the floor, their faces betraying signs of their sufferings. Father Kolbe was sitting upright, leaning against the far wall. His body was not dirty like the others, but clean and bright. The head was tilted somewhat to one side. His eyes were open. Serene and pure, his face was radiant. Anybody would have noticed and thought this was some saint.

(Excerpts from *A Man for Others*.
With Marytown
Press permission).





St. Maximilian Writes...

In the following letter, St. Maximilian envisioned the universal outreach of the MI, and its spiritual font (KW 354).

Mugenzai no Sono, July 21, 1931

Beloved and Dear Father!

I am very busy because today it is the 21st already and *Kishi* has not yet been released from the editorial office (from translations). So I am at work, but I would add a few words in reply to your letter.

To be honest, I do not know how we should further the cause of the Immaculata and I seem utterly unable to direct things well. The best evidence of that lies in recent events.¹ So my coming there would bring no help at all. The Immaculata alone ought to rule everywhere, because this is more and more clearly her own work. Here, during her feasts, we even experience special protection.

Shall I confide in you?...

For a long time now I have been dreaming of a little magazine for children, entitled *Rycerzyk Niepokalanej*. Even the devil is very interested in children. And our printing presses may be waiting precisely for that...² Also, I think the time has come for a string of [editions of the] *Knight* in foreign languages, at least by the New Year (from December with a complimentary issue), until individual publishing houses manage to establish a Niepokalanow in their respective nations. So for instance: in English, French, Spanish, Italian,³ German, and so on.

As for the acceptance of new candidates, I am of the opinion that we do not have the right to limit the number of vocations for service to the Immaculata. If a call is genuine, then she is doing the calling, therefore we have

a duty to accept it. But if it is untrue, then—even if the scarcity of vocations were great—we should not allow one to cross the threshold of the friary. It seems to me we have even the duty to awaken, by any means, all dormant vocations and to help them consecrate themselves to the Immaculata. After all, that is the best conquering of souls for the Immaculata. But what will they do? Some time ago I repeated that the situation of the Polish Niepokalanow will be normal when there are 100 fathers and 700 brothers. And even in this case, everyone will be *swamped with work*.

Speaking of brothers, imagine how many are needed to fully “exploit” every letter we receive, awakening, developing, and perfecting noble aspirations, especially in view of winning the entire world and every single soul to the Immaculata; how many to reach out, two by two, to pagan readers and non-readers, to disseminate and further the cause of the Immaculata; how many to print the *Knight* in more and more new languages; how many to set out toward pagan nations and therein be consumed for the sake of the Immaculata (those who pursue something for themselves and advance any kind of personal reservation in the service to the Immaculata are unsuitable for Niepokalanow). Also, at times I dreamt how lovely and profitable it would be if, in the chapel at Niepokalanow, Jesus were now and again exposed in the monstrance day and night, and the brothers would be enough to worship Him continuously in shifts of two or more.⁴

(continues on pg. 9)

fr Maximilianus M. Kolbe

(continued from pg. 8)

How many blessings would worshipers obtain for each copy of *Rycerz* printed currently or in years past (but not entirely destroyed), both for the one printed in Polish for Poles living in Poland and all over the earth, and also for the one printed in Japanese or other languages. After all, we need so many graces for development, for every soul consecrated to the Immaculata or that is meant to belong to her both in Niepokalanow and in the MI... Before my eyes I have the benediction of the sick with the Most Blessed Sacrament in the cave of the Immaculata at Lourdes. But that is a dream!

What is more, Niepokalanow must form and educate in its spirit future workers in the most varied "trades," to be sent out later, well prepared in every respect, to win over the world for her, in the Niepokalanows that are being established. But I am still babbling on, and there is so much to do here. Perhaps, the Immaculata also wants me to write, because the Most Rev. Fr. Provincial [Kornel Czupryk] told me as much in a letter: so I am writing.

As for the new brothers, in the meantime the Most Rev. Fr. Provincial wrote to me to point out those who are needed here, and they will come. So

I mentioned the brothers Efrem, Łukasz, Kasjan, and Adam, considering Br. Efrem as executive and editorial secretary (he knows some Latin and German, has secretarial experience, knows how to take photographs, and so on), Br. Łukasz as administrator and promoter (he knows English, a bit of French, and has experience in administration). I thought of Br. Kasjan so that he could prevent "Brother Ass" from dying too soon (our Health Department), and thereby make our self-sacrifice more complete. I reckoned also on Br. Adam's brawn. Being sent here is clearly no privilege, since everyone in Niepokalanow must be willing to do whatever he is told.

If, however, someone were to put forward any "buts," then it would be a waste of money to buy him a ticket.

Best wishes for the "National Center of the MI": may the Immaculata direct it!

Even we here, as we burn and sweat in the sun, dream of a sort of bathroom, but for the moment it is still difficult, at least until we can get water from the stones.

The small spring is far away and to have water from the main supply network would cost us 130 yen, which is \$65. So it is still too difficult.

We could in fact use a small statue, even if only 1 meter tall, because the pillar we have has been sitting there empty since the start of the construction of the house.

It must be a weatherproof statue, because it will be placed in front of the friary.

We urge a prayer that the Immaculata may direct everyone and everything.

I ask for a prayer.

Unworthy,

Br. Maximilian M. Kolbe

1 On the troubles with Br. Zygmunt Krol and Fr. Metody Rejentowicz, see KW 350.

2 The monthly magazine for children *Rycerzyk Niepokalaney* (*Little Knight of the Immaculata*) began publication in May 1933.

3 *Il Cavaliere dell'Immacolata* began publication on February 11, 1932, in Padua as the *Foglietto della Pia Unione Primaria Milizia di Maria Immacolata per i Centri del Veneto* (Newsletter of the Pious Union Primary Militia of Mary Immaculate for the Centers of the Veneto), by Fr. Antonio Vivoda, OFM Conv. The following year, on the same date, *La Milizia di Maria Immacolata* came out in Assisi as the Official Bulletin of the MI in Italy. In 1935, the two magazines were merged in *Il Cavaliere dell'Immacolata*, which continues to be published by the MI National Center.

4 Perpetual adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament (without solemn exposition of the Blessed Sacrament) was at first spontaneous and sporadic. It was introduced officially on December 26, 1939.





When an Oil Change Turns into an Amusing Mission Adventure...

by Frances Ostrander, MI Member

I had an appointment at the Kia dealership at 9:15 on a Wednesday morning to get an oil change. I expected to be done by 10:15 at the latest. When I arrived, they said I needed the 45,000 mile CK pulse, so it went from a \$45 to \$350 bill and from a 45 minute job to a four hour job. As my plans are not God's Plans, I went in to sit at a table and watch TV as they no longer gave snacks. I was disappointed as I had just come from Mass and had not eaten. I did have, however, my Miraculous Medals and Divine Mercy cards with me. I never expected what happened next. I always give one of each to anyone I speak to but before I ever got to the table I handed as many as every person wanted. It was amazing! Almost every person wanted one for someone else.

Oh... let me explain. When I give the Medal and card to anyone, I start by saying, "You do not have to be Catholic for this, all you need to know is 'Jesus I Trust in You!'" Then I give the Miraculous Medal and say, "This is Jesus' Mother. The rays from her fingertips are the graces and blessings God has for every one of us so we ask her to pray with us and for us. She cannot do anything except what is beneficial to your soul and the souls for whom you pray. Our Lady then runs to Jesus and says, Son, Fran needs... (Enter your name and fill in the blank). Jesus in reply says, Mom I know; he/she asked me. But Our Blessed Mother says: I know, dear Son, but do it for me!" Then I add a comma and say NOW! I tell them that part is from me, not the Church. Well, I had about forty Divine Mercy cards on me and more than 100 Miraculous Medals. Within one hour all the cards were gone. So I ran and asked if I could get to my car as I needed more cards. They had not even started on it, so I went to the car got another fifty or so cards and more Mi-

raculous Medals and God let me find a cookie and brownie a friend had given me two days before (so I had something to eat). God is so cool. I went back in, and again God was pointing out people who needed me to talk to them.

I want to share two stories in particular. I was sitting down for a moment and there were two women sitting at the table across from me. One looked so worried and sad. Suddenly, the sad woman moved from the table and I saw she was in a wheelchair, so I jumped up, went over and said, "I am sorry to bother you but you looked upset. Would you like a picture of Jesus?" She blankly looked at me, but the woman she was with smiled and said, "I used to be Catholic. So yes, we would like one." After giving it to them, I asked if the lady in the chair wanted to share what was troubling her so I could pray for her. She declined. I thought she may have been hurt and that was why she was in the chair. She did say she had a birth defect and was always in the chair since childhood. She did not share her current problem but her friend asked for two more cards and Medals. Went back to my car to pick up more cards. Earlier I had left at the table a Rosary pamphlet and a Divine Mercy Novena folder for them and when I got back, they were gone. I asked at the desk where the woman in the wheelchair was and they said that she was probably in the back with a salesman.

On the way, I passed a mom with a small son and infant daughter. I had to stop while I was giving them to the mom and noticed that a man was staring at us, so when I was done I walked over and told him I felt he might want one also. He asked if it was a game as it had cards! I smiled and explained what it was. He was not religious, he said, but his brother was Catholic and he kept asking me questions. It

was great. His car was done and he had to go. I went on looking for the two women, but they were gone already. Two salesmen were there, though, so they got Medals and cards. They were Catholic but had not been back to Mass since before the pandemic. I know I raised my voice a bit and said "Oh! You have to go back. You cannot live without the Eucharist!" The man's eyes were all teared up. His wife asked me to pray for their daughter. I gave them another Medal and card for her. The salesman came back with the finance man and they sat and listened to what I was saying... it was *awesome!* I went through all the Divine Mercy cards again so it was close to ninety I gave away. When I realized it was after 2:00 pm I went to see if my car was ready. It had been ready but the man did not want to disturb me as he saw I had been talking.

Now here comes God at His best. I had forgotten that my credit card had been cancelled due to a fraud charge and I did not have the new one, so I gave the man my Shell card. I truly thought it was a MasterCard, but only used it for gas. The card was rejected twice so we went to the desk. I said I had no \$350 cash on me and I had no checks, but I could have my bank wire the money. They said that was not an option. They finally offered to have one of their employees, a man I first met at my arrival, drive me to a bank branch close by. Needless to say, I was not happy and kept saying I was sorry to everyone. I was on the phone with Shell and it turned out my card was only for gas. I was saying to the man on the phone how they had inconvenienced me but now the man who had to drive me. He leaned over and said into the phone, "No worries here. I am fine." He kept telling me everything would be ok. When we got back to the lot, he stopped and told me he was married with seven children, three of whom had embraced a homosexual lifestyle. He was ill with several problems and would have had to stop working, but his boss begged him to stay as a greeter because when he was around everyone was happy. He said, "I had to make a decision and I chose to be happy." He never lets things upset him. Then he said that when I gave him the Divine Mercy card and the Miraculous Medal earlier in the morning, he felt God was blessing him through me.

All I can say is it was a humbling and a real eye-opener for me. I vowed never to let anything or anyone steal my joy again. I can do everything through Him who strengthens me!!!

Reflection on August MI Intention

O Immaculata, please intercede that

St. Maximilian's love and surrender may be for every MI member an incentive to a total and unconditional dedication to you.

"Behold your Mother" (Jn 19:27)

Let us picture that terrible moment, as the SS officer pointed his finger and said, "You will go to die." At that very moment, someone stepped out and said, "I wish to die in his place." It is an unforgettable story that left everyone speechless. St. Maximilian Kolbe took the place of another prisoner and went to the starvation bunker, thus turning a place of death into a resurrection site by his example of heroic charity. This year we commemorate the 80th anniversary of this event. However, his entire life had been an act of self-giving, because he had discovered that eternal life is the ultimate purpose of every human person. He never forgot that "we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed" (1 Jn 3:2).

In 1940 Fr. Kolbe wrote a letter to the German officers who had forbidden the publication of the MI newspaper and magazine and spelled out the essence of his ideal: *"The Most Holy Virgin Mary is not a fairy tale or a legend, but a living being who loves each one of us. Yet, she is not sufficiently known, and her love is not reciprocated enough. Accordingly, it is necessary to announce her loving work everywhere, and that can be achieved quite well by means of the magazine. Finally, let me emphasize that I do not feel hatred for anyone on this earth. The substance of my ideal is found in the enclosed printed material. What is there is mine: I want to work for that ideal always, to suffer and possibly give up my own life in sacrifice. What instead is against that ideal is not mine, but comes from outside and therefore, according to my ability, I have fought it, I am fighting it, and will fight it forever"* (KW 884).

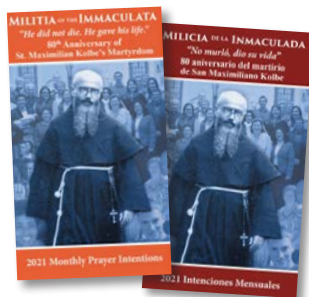
In 1924 he had stated that *"The purpose of the Militia of the Immaculata is to conquer the whole world, all hearts and each*

person individually, for the Queen, not only of Heaven, but also of the Earth. To give true happiness to those poor unfortunates who seek it in the ephemeral pleasures of this world, this is our aim" (KW 97).

St. Maximilian strove to achieve this evangelical goal as the Holy Spirit led him to acknowledge the Immaculata as the Mother given to each of us by Jesus Himself from the Cross. St. Kolbe became another "beloved disciple," welcoming Jesus' words, "Behold your Mother," and staying close to her throughout his whole life. He treasured Jesus' legacy and walked the path of total self-giving always in union with her. Thus, against all odds, the Militia of the Immaculata persevered in winning hearts for the Immaculata, for the greatest glory of God.

It is a wonderful path and we have been called to embrace it. We too are called to stand at the foot of the Cross, to contemplate the ultimate sacrifice of our Savior and to welcome His Mother. Looking at Him and heeding His Voice, we can only turn to Our Lady and say, "Yes, I am truly your child and I want to live with you and carry out Jesus' will for the salvation of all. Take care of me and make me another Christ in the world so as to draw all people to Him!"

Fr. Sebastiano B. Quaglio, OFM Conv.



2021 MI Intentions leaflets are available in English and Spanish.

Request them from the MI National Office.

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.

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

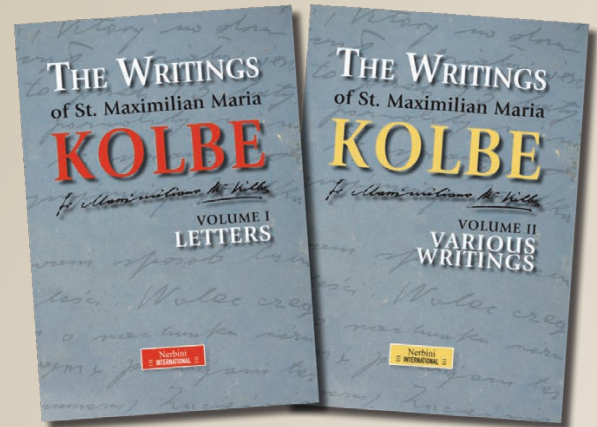
331-223-5564 or via email: MINational@MissionImmaculata.com

The Writings of St. Maximilian Kolbe

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

The Definitive English Edition!

Saint Maximilian Kolbe died at Auschwitz Concentration Camp as a “Martyr of Charity” in 1941. 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 those writings collected together in a two-volume compendium published by Nerbini International.



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*