

THE KNIGHT OF THE *Immaculata*

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THE WORD TOOK OUR NATURE FROM MARY

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NEW BEGINNINGS

by Ronald L. Rodrigues, MI National President



Dear Knights of the Immaculata, Maria! With the close of the season and the passing of another year, another memory is written in our minds. The bitter cold is upon us. Some love the winter cold and some of us enjoy the warmth of the summer. We are all different and at the same time very much alike. We are all God's children, and we are all made in His likeness. If we look deep within our hearts, we will find that desire to seek our Father. Is there a better time than the start of a new year to change our lives or the lives of others? As the old year passes, it brings about the celebration of the coming of Christ, a celebration of His birth, and a remembrance of our wait for His second coming. The Christmas season, which lasts until the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, can be the most joyful time of the year, a time of celebration and awe as we open our hearts and minds to the love and ways of our Savior, Jesus Christ. He leads us into the new year with hope and love in our hearts.

The new year brings about the desire for resolutions and changes in our lives. Some will diet to lose weight, some will try to exercise more, and some with addictions may try to stop using alcohol or drugs. Everyone has something that needs to be changed or improved upon. Everyone at some point looks at their past and current path into the future and asks: What have I done? And, where am

I going? It may be time to examine our conscience and look at the good and bad in our lives. Maybe it's time to look in the mirror of our hearts. What do we see? Are we on the right path? The path to holiness or the path of darkness? Or we may think about the bigger question: Why am I here? What is my purpose? Is it to make money, to be wealthy? To be someone important? To leave a legacy? To raise a family?

We are all made for something great: we are all made for God. Everyone has that inner voice that calls us to our Maker and Father, the One who created us in His image out of love for us. We are pilgrims on this earth in search of something. Our time on earth is

not long, but something greater awaits us. As the new year begins, it may be time to reexamine ourselves and our path in life. We don't have to do it alone. Out of His love, the Father has given us a helper, a Mother. He knew we all needed a Mother who would provide the love that only a mother could give her children.

God created Mary, out of His love. We are all created out of the love of the Father, but Mary was created a little more special. She was His perfect Immaculate conception. Mary confirmed she is the Immaculate Conception at Lourdes to Saint Bernadette, on March 25, 1858, confirming what Pope Pius IX had declared as a Dogma on December 8, 1854. With Mary's Yes at the Annunciation, she gave herself, her free will, totally to God. Everything Mary does is directed to God, to her Son Jesus. When we consecrate ourselves to Mary, we give ourselves fully to her. Since Mary is consecrated to God and everything she does is for Him, she takes everything we give her and loves Jesus with our hearts. If we are consecrated to Mary and let her lead us, she will lead us directly to her Son. A Mother always wants what is best for her children. Mary is our Mother and wants what is best for us. She knows that the best for us is Jesus. The closer we are to Mary the closer we become to Jesus. "If anyone does not wish to have Mary Immaculate for his Mother, he will not have Christ for his Brother." (St. Maximilian Kolbe)

(Continues on pg. 12)

Daily Holy Mass

will be offered throughout 2024 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

THE WORD TOOK OUR NATURE FROM MARY

THE FATHERS OF THE CHURCH ON THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

The Word took to Himself the sons of Abraham, says the Apostle, and so had to be like His brothers in all things.

He had then to take a body like ours. This explains the fact of Mary's presence: she is to provide Him with a body of His own, to be offered for our sake. Scripture records her giving birth, and says: "She wrapped Him in swaddling clothes." Her breasts, which fed Him, were called blessed. Sacrifice was offered because the child was her firstborn. Gabriel used careful and prudent language when he announced His birth. He did not speak of "what will be born in you" to avoid the impression that a body would be introduced into her womb from outside; he spoke of "what will be born from you," so that we might know by faith that her child originated within her and from her. By taking our nature and offering it in sacrifice, the Word was to destroy it completely and then invest it with His own nature,

and so prompt the Apostle to say: "This corruptible body must put on incorruption; this mortal body must put on immortality."

This was not done in outward show only, as some have imagined. This is not so. Our Savior truly became man, and from this has followed the salvation of man as a whole. Our salvation is in no way fictitious, nor does it apply only to the body. The salvation of the whole man, that is, of soul and body, has really been achieved in the Word Himself.

What was born of Mary was therefore human by nature, in accordance with the inspired Scriptures, and the body of the Lord was a true body: It was a true body because it was the same as ours. Mary, you see, is our sister, for we are all born from Adam.

The words of St. John, the Word was made flesh, bear the same meaning, as we may see from a similar turn of phrase in St. Paul: "Christ was made a curse for our sake." Man's body has acquired

something great through its communion and union with the Word. From being mortal it has been made immortal; though it was a living body it has become a spiritual one; though it was made from the earth it has passed through the gates of heaven. Even when the Word takes a body from Mary, the Trinity remains a Trinity, with neither increase nor decrease. It is for ever perfect. In the Trinity we acknowledge one Godhead, and thus one God, the Father of the Word, is proclaimed in the Church.

(From a letter by Saint Athanasius, bishop [*Epist. ad Epictetum*, 5-9: PG 26, 1058, 1062-1066])

St. Irenaeus on his part stated:

"The Virgin Mary, being obedient to his word, received from an angel the glad tidings that she would bear God" (*Against Heresies*, 5:19:1 [A.D. 189]).

The great champion of Mary's divine Motherhood, St. Cyril of Alexandria, affirmed:

"I have been amazed that some



“O pure and holy Virgin, how can I find words to praise your beauty? The highest heavens cannot contain God whom you carried in your womb.”

are utterly in doubt as to whether or not the holy Virgin is able to be called the Mother of God. For if our Lord Jesus Christ is God, how should the holy Virgin who bore Him not be the Mother of God?" (*Letter to the Monks of Egypt 1* [A.D. 427]).

"This expression, however, 'the Word was made flesh' [John 1:14], can mean nothing else but that He partook of flesh and blood like to us; He made our body His own, and came forth man from a woman, not casting off His existence as God, or His generation of God the Father, but even in taking to Himself flesh remaining what He was. This the declaration of the correct faith proclaims everywhere. This was the sentiment of the holy Fathers; therefore they ventured to call the holy Virgin 'the Mother of God,' not as if the nature of the Word or His divinity had its beginning from the holy Virgin, but because of her was born that holy body with a rational soul, to which the Word, being personally united, is said to be born according to the flesh" (*First Letter to Nestorius* [A.D. 430]).

"And since the holy Virgin corporeally brought forth God made one with flesh according to nature, for this reason we also call her Mother of God, not as if the nature of the Word had the beginning of its existence from the flesh" (*Third Letter to Nestorius* [A.D. 430]).

"If anyone will not confess that the Emmanuel is very God, and that therefore the holy Virgin is the Mother of God, inasmuch as in the flesh she bore the Word of God made flesh [John 1:14]: let him be anathema" (ibid.).

At the Council of Ephesus, the Fathers concluded:

MARY IS THE MOTHER OF GOD

Catechism of the Catholic Church

Called in the Gospels "the mother of Jesus," Mary is acclaimed by Elizabeth, at the prompting of the Spirit and even before the birth of her son, as "the mother of my Lord." In fact, the One whom she conceived as man by the Holy Spirit, who truly became her Son according to the flesh, was none other than the Father's eternal Son, the second person of the Holy Trinity. Hence the Church confesses that Mary is truly "Mother of God" (Theotokos). (495)

"We confess, then, our Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, perfect God and perfect man, of a rational soul and a body, begotten before all ages from the Father in His Godhead, the same in the last days, for us and for our salvation, born of Mary the Virgin according to His humanity, one and the same consubstantial with the Father in Godhead and consubstantial with us in humanity, for a union of two natures took place. Therefore we confess one Christ, one Son, one Lord. According to this understanding of the unconfused union, **we confess the holy Virgin to be the Mother of God** because God the Word took flesh and became man and from His very conception united to Himself the temple He took from her" (*Formula of Union* [A.D. 431]).

“
We confess the holy
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VATICAN NEWS

At the end of the Angelus on Friday, December 8, 2023, Pope Francis announced that the **first World Day of Children** will take place in May 2024. The initiative is being promoted by the Dicastery for Culture and Education.

For more information, visit the website of the Dicastery for Culture and Education.

COME, LET US ADORE HIM

A EUCHARISTIC PRAYER COMPANION

This Eucharistic Prayer Companion is designed to help you spend thirty minutes to an hour in meditation and silent prayer with Jesus during Eucharistic adoration. Even if you cannot be physically present in a church or adoration chapel with the Blessed Sacrament, you can unite yourself spiritually to Jesus in the Eucharist as you spend this time in prayer.

THE GRACE I SEEK:
to offer the Lord the treasures of my heart.

IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. AMEN. Pause for a few moments, and allow yourself to become aware of Jesus' gift of Himself in the Eucharist. Realize that, at this very moment, the Lord of Life is gazing upon you with great love. Allow yourself to receive His loving gaze. You are His beloved child. Rest in His loving gaze. Thank Jesus for the gift of Himself in the Eucharist.

ASK FOR THE GRACE:
Jesus, help me to give to You gifts

from my heart.

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION —
Read slowly, 3–4 times. Allow the words of Scripture to wash over your mind and heart. Allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you through this passage.

“Then you shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow, for the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you, the wealth of nations shall be brought to you.” (Isaiah 60:5)

FOR REFLECTION —
Allow yourself to sit with these

questions for a while, being attentive to how the Lord is speaking in your heart. In the busyness of our daily lives, it is easy to miss the abundance of love the Lord is pouring into our hearts. Over the last week or two, can you think of an instance when the Lord was giving you a true gift, but you were too busy or preoccupied to let your heart “throb and overflow” at the goodness of Jesus? Talk to Him about your experience.

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION —
Read slowly, 3–4 times. Again, allow the words of Scripture to wash over your mind and heart. Let the Holy Spirit speak to you in a personal way through this passage.

“They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated them-

selves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.” (Matthew 2:10–11)

FOR REFLECTION —
When we begin to see the gifts that Jesus is giving to us throughout the day, our natural response is to give back all we have to Him in joy, and the way we give to Jesus is often by giving to others. Think about all of the gifts and talents the Lord has given to you. Are there any that you have not cultivated? What is the reason for this? Ask the Lord to help you identify any of the fears holding you back. Present them to Him in simplicity, asking for the courage to overcome them. It might be helpful to journal about them, too! Remain in silence with the Lord. Allow Him to speak in the silence, in your heart. Receive His presence. If it helps, write down what you sense the Lord communicating to you during this time of prayer.

CLOSING PRAYER —
O God, who on this day revealed your Only Begotten Son to the nations by the guidance of a star, grant in your mercy that we, who know You already by faith, may be brought to behold the beauty of your sublime glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen. (Collect, The Epiphany of the Lord, Mass During the Day)

SUNDAY MASS CONNECTION —
At every Mass, Jesus offers Himself to the Father for us. We can always join our own offerings with Jesus at Mass. This Sunday, offer your desire to cultivate the treasures of your heart to be able to show Jesus' love to those around you.

LOVE IN ACTION —
Look back at the uncultivated talent(s) you identified during the second reflection. Ask the Lord to show you how you can develop

these gifts. Write these steps down; it may also be helpful to ask a friend for support and encouragement! Trust that the Lord will use these efforts to grow His Kingdom. (EucharisticRevival.org)



Eucharistic Revival Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the gift of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who promised to stay with us always, until the end of the age.

Reawaken our wonder at His presence in the Most Holy Eucharist.

May our hearts burn within us as He opens the Scriptures and breaks the Bread.

Give us the eyes of faith to recognize His presence in our brothers and sisters, especially in the face of the poor and the suffering.

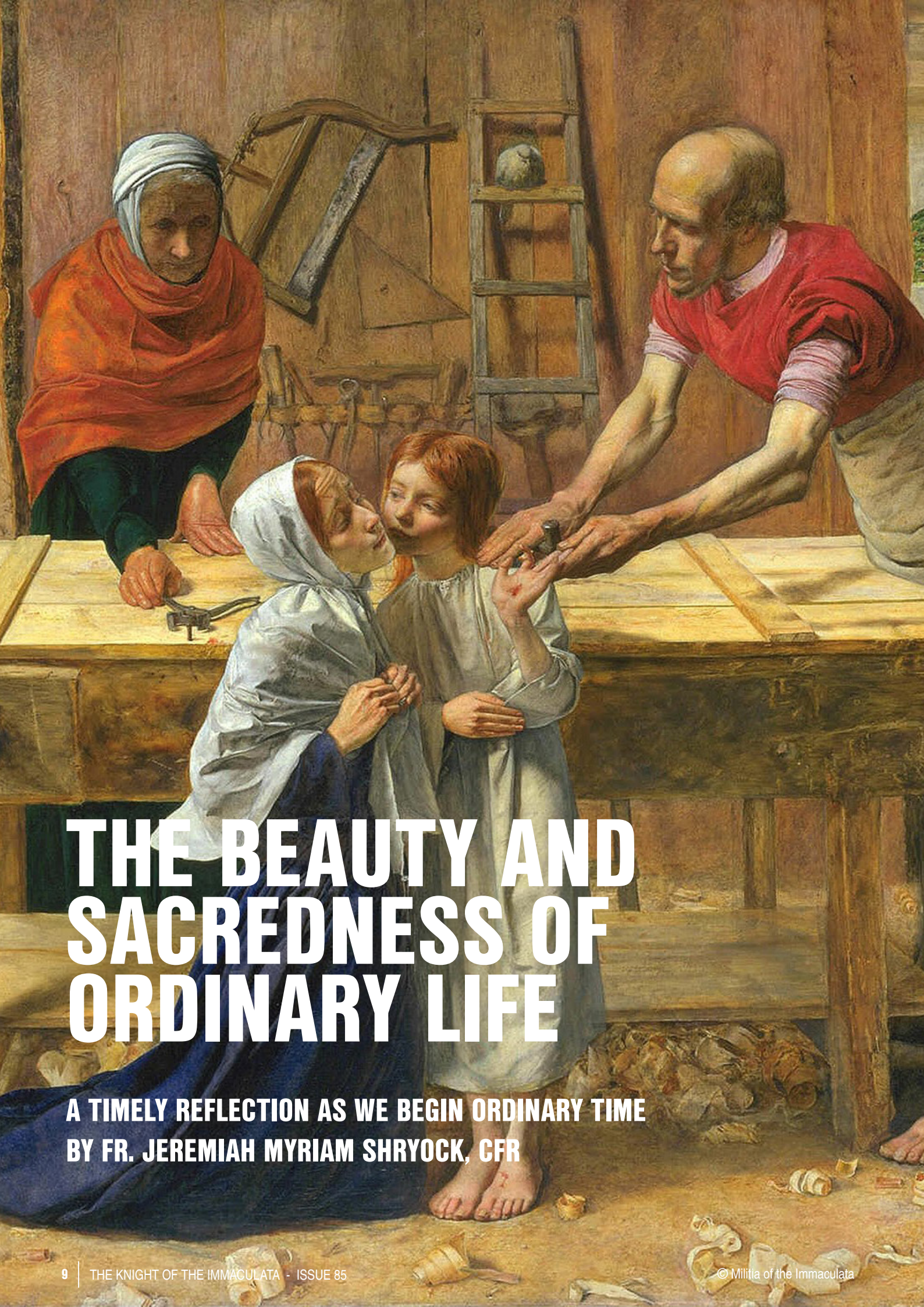
Nourished by the Eucharist, send us forth to walk faithfully as missionary disciples, proclaiming the Gospel to every heart and extending Your kingdom to every land.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

by Most Reverend José H. Gomez
Archbishop of Los Angeles



“
The Epiphany of
the Lord: let us
bring Him gifts
from the heart.”



THE BEAUTY AND SACREDNESS OF ORDINARY LIFE

A TIMELY REFLECTION AS WE BEGIN ORDINARY TIME
BY FR. JEREMIAH MYRIAM SHRYOCK, CFR

Mary's life, up until this point, has been rather full. Angels, her cousin Elizabeth, traveling to Bethlehem, shepherds, Magi, and Herod have all left Mary quite busy, at least exteriorly. Now, as she returns from Egypt to Nazareth a new chapter in her life begins: a chapter where exteriorly, her life will slow down, and she will begin to live ordinary life with St. Joseph and the child Jesus. The Holy Family, at least outwardly, can now begin to live like every other family in first-century Palestine. This ordinary life will be, in fact, how Mary and Jesus will spend most of their life. Many biblical scholars suggest that the Holy Family spent about three years in Egypt, which would make Jesus three or four years old as they returned to Nazareth. His public ministry lasted only three years, and having died at the age of thirty-three, Jesus thus spent about twenty-five years of His life in Nazareth with Mary, living an ordinary life. This, I believe, is extraordinary, and something we must marvel at deeply. God not only enters our world, but He also lives and embraces ordinary human life. There are an infinite number of ways in which God could have revealed Himself to us, and there are also an infinite number of ways in which God could have redeemed us. However, let us not forget that God's revelation of Himself to us, and our redemption, are both two realities in which God did not have to participate. There is no law that would force God to do any of this. Rather, His revelation and our redemption—and we can also include creation in this—are signs of His love and mercy for us, since none of them are necessities that have forced themselves upon God. The prologue of St. John's Gospel, perhaps the most profound text in all of Scripture, captures the extraordinary nature of this truth

“**In Nazareth Mary ate with Jesus, she prayed with Him, laughed with Him, cried, sat, spoke, listened, and walked with Him.**”

in a single verse: *“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us”* (John 1:14). The phrase “dwelt among us” in Greek means that Jesus “tabernacled” or “pitched His tent” among us. God not only reveals Himself but chooses to live among us, and His choice to live among us is a choice to live an ordinary human life. How utterly profound! St. John repeats this truth again in the book of Revelation when he writes, *“Behold, the dwelling of God is with men. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them”* (Revelation 21:3). Considering then the astonishing reality of the Incarnation, and the fact that Mary lived each day in the closest proximity to it, we can ask ourselves, what did intimacy with God look like in Nazareth for Mary? What specifically did Mary do with Jesus in Nazareth? What she did with him is so utterly human, and therefore so utterly profound: in Nazareth Mary ate with Jesus, she prayed with Him, laughed with Him, cried, sat, spoke, listened, and walked with Him. In other words, she lived her entire life with Him; nothing was excluded, and all of this occurred amid ordinary life. So often we tend to divide our life into various categories, and the result is not the integration of our one life but the dividing and compartmentalizing of our life into many others. We speak about our spiritual life, our social life, our work life, and our personal life.

So many lives we live, or so we think. Mary, I believe, did not think about her life the way we do. For her, there was only life. There was no such thing as a spiritual life, an active life, or a contemplative life. There was just life with Jesus! Sometimes that life was very quiet and peaceful, sometimes it was busy and stressful, sometimes it was fun and exciting, and sometimes it was painful and confusing. In the movie *The Passion of the Christ* there is a scene that is forever imprinted on my heart. In this scene, Jesus is building a table and a chair, while His mother is preparing supper. Mary comes outside to view her Son's work and tells Him that supper is ready. However, before Jesus can come inside, He must wash His hands and take off His work vest. As Mary brings a bowl of water for Jesus to wash His hands, Jesus sprinkles Mary with water in her face, and gives her a big hug and kiss on the cheek. As Jesus is hugging Mary, a beautiful and tender smile appears on Mary's face. Regardless of how often I have watched this scene, and I have watched it many times, it always brings a tear to my eyes. Why? Because it's the beauty of Nazareth. It's the beauty of ordinary life. It is the beauty that our life can be when it is lived with Jesus and Mary. If an ordinary life is good enough, and not only good enough, but chosen by Jesus and Mary, should it not be good enough for us also? Ordinary life, as we see in Nazareth, is the normal place where we will find God, simply because that is what is most common for us.

(Excerpts from *Mary and the Interior Life* by Jeremiah Myriam Shryock, CFR Copyright 2023 by The Community of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal. Used by permission of Paraclete Press. www.paracletepress.com The book is available at Catholic bookstores everywhere, at ParacletePress.com, and on Amazon.)

Invite Friends to Be
Consecrated to Our Lady!



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

This beautiful 56-page booklet and its **Novenas** companion may be used individually or as a group activity (in a home or parish setting, for example), or as a series of classes led by a facilitator, or during a day of preparation for MI consecration to Our Lady. If you can offer a series of meetings, you can read each chapter with the group and invite the participants to reflect and comment on it. Alternatively, you can invite them to read each chapter beforehand and come together for discussion.

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!

The suggested donation for a copy of both booklets is \$6.00, shipping included.

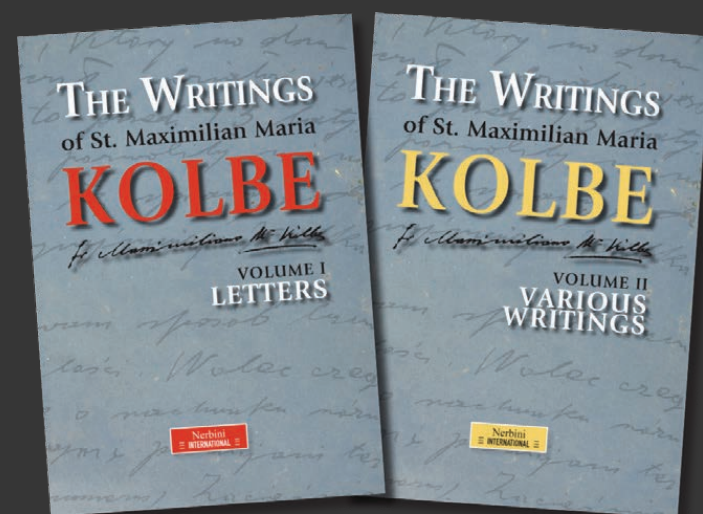
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VOLUME I: **LETTERS** • VOLUME II: **VARIOUS WRITINGS**

The Definitive English Edition!

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



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

— Fr. James McCurry, OFM Conv.

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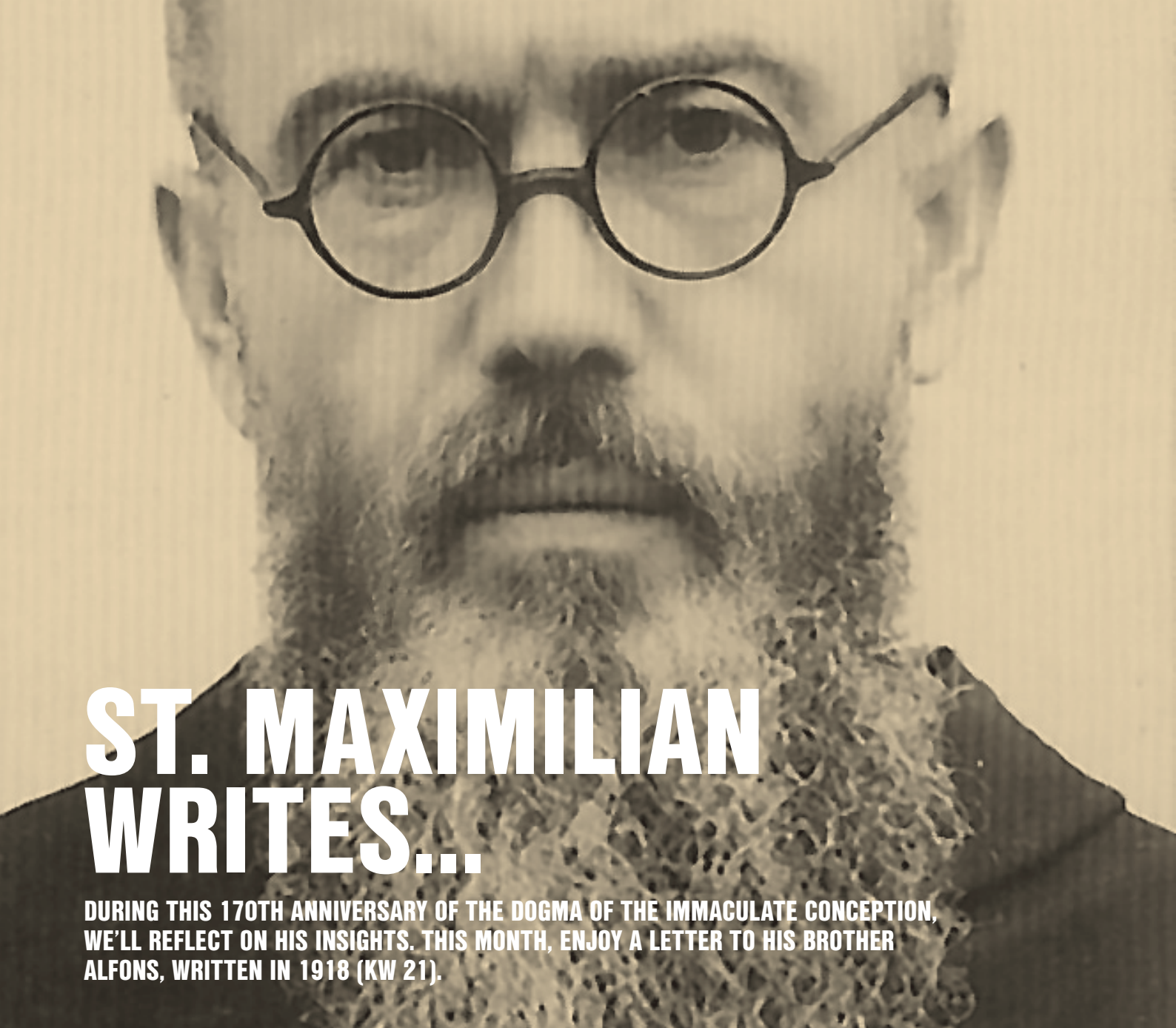
NEW BEGINNINGS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

As we begin the new year and decide on our path through life, remember we are not alone. We have a Mother who loves us. She is always there to help us on our journey. Be sure never to discount the tears and love of our Blessed Mother. May she always guide your heart. Let us put our hopes and dreams on the path that leads us to eternal life. "You are hers: let yourself be led by the Immaculata," St. Maximilian reminds us. At the start of this new year, I pray that all Knights of the Immaculata will find their true path to Jesus through Mary. I pray that we will be united in living our consecration to our Blessed Mother. Let us win the entire world for the Immaculata, and through her, for the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Holy Mary, pray for us.

Ronald Rodrigues
MI National President

"Our purpose is to fulfill God's will, the will of the Immaculata. Other goals are a waste of time."



ST. MAXIMILIAN WRITES...

DURING THIS 170TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DOGMA OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, WE'LL REFLECT ON HIS INSIGHTS. THIS MONTH, ENJOY A LETTER TO HIS BROTHER ALFONS, WRITTEN IN 1918 (KW 21).

Dear Brother Alfons! Until this moment I did not even know what your [religious] name was; I learned it just recently, from the letter that (after three years, during which I had no news) came to me from Mama. May the Lord and the Blessed Virgin Mary bless you always in all things. Mama wrote to me that you took the holy vows two years ago and that in a year you will make your solemn profession. I also

learned from Mama that you have already received the minor orders. Blessed be the Lord for all that He has done in you, and also our Mother Immaculate, through the hands of whom we receive all the graces from Heaven. Offer yourself entirely to her who is our celestial heavenly good Mother, and in this way you can easily overcome all the difficulties and... become a saint, a great saint: this is the only thing that I wish you with all my heart. It can be said that all the

saints are the work of the Blessed Virgin and that special devotion to her is one of their common characteristics. In addition, our Order has the good fortune to be under her particular protection, under the title that she prefers in the highest degree, and the one that she chose to be called in Lourdes: "Immaculate Conception"; let us therefore invoke her often with this title. Beginning with our Father St. Francis and St. Bonaventure, devotion to the Immaculate

fr Maximiliano M. Kolbe



Beginning with our Father St. Francis and St. Bonaventure, devotion to the Immaculate Conception has been a particular feature of our Order."

Conception has been a particular feature of our Order; Duns Scotus and the Franciscan school then defended this privilege, which she greatly appreciated; and now it has coalesced in the solemn definition of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception. This is, therefore, the golden thread of our Order and, perhaps, also the beginning of the renewal of our corrupt society, because of her it has been said, "Ipsa conteret caput tuum" [Gn 3:15] and "Omnes haereses sola interemisti in universo mundo" [from the Office of the Madonna]. Let us pray often then, in the words of Duns Scotus, "Dignare me laudare Te, Virgo sacra; da mihi virtutem contra hostes tuos," let us prepare to fight against Satan, the world, and... ourselves—to save and sanctify our souls and as many other souls as possible—let us prepare to suffer and to work. We can rest after death.... Always your affectionate brother, Br. Maximilian M. Kolbe

[St. Maximilian enclosed a leaflet on the MI for Br. Alfons)
MILITIA OF THE IMMACULATA
"She will crush your head" (cf. Gn 3:15).

"You alone dispelled all heresies of the whole world" [the Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary].

I—Aim To bring about the *conversion* of sinners, heretics, schismatics, etc., especially Freemasons, and the *sanctification of all*, under the patronage and through the mediation of the Immaculate B.V.M. [Blessed Virgin Mary].

II—Conditions

1. Total *self-oblation* to the Immaculata, placing oneself as an instrument in her immaculate hands.
2. To wear the *Miraculous Medal*.

III—Means

1. To entreat the Immaculata possibly every day with this *ejaculatory prayer*: "O Mary, conceived without sin, *pray for us* who have recourse to you, and for all those who do not have recourse to you, especially the *Freemasons*."
2. To use *all legitimate* means, according to one's possibilities in the various states and conditions of life, as occasions arise: which is entrusted to the *zeal* and *prudence* of each; let the special means be the *Miraculous Medal*.

KOLBE DATES



January 8, 1894

Rajmund Kolbe was born in Zdunzka Wola, Poland, to Juliusz Kolbe and Maria Dabrowska Kolbe. He was baptized the same day, in the parish church dedicated to the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

"I AM TOTALLY YOURS!" CONSECRATIONS AROUND THE COUNTRY AND BEYOND

ALL OVER THE COUNTRY, HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE HAVE CONSECRATED THEMSELVES
TO OUR LADY AND ENROLLED IN THE MI, ESPECIALLY ON HER FEAST DAYS. HERE
ARE JUST A FEW PICTURES.



MI National Center, Peoria, Illinois



Holy Family Parish, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin



Saint Rose Academy, Birmingham, Alabama



Our Lady of Grace Parish, Castro Valley, California





JANUARY MI INTENTION

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

January

*O Immaculata,
please intercede...*

*That we may be instruments of
peace in every environment,
giving witness to evangelical
humility and poverty in the world.*

Reflection - We begin the year with the solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. It is in the poverty at Bethlehem that we encounter the Prince of Peace. In the manger, at the crèche, we see the humility of our God and our Blessed Mother. "The humility of the Immaculata was the reason for the Divine Maternity: *Quia ancillam humilem* . . . Only a humble person is at peace." (KW

966) This Latin quote on the humility of Mary comes from the chant for the feast of the Purification and the English translation of the verse is "The generations shall call me blessed, for God hath regarded the lowly estate of His handmaid." It is in the humility of Mary to say "yes" to God at the Annunciation as the handmaid of the Lord that all generations are blessed. This year, as we celebrated the 800th anniversary of St. Francis bringing the manger scene into the church for Christmas, you may receive the blessing of a Plenary Indulgence when you come and contemplate the humility and poverty of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph at the manger at your Franciscan parish until February 2, the feast of the Presentation of the Lord.

Prayer - Act of Total Consecration to the Immaculata.

Act of Total Consecration to the Immaculata

(Prayer composed by St. Maximilian Kolbe)

O Immaculata, Queen of Heaven and earth, refuge of sinners and our most loving Mother, God has willed to entrust the entire order of mercy to you. I, (name), a repentant sinner, cast myself at your feet humbly imploring you to take me with all that I am and have, wholly to yourself as your possession and property. Please make of me, of all my powers of soul and body, of my whole life, death and eternity, whatever most pleases you.

If it pleases you, use all that I am and have without reserve, wholly to accomplish what was said of you: "She will crush your head," and, "You alone have destroyed all heresies in the world."

Let me be a fit instrument in your immaculate and merciful hands for introducing and increasing your glory to the maximum in all the many strayed and indifferent souls, and thus help extend as far as possible the blessed Kingdom of the most Sacred Heart of Jesus. For wherever you enter, you obtain the grace of conversion and growth in holiness, since it is through your hands that all graces come to us from the most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

V. Allow me to praise you, O sacred Virgin.
R. Give me strength against your enemies.



Want to connect and pray with other MI members? Looking for support in deepening or preparing for your consecration? Join an MI Village and live out your consecration with others. For information about an MI Village in your area, email the MI National Center. For *online MI Villages*, email the Moderators listed below.

****Moderator: Joseph Willis**

Email: 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: Monday

Mtg Time: 12:00 - 1:00 pm EST



TM

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



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

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

– St. Maximilian Kolbe

MI Resources

Available from the MI National Center



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

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