

THE KNIGHT OF THE *Immaculata*

E-PUBLICATION OF THE MILITIA OF THE IMMACULATA, USA

**MARY,
MOTHER OF
EMMANUEL,
MOTHER
OF GOD**

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He's Not Afraid of Your Mess - Page 7

"I am totally yours!" - Page 11



PLANS FOR THE NEW YEAR

by **Ronald L. Rodrigues, MI National President**



Dear Knights of the Immaculata, Maria! Welcome to the beginning of the New Year! Here in Alabama, we look

forward to the 12th day of Christmas and the celebration of Three Kings Day. That feast recalls the three Wise Men's worship of the infant King, Jesus, and their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. When our children were young, they looked forward to finding their shoes filled with small gifts on that day. They also raced to discover baby Jesus in the "Rosca de Reyes" (Three Kings Cake).

As MI-USA, we are looking forward to accomplishing our plans for 2023, always in keeping with St. Maximilian Kolbe's ideal of bringing others to Jesus Christ through the Immaculate Heart of Mary. In particular, in 2023 we will focus on our youth. We want to prepare our young people, especially, to become Knights of Mary to face the challenges of life with courage and confidence. Our primary goal will be to establish a vibrant youth program. Once this is in place, we will work to create a program for the whole family. We are currently in the planning stages of developing resources to enable our children, youth, and young adults to know about St. Maximilian's heroic life and to understand better what it means to consecrate oneself to Mary in his footsteps. We also want them to know the advantages of being Mary's Knights in the world.

It was the vision and dream of St. Maximilian Kolbe to create a spiritual army of persons dedicated to fighting evil and winning souls for the Sacred Heart of Jesus under the leadership of

the Immaculata. Our goal is to equip our youth with the spiritual weapons they need to engage and prevail in the fight.

In Mary's *Magnificat*, she acknowledges her state of blessedness for all generations because "the Almighty has done great things for me..." (Luke 1:48-49). Her great prayer of praise prophesies and fulfills the promise God made in Genesis 3:15: "I will put enmity between you and the woman, between your offspring and hers; He will strike at your head, while you strike at his heel."

The great spiritual battle between the serpent (devil) and the woman (Mary) spoken of in the Book of Revelation continues today. There was seen a great sign in heaven, "a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars" who gives birth to her son, Jesus, and who is opposed by the great dragon, that ancient ser-

pent, who is called the devil and Satan (cf. Rev. 12:1-6).

When unable to seduce the Woman, we are told that the dragon was angry with her and went off to make war on the rest of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of God and give testimony to Jesus. The devil is not just preying upon Christians because he hates Jesus, but because he hates the woman who gave birth to Jesus.

Mary clothed with the sun represents the Church's holiness and Satan is preying upon us. We are consecrated to Mary as her Knights to assist her in this fight against evil for the victory of good. That is why it is vital to work with our youth to help them know and appreciate the value of being part of Mary's army and being led by her through the path created by St. Maximilian Kolbe.

As we begin 2023, I ask for your prayers that the MI council may be inspired and innovative in developing a youth program that will not only inspire the love of Mary in young hearts but one that will encourage them and their peers to become Knights of the Immaculata. Be assured of our prayers in your work to bring more people to love the Immaculata and become the great spiritual army envisioned by St. Maximilian Kolbe.

God bless you and your loved ones in the new year!

Let us continue on our journey to win the world for Mary.

Ronald L. Rodrigues
MI National President

"I see Mary everywhere and difficulties nowhere." St. Maximilian Kolbe



Daily Holy Mass

will be offered throughout 2023 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

MARY, MOTHER OF EMMANUEL, MOTHER OF GOD

FROM THE MARIAN CATECHESSES OF POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II

Contemplation of the mystery of the Savior's birth has led Christian people not only to invoke the Blessed Virgin as the Mother of Jesus, but also to recognize her as Mother of God. This truth was already confirmed and perceived as belonging to the Church's heritage of faith from the early centuries of the Christian era, until it was solemnly proclaimed at the Council of Ephesus in 431.

In the first Christian community, as the disciples became more aware that Jesus is the Son of God, it became ever clearer that Mary is the *Theotokos*, the Mother of God. This is a title which does not appear explicitly in the Gospel texts, but in them the "Mother of Jesus" is mentioned and it is affirmed that Jesus is God (Jn 20:28; cf. 5:18; 10:30, 33). Mary is in any case presented as the Mother of Emmanuel, which means "God with us" (cf. Mt 1:22-23). Already in the third century, as can be deduced from an ancient written witness, the Christians of Egypt addressed this prayer to Mary: "We fly to thy patronage, O holy Mother of

God: despise not our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us from all evil, O glorious and blessed Virgin" (from the Liturgy of the Hours). The expression *Theotokos* appears explicitly for the first time in this ancient witness. In pagan mythology, it often happened that a certain goddess would be presented as the mother of some god. For example, the supreme god, Zeus, had the goddess Rhea as his mother. This context perhaps helped Christians to use the title *Theotokos*, "Mother of God," for the Mother of Jesus. It should nevertheless be noted that this title did not exist but was created by Christians to express a belief which had nothing to do with pagan mythology, belief in the virginal conception in Mary's womb of the One who had always been the eternal Word of God.

THE COUNCIL OF EPHESUS PROCLAIMED MARY AS THE MOTHER OF GOD

By the fourth century, the term

Theotokos was frequently used in the East and West. Devotion and theology refer more and more to this term, which had by now become part of the Church's patrimony of faith. One can therefore understand the great protest movement that arose in the fifth century when Nestorius cast doubt on the correctness of the title "Mother of God." In fact, being inclined to hold that Mary was only the mother of the man Jesus, he maintained that "Mother of Christ" was the only doctrinally correct expression. Nestorius was led to make this error by his difficulty in admitting the unity of Christ's person and by his erroneous interpretation of the distinction between the two natures—divine and human—present in Him. In 431 the Council of Ephesus condemned his theses and, in affirming the subsistence of the divine and human natures in the one person of the Son, proclaimed Mary the Mother of God.

Now, the difficulties and objections raised by Nestorius offer us the opportunity to make several useful reflections for correctly understand-



“The title ‘Theotokos’ did not exist but was created by Christians.”

ing and interpreting this title. The expression *Theotokos*, which literally means, “she who has begotten God,” can at first sight seem surprising; in fact it raises the question as to how it is possible for a human creature to give birth to God. The answer of the Church’s faith is clear: Mary’s divine motherhood refers only to the human begetting of the Son of God but not, however, to His divine birth. The Son of God was eternally begotten of God the Father, and is consubstantial with Him. Mary, of course has no part in this eternal birth. However, the Son of God assumed our human nature 2,000 years ago and was conceived by and born of Mary.

In proclaiming Mary “Mother of God,” the Church thus intends to affirm that she is the “Mother of the Incarnate Word, who is God.” Her motherhood does not, therefore, extend to all the Trinity, but only to the Second Person, the Son, who, in becoming incarnate took His human nature from her. Motherhood is a relationship of person to person: a mother is not only mother of the body or of the physical creature born of her womb, but of the person she begets. Thus having given birth, according to His human nature, to the person of Jesus, who is a divine person, Mary is the Mother of God.

THE BLESSED VIRGIN’S CONSENT PRECEDES INCARNATION

In proclaiming Mary “Mother of God,” the Church in a single phrase professes her belief regarding the Son and the Mother. This union was already

seen at the Council of Ephesus; in defining Mary’s divine motherhood, the Fathers intended to emphasize their belief in the divinity of Christ. Despite ancient and recent objections about the appropriateness of recognizing Mary by this title, Christians of all times, by correctly interpreting the meaning of this motherhood, have made it a privileged expression of their faith in the divinity of Christ and their love for the Blessed Virgin. On the one hand, the Church recognizes the *Theotokos* as guaranteeing the reality of the Incarnation because—as St. Augustine says—“if the Mother were fictitious, the flesh would also be fictitious ... and the scars of the Resurrection” (*Tract. in Ev. Ioannis*, 8, 6-7). On the other hand, she also contemplates with wonder and celebrates with veneration the immense greatness conferred on Mary by the One who wanted to be her Son. The expression “Mother of God” refers to the Word of God, who in the Incarnation assumed the lowliness of the human condition in order to raise man to divine sonship. But in the light of the sublime dignity conferred on the Virgin of Nazareth, this title also proclaims the nobility of the woman and her loftiest vocation. God in fact treats Mary as a free and responsible person and does not bring about the Incarnation of His Son until after he has obtained her consent.

Following the example of the ancient Christians of Egypt, let the faithful entrust themselves to her who, being the Mother of God, can obtain from her divine Son the grace of deliverance from evil and of eternal salvation.

Pope St. John Paul II
General Audience of November 27, 1996

“
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A EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL STORY: HE'S NOT AFRAID OF YOUR MESS

“

If Jesus can come with His presence to the suffering of Auschwitz, surely He desires to come with His healing power to every suffering within our hearts.”

Three years ago, I made a pilgrimage to Poland and visited Auschwitz on the Memorial of Saint Maximilian Maria Kolbe. Visiting a concentration camp is a sobering experience, but praying there on this feast day created a light of hope. Polish Catholics have a great devotion to Saint Maximilian Kolbe, the Franciscan priest who heroically offered his life for Franciszek Gajowniczek, saying: “I am a Catholic priest; take me and spare this man.” Hundreds of people attended an outdoor feast day Mass to remember prisoner #16670 who was martyred on August 14, 1941. There was a torrent of rain that morning which seemed very fitting, like tears pouring down from the heavens. The eerie streets of the concentration camp were filled with prayerful pilgrims holding colorful umbrellas over their bright ponchos and rain boots. I had hesitated to go, but ended up quietly walking through the puddles of the gravel roads to Block Eleven. Here the bishops and priests concelebrated Mass on a simple stage right outside of the building where Saint Maximilian died from a lethal injection of carbolic acid in basement cell number eighteen.

KNEELING IN THE MUD

The rain showers steadily continued for the whole Liturgy of the Word. The



only thing I could understand from the Archbishop of Krakow's homily was the name of this beloved Saint and the name of this horrible place. Then as the offertory began, the rain cleared and umbrellas closed. The pilgrims knelt together in the mud during the Consecration, physically encountering the messiness of this place. As I knelt there in the mud before the Blessed Sacrament, I had a memorable encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist.

In the quiet of my heart, during the Eucharistic Prayer, I sensed Jesus' delight and His desire for me to be at this particular Mass. St. Maximilian's continual surrender bore great fruit in the Kingdom of God and I could see the way his priestly heart brought Christ's Light to the darkness of that concentration camp. As I knelt in the mud, I sensed that the Heart of Jesus experienced great joy to be with me in my mess and that His Eucharistic Presence strengthened the Light of Christ within me. Jesus is not afraid of the muck. The stable in Bethlehem and the cross on Calvary were both places of resplendent glory. I experienced His glory during that Mass as I knelt in the mud, beheld the Lamb of God, and welcomed His Eucharistic presence into the messiness of my heart.

“If Jesus can come with His presence to the suffering of Auschwitz, surely He desires to come with His healing power to every suffering within our hearts.”

LET HIM IN

At every Mass, Christ comes in glory and gives His life to us in the Eucharist. He desires to meet us right here, in the mess of our suffering and pain. Jesus wants us to give everything to Him at Mass so that He can gently pierce through our darkness with His radiant light. As we receive the Body and Blood of Christ with joy, He makes his home within our hearts. During this Eucharistic Revival, let us pray that each one of us will be

renewed by a personal encounter with the Eucharistic presence of Jesus. May we know Christ's intimate desire to meet us in the mess. If Jesus can come with His presence to the suffering of Auschwitz, surely He desires to come with His healing power to every suffering within our hearts.

Rose Coleman

For more Eucharistic Revival stories, please visit eucharisticrevival.org



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.

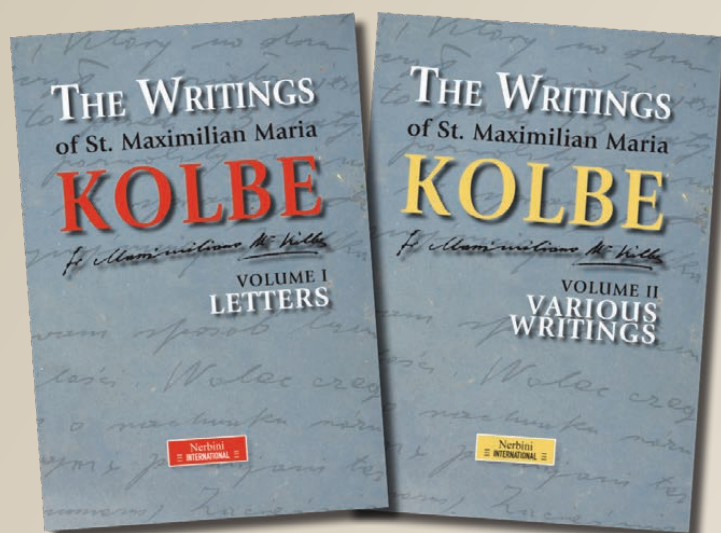
May our hearts burn within us as He opens the Scriptures and breaks the Bread.

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



VOLUME I: LETTERS • VOLUME II: VARIOUS WRITINGS

The Definitive English Edition!

The Martyr of Charity, St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe (1894-1941), before his death in the Auschwitz concentration camp, had a full and fruitful life. The Polish-born Franciscan Friar had spent the previous twenty-three years as a priest, evangelizer, media mogul, social commentator, missionary and religious reformer. His life's work cut short at age 47, St. Kolbe nonetheless left behind an impressive body of writings. In the 1950s the English-speaking world first began reading bits and pieces of those writings translated from the original Polish, Italian and Latin. Now, at long last, devotees and scholars alike can find the entire wide-ranging array of those writings collected together in a two-volume compendium, published by Nerbini International.



At long last the complete works of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe in English: accurate, readable and with explanatory introduction and footnotes. Both scholars and general readers will find this edition of the Writings of St. Maximilian Kolbe an inspiring practical aid for learning what this Franciscan saint has contributed to the study of Mariology and living the consecration to Mary's Immaculate Heart. May the translators' work contribute to a renewal of Kolbean studies in the English speaking world.

— Fr. Peter D. Fehlner, OFM Conv.

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Introduction to The Writings of St. Maximilian Kolbe"
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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!"**

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



**PILGRIMAGE TO THE BASILICA
OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE:
MAY 8-13, 2023**

Fr. Thomas Czeck, OFM Conv., the National Spiritual Assistant of the Militia of the Immaculata, invites you to join us on a pilgrimage of a lifetime as we go to the most visited Marian Shrine in the world, the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. Our Lady appeared to St. Juan Diego at this site in 1531. This apparition led to the largest mass conversion in world history. We will visit the Basilica, view the Tilma, the tomb of Martyr Miguel Augustin Pro, Puebla, the Chapel of the Holy Rosary, and the Church of the 5th Apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The mission of the Militia of the Immaculata is to bring every heart to the Sacred Heart of Jesus through Marian consecration, which calls us to evangelize the world under the direction of Our Lady. Join us to renew your faith and rekindle your mission.



Date: May 8-13, 2023

Cost: land tour \$1,695 (air can be arranged from your local destination by Anastasis Tours).
From San Francisco \$2,290 in a double room, \$2,550 in a single room + \$240 travel Insurance (optional).

The Pilgrimage includes: Daily Mass, transportation in a deluxe motor coach, 4 star superior hotels, full board with all meals provided, professional tour guide, tips for waiters and bell boys.

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"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 THAT WERE SENT TO THE MI NATIONAL OFFICE RECENTLY AND A MESSAGE FROM ONE OF THE INMATES WHO ARE PART OF OUR MI FAMILY.

December 8, 2022
Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Dear Militia of the Immaculata,

It is with great joy that I write to inform you that myself and other six inmates have today consecrated ourselves totally to Mary as members of the Militia of the Immaculata.... Thank you for all that you are doing, and thank you for the St. Maximilian prayer cards. I have shared them with the other Catholics in our facility and they were very appreciative.

Pax,
Matthew



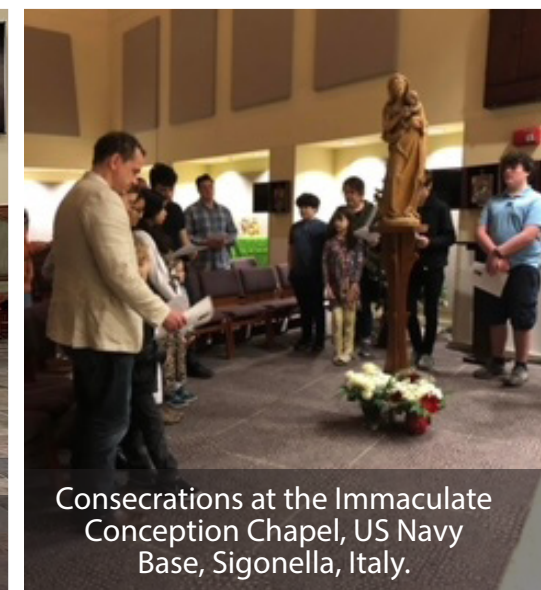
The teenagers of the Heart of Peoria Youth Group made their consecration to Our Lady at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception at the end of a six-week preparation.



Consecration and Renewals at Our Lady of Grace Parish, Castro Valley, California



Consecration at Most Merciful Jesus Catholic Church, Madison, Alabama and at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Huntsville, Alabama



Consecrations at the Immaculate Conception Chapel, US Navy Base, Sigonella, Italy.

NEWS FROM MI INTERNATIONAL

December 2-12, 2022 - The MI International President, Miquel Bordas Proszynski, and Fr. Gilson Miguel Nunes, the delegate of the MI International Assistant, visited the MI present in several African countries: Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast and Gabon. They met with dedicated MI members, priests, religious, local Bishops and shared in joyful celebrations. They witnessed how the MI is a living and dynamic reality inserted in the local Churches of each country, striving to realize its mission of bringing all souls to Jesus through the maternal love of His Immaculate Mother. MI-USA gives thanks to the Immaculata and rejoices in seeing the MI Family grow worldwide.



Gabon



Ivory Coast



Burkina Faso

ST. MAXIMILIAN WRITES...

A TRIBUTE TO ST. THERESE OF THE CHILD JESUS (KW 1263). ENJOY IT AS WE CELEBRATE THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF HER BIRTH.

On the ship *Angkor*, July 1932

Patroness of All Missions. This is the title the Church has given to St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, who died recently. In fact it is not merely a title. In the course of my journey from Japan to India and back, I am becoming personally convinced that there is no place where she is not venerated in a special way. There is no church where one may fail to see, or rather find very prominently before one's eyes, either a small image of that "little saint," or a painting, a statue or, very frequently, an altar dedicated to her. There are also several magnificent new churches built in her name and, we ought to say, through her intercession. Since by raining down from heaven, as she herself had promised, a true and abundant shower of roses, that is, a wide range of graces, St. Thérèse appeals to the generosity of

the faithful for the construction of new churches. Should I also perhaps mention my "business dealings" with her? For, even before her beatification and canonization, after reading a brief biography of her, I told her: "I undertake, to make a 'memento' (a remembrance in prayer) for your beatification and canonization in each Holy Mass, and you shall look after my mission." While I was preparing my first missionary expedition to the Far East—she had already been beatified and canonized—I stopped by in Lisieux and presented myself at the door of the convent in which she had become holy and in which the three sisters of St. Thérèse still reside. I asked that one of them be requested to get in touch with their holy sister and let her know that I had rights to claim, because our pact had been sealed and now she had already been canonized, but what about my mission?... And not long

“**What matters is not, in fact, what we do, but the way, the intention, and the love with which we do it.**”

after that, I ended up in Japan. Even recently, in India, where I had been given the task to see if a new Niepokalanów could be set up, so many problems had piled up that I had lost all hope of a positive outcome to the mission entrusted to me. So, there I was, standing in front of a statuette of St. Thérèse placed on a small shelf adorned with many large flowers that looked like roses. I began to pray with a certain "resentment" and concluded: "Let us see if you remember." At that moment, one of the flowers fell on the table below the statuette. I was strangely impressed with that event, but thought to myself: "We will see if this has a meaning." Now from that moment, in a most unhopd-for way, all the troubles vanished, without any action on my part, and our issue was solved well beyond my expectations. For once, there I was granted use of the Niepokalanów right away, land for future expansion, a large enough

chapel, and a building more than large enough to start the publication of *The Knight* in the Indian language (Malayam).

Where did her "competence" in missionary affairs come from? Had she, perhaps, during her life carried out a missionary apostolate in many pagan countries?

Had she perhaps, shed her blood as a martyr? None of that. In fact, she had never even crossed the threshold of her monastery in Lisieux, France. Also, in the course of her life she had never worked miracles, but had become a great saint through ordinary and drab everyday life.

What matters is not, in fact, what we do, but the way, the intention, and the love with which we do it. And what

was her intention? To please Jesus, the Child Jesus. That is pure love. To bear small daily crosses with love, to work with love, to live for love, to be like a child who, with caresses of love, wins the benevolence of his or her father's and mother's hearts.

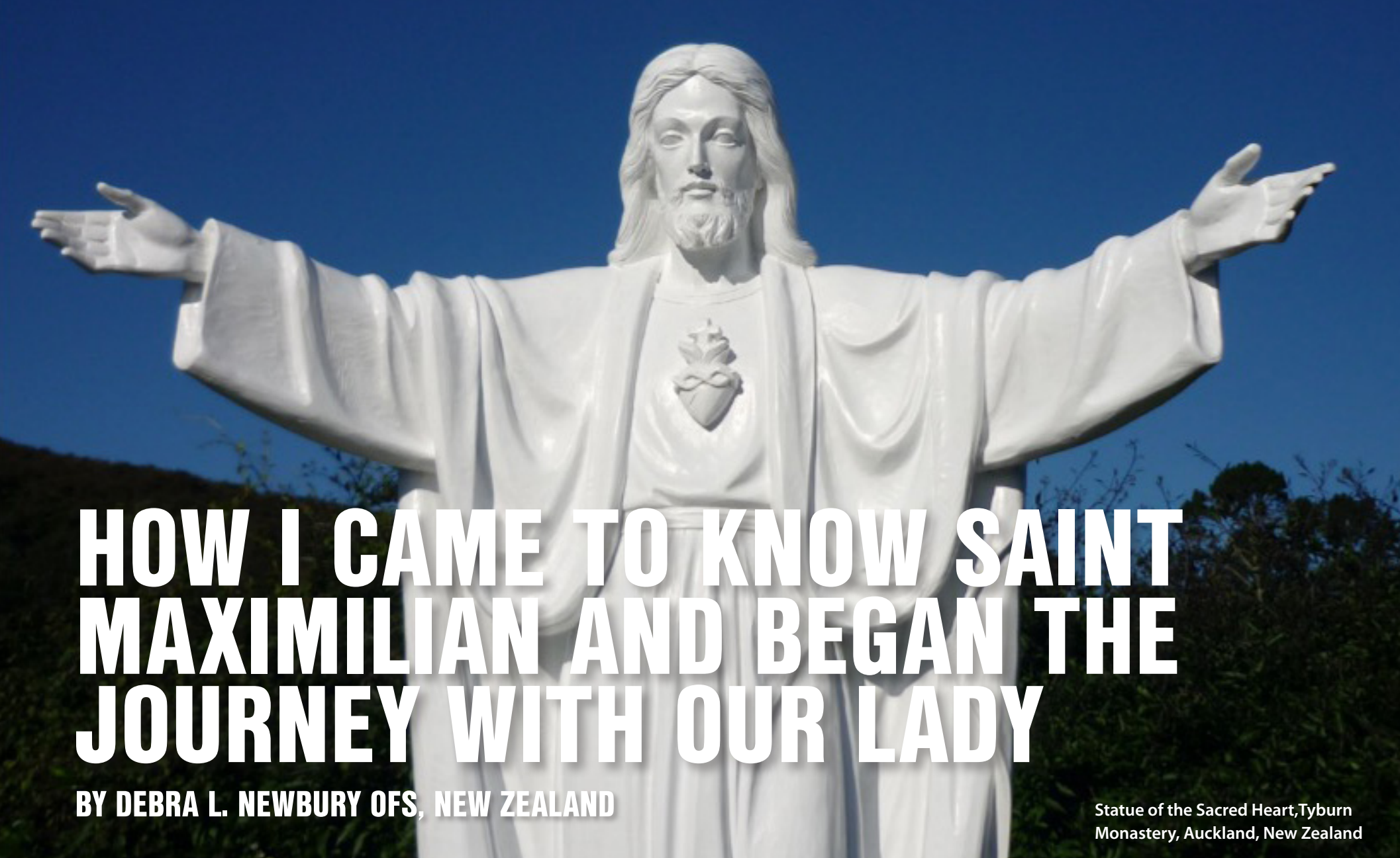
Everyone can and should be a missionary of that kind. But how are we to achieve that goal?

St. Thérèse called herself "little flower of the Immaculata" and acknowledged that she was raised by the Immaculata. We also are [little flowers of the Immaculata], and she will teach us unlimited trust in the merciful love of God, of which she is the embodiment.

* In the cell of Fr. Maximilian, in Niepokalanów, there is still a picture of St. Thérèse.



Fr. Maximilian Kolbe



HOW I CAME TO KNOW SAINT MAXIMILIAN AND BEGAN THE JOURNEY WITH OUR LADY

BY DEBRA L. NEWBURY OFS, NEW ZEALAND

Statue of the Sacred Heart, Tyburn Monastery, Auckland, New Zealand

I give thanks for the great grace of St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe, in my life, especially his heroic example, his devotion to Our Lady and his rich and precious Mariology, so intrinsically linked to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

I cannot recall exactly when St. Maximilian entered my life other than to say that it was in the early days of my conversion to the Catholic faith, 25 years ago. I think it was probably my husband, who loves to share about the lives of the Saints, telling me all about St. Maximilian's incredible life. Some years later I chose, for a Mariology essay, to write on the Immaculate Conception, and as a result I had to research the writings of various Saints on this topic, including St. Maximilian, in order to understand what the Blessed Virgin Mary might have meant when she announced 'I am the Immaculate Conception' to St. Bernadette, at Lourdes in 1858. A natural progression was therefore to investigate the writings of St. Maximilian even further, as they are so deep and profound. I very much enjoyed studying his Pneumatology (expounding's on the Holy Spirit) as well. Around this time, I made the consecration formulated by St. Maximilian and have renewed it many times since. A few years on from this, when asked to choose a Saint, as part of a presentation for Mariology studies, I was given the

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St. Maximilian's spirituality unifies my own Franciscan and Marian leanings, as well as my love for the Sacred Heart.”

option to do mine on St. Maximilian. I was then able to further research his life and writings and was particularly drawn to his writings on the Sacred Heart and his Christologically centred Mariology, particularly Mary's role in bringing all to the Sacred Heart. As a Third Order Franciscan there have been other opportunities to hear and share more on St. Maximilian in conjunction with various branches of the Order and he has been a part of my prayer life for many years now, especially the consecration, the ejaculatory prayer of the miraculous medal and his intercession. I am also deeply inspired as I read through the new books in English on his various writings and letters. For me, St. Maximilian's spirituality unifies my own Franciscan and Marian

leanings, as well as my love for the Sacred Heart.

St. Francis was a man transfigured by the Holy Spirit, and I believe so was St. Maximilian, both Franciscan and Marian Saints, who entered into the heart of Jesus, through Our Lady, in the Holy Spirit. For St. Francis this was visibly witnessed in the stigmata and for St. Maximilian in his heroic sacrifice at Auschwitz. As a sign of my own Kolbean Consecration I wear a large Miraculous Medal visibly. I think this love for the Miraculous Medal (the medal of the Immaculate Conception), and what it stood for, began prior to my conversion to Catholicism, when an Irish Catholic friend took me to the Chapel of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in the Rue du Bac, Paris. There, by the grace of God, I embraced the truth of this apparition of 1830, of Our Lady, to St. Catherine Laboure.

More recently it has become evident to me that the Miraculous Medal, St. Francis, Mary (the Immaculate Conception), the Holy Spirit, and the Sacred Heart are the pillars of my spirituality. Like the tributaries that flow into the main stem river they are all converging now in the charism of St. Maximilian Kolbe. From here, as I see it for me, this mighty river flow is leading me into greater depths of the ocean of the wonders of God. The question that now arises is: how is God calling me to fully live out this spirituality in a truly apostolic and authentic way, and what is my unique contribution to Holy Mother Church and what might be my specific mission in this world, in light of this? I continue to pray, listen and wait upon the Lord.



Statue of Our Lady, Paraparaumu, New Zealand

P.S. I think my journey with Our Lady began as a child in the village where I was born. For there, very close to what was once my family home, is a very large statue of Our Lady, high on the hill, that is illuminated at night. At its base it states: 'I am the Immaculate Conception' (see image above). It was erected in 1958 to honour the 100 years anniversary of Our Lady's appearance to St. Bernadette at Lourdes, France. I regularly visit this place when I return to my hometown, and it is a very meaningful place of prayer and pilgrimage for me.

Debra L. Newbury OFS



This year, the monthly reflections provided by the MI International Office on the 2023 MI Intentions include:

- *A Scripture reading.
- *A text from St. Maximilian Kolbe's Writings.
- *A brief commentary by Fr. Sidifredo De La Cruz, OFM Conv., Colombia.

January

*O Immaculata, please intercede...
That the peace that the Lord Jesus
gives us may spur us to live
as brothers and sisters,
building a fraternal community.*

John 14:27-31 - Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.

KW 935 - The source of happiness and peace is not outside, but within us. Let us learn how to profit from everything in order to exercise our souls in patience, humility, obedience, poverty, and all the other virtues... and the crosses will no longer be so heavy. After all, we proclaim that through the Immaculata we can do everything: let us then prove it with facts.

Let us place our trust in her: let us pray and go forth in life with peace and serenity.

Reflection - As we strive to walk faithfully with the Immaculata, we will certainly experience difficulties, setbacks and trials. While we will not be exempt from sufferings, by being united with her we will receive the grace to live in the peace of Christ and to unite our sufferings with His for the Redemption of the world. His peace enables us to have a heart that, even in the midst of daily crosses, is able to love and to recognize others as brothers and sisters, not enemies. Let nothing take away our peace. During this month, let us strive to be patient and understanding toward others, to be slow to speak, like the Immaculata, and not allow adversities to steal from us our inner peace or to cause us to react with aggressiveness. When we find ourselves in the midst of challenging situations, let us first calm down, regain our self-control, so as to be instruments of peace in our families, workplaces, communities and social interactions. May the world be able to see that MI members are men and women able to transmit the peace they have received from Christ through the mediation of 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.

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



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



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: drilisafmi@gmail.com

Write to request Google Meet join info

Mtg Day: Wednesdays

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