

# THE MISSION OF THE *Immaculata*

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## 80<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF ST. MAXIMILIAN'S MARTYRDOM

### A Priestly People

By John W. Galten, MI National President

Dear Knights of the Immaculata,

Maria! We continue to consider in this special year of the 80th Anniversary of St. Maximilian's death as a martyr. We must always remember a few events which characterized his priesthood—his complete surrender to Our Lady's guiding hand and how he made himself a willing victim as he offered himself to take the place of a man, who was terrified and screaming hysterically. When asked by the Kommandant's deputy-commander Fritsch who he (Kolbe) was, he answered, "I am a Catholic priest." The expected answer, as mandated by the rules of the death camp, was "prisoner 16670." In a certain sense, this answer is as strange as the answer of the Immaculata to St. Bernadette when asked who she was, "I am the Immaculate Conception," which named her being and her role in salvation history.

St. Maximilian was performing the act of a priest, offering himself in union with Christ for the life of a man. Jesus of course offered Himself for all humanity. Just as St. Maximilian had offered Holy Mass so many countless times, one could say that his life had become "Eucharistic" as this act now melded into all his Eucharistic Sacrifices.

How did Maximilian come to this Christ-like self-understanding and purpose? We can piously believe that the role that the Mother of Jesus, the Immaculata, had in the human training of Jesus as boy, teenager and man, was decisive. Maximilian learned from her a total gift of self to the will of God and from her ever-pure self—received as gift from God—a life of gratitude and praise. Mary, in a human sense, had contributed to the understanding of Jesus as Priest. As to the nature of the priesthood, of course, He, as the Incarnate One, also realized His Mission as Priest.



*"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

(continues on pg. 2)

## Editorial

(continued from pg. 1)

It is no accident that St. John accompanied the Immaculata to the crucifixion of Jesus and that he accepted her into his home. In the years that followed, she “tutored” him to become the Apostle of the priestly love that he became. Just so, the Immaculata taught St. Maximilian to be like Jesus who is the new High Priest—conformed to Him, the Priest who offers Himself in the eternal, ever-present mystery of His Suffering, Death and Resurrection.

The Second Vatican Council reminded us that we are a priestly people, not all as ordained priests, but as a holy people offering the sacrifice of praise to the Father. The Mystical Body of Christ, acting in union with Jesus, Priest and Head, offers worship to the Father in the Spirit.

Let us live our total consecration so that the Immaculata may teach us the meaning of our “priestly” lives as God’s people as she did in St. Maximilian’s consecrated priesthood and the paradigm of all priesthood—Jesus the High Priest. May this holy knowledge characterize our prayer in the Holy Mass and in our daily life of “love unto victimhood.”

Until next month, “Arise, let us be on our way.”

John W. Galten  
MI National President

## SAVE THE DATE

June 12, 2021

## Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

We are planning to have a virtual mini-retreat talk. You are invited to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and to attend Holy Mass on your own. Details will be forthcoming.

*Stay tuned!*



## Year of St. Joseph

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.



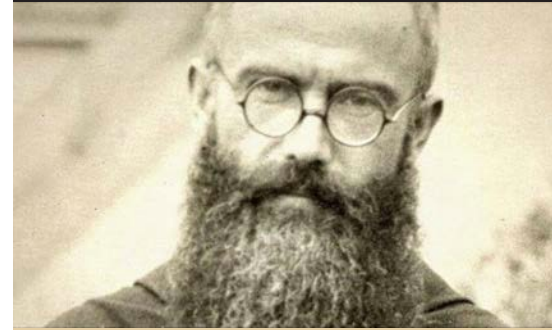
### Daily Holy Mass

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

## 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 MI 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!*





## To Know Her Is to Love Her!

This summary of Catholic teaching on Our Lady, adapted from a talk by the Servant of God Fr. John Hardon, SJ, will stir up your love for her this May!

Regarding Mary, three of the Evangelists were mainly concerned with tracing Christ's ancestry as Son of Man, and, therefore, as Son of Mary. St. Matthew, writing for Jews, stressed Christ's descent from Abraham. St. Luke, disciple of St. Paul, traced Christ's origin to Adam, the father of the human race. Yet both writers were at pains to point out that Mary's Son fulfilled

the Old Testament prophecy of Isaiah 7:14 about the Messiah. He was to be born of a virgin and become Emmanuel, which means "God with us." Luke gave a long account of the angel's visit to Mary to announce to her that the Child "will be called holy, Son of God" (Lk 1:35).

St. John introduces Mary as the Mother of Jesus when He began His public ministry. In answer to her wishes, Christ performed the miracle of changing water into wine at the wedding feast in Cana in Galilee. In his account, St. John recorded Our Lady's words to the servers and to all of us ever since: "Do whatever He tells you" (Jn 2:5).

It is also St. John who tells us that Mary stood under the Cross of Calvary as her Son was dying for our salvation. Speaking of John, Jesus told His mother, "This is your son." To John, He said of Mary, "This is your Mother." The apostle John represents all of us. On Good Friday, therefore, Christ made His mother the supernatural Mother of the entire human race and made us her spiritual children.

### **Mary: Mother of God**

In the early fifth century, a controversy arose in Asia Minor, where the Bishop of Constantinople claimed that Mary was only the mother of Christ (Greek = Christotokos) in His human nature. This idea was condemned by the Council of Ephesus in 431, which declared that "the holy Virgin is the Mother of God" (Greek = Theotokos).

St. Cyril (376-444), Bishop of Alexandria in Egypt, was principally responsible for this solemn definition of Mary's divine maternity. It was Cyril who composed the most famous Marian hymn of antiquity. It praises Our Lady as Mediatrix of the graces of the Trinity: *Through you, the Trinity is glorified./Through you, the Cross is venerated throughout the world./Through you, angels and archangels rejoice./Through you, the demons are*

*driven away./Through you, the fallen creature is raised to heaven./Through you, churches are founded in the whole world./Through you, people are led to conversion.*

Every other title of Mary and all the Marian devotions of the faithful are finally based on the Blessed Virgin's primary claim to our extraordinary love. She is the Mother of God. She gave to her Son what every human mother gives the child whom she conceives and to whom she gives birth: She gave Jesus His human body. But for her fiat (her "yes" to the angel), there would have been no Incarnation, no Redemption, no Eucharist; in a word, no Christianity.

### **Mary's Perpetual Virginity**

Logically related to her divine maternity is Our Lady's perpetual virginity. From the earliest days the Church has taught that Mary was a virgin before giving birth to Jesus, during the act of His birth and after His birth in Bethlehem.

These beliefs are directly stated or implied in the Gospels. In St. Matthew's genealogy of Jesus, all the previous ancestors are called "father." But Joseph is not called "father"; instead we are told he was "Joseph, the husband of Mary of whom Jesus was born" (cf. Mt 1:16). St. Luke identifies Mary as "virgin," who "knows not man."

Those who questioned Christ's divinity in the early Church were the same ones who denied His Mother's virginity. In response, St. Augustine (354-430) explained, "When God vouchsafed to become Man, it was fitting that He should be born in this way. He who was made of her, had made her what she was: a virgin who conceives, a virgin who gives birth, a virgin with child, a virgin labored of child—a virgin ever-virgin."

Given the fact of the Incarnation, its manner of becoming follows as a matter of course.

(continues on pg. 4)



## To Know Her Is to Love Her!

(continued from pg. 3)

Why would Jesus—who created His mother and healed the world—not also have preserved intact the virginal integrity of the body from which He would be born? But the appropriateness of Mary’s perpetual virginity makes sense only if one believes that Mary’s Son is the living God.

### **Mary’s Immaculate Conception**

That Mary was free from original sin at the moment of her conception was already taught by St. Ephraem in the fourth century. In one of his hymns, he addresses Our Lord, “Certainly You alone and Your Mother are from every aspect completely beautiful. There is no blemish in You my Lord, and no stain in Your Mother.”

By the seventh century, the feast of Mary’s Immaculate Conception was celebrated in the East. In the eighth century, the feast was commemorated in Ireland and from there spread to other countries in Europe.

In the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, some leading theologians, even saints, raised objections to the Immaculate Conception. Their main difficulty was how Mary could be exempt from all sin before the coming of Christ, the Redeemer.

The Franciscan Bl. John Duns Scotus (1266-1308) stood firm in Our Lady’s defense. He explained that through a special privilege of God the benefits of Christ’s redemption were applied to her before she could contract the stain of original sin; she was redeemed “in anticipation” of the merits of Jesus on the Cross.

Scotus thus paved the way for the infallible definition of the Immaculate Conception by Pope Pius IX in 1854. Wrote Pope Pius: “We declare, pronounce, and define that the doctrine which holds that the most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instant of her conception.... was preserved from all stain of original sin, is a doctrine revealed by God and therefore to be believed firmly and constantly by all the faithful.”

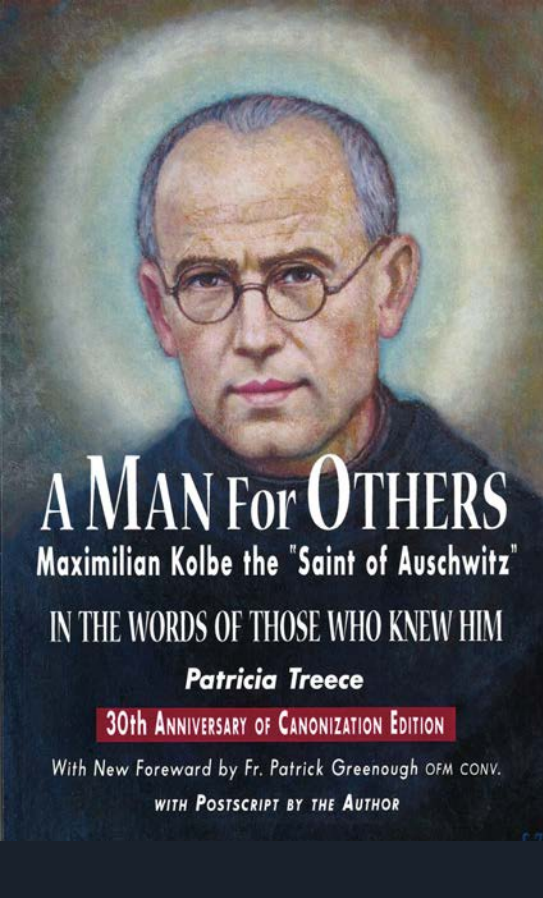
Four years later, Our Lady appeared to St. Bernadette in Lourdes, France, identifying herself this way: “I am the Immaculate Conception.” The numerous miracles at Lourdes are a divine confirmation of the doctrine defined by Pius IX.

A twentieth-century Franciscan, St. Maximilian Kolbe, founder of the Militia of the Immaculata (MI), not only deeply embraced the truth of the Im-

maculate Conception, but saw it as the blueprint of God’s plan for redeemed humanity: “The Immaculata... The apex of the perfections of creation, the Mother of God, among the creatures the one who is most divinized” (*The Writings of St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe*, 1325). Following in St. Maximilian’s footsteps, the MI’s ongoing mission is to introduce the Immaculata to every person and to invite all to be consecrated to her for the coming of the kingdom of the Most Sacred Heart in the world.

### **Mary’s Assumption into Heaven**

As did his predecessor, Pope Pius XII proclaimed that a longstanding belief about Mary was now a divinely revealed dogma of the Faith. On November 1, 1950, the Pope responded to the nearly unanimous request of the Catholic hierarchy by making a formal recognition of Mary’s bodily Assumption into heaven: “By the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, of the Blessed Apostles Peter and Paul, and by our own authority, we pronounce, declare and define as divinely revealed dogma: The Immaculate Mother of God, Mary ever Virgin, after her life on earth, was assumed body and soul to the glory of heaven.” The day after the proclamation, Pius XII told the assembled hundreds of bishops of his hope for the future. May this honor given to Mary, said the Pope, introduce “a spirit of penance to replace the prevalent love of pleasure and a renewal of family life stabilized where divorce was common and made fruitful where birth control was practiced.” If there is one feature that characterizes the modern world, he observed, it is the worship of the body. Mary’s bodily Assumption into heaven reminds us of our own bodily resurrection on the last day, provided we use our bodies on earth according to the will of God. Finally, as of 2018, the feast of *Our Lady, Mother of the Church*, is celebrated on the Monday following Pentecost Sunday.



## 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 throughout the world is being asked to hold events to call to mind the martyrdom that shook the world.

The MI-USA is calling 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 member may receive a 20% discount when ordering it online with the code MI2021.

Please order the book and follow along with your fellow MIs by using the study questions that are listed be-

low and that will appear in the newsletter until August 14, 2021. What a wonderful way to honor the Saint and come to know better his remarkable life, teachings and death.

To prepare, read pages 93-145.

### 1. Chapter 7: War

St. Maximilian and the friars now endure the martyrdom of Poland by war. This time is characterized by suffering and privation.

Fr. Kolbe prepares his friars by outlining for them and us the three stages of life. What are they? What wisdom is contained here? Is it applicable to us? (Cf. pp. 93-94)

How would you describe St. Maximilian's reaction to the war? To the Nazis?

### 2. Chapter 8: Open Heart and Hands

How does St. Kolbe react to the disastrous situation? What does he do?

### 3. Chapter 9: Kolbe and His Enemies

Faced with catastrophic death and satanic hatred unleashed, how does he respond?

What is his attitude and spiritual disposition?

### 4. Chapter 10: The Last Months

What do you think is the source of the Saint's joy and serenity?

How did he recover from the setbacks?

He returns to the theme of the Christian apostolate. What does he say about this?

What do you think about what he says? (Cf. pp. 141ff.)

How important does Kolbe think that the publication of *The Knight of the Immaculata* is? Why?

How about our own little newsletter? What would he think about it?

John W. Galten

## 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.



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

# MI

## YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS



## St. Max and His Friends

**To save all souls.** In the death camp, Maximilian Kolbe would tell his friend John Lipski, “*No one’s conversion is impossible,*” and urge prayer for the Nazis. The enormity of that heroic charity and unquenchable faith in the goodness and power of God and possibilities for change in every man can only be appreciated by those who grasp in a small way (to know much more is not good for mental health, unless one is a saint) what Auschwitz was.

Auschwitz is the German name for the Polish town of Oswiecim. It is perhaps just, that the site of such crimes should still be known by the name its perpetrators gave it rather than its innocent Polish title. The site was carefully selected by the SS in 1940 for several reasons. First, the surrounding area had few inhabitants. Those farmers and villagers who had the misfortune to live in the swampy, unhealthy meadows near the small Polish town lying in the fork of the Vistula and Sola rivers were given orders to leave, and an area of forty square kilometers (fifteen square miles) surrounding the camp was zoned off...

Besides its lonely location, the Nazis also liked the fact that this fork of two of Poland’s rivers was at the center of Nazi-occupied Europe. This made transporting the camps’ victims more convenient. A group of old, abandoned Austrian military barracks still stood from the days when this portion of Poland had been under the Hapsburgs. These fourteen single-story and six two-story buildings were the innocent nuclei around which Auschwitz, and later Birkenau and the smaller satellite camps, would form and spread like ugly cancers on the countryside... Ladislaus Swies, a Brother in the Missionary Congregation of the Pallotines, looked back on the day Kolbe and he were in the transport of prisoners from Pawiak to Auschwitz:

*On the 28th of May, 1941, the SS loaded 320 prisoners from Pawiak into closed boxcars to deport us to Auschwitz. After the SS men had stuffed us into the windowless cars, a lugubrious silence fell. The crowding and the lack of air in the car made the atmosphere suffocating . . . unbearable. Moreover, the knowledge that we were on our way to a concentration camp had everyone sunk in depression.*

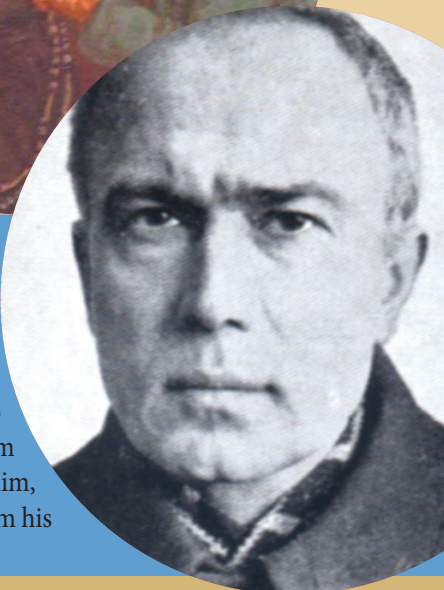
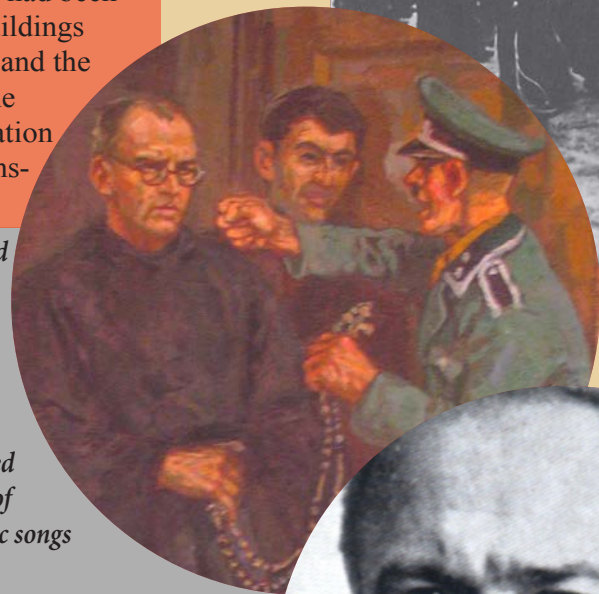
*But suddenly to my surprise and great joy, somebody started singing. Immediately I took up the melody as then did others. I took an interest in who had started the singing and learned that it was Fr. Maximilian Kolbe, the Franciscan founder of Niepokalanów... Under the influence of Father Maximilian’s religious and patriotic songs and narrations, we actually cheered up, forgetting our sad destiny....*

Kolbe’s name in the roll call of new inmates had been noticed by the camp. Holding a rather high Polish government post in 1939, Francis Mleczek was a natural Gestapo target. As a prisoner who had been in Auschwitz since 1940, he recalls: *From mouth to mouth passed the words, “Fr. Maximilian Kolbe is among us.” Men shook their heads, “Even him! How cruel these Nazis are.” And we wondered what dire things were going on in Poland. At the same time, we were glad to have such a real man, a fighter – a fighter for truth – with us.* The following morning Kolbe, barely recovered from pneumonia, and all his fellow prisoners were taken to icy showers. The warm vest, the suit, and other items that the Brothers had scurried to provide were taken from him to swell the warehouses of the SS. In exchange, he, like every prisoner, received thin blue and gray denim, horizontally striped pants and shirt taken from some dead victim, sometimes still bearing the bloodstains from his death. Their heads were shaved.

They were not tattooed in 1941 (this practice was instituted later by the methodical Germans, not only to foil escapees, but because the corpses’ garments were sometimes so tattered or destroyed that the prisoners’ identification number on sleeve and pants could not be read). Each was given a number, however, and it was by this – not his name – that he would be called from now on. **Kolbe became 16,670.**

(Excerpts from *A Man for Others.*

With Marytown Press permission).





## St. Maximilian Writes...

**As we celebrate Mother's Day, enjoy a selection of his letters to his dear Mama, Maria Kolbe.**

*One might be surprised that, despite the close relationship that mother and son shared, out of over 900 letters he penned, we have only 70 addressed to her. The majority of these letters were composed in the early years of his religious life, when he not only reported about relevant encounters and experiences, but also wrote extensively about his plans, always requesting her prayers. As his apostolic responsibilities increased, his letters became fewer and shorter. However, those that Maria carefully treasured testify to their intimate bond, which she shared love for the Lord, the Immaculata and for souls only fostered. Interestingly, the very first and the last of his letters (KW 1 and 961) are in fact addressed to her.*

April 6, 1914

Dearest Mama!

Today, Easter Sunday, I cannot share the traditional blessed eggs with you (as is our custom), because we are so far apart; however, I can at least do what is done during this act, which is send you a few words of best wishes. I do not wish for your health or success. Why? Because I wish you something more beautiful, something so good that no one, not even God Himself, could

wish you better. "Therefore, I wish that in all things, you carry out the will of God, He who is the greatest Father of all, and that you can carry out His will in all you do." It is the best I can wish for you. Not even the Lord God could wish, Mama, something better for you. As for me, time is passing at lightning speed. I do not write much, because in truth I have no time to do it...

There was nothing important in this period, except for this: I very nearly lost a finger of my right hand. I developed something like an abscess. Despite the care of the college doctor, pus kept forming. At a certain moment the doctor saw that the bone itself was beginning to be infected; a minor surgical curettage of the bone was necessary. After I heard this, I told him that I possessed a better medicine. In fact, I had received from the Fr. Rector [Lu-

igi Bondini] a little miraculous water from Lourdes. While he gave it to me, he told me the story of a prodigious cure. At the age of twelve, he injured his foot; a bone in the sole of his foot was slowly turning gangrenous and the pain would not let him sleep; sometimes he screamed in pain.

It was necessary to amputate the foot. One evening the physicians had to meet for a consultation. His mother, seeing what was happening, in a desperate gesture tried a completely new treatment; she threw away the bandages that covered the foot, washed it with soap, and then rinsed it with the miraculous water of Lourdes. The Fr. Rector, after all this time, for the first time went to sleep. After 15 minutes, he awoke, and he was healed. The miracle was evident, but the doctor, a nonbeliever, tried to explain the fact otherwise. However, a few days later when a piece of rotten bone extruded from the foot, the doctor realized that he was confronted with an extraordinary fact: the bone was actually turning gangrenous, but had broken off and had miraculously exited the wound. Following this event the doctor converted and undertook to build a church at his own expense. The Fr. Rector, after the application of the miraculous water, was healed and was able to walk, but could not wear his shoe because of the swelling that remained. However, after the bone detached, everything returned to normal.

(continues on pg. 8)





## St. Maximilian Writes...

(continued from pg. 7)

Our doctor, after he knew that I had the water of Lourdes, applied it himself with joy. And what happened? The day after, I was told by the surgeon of the hospital that surgery was no longer necessary. After a few medications it was completely healed. Glory be to the Lord God, and also to the Immaculata.

Earnestly asking for a prayer.  
Your always grateful son,

Br. Maximilian  
(KW 12)

December 8, 1932

Dearest Mama!

Today, the Feast of our Loving Heavenly Mother, I received a letter with the "opłatek" [a wafer of unleavened bread shared at Christmas] from my loving earthly mother, who is the reflection of the Heavenly Mother, just as the Heavenly Mother is the reflection of God's Goodness, of God's Heart. Divine perfections, which radiate from the inexpressible life of the Most Holy Trinity, spread across the universe in countless reverberations, like

an echo. And so the heart, starting from creatures, rises up to know and love God Himself in the Most Holy Trinity. However it also loves those reflections, because they come from God, are created by God, belong entirely to God.

After my return from India, as I recall, I wrote you a letter, and I do not know why you never received it. Currently letters travel for longer; and at times they may even get lost because of the fighting in Manchuria. As for the chance to meet again on this earth, the matter now lies with the Immaculata. She alone can do with us what she likes, because we belong to her completely.

I add my best wishes for a blessing from the Divine Child and His Immaculate Mother, for you, Mama, for the Most Reverend Mother Superior and all the sisters. I thank you all very much for your prayers, because here in the mission they are much needed to attract the souls of the poor pagans to the Most Holy Heart of the Immaculata and, through her, to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

I enclose a photograph of the Japanese Niepokalanów. At the bottom, you see the home that served us so far. At the top is the new building, into which the brothers moved on the eve of the Immaculate Con-

ception, that is, yesterday. They used to be housed in the attic of the old building. On top of the building, there is a statue of the Immaculata watching over the roofs of the pagan houses of the Hongochi district.

This house is a gift from the Immaculata on the occasion of her feast.

I end here, because I have no time, asking for a prayer.

Your ever grateful son,

Fr. Maximilian M. Kolbe  
(KW 469)

June 15, 1941

My Beloved Mother,

Toward the end of May I came by a train to the Auschwitz camp (in Oświęcim).

All is well with me. Beloved Mama, do not worry for me and for my health, because the good God is in every place and with great love He thinks about everyone and everything.

It would be best not to write to me before I send you another letter, because I do not know how long I will remain here.

With warm greetings and kisses,

Kolbe Rajmund  
(KW 961)

### HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

*"A mother is outside of time. She dies, but she is still a mother. She is the image of the eternal in time, the shadow of the infinite on the finite. Centuries and civilizations dissolve, but the mother is the giver of life. Man works on his generation: a mother on the next. A man uses life; a mother renews it."*

Venerable Fulton J. Sheen



# Reflection on May MI Intention

O Immaculata, please intercede that  
your example may urge us to be living signs  
of the fruits of the Holy Spirit in this world.

*“His mother said to the servers,  
‘Do whatever he tells you.’” (Jn 2:5)*

Our Lady’s power is impressive. When she directed the servers to do whatever Jesus would tell them, she did not mean to undermine His plan but rather to support its completion. Our Lady will always be the one who teaches us to do whatever Jesus wants of us. The wedding feast of Cana is an important paradigm as the Mother and Son are present. With her maternal attentiveness, she noticed the lack of wine for the feast and her tenderness moved her to foresee the consequences for guests and the spouses. She looked for the One who could help, Jesus. Perhaps, she had not seen a miracle performed by Him yet, but she treasured all things in her heart (cf. Lk 2:19). She knew who her Son was: the all-powerful God incarnate.

The Blessed Virgin Mary at Cana mirrors how we too are to live our lives and especially our apostolate. The Mother leads us to the Son. This is her mission. She always makes us aware that the most important thing in life is the presence of Jesus, our one and only Savior.

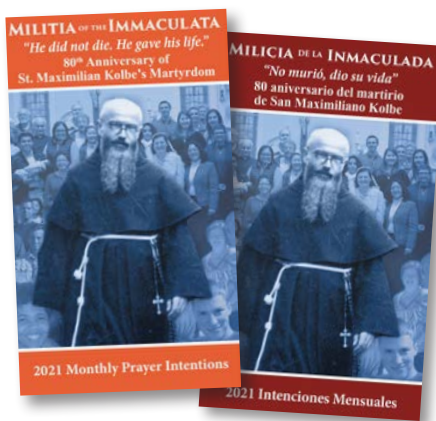
St. Maximilian Kolbe received as a gift an intimate understanding of the mystery and mission of the Immaculata as the most efficacious way to reach out to people and lead them to Christ. In his missionary zeal to make her known by everyone, he wrote, *“Many souls still do not know her, do not love her. They wander away from God, the source of happiness. That is our suffering. Let us strive, with her help, and by our personal sacrifice, to introduce her into hearts.”* (KW 927)

The goal of the Militia of the Immaculata and of each MI member is total consecration to her with apostolic, evangelical intentions. Our Saint emphasized that

we are to work with perseverance for the spiritual good of our brethren, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and with Our Lady’s intercession. *“The Holy Spirit dwells in a just soul. Therefore, in the Immaculata, who is the most just creature, the Holy Spirit is present in the most perfect way possible. The Immaculata is not only ‘conceived without sin’ but is also the ‘Immaculate Conception’ (Lourdes). Therefore, the Holy Spirit reigns in her the most perfectly as possible.”* (KW 1286).

We should be convinced that the Holy Spirit makes known the mystery of our lives to us as He did Our Lady. Jesus promised that He would not ration the gift of the Spirit, Source of love, courage, and hope. Our Lady, our loving Mother, continues to introduce us to an ever-greater intimacy with Jesus who, in turn, wishes to have our assistance as He did with the servers at the wedding feast in Cana. This is why prayer and mission work are to be intertwined. May the Holy Spirit lead us to become fitting instruments for the spreading of the Gospel and for winning many people for Jesus through Our Lady.

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

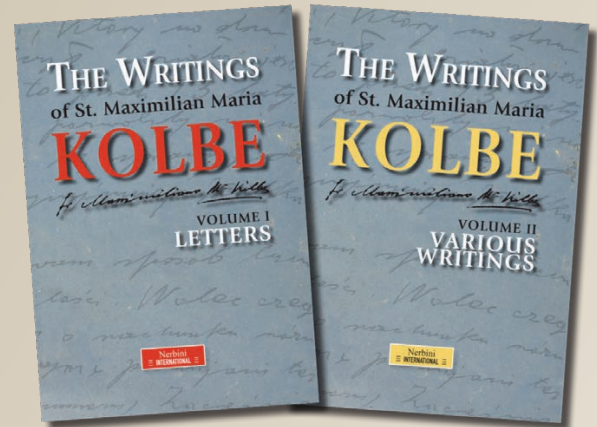
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*"If you love the Immaculata, if your heart burns with gratitude to her, offer your contribution to this work, according to your capabilities! It is worth making such an effort! The Immaculata will not forget it! May all MI Knights be zealous in winning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