

THE KNIGHT OF THE *Immaculata*

E-PUBLICATION OF THE MILITIA OF THE IMMACULATA, USA

MARY AND THE EARLY CHURCH

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Photo by Joe Romie - TodaysCatholic.org

MARY'S MONTH AND FATIMA

by Ronald L. Rodrigues, MI National President



Dear Knights of the Immaculata, Maria! Spring is here and Mary's flowers are blooming. The air is crisp and you can see the joy and happiness in all of God's creation. We begin to make preparations for outdoor activities and summer vacations which are just around the corner.

With the winter snow and cold gone, we look forward to spring but we recall the winter season that gave us a chance to look within ourselves. It brought about mortification and dying to ourselves. Lent has helped us see our lives through the suffering of Jesus and the changes that need to be made. The Easter season has brought about joy and happiness, a new life direction, a path to eternal life. Spring is the time to renew our life. May begins with the feast of St. Joseph the Worker on May 1. The Church invites us to recall that we are all members of the Holy Family and Mary is our Mother. May is Mary's month, the month traditionally dedicated to Mary, a time to recall the new life she brought into this world. It's a time of renewal, the season when new growth begins.

The idea of dedicating a month to a particular event goes back centuries. The ancient Greeks dedicated May to Artemis, the goddess of Fertility, and the Romans dedicated May to Flora, the goddess of bloom and blossoms. The Romans celebrated the floral games as a preparation to enter the month of

May and to celebrate the beginning of spring. The month of May was the official beginning of spring in Roman culture. Over time the ancient tradition of celebrating life and fertility in May was adopted by Christians to honor Mary who brought new life into this world. This tradition dates back to the 13th century and May was considered the month of new growth. The dedication of May specifically to Mary can be traced back to Baroque times, the 17th or 18th century, but it wasn't always in May. Why May then? Because, generally, May is a time of the year when spring shows all its beauty, and flowers and plants begin to bloom. It's a time when nature renews itself and shows off all its colors and elegance. Mary brought new life into this world when she gave birth to Jesus Christ and so the month of May became Mary's month.



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

It is said that the Jesuits at the Roman College of the Society of Jesus made a vow at the end of the 18th century to devote the month of May to Mary to counteract infidelity and immorality among the students. From there it spread to almost all the Catholic churches in the Latin rite.

It is a long-standing tradition to honor Mary by placing a crown on the statue of Mary in May. The crown is made of flower blossoms representing Mary's beauty and virtue. It's a reminder to strive to imitate our Blessed Mother's virtue in our own lives. The crown symbol is attributed to Mary because she is the Mother of the Son of God, who is our Heavenly King. In some areas, May crowning is a giant celebration and is usually done both at church and at home. When we decorate our homes to reflect Church traditions or customs, we participate more fully in the life of the Church.

Mary is our Mother and she cares for all of us. She watches over us and deserves a special place in our homes and our hearts. She deserves the month of May in her honor.

The 14th of May this year is Mother's Day, a day to honor our own mothers for all they have done for us. It is also a day we should remember, honor, and praise our Blessed Mother Mary, our spiritual Mother.

(Continues on pg. 12)

MARY AND THE EARLY CHURCH

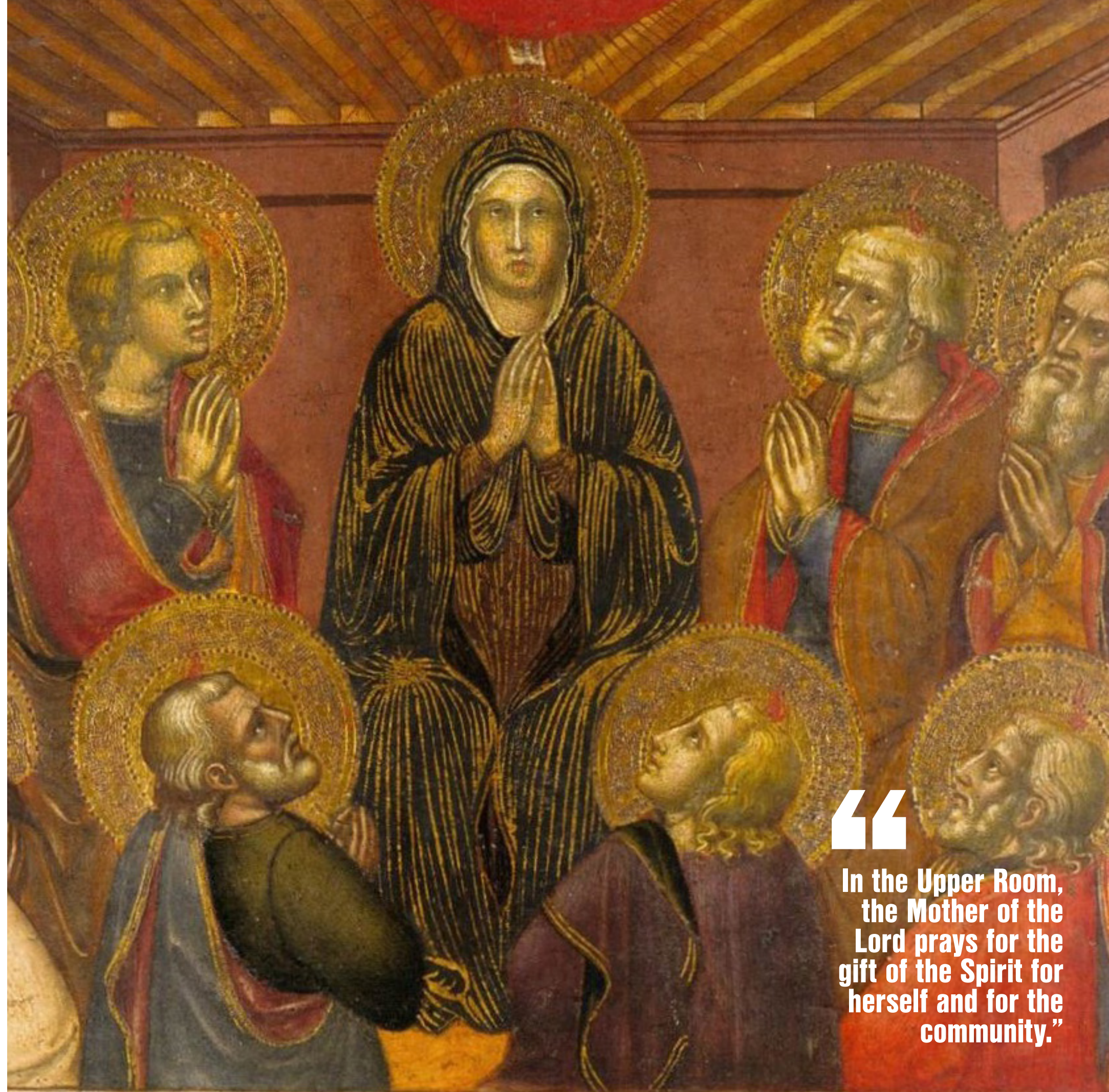
FROM THE MARIAN CATECHESSES OF POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II

Retracing the course of the Virgin Mary's life, the Second Vatican Council recalls her presence in the community waiting for Pentecost. "But since it had pleased God not to manifest solemnly the mystery of the salvation of the human race before He would pour forth the Spirit promised by Christ, we see the Apostles before the day of Pentecost 'persevering with one mind in prayer with the women and Mary the Mother of Jesus, and with His brethren' (Acts 1:14), and we also see Mary by her prayers imploring the gift of the Spirit, who had already overshadowed her in the Annunciation" (*Lumen gentium*, n. 59). The first community is the prelude to the birth of the Church; the Blessed Virgin's presence helps to sketch her definitive features, a fruit of the gift of Pentecost. In the atmosphere of expectation that prevailed in the Upper Room after the Ascension, what was Mary's position in relation to the descent of the Holy Spirit? The Council expressly underscores her prayerful presence while waiting for the outpouring of the Paraclete: she prays, "imploring the gift of the Spirit." This observation is particularly significant since at the Annuncia-

tion the Holy Spirit had descended upon her, "overshadowing" her and bringing about the Incarnation of the Word.

MARY HELPS THE DISCIPLES PREPARE FOR THE SPIRIT'S COMING

Having already had a unique experience of the effectiveness of such a gift, the Blessed Virgin was in a condition to appreciate it more than anyone; indeed, she owed her motherhood to the mysterious intervention of the Spirit, who had made her the way by which the Savior came into the world. Unlike those in the Upper Room who were waiting in fearful expectation, she, fully aware of the importance of her Son's promise to the disciples (cf. Jn 14:16), helped the community to be well disposed to the coming of the "Paraclete." Thus, while her unique experience made her ardently long for the Spirit's coming, it also involved her in preparing the minds and hearts of those around her. During that prayer in the Upper Room, in an attitude of deep communion with the Apostles,



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with some women and with Jesus' "brethren," the Mother of the Lord prays for the gift of the Spirit for herself and for the community. It was appropriate that the first outpouring of the Spirit upon her, which had happened in view of her divine motherhood, should be repeated and reinforced. Indeed, at the foot of the Cross Mary was entrusted with a new motherhood, which concerned Jesus' disciples. It was precisely this mission that demanded a renewed gift of the Spirit. The Blessed Virgin therefore wanted it for the fruitfulness of her spiritual motherhood.

While at the moment of the Incarnation the Holy Spirit had descended upon her as a person called to take part worthily in the great mystery, everything is now accomplished for the sake of the Church, whose image, model and mother Mary is called to be. In the Church and for the Church, mindful of Jesus' promise, she waits for Pentecost and implores a multiplicity of gifts for everyone, in accordance with each one's personality and mission. Mary's prayer has particular significance in the Christian community: it fosters the coming of the Spirit, imploring His action in the hearts of the disciples and in the world. Just as in the Incarnation the Spirit had formed the physical body of Christ in her virginal womb, now in the Upper Room the same Spirit comes down to give life to the Mystical Body.

Thus, Pentecost is also a fruit of the Blessed Virgin's incessant prayer, which is accepted by the Paraclete with special favor because it is an

expression of her motherly love for the Lord's disciples. In contemplating Mary's powerful intercession as she waits for the Holy Spirit, Christians of every age have frequently had recourse to her intercession on the long and tiring journey to salvation, in order to receive the gifts of the Paraclete in greater abundance.

MARY'S DEEP INFLUENCE ON THE EARLY COMMUNITY

Responding to the prayer of the Blessed Virgin and the community gathered in the Upper Room on the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit bestows the fullness of His gifts on the Blessed Virgin and those present, working a deep transformation in them for the sake of spreading the Good News. The Mother of Christ and His disciples are granted new strength and new apostolic energy for the Church's growth. In particular, the outpouring of the Spirit leads Mary to exercise her spiritual motherhood in an exceptional way, through her presence imbued with charity and her witness of faith.

In the nascent Church she passes on to the disciples her memories of the Incarnation, the infancy, the hidden life and the mission of her divine Son as a priceless treasure, thus helping to make Him known and to strengthen the faith of believers.

Pope St. John Paul II
General Audience of May 28, 1997.

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Mary's prayer fosters the coming of the Spirit, imploring His action in the hearts of the disciples and in the world.”



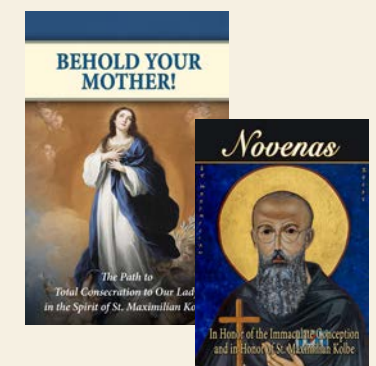
PENTECOST NOVENA

The first novena ever prayed is the Pentecost Novena. This year, we celebrate the Solemnity of Pentecost on Sunday, May 28. therefore, the Novena begins on May 19, Friday after Ascension Sunday, and concludes on Saturday, May 27.

Join Catholics around the world and participate in the nine days that Our Lady and the disciples spent in prayer after the Ascension of the Risen Lord into heaven, preparing for the Holy Spirit's coming, which Christ had promised them.

There are many versions of the Pentecost Novena. One, from the book "The Sanctifier" by Servant of God Luis Maria Martinez, Archbishop of Mexico from 1937 to 1956, is made available by the Daughters of St. Paul (click here to view online)

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THE WAY OF MARY'S UNIVERSAL MOTHERHOOD



In Scripture, we read about ten events when God invited Mary to learn and accept His will regarding her Universal Motherhood."

The Triune God, all-knowing and all good, willed to preserve Mary from all stain of sin, even original sin which has been present at the conception of all other human creatures since Adam and Eve. From eternity, God saw Mary from her conception, and for the duration of her earthly life, and God gave her particular graces because she would agree to become the Mother of God and the Mother of the human race. God also willed to assume her immaculate body and soul into heaven and to crown her, the Mother of All, as Queen and Mediatrix of all grace. As St. Maximilian said, "Jesus reserved the order of justice to Himself, entrusting the entire order of mercy to the Immaculata." Why do we bestow special honor, reverence and veneration (*hyperdulia*) to this woman? We do so because the Triune God honors her! God honors her singularly and specially because she is the only created person in human history to hear the word of God and obey it perfectly. The eternal will of God was that Mary become Mother of God, Mother of All, the New Eve. We entrust ourselves and all that we have to our Mother, just like Jesus entrusted Himself to her. Just as God the Father and God the Holy Spirit entrusted the Son of God to the *Woman*, to the *Mother*. In Scripture, we read about ten events when God invited Mary to learn and accept His will regarding her Universal Motherhood. "And she pondered all these things in her heart."



1. Mary's Fiat – Mary, our Mother, the angel greeted you as, "*Full of Grace.*" At such a young age you learned that it was God's will that you carry in your virgin womb, and bring into the world its Savior. You were humbled, and you did not fully understand how this was to happen, yet you gave your fiat, "*Behold the handmaiden of the Lord. Let it be done to me according to your word.*" Thank you for accepting God's will for you to become Mother of our Savior. (Luke 1:38) Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

2. The Mother of Our Lord – Mary, our Mother, you made haste to help your cousin Elizabeth. As you approached her home, Elizabeth cried aloud, "*How is it that the Mother of my Lord should come to me?*" You learned at that moment that you were the new ark of a new covenant between the Lord and His people. You are the living vessel carrying the Savior to world. Thank you for bringing your Son, God's Son, close to us, so that we may be sanctified, and we may leap for joy as did David in the Old Testament when the ark approached. (Luke 1:43) Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

3. The Birth of Jesus – Mary, our Mother, you knew that you would give birth to God in the town of Bethlehem, which means House of Bread. Your spouse Joseph placed our infant God in a manger from which grains were eaten. You learned that like Joseph of the Old Testament protected the grains in Egypt to feed the multitudes, your Son would be *the Bread of Life* to sustain and nourish *the many*. You learned that even moments after His birth He was to be shared with poor shepherds, who were visited by hosts of angels announcing the Messiah's coming. Thank you for sharing Jesus the Savior, with a poor world. (Luke 2:8-20) Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

4. Wise Men Pay Homage to Jesus – Mary, our Mother, it was not long before you were visited by wise men from the East. You learned that even celestial lights would herald the coming of our newborn King. The Magi brought offerings and oblations to your Son, and gave them to you and Joseph. You pondered why they gave gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, and you learned that Jesus was King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Thank you for your willingness to be our Queen Mother. (Matthew 2:1-12) Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

5. Two Hearts Would Be Pierced – Mary, our Mother, after fulfilling the prescribed Jewish purification rights after childbirth, you and Joseph presented your Son to God the Father in the temple. You and Joseph were always obedient to the faith of your ancestors. You and Joseph learned from Simeon that Jesus would be a sign of contradiction, and that a sword would pierce your heart, too. There would be suffering involved with the salvation of the world. Suffering was for the Christ, and for His loving Mother. You learned that you and Joseph would need to flee with Jesus to Egypt. Some wise men sought Jesus; some evil men sought to kill Him. Thank you for accepting Simeon's prophetic words and making God's will your own, even if it meant losing what was most precious to you. (Luke 2:22-34) Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

6. Jesus Teaches the Elders in the Temple – Mary, our Mother, you and Joseph discovered that Jesus did not return to Nazareth from Jerusalem. The panic you must have suffered for three days that you were without your Son. Finally, you discovered He was teaching the elders in the Temple. You learned that Jesus chose to stay!



You learned from Jesus that He must serve His Father in His house. Jesus came of age as an Israelite, and He would fulfill His mission. He would follow the will of His Father in heaven. And so would you. Thank you. (Luke 2:45-49)

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

7. Mediatrix Between Humankind and the Son of God – Mary, our Mother, you were moved with pity for the married couple, so you interceded on their behalf to your Son. You prompted Jesus to initiate His public ministry. In Cana, you learned from your Son that you were the *Woman* spoken of *in the beginning*. You learned at the moment you asked your Son to help humankind, as He changed ordinary water into the sweetest-tasting wine, that you were asking Him to reveal Himself to the world as the Christ. You

learned at that moment that you were the Mother of All, and not just Mother of Jesus. This step on your Way of Universal Motherhood would become your Son's first step on His Way of the Cross! Thank you for sharing Jesus with the world. Thank you for sharing yourself with the world. (John 2:1-11)

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

8. Mother and Perfect Disciple – Mary, our Mother, you would visit your Son as He preached the good news of God's love for us all. He would be loved by many for being fed by Him spiritually, as well as with bread and fish. On more than one occasion someone in the crowd would refer to you, and Jesus would ask, *"Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?"* He would preach that those who do the will of His Father are His mothers and brothers. You learned

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Why do we bestow
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that even filial love is subordinate to the love that we all should have toward God. Of course, Jesus knew more than anyone that nobody has ever loved God and done His will perfectly as you have. Thank you. All generations will call you blessed. (Matthew 12:46-50)

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

9. The Cross – The Gift – Mary, our Mother, you were aware of the passion and suffering that your Son endured. The trial, the scourging, the crowning, the mockery, and the nails. Yet you stood at the foot of the cross with Him. The *fiat* that you gave over 33 years earlier hit a crescendo when you suffered the pangs of birth at the cross. You learned from your crucified Son that you were to be Mother of the beloved apostle. The apostle is *to behold* you as a Mother, and you are to be taken into homes, hearts and souls. Oh, we pray that you are taken into every home, every heart and every soul, to be honored, revered, and venerated as Queen Mother of our King. (John 19:25-28)

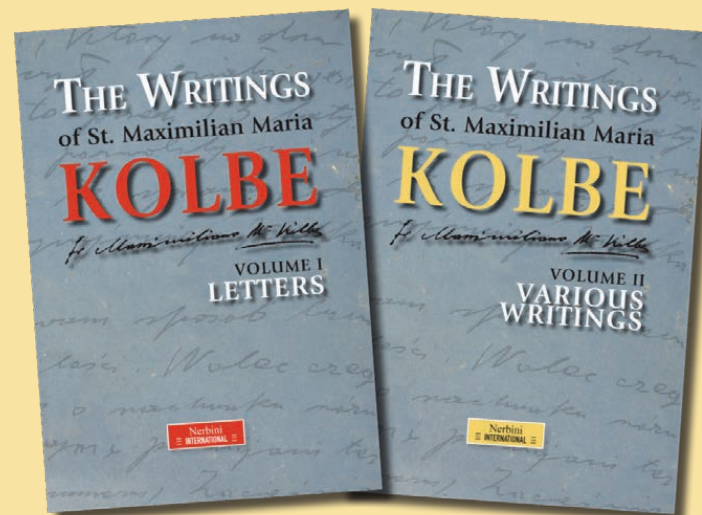
Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

10. Mother of the Universal Church – Mary, our Mother, after the glory of the resurrection and ascension of your Divine Son, you waited in the upper room, as Jesus told you. You were with the apostles and disciples as God the Holy Spirit, whom you knew most intimately since the moment of your Immaculate Conception, blew open the doors and windows and came to rest on you and on the others. You learned that this was the birth of the Church. Jesus said that He must leave in order for the Holy Spirit to come to us. Mary, Mother, you are full of grace and you are the Mediatrix of all grace. You are the created Immaculate Conception, filled with the Holy Spirit, the Uncreated Immaculate Conception. Thank you for accepting your Universal Motherhood. Pray for us who have recourse to you. (Acts 1:13-14)

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

†With Ecclesiastical Approval

Composed by Joseph Cascone,
MI Member



VOLUME I: LETTERS • VOLUME II: VARIOUS WRITINGS

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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 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.



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— Fr. Peter D. Fehlner, OFM Conv.

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



MARY'S MONTH AND FATIMA

(Continued from pg. 2)

Mary has a message for us. In all her apparitions she wants to give the world a message: the message of peace, the kind of peace we all look for and that can only be found with Jesus in your life. Our Mother wants to lead us to an inner lasting peace through her Son, Jesus Christ.

In May 1917, Our Lady gave us a message at Fatima, Portugal. The message came to full bloom in October but began to sprout and grow in early spring. An angel, the guardian angel of Portugal, first spoke to the children in spring 1916, at the Cova da Iria. Cova da Iria, is a term derived from the Greek word Eirene, which means peace. Our Lady appeared during WWI in the Cova (hollow) of Peace. The first apparition took place eight days before Pope Benedict XV ordered that the invocation "Queen of Peace, pray for us" be added to the Litany of Loreto. The Queen of Peace came to the Cova of Peace, to proclaim to the world a message of peace. This message was foretold by the angel of Portugal, who identified himself as the angel of peace. The Fatima apparitions began on

May 13, 1917, and ended with the Miracle of the Sun on October 13, 1917.

Our Lady promised to tell the three young children who she was and what she desired. She identified herself as "The Lady of the Rosary," and warned men to amend their lives: "Do not offend our Lord anymore. He is already much offended."

Mary's message is as valid today as it was when she visited the children in Fatima, on May 13, 1917. Her primary message can be summed up as prayer, penance, and reparation. Our Mother asks us to pray the Rosary every day in order to obtain peace for the world and the end of war. She wants us to offer up sacrifices for the salvation of sinners and in reparation for sins against God and her Immaculate Heart, accomplished by praying the Rosary and practicing the first Saturday devotions. God wants the world to have a devotion to Mary's Immaculate Heart. Mary asked for the consecration of Russia to her Immaculate Heart and the Holy Communion of reparation on the First Saturdays. She predicted the end of WWI but told

the children that if the world did not stop offending God, another war, even worse, would break out. WWII began and by the war's end in 1945, 60 million people had been killed, more than half of them civilians.

Is the world any different today? Mary has the same message in most of her apparitions: Prayer, Penance, and Peace. The world is in trouble. This May, let's give ourselves to Mary and begin our journey to help her bring God's peace to the world. St. Maximilian Kolbe's personal journey to his own Calvary began on May 28, 1941, when he was transported to Auschwitz. St. Maximilian strived to bring peace to a fallen world, through the love of our Blessed Mother. As Knights of the Immaculata, may we continue to live the legacy of St. Maximilian and bring peace to this fallen world, the love of Jesus through the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Ronald L. Rodrigues
MI National President

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

ST. MAXIMILIAN WRITES...

ONE OF HIS UNPUBLISHED WRITINGS, REVEALS HIS DEEP INSIGHT INTO THE MYSTERY OF THE IMMACULATA IN GOD'S PLAN (KW 1295).

O Immaculate Virgin Mother, with my brother Duns Scotus I turn to you in humble prayer: "Allow me to praise you, O Sacred Virgin, and give me strength against your enemies. Indeed, human language is incapable of speaking of heavenly things. St. Paul rightly claims that "what God has prepared has never entered even the heart of man" (cf. 1 Cor 2:9). How could one then begin to grasp and express what God has prepared in you and through you?!... I - To what purpose do we live on earth? "The heart of man is restless until it rests in Thee, O God," St. Augustine confesses, having looked long and in vain for happiness outside of God. From personal ex-

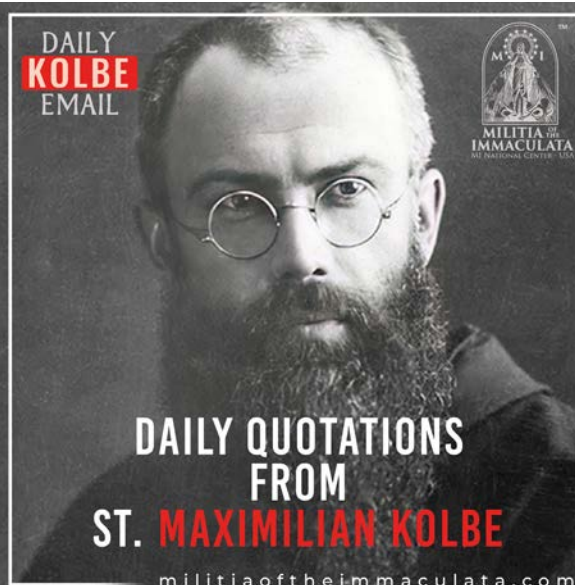
perience, we all sense that nothing limited will ever be quite enough. Thus, only God can be our end. To know God, to love Him, take possession of Him, join Him, somehow be transformed into Him; to be divinized; to become like the Man-God. But since God is infinite, a creature will never reach Him.... II - A just man falls seven times [Prv 24:16]. The Immaculata comes into the world, the creature without the slightest stain of sin, the masterwork that came from the hands of God, she who is full of grace. The One and Triune God looked upon the low estate (that is, her humility, the foundation of all the virtues present in her) of his handmaid. God the Father

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In Mary's womb
our soul must be
reborn after the
form of Jesus
Christ.... At her
knee the soul
must learn to
know and love
Jesus.”

entrusts to her, as a son, His own Son, God the Son enters into her womb, while the Holy Spirit molds the body of Christ in the womb of the most pure Virgin. "And the Word was made flesh" [Jn 1:14]. The Immaculata becomes Mother of God. Christ, God-Man, is the fruit of the love of the One and Triune God and of Mary Immaculate. III - From now the children of God must be shaped in the likeness of that first Son of God, the Man-God, who is infinite. By reproducing the features of the Man-God, and imitating Christ the Lord, souls will strive toward holiness. The more thoroughly one reproduces in oneself the image of Christ, the more one approaches the Godhead, be-

comes divine, becomes man-God. (It is the marriage of the soul with Christ, for likeness and the divine action.) Therefore, those who do not want to have Mary Immaculate as Mother will not have Christ the Lord for their brother either. God the Father will not send them His Son, the Son will not descend unto their soul, the Holy Spirit will not form with His own grace the mystical body after Christ's model, since that all takes place in Mary Immaculate, full of grace: in Mary only. No other creature, in fact, is or will ever be immaculate or full of grace, so it will not be in a condition to be told "the Lord is with you" (cf. Lk 1:28) as closely as He is with the Immaculate Virgin. As it is for the likeness of the firstborn, the God-Man, who was conceived only following the explicit consent of the

heavenly Virgin, so also, and not otherwise, it is for other human creatures, who must in all things thoroughly imitate their Prototype. The MI—In Mary's womb our soul must be reborn after the form of Jesus Christ. She is bound to feed the soul with the milk of her grace, raise it as lovingly as she nourished, looked after, and raised Jesus. At her knee the soul must learn to know and love Jesus. From her Heart it must draw love toward Him, or even love Him with her heart and become like Him through love. The devil knows that this is the only way and that all grace comes to the soul through the Immaculata, so he does all he can to take the soul away from that path: he sows pride. [Explain] How to consecrate oneself...



DAILY KOLBE EMAIL

DAILY QUOTATIONS FROM ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE

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"With patience I can do all things in Him who strengthens me [Phil 4:13] through the dear hands of the Immaculata... I can even become a saint. Courage, then, and go forward in patience and loving faith." (KW 987)

"As a convert to Catholicism, I haven't understood Mary's role in my life as a Catholic. Through the daily emails I receive from the MI, I have come to know and love our Mother. I pray I will continue to grow and understand how she helps us on our journey and how to truly honor her in a way that pleases Jesus." - A Subscriber

Maximiliano M. Kolbe



FINDING CHRIST IN CHAOS

NICOLE POPEK, MI MEMBER

My spiritual journey began after a friend of mine in the streets asked me if I believed in God. I told him I was Catholic (not fully understanding at the time what that meant) and he told me to seek God with my whole heart, my whole mind, and my whole soul. My seeking began during long hours of silent listening and receiving the still and quiet embraces of the Father. This is where my love for prayer and silence began. As a child, I remember watching a woman working as an altar server at Mass, and in that moment, I told the Lord that I wanted to serve Him with my whole life. As a young adult, after what seemed to be a long process of discerning my vocation, I joined the Secular Franciscan Order and then was married to Michael in the summer of 2010. When we settled into our family home, the first item to be placed on our walls over the kitchen table was a Scripture verse from the book of Joshua: “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” (Joshua 24:15). Our marriage began on the rocky road of working a small family farm. We learned quickly that we needed to depend on God for everything, since there were so many variables that were simply beyond our control. Then, from the hardships of difficult pregnancies and through the

“**With Our Blessed Mother, I began to more fully embrace not only my physical motherhood but my spiritual motherhood as well.**”

traumas of four natural childbirths in 5 years, I began to learn to embrace Christ crucified. There seemed to be less time for silent embraces with the Lord and the stress of caring for small children began to take its toll. In my journey of spiritual seeking, I still needed to discover Our Blessed Mother, as I could no longer handle the abstract spirituality of fancy rosaries and pictures that had no relational meaning. On May 13, 2016, I made an act of consecration to God through the Immaculata and joined the Militia of Immaculata, whose mission is to draw all souls to the Immaculata so as to bring about the Kingdom of Jesus. It was at this time that I was able to joyfully proclaim as St. Elizabeth in the event of the Visitation, “How is it that the mother of my Lord should

visit me?” She taught me in the chaos of my day, to pray with action rather than with stillness. Through the activities with my children and with my husband, I began to see that it was Christ speaking to me and through them teaching me His Love. With Our Blessed Mother, I began to more fully embrace not only my physical motherhood but my spiritual motherhood as well; not only by the sharing of my faith but through the offering of simple ordinary actions of daily life in the house. It is through these simple, silent, and yet small actions that I began to realize the quiet priesthood of a mother, and more fully live my Baptism. There are many trials faced in silence by the stay-at-home mom, but this is the opportunity of great consolations from the cross of Jesus. Our Holy Mother began slowly nudging me toward His Eucharistic Heart. With a crucifix on my wall that I could glance at from time to time during the busyness of my day, I learned to offer prayers of spiritual communion so that I could adore and worship the Eucharist, the True Presence of Christ, even though I could not attend daily Mass. I was not alone in my Christian mission because our Holy Mother was (and is) leading me. A routine of prayer began to form in the home. With walking Rosaries and Chaplets with songs and movement, prayer became active and alive. Through the changing of the linens on our little home altar, my house has become like a little monastery in tune with the liturgical seasons of the Church. I now focus on living my consecration to become as Saint Maximilian says, “transubstantiated into the Immaculate Heart of Mary,” so that with each passing day, my heart beats ever more closely to His Most Sacred Heart, where I have found all the consolation and strength I need for my vocation. I have found Christ anew amidst the chaos of caring for my growing family.

Pax et Bonum, Peace and All Good,
Nicole Popek, OFS MI



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

Our National Emmaus Moment

Jesus Is Coming to YOU

Shortly after his Resurrection, Jesus accompanied two disciples on their journey from Jerusalem to Emmaus—walking with them in their grief, offering hope, and finally revealing himself through the breaking of the bread. Jesus wants to do the same for YOU!

This will be one of the largest Eucharistic pilgrimages in history. Just as throngs followed Christ throughout his earthly ministry, our nation will process with our Eucharistic Lord through cities, along highways, and past rural towns on his way to the 10th National Eucharistic Congress.



Marian Route

STARTING LOCATION: MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS, LAKE ITASCA, MN

Departing from the headwaters of the Mississippi, the northern arm of the Pilgrimage will descend through the midwestern United States, pass through Wisconsin and Illinois, and meet up with the other three pilgrimage routes at the Congress in Indianapolis. The route is named for its visit to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help, the first and only approved Marian Apparition site in the United States.

SOME STOPS ALONG THE WAY

- Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis
- The National Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help
- Archdiocese of Milwaukee
- Archdiocese of Chicago
- Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

Junipero Serra Route

STARTING LOCATION: SAN FRANCISCO, CA

From our Pacific coast, the western arm of the Pilgrimage will cross the Rocky Mountains and Great Plains on foot. Named after the "Apostle of California," this will be the longest and most challenging route—covering over 2,200 miles!

SOME STOPS ALONG THE WAY

- Diocese of Salt Lake City
- Archdiocese of Denver
- Archdiocese of Omaha
- Archdiocese of Kansas City-KS
- Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph
- Archdiocese of St. Louis

Juan Diego Route

STARTING LOCATION: BROWNSVILLE, TX

The southern arm of the Pilgrimage will depart from the tip of Texas, wind around the Gulf of Mexico, and pass through the southeastern region of the United States on its way to Indianapolis. This route is named for St. Juan Diego, whose vision of Our Lady had a massive impact on the spiritual character of North America. Our Lady of Guadalupe is the official Patroness of the Eucharistic Revival.

SOME STOPS ALONG THE WAY

- Diocese of Corpus Christi
- Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston
- Archdiocese of New Orleans
- Archdiocese of Mobile
- Archdiocese of Atlanta
- Diocese of Nashville

10th National Eucharistic Congress

LOCATION: INDIANAPOLIS, IN

The four branches of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage will converge at the venue in a powerful symbol of unity. Then—gathered as one Church—we will present our wounded and imperfect hearts to the triune God who loves us. Just as he did on the road to Emmaus, Our Lord will listen to our troubles and reveal himself once more in the breaking of the bread.

Elizabeth Ann Seton Route

STARTING LOCATION: NEW HAVEN, CT

The eastern arm of the Pilgrimage will begin near the Atlantic coast, journey through our nation's oldest diocese, and cross the Appalachian Mountains. The route is named after St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, the first American-born saint to be canonized by the Catholic Church.

SOME STOPS ALONG THE WAY

- Archdiocese of New York
- Archdiocese of Philadelphia
- Archdiocese of Baltimore
- Archdiocese of Washington
- Diocese of Steubenville
- Archdiocese of Cincinnati



NATIONAL
Eucharistic
Congress



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.

May

*O Immaculata,
please intercede...*

*That children and young people
may encounter Jesus, the Way, the
Truth and the Life, and respond
with joy to their life vocation
to build the future.*

Jn 14:6-7 - Jesus said to him, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, then you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

KW 1075 - Prayer, prayer in particular, is the effective weapon in the struggle for the freedom and happiness of souls. And why? Because a supernatural goal may be attained only by supernatural means. Heaven—the divinization of souls, so to speak—is a supernatural reality in the fullest sense

of the word. Therefore, it cannot possibly be attained by natural means. What is indispensable here is also a supernatural means, namely divine grace, which is obtained through humble and trustful prayer. Grace, and only grace, which enlightens the intellect and strengthens the will, is the cause of conversion.

Reflection - As MI Knights, with the help of the Immaculata we should pray constantly that children and young people may encounter Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life.

The most effective way to know Him, and to experience a personal life-changing encounter with Him is through our Blessed Mother, with her intercession. She is His Mother and His living Tabernacle and Monstrance. She is His most perfect disciple and our model and teacher of prayer. Authentic devotion to her leads us to recognize and to encounter Jesus in the Most Holy Eucharist, to follow Him along the path of our personal vocation, and to become fitting instruments for the building of the Kingdom of God in the world. May youth encounter Jesus through Mary!

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.

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