

# THE KNIGHT OF THE Immaculata

E-PUBLICATION OF THE MILITIA OF THE IMMACULATA, USA



**Our Greatest Treasure:  
The Most Holy Eucharist - PAGE 3**

**Urgent Call to Prayer  
and Action - PAGE 6**

**St. Maximilian Writes... - PAGE 10**

## 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the First MI Magazine



### The Joy of Memory

By John W. Galten, MI National President

Dear Knights of the Immaculata,

...a confirmation of thoughts on the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the magazine *The Knight of the Immaculata*.

Maria! I want to speak to you of memory. Our memories can be a great treasure for us, uplifting and giving us utmost confidence or a disastrous force haunting us. I wish to speak of the joy of memory. Even though we live in the present, happy memories are a major part of our personal makeup. It is, in a real sense, one of those key gifts that make us human.

In the Old Testament, the authors constantly remind the readers of the favors and mercies that God had given them. Of course, being called by God as a chosen people and God's servant Moses leading them out of slavery in Egypt are but two enormous gifts they are called to remember among many. The deliverance from Egypt is celebrated year after year in the Passover. It is a call to remember blessings. The Psalms are full of exhortations to remember God, His Covenant and His mercies. The Psalmist even dares to remind God, calling on his memory—His promises. Now this is nerve!

Jesus in His teaching often reminds His hearers of their authentic tradition in their history of God's mercies. He is often questioned about His opinion of this or that memorable saying. He questions others about their personal past or their traditions as they remember them or not. Of course, there is the astounding line in the Consecration at Holy Mass spoken by Jesus, "Do this in memory of Me." The Holy Scriptures themselves, which are alive and active, through the Holy Spirit bring us spiritually alive as they call to mind the present mystery of God. So it is, over and over again, we see the need for remembering, calling to mind the great things.



(Continues on pg. 2)



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

– St. Maximilian Kolbe



# Editorial

(Continued from pg. 1)

Just so, our humble electronic newsletter, grandchild of St. Maximilian's magazine, calls to our minds and hearts the anointed words of our founding Saint and the Immaculata. His words, thoughts and example speak to us of what the Immaculata desires for each of us and the world. Without this reminder, we tend to sink into a routine solely dominated by the present, forgetting our roots and basic spiritual orientation.

Jesus lives, the Immaculata lives, St. Maximilian lives! Reading, meditation on their words and actions, enables us to have a living contact and conversation with them. The printed word, augmented and animated by the Holy Spirit can cause remembered Mystery to come alive in our souls. Why else would God have left us His memory in The Book—which the Bible is!

Think about the newsletter: Share it. Treasure the Memory.

John W. Galten  
MI National President

P.S. Do we not with boldness and intimacy have the nerve to remind Our Lady in the *Memorare* to do her remembering on us?



## Online MI Villages

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 Scott Richard at [Virtual.MI.Village@gmail.com](mailto:Virtual.MI.Village@gmail.com) or Douglas Eschbach at [MI.village.martown@gmail.com](mailto:MI.village.martown@gmail.com) or William Bielawski at [william.bielawski@gmail.com](mailto:william.bielawski@gmail.com) for additional information.

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. *Behold Your Mother!* offers you an effective tool for making that possible!

Available also in audio book form.

Listen anytime, anywhere!

The suggested donation for multiple copies of the booklet is \$1.00/ea. plus shipping; for a single copy, the suggested donation is \$4.00 shipping included.

Now available in Spanish



Order copies today from the MI National Office:  
[MINational@MissionImmaculata.com](mailto:MINational@MissionImmaculata.com)  
Or call: 331-223-5564



### Daily Holy Mass

will be offered throughout 2022 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](mailto:PrayerRequest@MissionImmaculata.com)



### Icon of St. Maximilian Kolbe Holy Card and Print

This beautiful icon of St. Maximilian Kolbe painted by an MI member is now available as a holy card and frangible 8x10 print.

Order copies today from the MI National Office:  
[MINational@MissionImmaculata.com](mailto:MINational@MissionImmaculata.com)  
Or call: 331-223-5564

This is Part Three of the document *The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church* published by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. May it lead us to an ever-greater appreciation of this unfathomable Gift. We reprint it here for the ongoing formation of all MI members.

### **B) The Real Presence of Christ**

From the very beginning, the Church has believed and celebrated according to the teaching of Jesus Himself: *Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him* (Jn 6:54-56). It is not “ordinary bread and ordinary drink” that we receive in the Eucharist, but the flesh and blood of Christ, who came to nourish and transform us, to restore our relationship to God and to one another.

In the Eucharist, with the eyes of faith we see before us Jesus Christ, who, in the Incarnation became flesh (Jn 1:14) and who in the Paschal Mystery gave Himself for us (Ti 2:14), accepting even death on a cross (Phil 2:8). St. John Chrysostom preached that when you see the Body of Christ “set before you [on the altar], say to yourself: Because of this Body I am no longer earth and ashes, no longer a prisoner, but free: because of this I hope for heaven, and to receive the good things therein, immortal life, the portion of angels, [and closeness] with Christ.”

How can Jesus Christ be truly present in what still appears to be bread and wine? In the liturgical act known as the epiclesis, the bishop or priest, speaking in the person of Jesus Christ, calls upon the Father to send down His Holy Spirit to change the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ, and this change occurs through the institution narrative, by the power of the words of Christ pronounced by the celebrant.



# Our Greatest Treasure: The Most Holy Eucharist - Part III

The reality that, in the Eucharist, bread and wine become the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Christ without ceasing to appear as bread and wine to our five senses is one of the central mysteries of the Catholic faith. This faith is a doorway through which we, like the saints and mystics before us, may enter into a deeper perception of the mercy and love manifested in and through Christ’s sacramental presence in our midst. While one thing is seen with our bodily eyes, another reality is perceived through the eyes of faith. The real, true, and substantial presence of Christ in the Eucharist is the most profound reality of the sacrament. “This mysterious change is very appropriately called by the Church transubstantiation.” Though Christ is present to us in many ways in the liturgy, including in the assembly gathered, the presiding minister, and the word proclaimed, the Church also clearly affirms that “the mode of Christ’s presence under the Eucharistic species is unique.” As St. Paul VI wrote, “This presence is called ‘real’ not to exclude the idea that the others are ‘real’ too, but rather to indicate presence *par ex-*

*cellence*, because it is substantial and through it Christ becomes present whole and entire, God and man.” In the sacramental re-presentation of His sacrifice, Christ holds back nothing, offering Himself, whole and entire. The use of the word “substantial” to mark the unique presence of Christ in the Eucharist is intended to convey the totality of the gift He offers to us.

When the Eucharist is distributed and the minister says, “the Body of Christ,” we are to look not simply at what is visible before our eyes, but at what it has become by the words of Christ and the gift of the Holy Spirit—the Body of Christ. The communicant’s response of “Amen” is a profession of faith in the Real Presence of Christ and reflects the intimate personal encounter with Him, with His gift of self, that comes through reception of Holy Communion.

The Church’s firm belief in the Real Presence of Christ is reflected in the worship that we offer to the Blessed Sacrament in various ways, including Eucharistic Exposition, Adoration, and Benediction; Eucharistic Proces-

(Continues on pg. 4)





# Our Greatest Treasure: The Most Holy Eucharist - Part III

(Continued from pg. 3)

sions; and Forty Hours Devotions. In addition, the practices of reverently genuflecting before the Blessed Sacrament reserved in the tabernacle, bowing one's head prior to the reception of Holy Communion, and refraining from food and drink for at least one hour before receiving Communion are clear manifestations of the Church's Eucharistic faith.

*(to be continued)*

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The document *The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church* was developed by the Committee on Doctrine of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). It was approved by the full body of the USCCB at its November 2021 General Meeting and has been authorized for publication by the undersigned.

Rev Michael J. K. Fuller  
General Secretary, USCCB



## From an MI Member

Dear Fellow Knight John Galten,

On the Feast Day of Our Lady of Lourdes, I thought it might be helpful to relate Fr. Kolbe's close connection with Lourdes so that our fellow Knights might be able to imitate his use of Lourdes water in their individual lives.

The MI Catechism at reference #61 relates the following in connection with Mary's Immaculate Conception: "St. Maximilian saw even greater significance in the Lourdes event: If she is indeed the Immaculate Conception, then everything that serves as a foundation for this truth is also true. Hence, the apparitions at Lourdes are a confirmation of the entire Catholic Faith."

"Lourdes had a great personal meaning for Maximilian, as well. As a seminarian in 1914, he developed a deep abscess on the finger of his right hand. The wound could have prevented him from being ordained. He applied Lourdes water to the finger and it began to heal the next day." A further reading of reference #61 of the MI Catechism reveals the profound importance of this event.

The official church source for Lourdes water is available at [www.lourdescenter.org](http://www.lourdescenter.org).

I hope this information will be helpful to our fellow Knights.

In corde Mariae,  
Michael, MI Member

## 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.

# Singing to Jesus



**Fourth Graders from St. Agnes School in Saint Paul, MN, have composed the following verses of a Eucharistic Hymn for the Eucharistic procession held at the school on February 2, 2022. They are also preparing for their consecration to Our Lady on May 13.**

1. Jesus, Lord, come to my heart and fill me with your love. Show me your grace through your Body. Jesus, O Lord, show me your mercy and love. You whom I love with all my heart. You are in the monstrance I pray to. O Lord of all on high, I am just a part of your heart. I am like a part of you.
2. *Oh our Omega, oh our Alpha, oh our Lord! God of Hosts, be in my heart with me today, you whom I listen to day and night. Let me be like you.*
3. Omega, Lord in my heart, whom I love forever. O our silent Bread, O Sun of blinding Light; just a sly Baby with a giant Soul. Tears of joy running down my cheek because of your beautiful Face.
4. *Lord my God, whom I adore, hiding but he's still there. No beginning and no end. See me, Lord, kneeling here poor but happy and lost in wonder.*
5. Lord Jesus, whom I listen to. Jesus the bread of life with no beginning and no end. See me adore you while in my heart I am filled with the joy of your heart.
6. *Jesus my friend whom I bow down to worship! I see the Blood dripping down your heart. No beginning and no end, see Him walking in my heart! Down on my knees I praise you, my Lord.*
7. Jesus, Jesus, coming to me!  
Lord, Lord whom I praise is Thee;  
Starving for Your Life,  
which You gave by strife.  
Smaller than a piece of bread  
which fills us up with no dread;

- See me poor sinner needing love  
as cool and tender as a dove.  
Happy, happy that is I,  
wanting to come to your home so high.
8. *Lord of all virtue, Light of the world, whom I love and adore! Hiding in the monstrance, You look like bread and no more. I am at your service, with my heart burning for You. Lost in love at the God Thou art.*
  9. King of Kings, Light of the Heavens and Earth, whom I seek! Blanket of Love, plain Bread, see, Lord, Your servant is here. Speak to me, silent and still but still happy.
  10. *Jesus, my closest Friend! You are the almighty King whom I praise! You I receive, the Bread of Life, dripping from Your Sacred Heart. In the Monstrance, You look like the Son of God. You have no beginning and no end and no sin. I am ready to do whatever you want. I am ready to give my heart to You. I will fall on my knees and pray.*
  11. Messiah, looking after me, whom I bow down before. Invisible in my chapel, a shining Son, see me poor but happy resting in Your life, thinking in beauty of Your obedient Heart.
  12. *Jesus, my Shepherd, whom I praise. Sacrifice of Love, shape of bread and nothing else! See Jesus in the Monstrance, lovely sitting there; then going into my heart. I am gone, lost in love, lost in Your Heart.*
  13. Jesus, all loving, all caring to me. O Jesus, whom I adore in every way! You light up my heart! You light up my heart so big that I can hug You! I am kneeling down to you, because

me, a sinner has forgiveness! I am lost, all lost, looking at the crucifix.

14. *Messiah, Light of the World, whom I listen to in Sacred Scripture and whom I listen to in the Eucharist. Lost in glorious wonder, lies my heart at Your service. With no beginning and no end, everlasting Life, come upon us at the end of the world. O Messiah, come upon us again!*
15. Beloved Christ, resting in my body, whom I worship. Hidden in our hearts, you are Savior and nothing else! See, Christ, at Your service here lies a heart. Here I am, laying down my life, lost in beauty at Your Burning Passion.
16. *Godhead hiding with His Light of Glory, whom I offer love. You are waiting for people in all churches. Seeing Christ in his monstrance looking at my heart, I am alone with Your Grace.*
17. God is resting in me, I adore Him. He is resting in me, closed by the walls of the Tabernacle and the walls of my Heart.
18. *Lord, Father all Powerful, whom I embrace and whom I always have! You are the Son, smaller than a baby! See me, happy by Your side, filled with joy at your loving Heart.*
19. Savior, the loving Father knows Your Heart! I praise you. You are the Blood dripping from God's Side, You are the Light of the world. I praise You, love You, see You, receive You. I hear You, Lord. I lost all my beauty for all Your Love. Your mercy is more than life. You have all the virtues ever, Lord of Life. Tears are going down my cheek, Lord my Savior. You are meek, loving us. Savior, You are my closest Friend, ready to give and to send.





## Urgent Call to Prayer and Action for Life

Dear Knights,

You might remember my editorial in *The Knight of the Immaculata* January 2022 issue on a Supreme Court case—called simply the “Dobbs” case. In 2018, the State of Mississippi passed a law prohibiting abortion after 15 weeks gestation of the baby. This is the case being considered now in the Supreme Court.

If the decision is favorable, then the infamous *Roe v. Wade* abortion law (which allowed abortion in any stage) would be null and void and the matter referred back to the states for a state vote. If the Dobbs (Mississippi) case is favorably decided, this would be a huge step in the fight against the scourge of abortion.

The USCCB Pro-Life office has initiated a prayer campaign to beg God to give a Supreme Court decision that will permit states voting on this issue of abortion.

This basically means that we have a fighting chance to defeat the culture of death forces.

Please consider joining force with fellow Catholics, Protestants and Orthodox Christians in a nation-wide prayer campaign to have a favorable decision.

All you have to do is to go to the web address—[PrayforDobbs.com](http://PrayforDobbs.com)—and click. You will receive simple information about the issue and our job.

Let us call to mind the following: Upwards of 70,000,000 babies in the U.S. have been murdered in the womb. This is the greatest human life issue.

We can and need to do something about this tragedy.

One last thing to remember—St. Maximilian is a patron saint of the pro-life movement.

We, as Knights following in his footsteps, should take up this challenge by joining the crusade of prayer and action, lending our support to the defenseless children in the womb.

John W. Galten

*Please read the article on pg. 7 and find detailed information on pg. 8 about the important pro-life initiative launched by our fellow MI members and Village moderators.*



## Two MI Members Take Action for Life

# Rising from the Ashes

**“Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deluding yourselves.”  
James 1:22**

In recent weeks, we have been blessed in our celebration of Holy Mass during the week with portions of the Book of James being read as the first reading. As an inspired New Testament writer, St. James presents in a straightforward and hard-hitting manner what it means to live as a true disciple of Jesus whether that be for readers in the 1st or 21st century. Hopefully we can agree that one of the calls to discipleship in our day is to stand up and speak clearly in defense of the most vulnerable and defenseless persons in our culture, those being, unborn children. I'm inviting you to be a “doer of the word” and join us in prayer and financial support to purchase an Ultrasound machine for the Women's Care Center in Peoria, IL.

I've been a Knight of the Immaculata since August 15, 2000. Currently my wife and I serve as the moderators of a newly formed MI Village known as “The School of Mary at the Little Garden” in Peoria, IL. In Peoria we are blessed to have the National Militia of the Immaculata office located here in the heart of Illinois. I'm also the Life Director for the local St. Clement Council of the Knights of Columbus. My wife and I have supported the Women's Care Center in Peoria since its opening on May 23, 2013.

The Women's Care Center in Peoria is one of thirty-three in twelve states. It was founded by Professor Janet Smith in 1984 when she was a young professor at the University of Notre Dame. The Center has grown to become the largest, most successful pregnancy center in America. Its mission is: “to help pregnant women in our communities choose life for their babies, have healthier pregnancies, become better parents and take first steps to self-sufficiency.”

When it opened in May 2013 the Women's Care Center in Peoria was right next to Whole Women's Health, a facility performing

abortions regularly at least two times a week for years in that location. The abortion facility closed in 2019 as a result of the services provided by WCC as well as the pro-life warriors who were relentless in their sidewalk prayerful presence every week in all kinds of weather. Praise God!

On May 3, 2021, an arson fire caused \$250,000 damage to the WCC building and forced the staff of the Women's Care Center to relocate to temporary quarters. Connie McClure, the Director of Client Care at the Center reported recently in the local paper: “When the fire happened and we realized it was arson, that's kind of a hard blow. But the very next day, our focus turned to the women we serve and how do we care for them, because that's our purpose.”

The good news is that the Women's Care Center in Peoria has purchased a former bank building that is 2000 square feet bigger than the previous location. On the new location McClure reported that: “It's very visible. It's on the main bus line. I think we're going to meet and serve all kinds of new women by being down there.” The new Women's Care Center is also only a block away from the local Planned Parenthood office. Although surgical abortions are not performed at this facility, it does prescribe drugs for medication abortions.

We are glad and grateful for Joe Cascone, MI e-newsletter contributor last month and MI Village Moderator, for spearheading a prayer and fundraising effort to place an Ultrasound machine in the new larger Women's Care Center which is planning to open in the new location in June 2022. If we raise one-half the funds needed to purchase the machine from this appeal to all pro-life friends, the Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus will match

our portion to purchase the new Ultrasound machine. This machine is the most effective tool we have to persuade mothers to carry their babies to term. 90% of women who see their babies in utero will choose life.

We need your prayers and financial support to make this happen. This effort has the support of MI National, but this appeal is separate from the semi-annual appeals to support the apostolate of the Militia of the Immaculata in the United States. This effort also has the support of the local St. Clement Council of the Knights of Columbus which will hold the money and serve as the link to the K of C Supreme Council. More information regarding this project is found on pg. 8 in this month's newsletter.

We appeal to all pro-life friends within the Militia of the Immaculata and elsewhere to help this particular Women's Care Center in Peoria, to rise from the ashes and serve many more women with unplanned pregnancies to choose life for their unborn babies.

John Wikoff  
MI Member and MI Village Moderator

## Prayer

Mother of Hope, pray for us.

As Mother of our Savior and Mother of all God's children, we ask you to protect pre-born babies and their mothers from abortion. Intercede for us so that the scourge of abortion is removed from this world. We acknowledge that God has every right to see His children grow and experience full lives. Please bless our pro-life efforts, especially our initiative to support the Women's Care Center in Peoria. Bless people with generosity so that we can provide an ultrasound machine so mothers can see their babies, and we all can truly save lives.

We humbly ask for your intercession to your Holy Son Jesus. We work on your behalf, as your Knights.

O Immaculata, lead us in this battle to end abortion, and to bring light and peace to mothers and their babies. Amen.

*St. Maximilian Kolbe,  
patron of the pro-life movement,  
pray for us.*



# CATHOLIC KNIGHTS



## .... Standing in the Breach to Protect Pre-Born Babies



### 3D/4D State of the Art Ultrasound Machine

The Ultrasound machine is the most effective tool we have to persuade mothers to carry their babies to term. 90% of women who see their babies in utero will choose life!

### Let's Make This Happen!

We want to provide an Ultrasound machine for the Women's Care Center in Peoria, IL. The WCC building was rendered unusable after an arson fire occurred on May 3, 2021. In temporary quarters now, the WCC will move to a larger location this summer.

### If Roe Falls.... Then What?

- Even if Roe v. Wade is overturned this summer, the battle to protect the unborn will continue, especially in states like Illinois which will become the abortion hub of the Midwest.
- That's why we need to join forces to pray and to provide safe-havens for vulnerable pregnant women and their pre-born babies.
- We will need more Pro-Life Care Centers that provide things like ultrasound machines so that women can see their babies and have the support of a caring staff to say Yes to the life within.
- The WCC in Peoria will reach more women considering abortion because it is a block away from the local Planned Parenthood facility.

**Funds Needed: \$ 17,693**

### You Can Help!

- ✓ Our appeal is to Knights of the Immaculata and ALL pro-life friends to raise the funds needed for the Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus to match. St. Maximilian Kolbe is a patron of the pro-life movement!
- ✓ The St. Clement Council of the Knights of Columbus in Peoria is the link between the Knights of the Immaculata and the Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus. Mr. Mead Babcock is a Knight of Columbus of the St. Clement Council and a Board member of the Women's Care Center in Peoria.

### This Life-Saving Machine



Retail Cost: \$101,100 - K of C Discounted Cost: \$35,385

K of C Matching Funds: \$17,692 = **Funds Needed: \$17,693**

For More Information, Email: [Joecascone@usa.com](mailto:Joecascone@usa.com)

Please Make Check Payable to: Knights of Columbus St. Clement Council

Add in Check Memo: Council 12407 Ultrasound Project

Mail to: Mead Babcock, St. Clement Knights of Columbus #12407  
10811 N Knoxville Ave, Peoria, IL 61615







## MI Intentions - March

This year, the monthly reflections provided by the MI International Office on the 2022 MI Intentions include:

- \*A Scripture reading.
- \*A text from St. Maximilian Kolbe's Writings.
- \*A quote from the Pope's teachings.
- \*A brief commentary.

The goal is to offer MI leaders the possibility to adapt the material to the need of the group and/or the current reality.

*March: O Immaculata, please intercede that during Lent we may realize that there is a time for everything, for sickness and for healing, entrusting all our cares to your protection.*

**Mt 13:3-9** – A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky ground, where it had little soil. It sprang up at once because the soil was not deep, and when the sun rose it was scorched, and it withered for lack of roots. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it. But some seed fell on rich soil, and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold. Whoever has ears ought to hear.

**KW 718** – Keep clinging to the Immaculata, have recourse to her with confidence in any difficulty, and you will see that she will accompany you to a peaceful death, because that is precisely the purpose of our earthly life.

Take courage, then, and commit yourself to becoming every day more a true Knight of the Immaculata, who sacrifices himself for her without limits.

**KW 1366** – Have recourse to the Immaculata often in troubles, temptations, and in any need.

### **From the Message of Pope Francis for Lent 2021.**

Jesus revealed to His disciples the deepest meaning of His mission when he told them of His passion, death and resurrection, in fulfilment of the Father's will. He then called the disciples to share in this mission for the salvation of the world.

In our Lenten journey towards Easter, let us remember the One who "humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross" (Phil 2:8). During this season of conversion, let us renew our faith, draw from the "living water" of hope, and receive with open hearts the love of God, who makes us brothers and sisters in Christ.

At the Easter vigil, we will renew our baptismal promises and experience rebirth as new men and women by the working of the Holy Spirit. This Lenten journey, like the entire pilgrimage of the Christian life, is even now illumined by the light of the resurrection, which inspires the thoughts, attitudes and decisions of the followers of Christ.

*Fasting, prayer and almsgiving*, as preached by Jesus (cf. Mt 6:1-18), enable and express our conversion. The path of poverty and self-denial (fasting), concern and loving care for the poor (almsgiving), and childlike dialogue with the Father (prayer) make it possible for us to live lives of sincere faith, living hope and effective charity.

Every moment of our lives is a time for believing, hoping and loving. The call to experience Lent as a journey of conversion, prayer and sharing of our goods, helps us—as communities and as individuals—to revive the faith that comes from the living Christ, the hope inspired by the breath of the Holy Spirit and the love flowing from the merciful heart of the Father.

May Mary, Mother of the Savior, ever faithful at the foot of the cross and in the heart of the Church, sustain us with her loving presence. May the blessing of the risen Lord accompany all of us on our journey towards the light of Easter.

### **Commentary**

During this Lenten season, we are called to entrust ourselves completely to the Immaculata and to be a rich soil and to welcome the Word of God in our hearts so that it may bear fruits of conversion and holiness in our lives.

*Prayer:* Act of Total Consecration to the Immaculata



## St. Maximilian Writes...

He was a clever apologist, as this article shows (KW 1024).

(I have been traveling for a few days, and have had several conversations about the truths of faith with nonbelievers and Catholics. Some of those conversations now appear in the pages of *Rycerz*. I will not follow a chronological sequence, but rather order the conversations logically. Also, I would kindly ask those people who took part in the conversations to send me their comments, if they find that I have not adequately reported the gist of their arguments.)

We had left Przemysł and the train was taking us at great speed in the direction of Krakow. Two young men sat facing each other by the window. One of them was a painter and portraitist, and, as it turned out from the conversation, a Jew. We were engaged in a conversation about the purpose of man, and had come to agree that it consists exactly in making oneself similar to God—that is, the external glory of God—and that only such an end could endow a creature with lasting happiness.

At one of the stations, an educated person got on among the others. He came into our compartment and sat right in front of me, immediately joining our company.

“But can we even know if God exists at all?” he started to say.

“Certainly, we can.”

“Perhaps the only thing one can do is believe in it; no one in fact is able to prove that God exists.”

“Please bear with me and I will prove it to you clearly.”

“No one will ever persuade me otherwise.”

“You probably reject a priori any type of argument.”

“No, not at all.”

“I also would like to hear a clear demonstration of that topic,” added a woman sitting beside him.

“Please excuse me,” I said, turning toward those who were sitting at the window.

“We will take up later the issue we were discussing, to meet the wish of the people who have just got on the train.”

“With pleasure.”

“First of all, excuse me, what level of education do you have?”

“University—I studied law.”

“Possibly philosophy as well?”

“Well, not that. After all, what does philosophy have to do with faith?”

“Faith must be in accord with reason, and that is where philosophy comes in, particularly on the issue of God’s existence. But now I must know what we are all agreed on, because I must start from that, otherwise we would be building on a shaky foundation. So, let us begin: do you exist?”

“Yes. However I am only a part of the world.”

“Please, we will discuss later about what we are, but for now I am just asking

whether you exist.”

“Certainly.”

“And you, Madam?”

“Yes, I say that too.”

“Is there anyone present here who thinks otherwise?”

All agree.

“Our existence, therefore, is certain.”

“Well, I would not say that.”

“And why?”

“Because usually we cannot know anything with certainty, what some say, others deny.”

“Therefore, you are not certain you exist?”

“I am only a small part of the matter that exists in the universe.”

“For me, it is not about what you are,” I repeat, “but the more general fact that you exist, that is, the fact that you are something, or nothing.”

“Obviously, I am not a nothing.”

“Are you sure?”

“Yes, I am.”

“Do you have a watch, Sir?”

“I do,” he said reaching into his pocket.

“Does it belong to you?”

“Yes, it is mine.”

“Are you sure?”

“Absolutely.”

“Pardon me, but in case you do have doubts, I would be obliged if you gave your watch to me and put it in my pocket.” (The people present laugh.) “So, your premise, according to which we cannot know anything for sure, is false, since you consider your own existence as axiomatic and have no desire whatsoever to doubt that this watch in fact belongs to you. And do I not exist, perhaps?”

“Yes, you do.”

“And this lady, and that gentleman, and ultimately all of us here?”

“They do, too.”

“Are you sure?”

“... Yes, I am sure.”

“But how can you say that?”

“Because... my eyes clearly tell me they do.”

(Continues on pg. 11)

*fr Maximiliano M. Villar*





## St. Maximilian Writes...

(Continued from pg. 10)

“And these fields and meadows that are fleeting past our car window, and the entire world and the stars above our heads, are they there?”

“They are too. In a word, I acknowledge that what we see with our eyes must exist; God, however, we do not see.”

“Excuse me, is the locomotive traveling in front of the train?”

“It obviously is.”

“Are you sure?”

“Yes, of course I am.”

“But can you see it?”

“No, but if it were not, our train car would not go forward.”

“So, you are now acknowledging that we can know something even if we do not see it directly; that we can come to the knowledge of a given cause, starting from an effect. Is that true?”

“Yes, it is.”

“What would you say of a man who were to reason as follows about his watch: ‘This metal case fell out by chance in a mine, merged itself in a unique fashion, purified itself, and has taken the form that we now see. Even its engraving there: it was impressed purely by accident. Also crystal melted and sharpened by chance. Even its cogs made themselves. And the other parts that make up this watch were also formed by pure chance, finally coming together as we see them now, telling the time without the need of a human mind, not even the hand of a man: all by

chance.’ If that man were to claim these things in all seriousness, what would you say?”

“That he is probably out of his mind.”

“Well, in nature we find organisms that are formed in ways incomparably more mysterious. You must surely be surprised when you study anatomy, and consider even just the layout of the human eye itself. How many different parts! How delicate they are and how beautifully they serve to see! The whole of nature is made up of millions and billions of organisms that live, grow and reproduce. Could we, therefore, say that these wonders of nature are the product of pure chance? Some might claim: ‘All of this cannot happen without a cause, it is true, but these causes have in turn their own cause, and those causes in turn have other causes.’ However, in this series of causes, extended maybe indefinitely, should we not admit a first cause? By themselves, in fact, the causes could produce no perfection, but only convey what they themselves have received, while we are interested in the author of that perfection. A first cause must be there... and... and it is God.”

“Clearly so.”

The face of that gentleman betrayed a kind of wonder, for the fact that up to that time he had been unable to reach a similar conclusion. It may very well be that in the past he had never thought hard about that truth.

M. K.



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