

# THE KNIGHT OF THE *Immaculata*

E-PUBLICATION OF THE MILITIA OF THE IMMACULATA, USA

## MARY'S CHOICE INSPIRES CONSECRATED VIRGINITY

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Photo by Carla Brighenti

# THE MI ANNIVERSARY IN ROME

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



**D**ear Knights of the Immaculata, Maria! The Militia of the Immaculata was founded on October 16, 1917, after St. Maximilian Kolbe had witnessed a demonstration by the Freemasons, attacking the Catholic Church and the Pope, earlier that year. St. Maximilian Kolbe was living in the very epicenter of Rome while attending the school of theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, Italy. The Militia of the Immaculata thus began in what is known as the center of Christianity. Rome is the Holy City for Catholics, "the home of the Catholic Church." It is where St. Peter settled, ministered, served as our first Pope, and was martyred. Jerusalem, of course, is the Holy City where it all started for Christians, but Rome is our home for all Catholics. Around the fourth century, the first Roman Emperor Constantine I, also known as Constantine the Great, converted to Christianity and issued the Edict of Milan in 313 AD, which accepted Christianity. Ten years later, it became the official religion of the Roman Empire. Constantine, wishing to commemorate the martyrdom of St. Peter after his crucifixion at the Circus of Nero, began the construction of the old St. Peter's Basilica on the site of the Apostle's grave, which was at Vatican Hill. He wanted to build a church on the site of St. Peter's tom. While in Rome, during my trip to celebrate the 106th Anniversary of the founding of the Militia of the

Immaculata, I visited St. Peter's Basilica and St. Peter's Square where St. Maximilian Kolbe witnessed the terrible attacks on our Church and the Pope. Remembering and visualizing what it must have been like for St. Maximilian to see such hatred for the Church and the Pope was an experience that will be forever etched in my memory. I was invited to enter Vatican City and see the headquarters of the Roman Catholic Church, a beautiful place which opened my mind to the life of the Church and the many Popes who lived there. I was fortunate enough to visit what is now known as the Kolbe House, the room where St. Maximilian Kolbe and other six Franciscans started the Militia of the Im-



**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](mailto:PrayerRequest@MissionImmaculata.com)

maculata. This was an experience I had dreamed about. It brought to life the accounts I had read and helped me envision the story of the beginning of the Militia of the Immaculata. There is a museum dedicated to St. Maximilian, which I hope all our MI members may see some day. We attended Mass and the anniversary celebration at the chapel there with many of the Franciscans, dignitaries, and the International MI Council. It was a wonderful experience and I wish all our Knights of the Immaculata could witness.

In addition to the major papal basilicas, another place you must visit while in Rome is the church of Sant'Andrea delle Fratte. This is a beautiful church where St. Maximilian offered his first Mass after being ordained a priest in 1918. Inside, there is an altar dedicated to Our Lady with a monument and plaque on each side, one dedicated to St. Maximilian Kolbe and the other to Alphonse Ratisbonne. St. Maximilian had a great admiration for Alphonse Ratisbonne, an agnostic Jew whose conversion to Christianity took place at this site. He had received a Miraculous Medal from a Catholic convert, Baron Theodore de Bussieres, and accepted his invitation to pray the *Memorare*. Later Ratisbonne went to this very church with him to arrange for the funeral for a friend of the Baron. There, in the church of Sant'Andrea delle Fratte, Our Lady appeared to Ratisbonne and brought about his conversion.

(Continues on pg. 12)

# MARY'S CHOICE INSPIRES CONSECRATED VIRGINITY

FROM THE MARIAN CATECHESSES OF POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II

**T**he intention to remain a virgin, apparent in Mary's words at the moment of the Annunciation, has traditionally been considered the beginning and the inspiration of Christian virginity in the Church. St. Augustine does not see in this resolution the fulfilment of a divine precept, but a vow freely taken. In this way it was possible to present Mary as an example to "holy virgins" throughout the Church's history. Mary "dedicated her virginity to God when she did not yet know Whom she would conceive, so that the imitation of heavenly life in the earthly, mortal body would come about through a vow, not a precept, through a choice of love and not through the need to serve" (De Sancta Virg., IV, PL 40:398). The Angel does not ask Mary to remain a virgin; it is Mary who freely reveals her intention of virginity. The choice of love that leads her to consecrate herself totally to the Lord by a life of virginity is found in this commitment. In

stressing the spontaneity of Mary's decision, we must not forget that God's initiative is at the root of every vocation. By choosing the life of virginity, the young girl of Nazareth was responding to an interior call, that is, to an inspiration of the Holy Spirit that enlightened her about the meaning and value of the virginal gift of herself. No one can accept this gift without feeling called or without receiving from the Holy Spirit the necessary light and strength.

## MARY MADE A FIRM DECISION FOR VIRGINITY

Although St. Augustine uses the word "vow" to show those he calls "holy virgins" the first example of their state of life, the Gospel does not testify that Mary had expressly made a vow, which is the form of consecration and offering of one's life to God which has been in use

since the early centuries of the Church. From the Gospel we learn that Mary made a personal decision to remain a virgin, offering her heart to the Lord. She wants to be His faithful bride, fulfilling her vocation as the "daughter of Zion." By her decision however she becomes the archetype of all those in the Church who have chosen to serve the Lord with an undivided heart in virginity. Neither the Gospels nor any other New Testament writings tell us when Mary made the decision to remain a virgin. However it is clearly apparent from her question to the angel at the time of the Annunciation that she had come to a very firm decision. Mary does not hesitate to express her desire to preserve her virginity even in view of the proposed motherhood, showing that her intention had matured over a long period. Indeed, Mary's choice of virginity was not made in the unforeseeable prospect of becoming the Mother of God, but developed in her



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consciousness before the Annunciation. We can suppose that this inclination was always present in her heart: the grace which prepared her for virginal motherhood certainly influenced the whole growth of her personality, while the Holy Spirit did not fail to inspire in her, from her earliest years, the desire for total union with God. The marvels God still works today in the hearts and lives of so many young people were first realized in Mary's soul. Even in our world, so distracted by the attractions of a frequently superficial and consumerist culture, many adolescents accept the invitation that comes from Mary's example and consecrate their youth to the Lord and to the service of their brothers and sisters.

This decision is the choice of greater values, rather than the renunciation of human values. In this regard, in his Apostolic Exhortation *Marialis cultus* my venerable predecessor Paul VI emphasizes how anyone who looks at the witness of the Gospel with an open mind "will appreciate that Mary's choice of the state of virginity ... was not a rejection of any of the values of the married state but a courageous choice which she made in order to consecrate herself totally to the love of God" (n. 37).

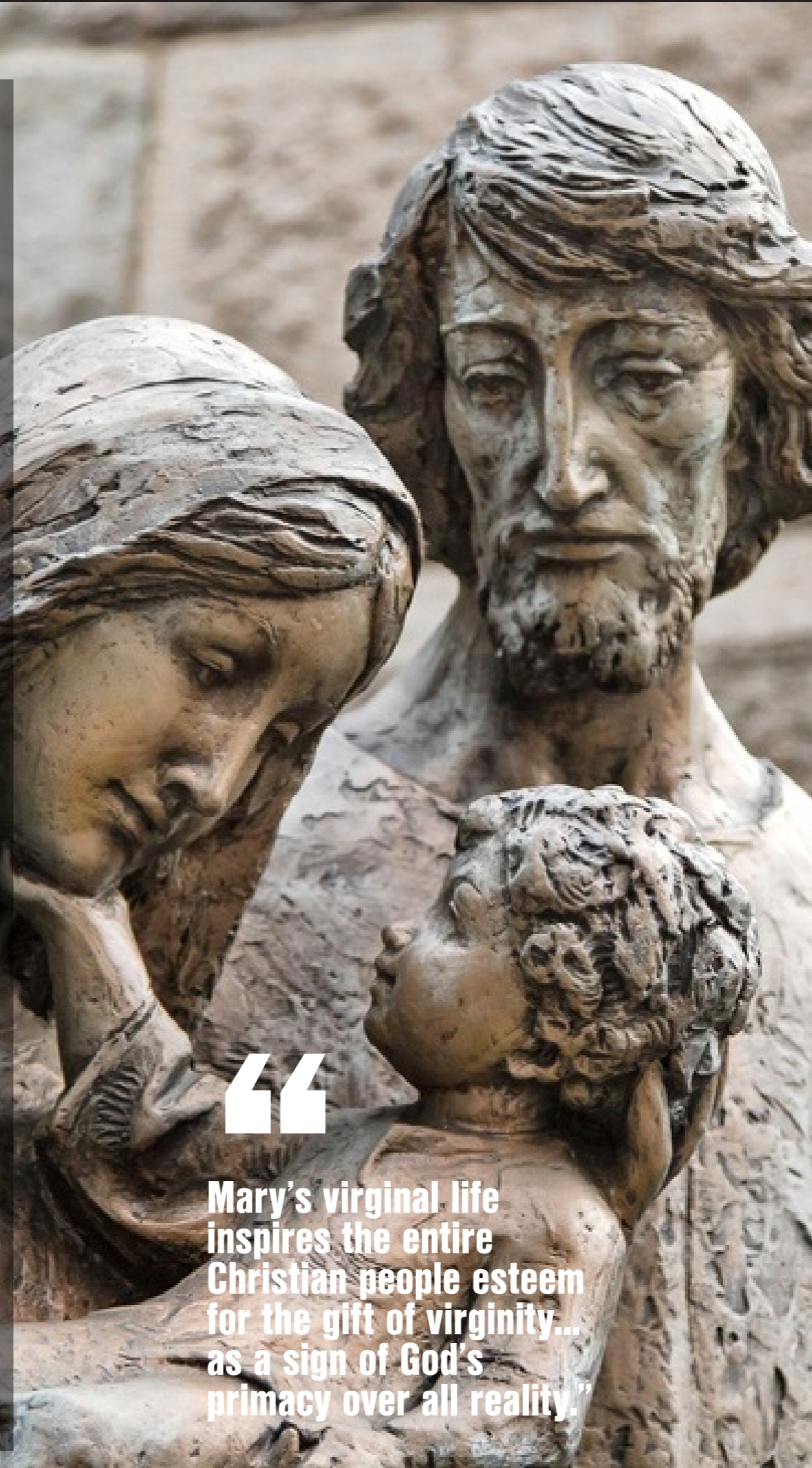
In short, the choice of the virginal state is motivated by full adherence to Christ. This is particularly obvious in Mary. Although before the Annunciation she is not conscious of it, the Holy Spirit inspires her virginal consecration in view of Christ: she remains a virgin to welcome the Messiah and Savior with her whole being. The virginity begun in Mary thus reveals its own Christocentric dimension, essential also for virginity lived in the Church, which finds its sublime model in the Mother of Christ. If her personal virginity, linked to the

## MARY AND JOSEPH LIVED THE GIFT OF VIRGINITY

In presenting Mary as a "virgin" the Gospel of Luke adds that she was "betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David" (Lk 1:27). These two pieces of information at first sight seem contradictory. It should be noted that the Greek word used in this passage does not indicate the situation of a woman who has contracted marriage and therefore lives in the marital state, but that of betrothal. Unlike what occurs in modern cultures, however, the ancient Jewish custom of betrothal provided for a contract and normally had definitive value: it actually introduced the betrothed to the marital state, even if the marriage was brought to full completion only when the young man took the girl to his home. At the time of the Annunciation Mary thus had the status of one betrothed. We can wonder why she would accept betrothal, since she had the intention of remaining a virgin forever. Luke is aware of this difficulty, but merely notes the situation without offering any explanation. The fact that the Evangelist, while stressing Mary's intention of virginity, also presents her as Joseph's spouse, is a sign of the historical reliability of the two pieces of information. It may be presumed that at the time of their betrothal there was an understanding between Joseph and Mary about the plan to live as a virgin. Moreover, the Holy Spirit, who had inspired Mary to choose virginity in view of the mystery of the Incarnation and who wanted the latter to come about in a family setting suited to the Child's growth, was quite able to instill in Joseph the ideal of virginity as well.

The angel of the Lord appeared in a dream and said to him: "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit" (Mt 1:20). Thus he received confirmation that he was called to live his marriage in a completely special way. Through virginal communion with the woman chosen to give birth to Jesus, God calls him to co-operate in carrying out His plan of salvation. The type of marriage to which the Holy Spirit led Mary and Joseph can only be understood in the context of the saving plan and of a lofty spirituality. The concrete realization of the mystery of the Incarnation called for a virgin birth which would highlight the divine sonship and, at the same time, for a family that could provide for the normal development of the Child's personality. Precisely in view of their contribution to the mystery of the Incarnation of the Word, Joseph and Mary received the grace of living both the charism of virginity and the gift of marriage. Mary and Joseph's communion of virginal love, although a special case linked with the concrete realization of the mystery of the Incarnation, was nevertheless a true marriage (cf. Apostolic Exhortation *Redemptoris custos*, n. 7).

Pope St. John Paul II  
Excerpts from the General Audience of August 21, 1996



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Mary's virginal life  
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divine motherhood, remains an exceptional fact, it gives light and meaning to every gift of virginity.

## CONSECRATED VIRGINITY IS SOURCE OF SPIRITUAL FRUITFULNESS

How many young women in the Church's history, as they contemplate the nobility and beauty of the virginal heart of the Lord's Mother, have felt encouraged to respond generously to God's call by embracing the ideal of virginity! "Precisely such virginity," as I recalled in the Encyclical *Redemptoris Mater*, "after the example of the Virgin of Nazareth, is the source of a special spiritual fruitfulness: it is the source of motherhood in the Holy Spirit" (n. 43).

Mary's virginal life inspires in the entire Christian people esteem for the gift of virginity and the desire that it should increase in the Church as a sign of God's primacy over all reality and as a prophetic anticipation of the life to come. Together let us thank the Lord for those who still today generously consecrate their lives in virginity to the service of the kingdom of God. At the same time, while in various regions evangelized long ago hedonism and consumerism seem to dissuade many young people from embracing the consecrated life, we must incessantly ask God through Mary's intercession for a new flowering of religious vocations. Thus the face of Christ's Mother, reflected in the many virgins who strive to follow the divine Master, will continue to be the sign of God's mercy and tenderness for humanity.

Pope St. John Paul II, General Audience of August 7, 1996

# A CALL TO A NEW CRUSADE OF PRAYER

BY DONALD JACOB UITVLUGT

**M**uslim terrorists are attempting to rewrite history, turning days of defeat into days of triumph for radical Islam. They want to turn our minds and hearts from the true significance of these dates. Any time I turn on the news or check social media, everyone is talking about the conflict between Hamas and Israel that began last weekend. [October 7]. Many are calling the violence and death wrought by Hamas as the worst terrorist attack by radical Islam since 9/11. I'm not sure, however, that I've seen many people talk about the date of the

first attack last Saturday: October 7. Catholics should recognize the date and take note. October 7, the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, a feast instituted in the Church to commemorate the Christian victory over the Muslim navy at the Battle of Lepanto. I do not believe that Hamas beginning its attack on this date is mere coincidence. Why did the 9/11 attacks occur on September 11? Scholars who study militant Islam connect the date of the attack to September 11, 1683, the date the Polish king Jan Sobieski began his counteroffensive that would lead to the liberation of the city of Vienna from the besieging Ottoman Turks on September 12. In thanksgiving for this victory, Pope Innocent IX decreed September 12 as the Feast of the Holy Name of Mary, to be celebrated by the universal Church. Militant Islam not only has a long memory, it has a pattern of tying its actions to significant dates, with the intent of parodying and rewriting the meaning of those dates. It's been widely reported that the leaders of Hamas have called for "worldwide jihad" starting on October 13. Of course, I don't claim to know what will or will not happen on that date. But Catholics should again take note: October 13. The anniversary of the final apparition of Our Lady of Fatima. It's easy to see what is transpiring in the Middle East and to feel powerless. Yet the dates of the attacks provide a clue to the best way to respond. Muslim terrorists

“**The power of God shows in the world when His People repent and turn to Him, especially when they to turn to Him, relying on the intercession of the Blessed Mother.**”



are attempting to rewrite history, turning days of defeat into days of triumph for radical Islam. They want to turn our minds and hearts from the true significance of these dates: the power God shows in the world when His people repent and turn to Him, especially when they turn to Him, relying on the intercession of the Blessed Mother. As militant Islam terrorists show their true colors, we need to take up arms against them. Not physical weapons, because as St. Paul reminds us, "we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the rulers of this present darkness" (Eph 6:12). We need to take up the arms Our Lord Himself recommends to us: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. His Eminence, Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, is leading the way. He has called upon Christians throughout the Holy Land to pray, fast, and abstain on October 17 for peace and the conversion of hearts. His decree especially encourages Eucharistic Adoration and the recitation of the Rosary. I strongly encourage everyone to join their prayers and fasting to those of the Christians of the Holy Land. But the Patriarch's call is not enough. In this context, I think of the vision granted to Oliver Dashe Doeme, bishop of the Nigerian diocese of Maiduguri. In late 2014, the bishop was in prayer, trying to find a way to defend his people against the violent Muslim group Boko Haram. While he prayed, Jesus appeared to him holding a sword, which our Savior offered to the bishop. As the bishop took hold of it, the sword transformed into a Rosary, and Jesus said, "Boko Haram is gone," repeating the words three times. In light of his vision, Bishop Doeme started a campaign in his diocese of praying the Rosary. After the campaign had run for several months, without explanation, Boko Haram began releasing dozens

of girls they had kidnapped. In 2017, seven hundred members of Boko Haram in the Maiduguri area surrendered themselves to the Nigerian authorities. The lesson of Bishop Doeme is obvious. We need a new crusade of prayer and peace, a worldwide crusade. And if there isn't a Pius V calling for greater recitation of the Rosary or a Jan Sobieski leading the charge, the laity have to take it upon themselves. The secular world wants us to think of its watered-down, consumerist version of Christmas ever earlier and earlier. Perhaps we need to begin our Advent penances early this year. The year 2023 certainly needs the coming of the Prince of Peace now more than ever. If radical Islam wants to distort history, let us take up the Rosary and call to mind the great events of saving history even more. To paraphrase the closing prayer of the Rosary, as we remember the mysteries, let us imitate the lessons we learn there and obtain the graces promised by the mysteries. We need to fight the battle between good and evil—a battle that rages in our own hearts, as well as outside us—in the best possible way, on our needs. And let us call others to join us: our families, our friends, our parishes, our diocese. Bring back the family Rosary. Pray the Rosary before Mass and the St. Michael prayer after. Let's bring back the Angelus, striving to overcome the pride of the Devil by the response of Our Lady: *Fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum*; Be it done unto me according to your word. A great saint of the 20th century, Josemaría Escrivá once noted: "These world crises are crises of saints." Let us strive daily to be saints, and, by the grace of God and the prayers of Our Lady, evil can never win.

\* Donald Jacob Uitvlugt writes from Conway, AR. You can find some of his theological musings at "Drops of Mercy." © 2023 The Catholic World Report. Reprinted with permission. Originally published by The Catholic World Report on October 13, 2023.

# HOW TO MAKE A HOLY HOUR

BY FR. BILLY SWAN

The most influential chapter of any book I have ever read has to be the one entitled “The hour that makes my day” in the autobiography of Venerable Fulton Sheen, *Treasure in Clay*. I remember reading it over twenty-three years ago as a seminarian and being so inspired that I too resolved, from that time on, to make a holy hour before the Blessed Sacrament every day. Apart from the Mass itself, this hour of prayer remains the fulcrum of my day even still. Recently I gave a talk to a group of promoters of Eucharistic Adoration in my diocese. These are the good folks who are involved in promoting Eucharistic adoration in parishes. During the talk, I mentioned that while it is important to encourage people to commit themselves to regularly spending a holy hour before the Blessed Sacrament, it is also important to teach and guide them how to make that holy hour. Without this deeper catechesis, we can easily become bored, begin to fidget, and lose sight of what Adoration is all about. Without the necessary spiritual direction and guidance of how to make a holy hour, we can forget that this precious time with the Lord is more about His desire to be with us than our desire to be with Him. He is the One who longs for our company more than we long for Him: “Could you not watch with me one hour?” (Mark 14:37). Here I offer a few guidelines of how we can make a holy hour by dividing it into three blocks of twenty minutes. **The first twenty minutes before the Lord really present in the Eucharist is a sacred**

**time of intimacy between us and Him.** It is a time to just be present to our God who welcomes us and accepts us. In the words of St. John Vianney, it is a time when “I look at Him and he looks at me.” Before the Eucharist is a time when we lean on Jesus’ breast, like John did at the last supper, and allow His Heart to speak to ours. This was the episcopal motto of St. John Henry Newman: *cor ad cor loquitur* (heart speaks to heart). We begin to grow in our “interior knowledge of the Lord” as we contemplate His words, His life, and His real presence before us (St. Ignatius of Loyola, *Spiritual Exercises*, 104). Here is the zone into which we are drawn in the first third of our holy hour, where our heart speaks to His. It is also a time when we listen to Him and allow Him to speak to us. This is a time when we can tell Him everything about how we are and how we feel. It is a time to tell Him about our day and to ask His help in ways in which we need it. Above all it is a time to thank the Lord for His presence and action in our lives and to adore Him for His goodness, truth, and mercy. It is also an opportunity to present to Him the things we don’t understand, our sins, failings, and the worries that burden us. In this twenty minutes of our holy hour, we bask in the light of His love that never fails us. **The second twenty minutes can be a time when we intercede for all the people we know and are part of our lives.** At this stage of our prayer, we bring to the Lord all who have asked us to pray for them, our families and friends both living and dead. In this time we pray for all we have met in the



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We can forget that this precious time with the Lord is more about His desire to be with us than our desire to be with Him.”

past day or week, the conversations we had, the things we have said and done. Often during this time in the holy hour, some person will arise in our minds who we feel the Lord is calling us to pray for, reach out to, to contact or to visit. It is also a time to focus on what lies ahead—our next appointment, our next challenge, or perhaps a courageous conversation we need to have with someone to clear the air. In this time of prayer, our hearts are reminded that our call is to love others in Christ’s name, and that the same Lord before us in the Eucharist is the same Lord present in everyone, especially in the least of His brothers and sisters (cf. Matt 25:31ff). **The final twenty minutes can be a time when we pray for the entire human family and the whole universe.** So we might pray for persecuted Christians around the world, for the victims of famine, and for an end to conflicts and wars. We might pray for the Church around the world, for the Holy Father on a foreign visit, or for all missionaries away from home. This is a time also to thank God for the sun, moon, and stars that were made through His Word present before us in the Eucharist. Finally, we can pray in this time for the peace among all nations for which Jesus lived and died—and that it might become a reality in our troubled world today. There are many ways of praying and many ways of making a holy hour for “the Spirit blows where it wills” (John 3:8). But sometimes we need a little guidance that helps us to focus. Above is a guide for a holy hour of Adoration before the Lord, truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. It starts off with His love for us but ends with a prayer that blesses God for the whole of creation. In this way we exercise our share in Christ’s priesthood that lovingly embraces every individual but extends to the entire cosmos we inhabit. “O sacrament most holy, O sacrament divine, all praise and all

thanksgiving be every moment Thine!”

\* Fr. Billy Swan is a priest of the Diocese of Ferns, Ireland. Ordained in 1998, he served for four years as an associate pastor before further studies in Rome where he was awarded a Licentiate and Doctorate in Systematic Theology from the Gregorian University. He served for four years as the Director of Seminary Formation at the Pontifical Irish College, Rome. He is currently Administrator of Wexford Parish in Ireland. © 2019 Word on Fire. Originally published on the Word on Fire website on January 8, 2019.

### Eucharistic Revival Prayer

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

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

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

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

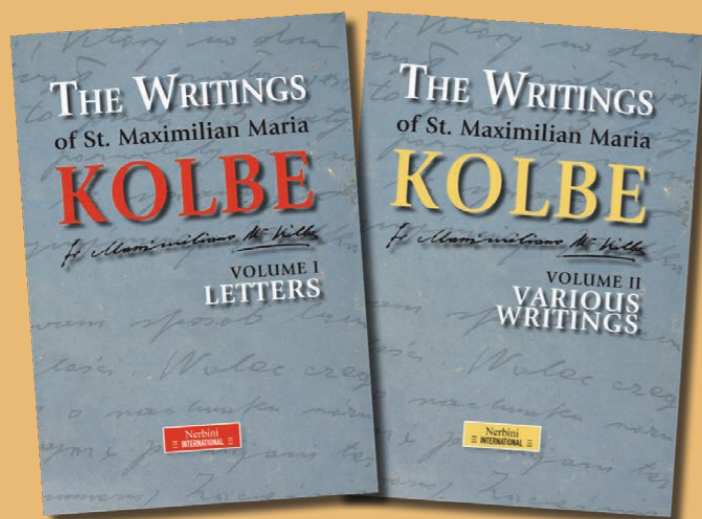
Nourished by the Eucharist, send us forth to walk faithfully as missionary disciples, proclaiming the Gospel to every heart and extending Your kingdom to every land.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

by Most Reverend José H. Gomez  
Archbishop of Los Angeles

## The Definitive English Edition!

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



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



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

— Fr. James McCurry, OFM Conv.

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



# THE MI ANNIVERSARY IN ROME

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)



With the MI International Council, at Kolbe House in Rome.



At Sant'Andrea delle Fratte church.

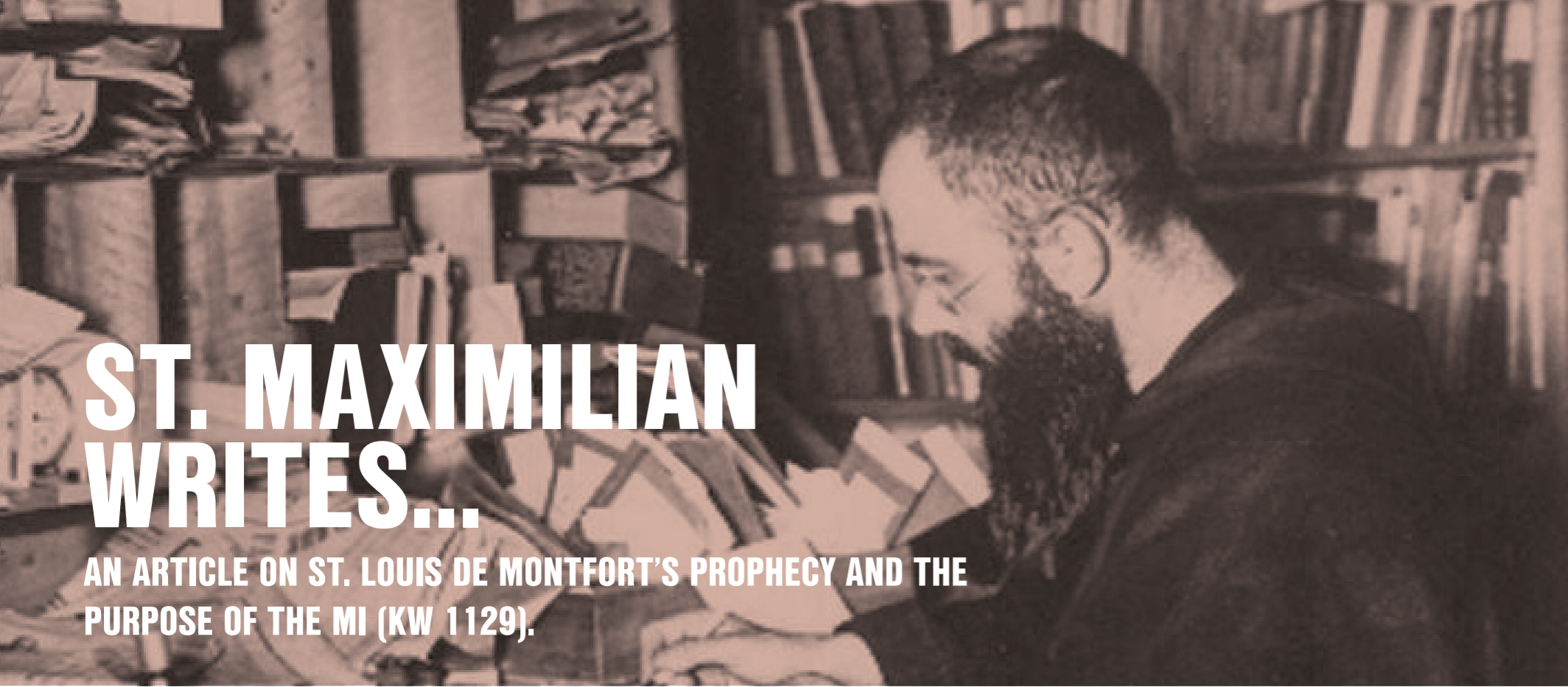


This miracle, connected to the Miraculous Medal and Our Lady, was a great inspiration to St. Maximilian Kolbe. I was able to attend Mass there and admire the beauty of the church. Knowing that Our Lady had appeared there brought a special warmth within me and my heart was overwhelmed.

I pray that all our MI members, Knights of the Immaculata, have the chance to visit Rome, experience the life and legacy of St. Maximilian Kolbe and the beauty of our Catholic Faith. While in Rome, I prayed for the advancement and future of the Militia of the Immaculata and for all our members. Let all of us pray for the MI and renew our consecration to our Blessed Mother and let her lead us as we strive to live the legacy of St. Maximilian Kolbe.

Ronald L. Rodrigues  
MI National President

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



# ST. MAXIMILIAN WRITES...

AN ARTICLE ON ST. LOUIS DE MONTFORT'S PROPHECY AND THE PURPOSE OF THE MI (KW 1129).

**G**losy *Katolickie* [Catholic Voices] of December 1924, reports that in the 18th century in France there lived a pious ordained religious, Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort, now beatified,<sup>1</sup> who was greatly devoted to the Mother of God. In addition to numerous devotional books he wrote a small booklet entitled *The Offering of Oneself to Jesus through Mary*.<sup>2</sup> This short work has an interesting history. The author himself had predicted that the devil would hide this book, to prevent it from getting into the hands of the faithful, because the devil foresaw his *great defeat* in it. And that is what happened. Despite a search, it remained hidden in a library for about a hundred years. It was found by chance in the year 1842 and immediately published and printed. In this little work,

among other things de Montfort says: "Very holy people will be born. They will come to holiness by means of a *singular devotion to the Blessed Virgin*, whom they held in their minds and in their hearts as the most perfect model of holiness and rich source of divine graces. God will raise up these saints, *especially toward the end of the world*, through Mary, His Mother, so that these souls, full of grace and zeal, resist the enemies of God, who will arise with fury from every side. These souls have a special devotion to the Blessed Virgin. *She will illuminate them with her light, will nourish them with her milk, will guide them with her spirit, will support them with her hand, will guard them with her protection*. Fighting, in a particular way, those souls *will with one hand, wipe out the heretics and their heresies, idolaters and their idolatries, and sinners*

“**Very holy people will be born. They will come to holiness by means of a singular devotion to the Blessed Virgin.**”

and their wickedness, and with the other hand, they *will build* the temple of the true God and the city of God. They will also spur *everyone* on, by word and through example, to *true devotion of the Divine Mother*. They will have many *enemies*, but will also win *many victories* and give much glory to God. For, just as through Mary began salvation, so too *through her, salvation will be fulfilled*." Who knows if the end of the world is far off? Many authoritative scholars and pious people believe that, given what is happening in the world today, we might be right to infer that it is now quite close. In fact, are there not, even today, "the enemies of God that arise with fury on every side?" Does not the Antichrist perhaps have worshippers?... In these days especially, says the prophecy quoted above, God will raise up people, who, by means of a special

devotion to the Blessed Virgin, will sanctify themselves, and will not only resist the bitterest enemies of God, but will wipe heresies, idolatry and ungodliness from the face of the earth and will build the temple of the true God and spur all to true devotion toward the Mother of God. Is not this precisely the *purpose* of all the members of the Militia of the Immaculata? But later we read: "They will have *many enemies*." We must be prepared

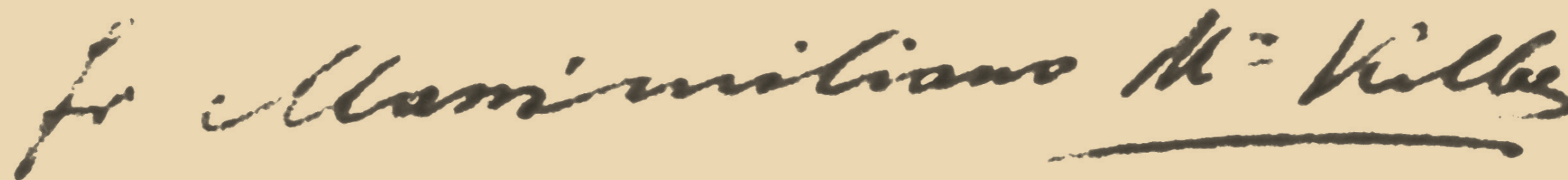
even for this. However, "they will also win *many* victories and give *much* glory to God." In fact, "just as through Mary began salvation, so too through her, salvation will be fulfilled..." *Reflect well* on all these things.

Rycerz Niepokalanej

<sup>1</sup> Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort was beatified by Pope Leo XIII on January 22, 1888, and canonized by Pius XII on July 20, 1947.  
<sup>2</sup> Best known under the title *Treatise on True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary*, this is de Montfort's most famous work.

"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)

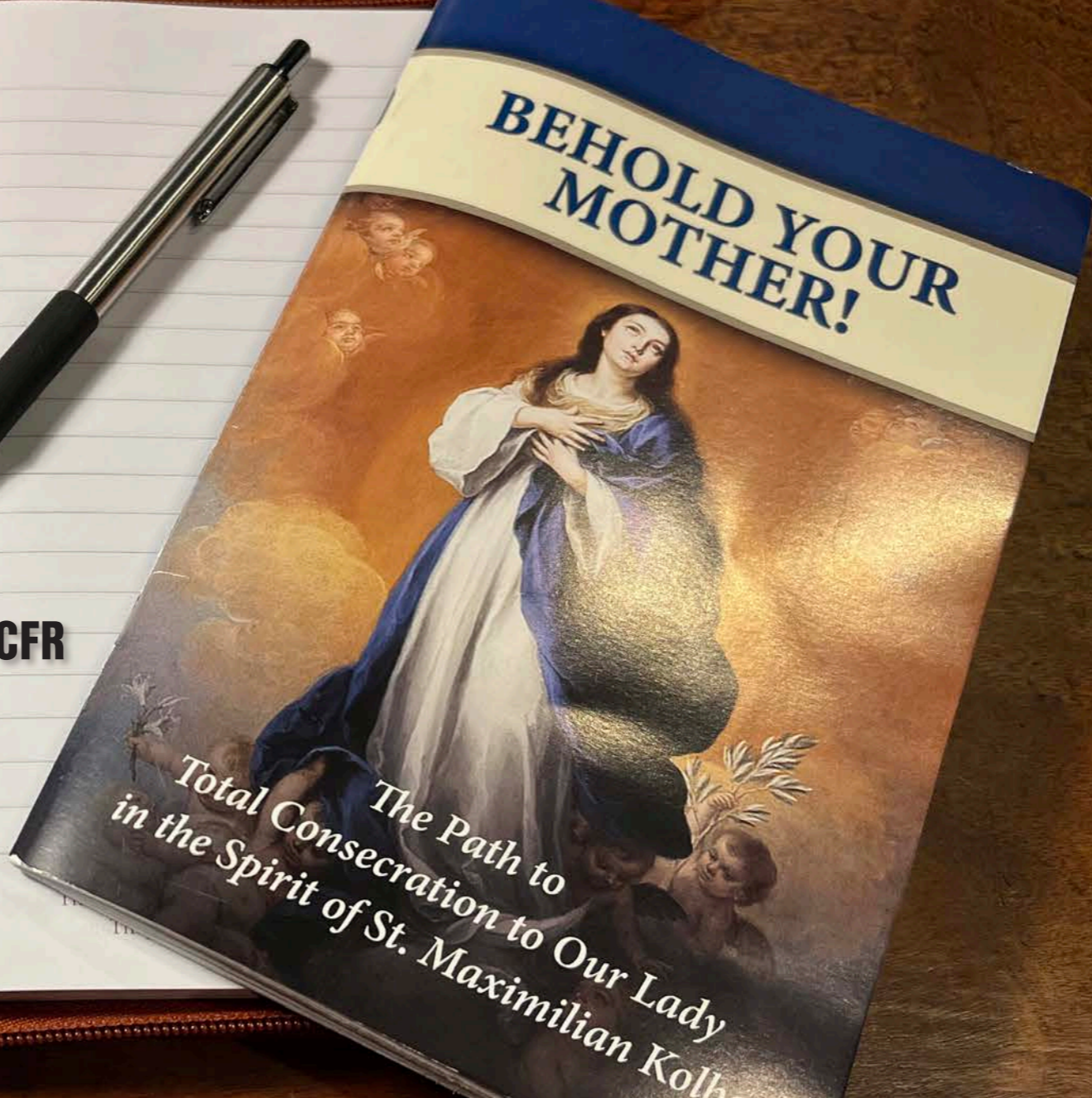
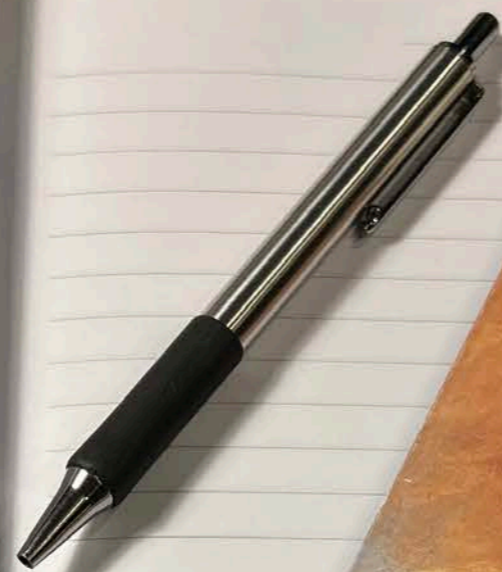
"As a convert to Catholicism, I haven't understood Mary's role in my life as a Catholic. Through the daily emails I receive from the MI, I have come to know and love our Mother. I pray I will continue to grow and understand how she helps us on our journey and how to truly honor her in a way that pleases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



# A TESTIMONIAL ABOUT BEHOLD YOUR MOTHER!

A LETTER FROM FR. ISAIAH MARIE HOFMANN, CFR

This is the day the LORD has made.  
We will rejoice and be glad in it.  
Ps. 118:24



Invite Friends to Be  
Consecrated to Our Lady!



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*The Path to Total Consecration  
to Our Lady in the Spirit of  
St. Maximilian Kolbe*

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“Christ’s peace! I hope this note finds you doing well. I am writing to thank you for the recent shipment of *Ahi Tienes a Tu Madre* along with the holy cards and resources you sent. We are presently in the midst of a month-long preparation for Marian consecration which we will celebrate on the Vigil of the Assumption (8/14/2023) with our Spanish-speaking community in Newburgh, New York. We would be grateful for your prayers for this day. Your generous assistance and recommendations with regard to MI resources while I was planning this event was a tremendous blessing. More personally, I wanted to let you know that *Behold Your Mother!* has been a unique gift to my own vocation in these last few months. Praying with this preparation has brought a real deepening and renewal in my own relationship with Mary and awareness of her role in my spiritual life, particularly as a Franciscan. I found the book very readable, a great synthesis of St.

“**The Behold your Mother! book has been a unique gift to my own vocation. I found the book readable, a great synthesis of St. Maximilian’s thought.**”

Maximilian’s thought, and a font for prayer and meditation. I was particularly grateful for the wide variety of sources the book draws from, between Scripture, Church teaching, and St. Maximilian’s Writings. I think those familiar with St. Maximilian’s Mariology will enjoy it as a summary, and for those not familiar with him, it’s a great introduction. I was also grateful for the unique Franciscan reflection *Behold Your Mother!* offers among other preparations for Marian consecration. The path of six ‘steps’ (or chapters of Marian themes) for preparation allows for a flexibility of pace and a certain contemplative posture in preparing for consecration. It’s definitely a book to be read again so I hope to continue to ‘mine’ the riches of it in future years. In the meantime, I just want to say thank you for making the book available so generously and affordably to our community. May God bless you for the good work! Know of my grateful prayers for you and the good work of the MI. God bless you, and thank you again.”





# OUR WORLD NEEDS SAINTS. BE ONE!

**W**orld news and even Church reports at times may cause us to be dismayed and become discouraged, and that would be exactly the result the evil one would want to see. The Lord, instead, calls us to look up, trust in Him, and be ready to give witness to His victorious love, at all times and in every circumstance. Every year, on November 1st, the Church celebrates as a Solemnity the feast of All Saints, all the known and unknown disciples who preceded us on this journey of faith, hope, and charity. It is a day of great rejoicing and encouragement for us who are still on the way, as we consider the myriad of individuals who responded to the Lord's call to holiness, which is the fundamental vocation of the human person, of every human person. We marvel at the heroic love for Christ shown by St. Peter and the other Apostles, as well as the holy women and the first disciples. We draw strength

from the unwavering fidelity of St. Ignatius of Antioch and the innumerable martyrs of every time and land, and their courageous witness to the Truth. We are inspired by the luminous teaching of the Doctors of the Church; by the humble boldness of the little ones, like St. Bernadette as well as Sts. Jacinta and Francisco Marto, the children of Fatima; by the inexhaustible charity of Sts. Vincent de Paul, Mother Teresa, and Father Damian of Molokai; and the persevering zeal of Sts. Francis Xavier, Junipero Serra, and our own Maximilian Kolbe. We see before us a "great cloud of witnesses" (Heb 12:1): lay people, married couples, priests, consecrated men and women, and children. Of course, we find comfort in knowing that many of them had a rough start, but the Lord won them over! While their personal journeys vary greatly, a common denominator of all saints is devotion to Our Lady, the Mother, Exemplar and Queen of all Saints. St. Maximilian was fascinated by this reality and that became the one essential feature of the MI which he founded: *unconditional, boundless, self-sacrificial, and ardent devotion and consecration to the Mother of God, the Immaculata*. Why? Because she is the Father's perfect Daughter, the Immaculate Bride of the Holy Spirit, the Mother of the Incarnate Son, God's chosen instrument in the work of our Redemption, and finally because *"The single desire of the Immaculata is to raise the level of our spiritual life to the summits of*

*holiness"* (KW 1220). She is actively and personally invested in the conversion and sanctification of each human being. When news of the world and our Church get to us and attempt to bring us down, let's turn to the lives of the Saints. Let us draw inspiration from their struggles and victories, their dealing with failures, and their persistent striving. Above all, let us imitate their steady reliance on Our Lady's powerful intercession and guidance as they strove for full identification with Christ Jesus (cf. Gal 2:20). Again, St. Maximilian reassures us: *"Even if one had the misfortune to die spiritually, even though Satan had told him he would never rise from the dead, never again, all one needs is sincerely to appeal to the Mediatrix of all graces, to the Immaculata, not only to obtain the grace of resurrection, but also to reach the high steps, very high indeed, of holiness. The closer one approaches her, the more abundantly one draws from the graces of knowledge and of love, of a generous love toward God, Who for our sake mounted the Cross"* (KW 1230). The world is in turmoil and indeed needs saints. "The men and women of our own day--often perhaps unconsciously--ask believers not only to 'speak' of Christ, but in a certain sense to 'show' Him to them" (St. John Paul II, Apostolic Letter *Novo Millennio ineunte*, n. 16). Let's allow the Holy Spirit and His Immaculate Spouse to make of each of us the saints we are called to be and instruments of God's victorious love in our time! ADP

**“The single desire of the Immaculata is to raise the level of our spiritual life to the summit of holiness.”**



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.

**November**  
*O Immaculata,*  
please intercede...

*That all peoples and nations may recognize and respect the sacredness of all human life, especially the life of the unborn.*

**Psalm 139** - You formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb. I praise you, because I am wonderfully made; wonderful are your works! My very self you know. My bones are not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, fashioned in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw me unformed; in your book all are written down; my days were shaped, before one came to be.

**KW 1160** - In looking around us and in seeing so much evil all over the place, we would sincerely like, especially as members of the Militia of the Immaculata, to put an end to this evil by leading humani-

ty, through the Immaculata, to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. In so doing, we make eternally happy, from this life onward, our brothers who live in this world. War against evil, therefore: relentless and incessant and victorious war.

**Reflection** - As we well know, the battle for human life is not confined to marching against abortion and euthanasia, but embraces fighting all forms of exploitation of human life, such as sex-trafficking and every other diabolical attack on the sacred dignity of God's children. This fight requires a personal commitment to strive for conversion and holiness of life, to appreciate God's gift of every human life, and to become agents of the culture of life and love. As MI Knights, we have recourse constantly to our Immaculate Mother to learn from her how to value and practice chastity according to our state in life. Purity of heart and life, in fact, brings forth the ability to see God in every man, woman, child, sick or elderly person, and to treasure their dignity. This is how St. Maximilian looked at each person and his fellow inmates, at Auschwitz. This led him to be ready to share in their pain and to give his life out of love.

**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](mailto:MINational@MissionImmaculata.com)



Check the MI website [MilitiaoftheImmaculata.com](http://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 an MI Village and live out your consecration with others. For information about an MI Village in your area, email the MI National Center. For *online MI Villages*, email the Moderators listed below.

\*\*Moderator: Scott Richard

Email: [Virtual.MI.Village@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:miutah.stmary@gmail.com)  
Mtg Day: Every Friday evening  
Mtg Time: 8:00pm-9:00pm MST

\*\*Moderator: Bill Bielawski

Email: [william.bielawski@gmail.com](mailto:william.bielawski@gmail.com)  
Mtg Day: Sunday (3rd Sunday of each month)  
Mtg Time: 7:00pm CST

\*\*Moderator: Lisa Fulgenzi

Email: [drilisafmi@gmail.com](mailto:drilisafmi@gmail.com)  
Write to request Google Meet join info  
Mtg Day: Wednesdays  
Mtg Time: 8-00-9:00pm EST