

# THE KNIGHT OF THE *Immaculata*

E-PUBLICATION OF THE MILITIA OF THE IMMACULATA, USA

## MARY HAS ALWAYS BEEN SPECIALLY VENERATED

PAGE 3

Hearts on Fire, Feet on the Move - Page 7

MI Members in Action - Page 15



# THE BEGINNING OF MARY'S ARMY

by Ronald L. Rodrigues, MI National President



**D**ear Knights of the Immaculata, Maria! St. Maximilian Kolbe, along with 6 other Franciscans, began the Militia of the Immaculata on the evening of October 16, 1917. Having witnessed demonstrations and attacks by the Freemasons on the Vatican and the Pope, the saint was inspired to respond. The year 1917 was the 200th anniversary of Freemasonry. In 1717, four London Lodges united as the Grand Lodge of England and became known as the Mother Lodge for all regular Freemasons. Their constitution was written, and the Grand Lodge of England was now recognized as the birthplace of Freemasonry. Although the organization was thought to have originated in the British Isles, some say the lodges began in the 1590s in Scotland by men interested in symbolic architecture who were not professional stonemasons. Some of these lodges appeared in England in the 1640s. It didn't reach America until 1730, and American Freemasons held many positions of power at all levels of government, including the Presidency, Congress, and the Supreme Court. They led the fight against parochial schools and fought for the separation of Church and State. The United States Supreme Court was largely made up of Freemasons and from 1940 until 1970 there were multiple decisions made that proved hostile to religion.

The Freemasons believe they are preserving ancient secrets handed

down from King Solomon's builders and some pagan rituals from the medieval Knights Templars. Freemasonry distorts the truth using the ancient mysteries of the pagan religions of Egypt, Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome. They use symbols, objects, and beliefs that most Freemasons have come to understand. They promote Naturalism which makes human nature and human reason the most important things and deny that anything has been revealed by God. They present ancient pagan religions as sources of true wisdom and light. They deny the divinity of Jesus and portray Him as a great teacher. His name is never mentioned in any lodge meeting or prayers. Satan is denied! According to their beliefs, there isn't a demon that is against God. They say that original sin was in God's plan from

the beginning, as was good and evil. Pope Clement XII, in his 1738 Papal Bull, warned of the dangers of Freemasonry and said that Catholics who joined the Freemasons were excommunicated. Other popes reiterated this message and Pope Leo XIII in his 1884 encyclical, *Humanum Genus* denounced the lodge as "a deceitful and crafty enemy." He said: "Let no man think that he may for any reason whatsoever join the Masonic sect if he values his Catholic name and his eternal salvation as he ought to value them." The prohibition of joining the Masonic Lodge and the subsequent excommunication were included in the 1917 Code of Canon Law.

After the Second Vatican Council, some of the concerns about the Masonic Lodges were eased. A new interpretation of some of the anti-masonic canons in 1974 led some Catholics to think that only active Masonic groups that were against the Church were forbidden. This caused some problems. Little did the Church know at the time, but Freemasons were working against the Church through the Vatican bank. In March 1981, two of Pope Paul VI's top financial advisors were found to be members of a secret Masonic lodge, Propaganda Due (P2). They were planning a secret fascist takeover of Italy. The group had 953 members, including many high-ranking members of the government, business, law, media, finance, and the military.

(Continues on pg. 12)



### 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)

# MARY HAS ALWAYS BEEN SPECIALLY VENERATED

## FROM THE MARIAN CATECHESSES OF POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II

// When the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman" (Gal 4:4). Marian devotion is based on the wondrous divine decision, as the Apostle Paul recalls, to link forever the Son of God's human identity with a woman, Mary of Nazareth. The mystery of the divine motherhood and of Mary's co-operation in the work of Redemption has filled believers in every age with an attitude of praise, both for the Savior and for her who gave birth to Him in time, thus co-operating in Redemption. A further reason for grateful love for the Blessed Virgin is offered by her universal motherhood. By choosing her as Mother of all humanity, the heavenly Father has wished to reveal the motherly dimension, so to speak, of His divine tenderness and concern for all people in every era. On Calvary, with the words: "Behold, your son!", "Behold, your mother!" (Jn 19:26-27), Jesus gave Mary in advance to all who would receive the Good News of salvation, and was thus laying the foundation of their filial affection for her. Following John, the faithful would prolong Christ's love for His Mother

with their own devotion, by accepting her into their own lives.

### DEVOTION TO MARY DATES FROM CHURCH'S ORIGINS

The Gospel texts attest to the presence of Marian devotion from the Church's origins. The first two chapters of St. Luke's Gospel seem to relate the particular attention to Jesus' Mother on the part of Jewish Christians, who expressed their appreciation of her and jealously guarded their memories of her. Moreover, in the infancy narratives we can discern the initial expressions of and reasons for Marian devotion, summarized in Elizabeth's exclamations: "Blessed are you among women.... And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord" (Lk 1:42, 45). Traces of a veneration already widespread among the first Christian community are present in the *Magnificat* canticle: "All generations will call me blessed" (Lk 1:48).

By putting these words on Mary's lips, Christians recognized her unique greatness, which would be proclaimed until the end of time. In addition, the Gospel accounts (cf. Lk 1:24-35; Mt 1:23 and Jn 1:13), the first formulas of faith and a passage by St Ignatius of Antioch (cf. *Smyrn.* 1, 2: SC 10, 155) attest to the first communities' special admiration for Mary's virginity, closely linked to the mystery of the Incarnation. John's Gospel, by noting Mary's presence at the beginning and at the end of her Son's public life, suggests that the first Christians were keenly aware of Mary's role in the work of Redemption, in full loving dependence on Christ.

The Second Vatican Council, in stressing the particular character of Marian devotion, says: "Mary has by grace been exalted above all angels and men to a place second only to her Son, as the most holy Mother of God who was involved in the mysteries of Christ: she is rightly honoured by a special cult in the Church" (*Lumen gentium*, n. 66). Then, alluding to the third-century Marian prayer, "Sub tuum praesidium"—"We fly to thy patronage"—it



“Mary has by grace been exalted above all angels and men to a place second only to her Son.”

adds that this characteristic emerges from the very beginning: "From the earliest times the Blessed Virgin is honoured under the title of Mother of God in whose protection the faithful take refuge together in prayer in all their perils and needs" (ibid.). This assertion has been confirmed in iconography and in the teaching of the Fathers of the Church since the second century. In Rome, in the catacombs of Priscilla, it is possible to admire the first depiction of the Madonna and Child, while at the same time, St. Justin and St. Irenaeus speak of Mary as the new Eve who by her faith and obedience makes amends for the disbelief and disobedience of the first woman. According to the Bishop of Lyons, it was not enough for Adam to be redeemed in Christ, but "it was right and necessary that Eve be restored in Mary" (*Demonstratio apostolica*, 33). In this way he stresses the importance of woman in the work of salvation and lays the foundation for the inseparability of Marian devotion from that shown to Jesus, which will endure down the Christian centuries.

## MARIAN DEVOTION IS FIRMLY ROOTED IN CHRISTIAN FAITH

Marian devotion is first expressed in the invocation of Mary as "Theotókos", a title which was authoritatively confirmed, after the Nestorian crisis, by the Council of Ephesus in 431. The same popular reaction to the ambiguous and wavering position of Nestorius, who went so far as to deny Mary's divine motherhood, and the subse-

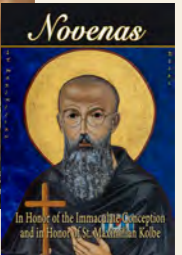
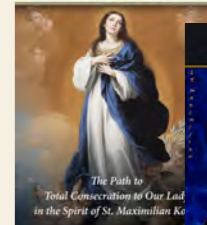
quent joyful acceptance of the Ephesian Synod's decisions, confirm how deeply rooted among Christians was devotion to the Blessed Virgin. However "following the Council of Ephesus, there was a remarkable growth in the devotion of the People of God towards Mary, in veneration and love, in invocation and imitation" (*Lumen gentium*, n. 66). It was expressed especially in the liturgical feasts, among which, from the beginning of the fifth century, "the day of Mary *Theotókos*" acquired particular importance. It was celebrated on 15 August in Jerusalem and later became the feast of the Dormition or the Assumption. Under the influence of the *ProtoEvangelium* of James, the feasts of the Nativity, the Conception and the Presentation were also introduced, and notably contributed to highlighting some important aspects of the mystery of Mary. We can certainly say that Marian devotion has developed down to our day in wonderful continuity, alternating between flourishing periods and critical ones that, nonetheless, often had the merit of fostering its renewal even more. Since the Second Vatican Council, Marian devotion seems destined to develop in harmony with a deeper understanding of the mystery of the Church and in dialogue with contemporary cultures, to be ever more firmly rooted in the faith and life of God's pilgrim people on earth.

Pope St. John Paul II  
Excerpts from the General Audience of October 15, 1997.

“  
Marian devotion  
has developed  
down to our day  
in wonderful  
continuity.”

Invite Friends to Be  
Consecrated to Our Lady!

BEHOLD YOUR  
MOTHER!



This beautiful 56-page booklet and its **Novenas** companion 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 each booklet is \$2.00/ea. plus shipping; for one copy of each, the suggested donation is \$6.00, shipping included.

**Now available in Spanish**

¡AHÍ TIENES A TU  
MADRE!



Order copies today from the  
MI National Office:

MINational@MissionImmaculata.com

# HEARTS ON FIRE, FEET ON THE MOVE THE POPE'S MESSAGE FOR MISSION SUNDAY 2023

“  
The Risen Lord remains close to His missionary disciples and walks beside them, particularly when they feel disoriented, discouraged, and fearful.”

**D**ear brothers and sisters! For this year's World Mission Sunday, I have chosen a theme inspired by the story of the disciples on the way to Emmaus, in the Gospel of Luke (cf. 24:13-35): "Hearts on fire, feet on the move." Those two disciples were confused and dismayed, but their encounter with Christ in the word and in the breaking of the bread sparked in them the enthusiastic desire to set out again toward Jerusalem and proclaim that the Lord had truly risen. In the Gospel account, we perceive this change in the disciples through a few revealing images: *their hearts burned within them* as they heard the Scriptures explained by Jesus, *their eyes were opened* as they recognized Him and, ultimately, *their feet set out* on the way. By meditating on these three images, which reflect the journey of all missionary disciples, we can renew our zeal for evangelization in today's world.

1. *Our hearts burned within us "when he explained the Scriptures to us."* In missionary activity, the word of God illumines and transforms hearts. On the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus, the hearts of the two disciples were downcast, as shown by their dejected faces, because of the death of Jesus, in whom they had believed (cf. v. 17). Faced with the failure of the crucified Master, their hopes that he was the Messiah collapsed (cf. v. 21). Then, "as they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them" (v. 15). As when He first called the disciples, so now, amid their bewilderment, the Lord takes the initiative; He approaches them and walks alongside them. So too, in His



## TO ALL MISSIONARIES

I desire to express my closeness in Christ to all the men and women missionaries in the world, especially to those enduring any kind of hardship. Dear friends, the Risen Lord is always with you. He sees your generosity and the sacrifices you are making for the mission of evangelization in distant lands. Not every day of our lives is serene and unclouded, but let us never forget the words of the Lord Jesus to His friends before His Passion: "In the world you will have tribulations, but be courageous: I have conquered the world!" (Jn 16:33).  
Pope Francis

great mercy, He never tires of being with us, despite all our failings, doubts, weaknesses, and the dismay and pessimism that make us become "foolish and slow of heart" (v. 25), men and women of little faith. Today, as then, the Risen Lord remains close to His missionary disciples and walks beside them, particularly when they feel disoriented, discouraged, fearful of the mystery of iniquity that surrounds them and seeks to overwhelm them. So, "let us not allow ourselves to be robbed of hope!" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 86). The Lord is greater than all our problems, above all if we encounter them in our mission of proclaiming the Gospel to the world. For in the end, this mission is His and we are nothing more than His humble co-workers, "useless servants" (cf. Lk 17:10)... After listening to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, the Risen Jesus, "beginning with Moses and all the prophets, explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself" (Lk 24:27). The hearts of the disciples thrilled, as they later confided to each other: "Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?" (v. 32). Jesus is Himself the living Word, who alone can make our hearts burn within us, as He enlightens and transforms them. In this way, we can better understand Saint Jerome's dictum that "ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ" (*Commentary on Isaiah*, Prologue). "Without the Lord to introduce us, it is impossible to understand sacred Scripture in depth; yet the opposite is equally true: without sacred Scripture, the events of Jesus' mission and of His Church in the world remain indecipherable" (*Aperuit Illis*, 1). It follows that knowledge of Scripture is important for the Christian life, and even more so for the preaching of Christ and his Gospel. Otherwise, what are you passing on to others if not your own ideas and projects? A cold heart can never make other hearts burn! So let us always be willing to let ourselves be accompanied by the Risen Lord as He explains to us the meaning of the Scriptures. May He make our hearts burn within us; may He enlighten and transform us, so that we can proclaim His mystery of salvation to the world with the power and wisdom that come from His Spirit.

2. *Our eyes were "opened and recognized him" in the breaking of the bread. Jesus in the Eucharist is the source and summit of the mission.* The fact that their hearts burned for the word of God prompted the disciples of Emmaus to ask the mysterious Wayfarer to stay with them as evening drew near. When they gathered around the table, their eyes were opened and they recognized Him when He broke the bread. The decisive element that opened the eyes of the disciples was the sequence of



**O**n a family visit to Peoria, Illinois, the John and Coleen Carroll Campbell family, of California, was able to visit the MI National Home, that is, the Little Garden of the Immaculata. It seemed to be a visit guided by Mary's hand as they are parishioners of Fr. Tom Czeck's [MI National Assistant] parish. Father had not directed them to the Little Garden as he was not aware of their destination. John led the family in prayer before Saint Maximilian's relic at the feet of our Blessed Mother. It was a very warm day, but the family was also able to view the two outdoor garden areas. We hope that they will return to the Little Garden on a future visit.



“

**The primary and principal resource of the mission are those persons who have come to know the Risen Christ in the Scriptures and in the Eucharist, who carry His fire in their hearts and His light in their gazes.”**

actions performed by Jesus: He took the bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to them. Those were the usual gestures of the head of a Jewish household, but, performed by Jesus Christ with the grace of the Holy Spirit, they renewed for His two table companions the sign of the multiplication of the loaves and above all that of the Eucharist, the sacrament of the sacrifice of the cross. Yet at the very moment when they recognized Jesus in the breaking of the bread, “he vanished from their sight” (Lk 24:31). Here we can recognize an essential reality of our faith: Christ, who breaks the bread, now becomes the bread broken, shared with the disciples and consumed by them. He is seen no longer, for now He has entered the hearts of the disciples, to make them burn all the more, and this prompts them to set out immediately to share with everyone their unique experience of meeting the Risen Lord. The risen Christ, then, is both the One who breaks the bread and, at the same time, the Bread itself, broken for us. It follows that every missionary disciple is called to become, like Jesus and in Him, through the working of the Holy Spirit, one who breaks the bread and one who is broken bread for the world. Here it should

be remembered that breaking our material bread with the hungry in the name of Christ is already a work of Christian mission. How much more so is the breaking of the Eucharistic bread, which is Christ Himself, a work of mission *par excellence*, since the Eucharist is the source and summit of the life and mission of the Church. As Pope Benedict XVI pointed out: “We cannot keep to ourselves the love we celebrate in the Sacrament [of the Eucharist]. By its very nature, it asks to be communicated to everyone. What the world needs is the love of God, to encounter Christ and believe in Him. For this reason the Eucharist is not only the source and summit of the life of the Church; it is also the source and summit of her mission: ‘An authentically Eucharistic Church is a missionary Church’” (*Sacramentum Caritatis*, 84). In order to bear fruit we must remain united to Jesus (cf. Jn 15:4-9). This union is achieved through daily prayer, particularly in Eucharistic adoration, as we remain in silence in the presence of the Lord, who remains with us in the Blessed Sacrament. By lovingly cultivating this communion with Christ, the missionary disciple can become a mystic in action. May our hearts always

yearn for the company of Jesus, echoing the ardent plea of the two disciples of Emmaus, especially in the evening hours: “Stay with us, Lord!” (cf. Lk 24:29). 3. *Our feet set out on the way, with the joy of telling others about the Risen Christ. The eternal youth of a Church that is always going forth.* After their eyes were opened and they recognized Jesus “in the breaking of the bread,” the disciples “set out without delay and returned to Jerusalem” (cf. Lk 24:33). This setting out in haste, to share with others the joy of meeting the Lord, demonstrates that “the joy of the Gospel fills the heart and the whole life of those who meet Jesus. Those who allow themselves to be saved by Him are freed from sin, from sadness, from inner emptiness, from isolation. With Jesus Christ, joy is always born and reborn” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 1). One cannot truly encounter the Risen Jesus without being set on fire with enthusiasm to tell everyone about Him. Therefore, the primary and principal resource of the mission are those persons who have come to know the Risen Christ in the Scriptures and in the Eucharist, who carry His fire in their hearts and His light in their gazes. They can bear witness to the life that never dies, even in the most difficult of situations and in the darkest of moments.... Just as the two disciples of Emmaus told the others what had taken place along the way (cf. Lk 24:35), so too our proclamation will be a joyful telling of Christ the Lord, His life, His passion, His death and resurrection, and the wonders that His love has accomplished in our lives. So let us set out once more, illumined by our encounter with the Risen Lord and prompted by His Spirit. Let us set out again with burning hearts, with our eyes open and our feet in motion. Let us set out to make other hearts burn with the word of God, to open the eyes of others to Jesus in the Eucharist, and to invite everyone to walk together on the path of peace and salvation that God, in Christ, has bestowed upon all humanity. Our Lady of the Way, Mother of Christ’s missionary disciples and Queen of Missions, pray for us!  
Pope Francis

## PERMANENT VALIDITY OF THE MISSIO AD GENTES

The image of “feet setting out” reminds us once more of the perennial validity of the *missio ad gentes*, the mission entrusted to the Church by the Risen Lord to evangelize all individuals and peoples, even to the ends of the earth. Today more than ever, our human family, wounded by so many situations of injustice, so many divisions and wars, is in need of the Good News of peace and salvation in Christ. I take this opportunity to reiterate that “everyone has the right to receive the Gospel. Christians have the duty to announce it without excluding anyone, not as one who imposes a new obligation, but as one who shares a joy, signals a beautiful horizon, offers a desirable banquet” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 14). Missionary conversion remains the principal goal that we must set for ourselves as individuals and as a community, because “missionary outreach is paradigmatic for all the Church’s activity” (*ibid.*, 15). As the Apostle Paul confirms, the love of Christ captivates and impels us (cf. 2 Cor 5:14). This love is two-fold: the love of Christ for us, which calls forth, inspires and arouses our love for Him. A love that makes the Church, in constantly setting out anew, ever young. For all her members are entrusted with the mission of proclaiming the Gospel of Christ, in the conviction that “he died for all, so that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for him who died for them and was raised again” (v. 15). All of us can contribute to this missionary movement: with our prayers and activities, with material offerings and the offering of our sufferings, and with our personal witness. The Pontifical Mission Societies are the privileged means of fostering this missionary cooperation on both the spiritual and material levels. For this reason, the collection taken on World Mission Sunday is devoted to the Pontifical Society for the Propagation of the Faith. The urgency of the Church’s missionary activity naturally calls for an ever closer missionary cooperation on the part of all her members and at every level.

Pope Francis, 2023 Message for Mission Sunday



## 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.

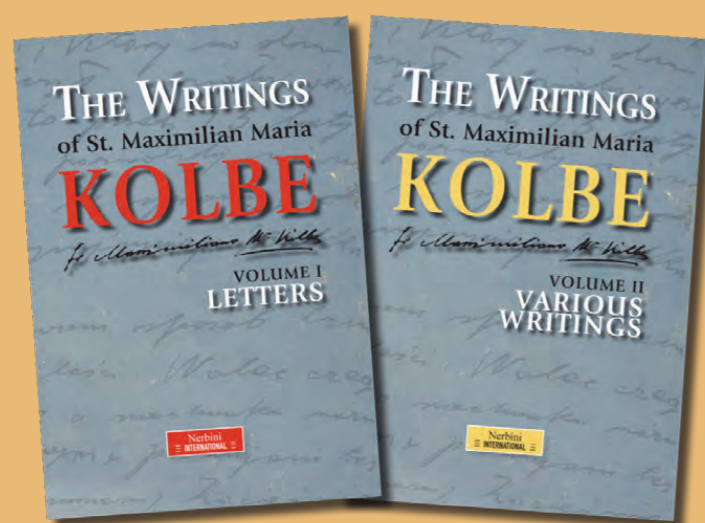
Nourished by the Eucharist, send us forth to walk faithfully as missionary disciples, proclaiming the Gospel to every heart and extending Your kingdom to every land.

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.

The hardcover edition may be ordered from [MarytownGiftShop.com](http://MarytownGiftShop.com) - [Click Here](#)

Enjoy reading them on your computer, phone or iPad  
Order e-books online at  
[Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) or [BarnesandNoble.com](http://BarnesandNoble.com)

Follow the online series "Dive in Search of Pearls:  
Introduction to The Writings of St. Maximilian Kolbe"  
Subscribe to the MI YouTube channel.

## See and Share the MI Film!



This important short film beautifully and eloquently captures the essence of the MI: total consecration to the Immaculata in the evangelical spirit of St. Maximilian Kolbe.

**"Simply excellent!"**  
**"Inspirational!"**

Share the link  
<https://militiaoftheimmaculata.com/mi-movie/>  
with your family and friends and promote the new film by posting on your favorite social media platform!

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



# THE BEGINNING OF MARY'S ARMY

(CONTINUED FROM PG. 2)

The Vatican lost 240 million dollars with the collapse of the bank. Both men died mysteriously sometime later. Before this incident in 1981, local bishops were warned that they had no authority to judge the masonic lodges as having good or bad intent or to change the Vatican's stance on the prohibition of being a part of a masonic lodge. The new Code of Canon Law published in 1983, didn't mention the Masons or other groups by name, but the head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, again stated, "the Church's negative position on Masonic associations remains unaltered since their principles have always been regarded as irreconcilable with Church doctrine." Pope St. John Paul II issued a declaration on Masonic organizations which reiterated the Church's objections to Freemasonry and had the Church's position put into Church Law. The USCCB in 1985 stated that "one cannot be both a Catholic and a Freemason."

The aim of the Militia of the Immaculata (MI), Mary's Army, was to work for the conversion of sinners, heretics, schismatics, and enemies of the Church, especially Freemasons. The MI had as one of its goals a spiritual battle and a movement of prayer and action, especially against the evil of Freemasonry. St. Maximilian Kolbe said, "We must launch a twentieth-century crusade, with all the weapons at our disposal including the press, radio, and film against our enemies." "We must counteract the venom of the so-called modernist and liberal." St. Maximilian Kolbe knew that to combat the evil in this world and against the Church, we would have to come together as a group.

Our praying and working together would be more powerful. He also knew that we needed someone of higher power to help and there was only one person who was given the power to defeat Satan.

Even as a child, St. Maximilian had a love and devotion to our Blessed Mother. In an article written in 1939, he related that while attending the minor seminary in Lwow, Poland, at age 14, he made a promise to the Immaculata that he would fight for her. He didn't explain the circumstances, but alluded to making this promise in response to her request, most likely during a vision or apparition. At the time, he was unsure how he was going to fulfill the promise, but he was clear about his resolve to be consecrated to Our Lady and to be a soldier and fight for her.

Upon finishing his studies at the Franciscan minor seminary in Lwow, Raymond Kolbe was accepted as a Franciscan novice. However, he decided not to continue his studies. He desired to be consecrated to Mary and believed that he needed to be Mary's soldier for God. He was very talented and interested in military strategy and operations and thought he could be a military strategist. He had drawn up a complete set of plans for the defense of Lwow. Therefore, he planned to leave the Franciscans and join the Polish military. He believed that joining the Polish army would allow him to fight for Mary and his besieged country. He convinced his older brother Francis to leave the Franciscans as well and they would both join the military. Together they decided to tell the Franciscan Provincial they would be leaving and not joining the Franciscans. We can only guess

who had a hand in what happened next, but when they were on their way to inform their Superior, their mother, Marianna Dabrowska Kolbe, showed up for a visit. No one knows what she told them, but they changed their mind about leaving the Franciscans. Raymond and Francis continued their studies and Raymond took his vows in 1911 and became Friar Maximilian. Raymond Kolbe, like St. Francis of Assisi, had misunderstood the path intended for him. He thought being a soldier for Mary could be done by joining the Polish military. St. Francis thought that when he was told "Rebuild my church," he was to rebuild the actual church building of San Damiano. He later realized it was to build up the people of God within the Church. The Church is the children of God, not the actual building. St. Maximilian, by organizing the Militia of the Immaculata, Mary's Army, in 1917, he was a soldier for Mary as he had dreamed of years ago. His dream was fulfilled when he returned to Poland as Father Maximilian and began to recruit and unite members for the Militia. He formed adult and youth groups and devoted his life to bringing others to the love of Mary and through her to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. His goal, which has been passed on to all of us, is to win the world for the Immaculate Heart of Mary and through her to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the shortest possible time. The Militia of the Immaculata is now an international religious organization, honored as a Public Association of the Faithful, with millions of members worldwide. St. Maximilian Kolbe's legacy will continue to live as we preserve his ideals and together with our Blessed Mother win the world for her Immaculate Heart and through her to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Ronald L. Rodrigues MI National President "I see Mary everywhere and difficulties nowhere."  
-St. Maximilian Kolbe

# ST. MAXIMILIAN WRITES...

EXCERPTS FROM A REPORT ABOUT THE MISSION WORK IN JAPAN TO STIR US TO GREATER MISSIONARY ZEAL (KW 1193).

It is not possible yet to commit ourselves in other sectors of work, so during last year as well, most of our activity was in the form of the published word, offered once a month and uniquely through *Kishi*. In all sincerity, we must be aware that this sector of work is still very little developed. The letters full of trust that both pagans and Protestants write us sometimes wait weeks or months for a reply, since... there is no time to commit ourselves to a better and more detailed translation, with the aim of composing replies that are sometimes very difficult and to ensure they are in an appropriate style that corresponds to the intellectual level of the author of the letter. To take care of the linguistic aspect of our work, it is sometimes necessary to ask for help from outside the fence of Mugenzai no Sono, since our good almond-eyed disciples either have a Korean style, if they come from there, or do not have sufficient

preparation to undertake a written philosophical argument in Japanese. Consequently, very often there are great delays. The ordinary administrative correspondence, done at home, is usually ready quickly and adequately. However, it is not enough to reply or make some good-natured noises sometimes; we must take care of each of these souls, who have not only decided not to shut the door to *Kishi* but also are interested to the point of contacting us by letter. But there is absolutely no time to do it. Mostly, we communicate the reader's address to a missionary of the place, while to the reader we communicate the missionary's address. And at this point our work is done. But a Japanese of a delicate nature, after having visited us, considers it his holy duty to write also a card excusing himself for having taken us from our commitments, and after a "lack of response" on our part, he ceases his correspondence because

“  
A missionary of the pen is an educator of masses, he forms public opinion, he diminishes the aversion toward the Catholic faith...”

he thinks it would disturb us. And how sorry we are for these souls! Then, to visit the readers, dispersed all over Japan, we cannot even go into that. Moreover, the heart cries for sorrow when we see the columns in the daily *Osaka Mainichi*, published in English. It speaks continuously of the Protestants, of information relative to the religious functions of the Protestants. Or, one might see in a photograph the faces of the members of the Rotary International Clubs, whose praises are sung. We too have subscribed to one of these newspapers, to know what is going on in Japan. This same paper is also published in Japanese under the titles *Osaka Mainichi* and *Tokyo Nichi-Nichi*, with some one million copies printed. And the Catholic press? Founded in Tokyo with the help of all the missions, the *Katoriku Shinbun* is published only once a week in a modest format, and with much difficulty the circulation hardly reaches 10,000

copies. Fr. Urakawa, Vicar General of the diocese of Nagasaki, editor and publisher of the fortnightly diocesan journal, also author and translator of an entire series of books—who in the first days of our arrival in Japan had expressly declared that here there was no need for *Kishi* since pagans would not read Catholic publications, while the Catholics hardly read the publications that already existed—he himself told us some time ago quite plainly: “Only Catholics read *Katoriku Shinbun*, *Koe*, and other publications, while pagans read *Kishi*: it is because of this I shall help you with my pen.” And he keeps his promise. But what are the 65,000 copies of *Kishi* for the many dozens of millions of pagans thirsty for the published word? I have let myself go too far in rambling; nevertheless I will add something more. A missionary of the pen does not calculate his own results from printed Baptism certificates; he is an educator of masses, he forms public opinion, he diminishes the aversion toward the Catholic faith, clarifies and slowly removes from minds invented obstacles and objections, predisposes to a gradual loyalty with regard to the Church and in time, more or less long, also to a sympathetic stance, to trust, and even-

tually to the desire to know religion more. This is a long road; nevertheless a missionary of this type will lead not only single persons, but the masses. One other thing. To reach people's hearts, this missionary must go to the indigenous population, travel widely to the various regions of the country preaching spiritual exercises, missions, and hear confessions; he must know and love the people, etc. But for the moment all of this is just a dream for us. At present we have not even enough time to learn the language to perfection. But why have I written all of this? So that one of the young priests and one of the candidates who are now preparing themselves for priestly ordination, reading all of these things, might say to themselves: “One does not live twice, but once only. Maybe I could live another 50 or even 80 years, but in the end, I'll die too. Could I perhaps be happier at the last moments of life if I died younger—and he would—but having consecrated my existence to the benefit of the pagan souls, beneath the banner of the Immaculata?...” There is much more to tell, but perhaps I'd be able to steal some time on some other occasion.

Fr. Maximilian M. Kolbe



“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

*Fr. Maximilian M. Kolbe*



# MI MEMBERS IN ACTION

BY JOSHUA SCHAEFER, MI MEMBER

**H**ello, I've been wanting to touch base about the initiative I was called to do with all the resources you sent me a couple of months ago. I set up a tent and table with all of the MI resources at the Tappahannock, Virginia, Farmers Market during the July and September dates. The Farmers Market had a lot of vendor tents with produce, baked goods, and arts and crafts. Other organizations were there as well including religious ones. I couldn't help but notice that the Market organizers assigned me in the very back corner of everything, off the beaten path right next to the tent of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. I did not get nearly as many people as most tents on the main road, but I got a decent number of people and I was successful for the two days I was set up. One of the more genuinely interested persons was a 12-year-old girl who came with a friend and asked me about the stuff on the table. I told her that it was about the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Her body language shifted to standoffish when I mentioned the Name of Jesus. It seemed to be a "taboo subject" to her. However, she took a Miraculous Medal prayer card and the brochure with it. I thought of all the graces and mir-

“  
**Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary is what will bring about the conversion of the world. That is what inspired me to share information about her and the MI.”**

acles that Mary has given through the Miraculous Medal. I will probably never know what fruit the medal will bear for that girl or her friend who took a *Behold Your Mother* book. I don't think I'll forget how she reacted to the Name of Jesus, but she still took a Miraculous Medal, which might just end up being "miraculous" for her and her family! Of all the resources on the table, the Miraculous Medal prayer card was the most popular. Many people were attracted to them and so I offered also the brochure that explains what the medal is about. Mary has given so much grace through that medal and it gave me so much joy to share it with so many people! God used the Blessed Virgin Mary as the instrument to bring about the salvation of mankind through His Son, Jesus Christ. In our society today, which has either long forgotten, or has intentionally tried to push God out completely, devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary is the answer to bring Him back in. The Blessed Virgin Mary was used as the instrument to offer mankind a path to salvation, so she will be an instrument to bring her Son and His full glory back into the world. The job that God the Father entrusted to her didn't end with the birth of Jesus. It has never stopped. Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary is what will bring about the conversion of the world. That is what inspired me to share information about her and the MI at the Tappahannock, Virginia, Farmers Market. Thank you again for giving me this opportunity. God bless.

Joshua Schaefer





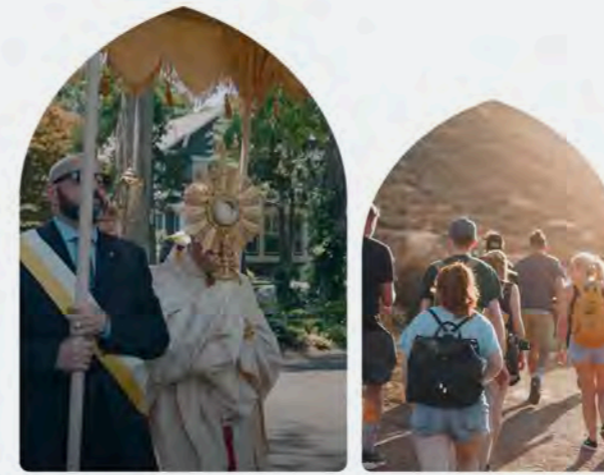
# Our National Emmaus Moment



## 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.



## Pilgrimage Information

Come meet Jesus as he comes close to you!

please visit: <https://www.eucharisticcongress.org/pilgrimage> for updates and information on the Pilgrimage and other initiatives associated with the 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

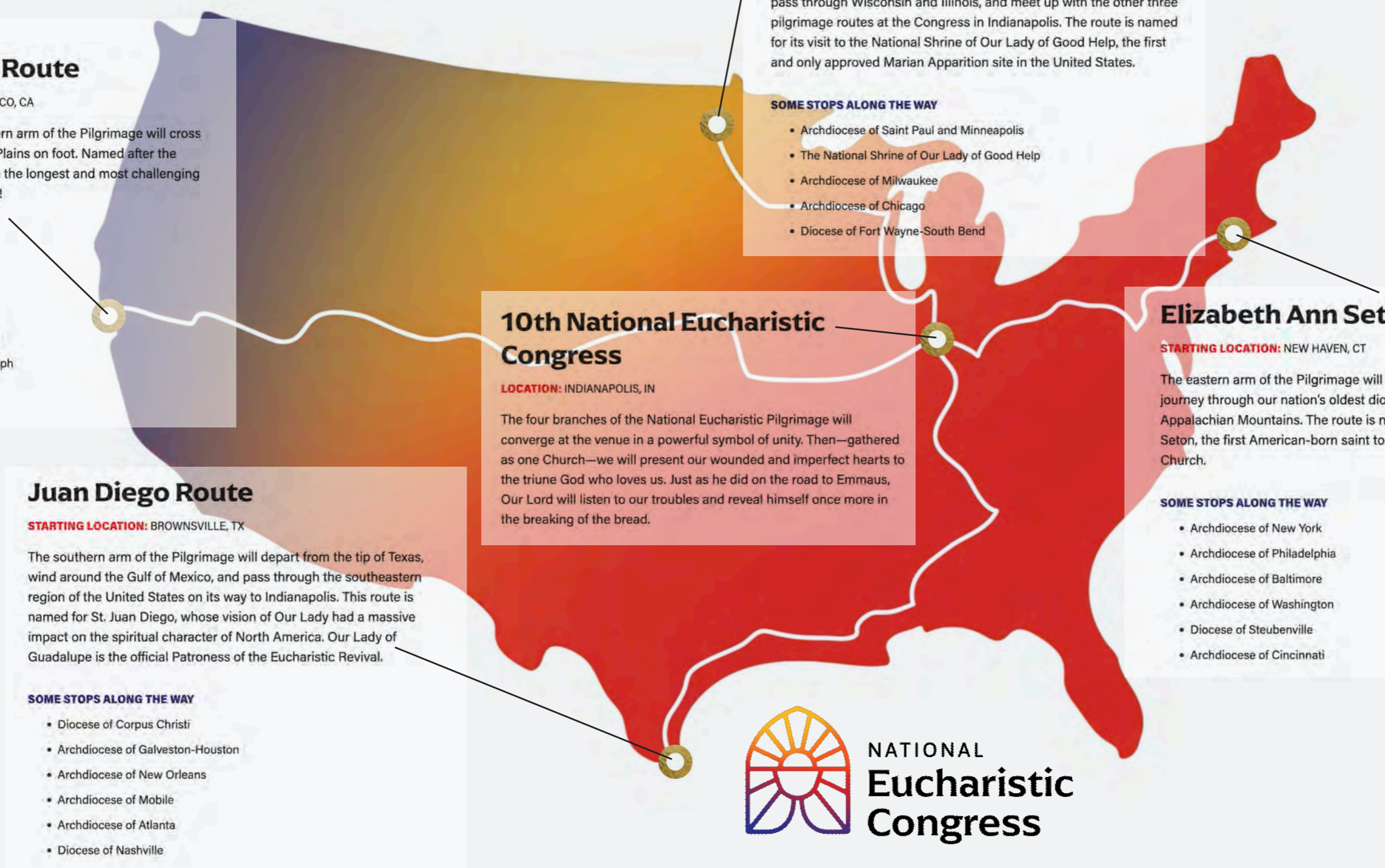
### Junipero Serra Route

**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



### 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.

### 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

### 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





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.

## October

*O Immaculata, please intercede...*

*That with you, Virgin of Mission, we may be the presence of Jesus who enters every home, communicating peace, proclaiming the Kingdom and lifting up those who suffer.*

**Mk 15:15-16** - He said to them, "Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; whoever does not believe will be condemned.

**KW 1162** - [The Militia] opens the eyes of those who have erroneous ideas of religion; teaches the beauty of heroic virtue to people who live in this world; becomes the guide of those who truly thirst for truth, so that they will not lose the way while tending for

the ultimate end of life, which is the most important thing above all others; purifies souls, and like a friend, exhorts them to proceed in the way of virtue. These are the aims of the Militia of the Immaculata!

**Reflection** - MI Knights, wishing to strive for the fullness of their Baptismal consecration, with the help of the Immaculata ought to live in a constant attitude of mission, striving to witness to the love of God they have experienced. With humility and patience they proclaim the Truth to others whenever an opportunity arises.

With the desire to see the Name of Jesus proclaimed to all creation, MI Knights are inspired by St. Maximilian's words: "To win the whole world for the Immaculata and, through her, for Christ." During this Mission Month, let us increase our apostolic zeal and efforts in order to announce the Gospel of salvation. Let us support the Church's missionary initiatives. The enemies of the Faith work tirelessly to destroy and disseminate errors and deceit. Let us not be timid and fearful, but rather courageous and confident!

**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)



**MILITIA OF THE IMMACULATA**  
MI NATIONAL CENTER - USA  
P.O. Box 5547, Peoria, IL 61601  
331-223-5564  
[MilitiaoftheImmaculata.com](http://MilitiaoftheImmaculata.com)  
[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: [drlisafmi@gmail.com](mailto:drlisafmi@gmail.com)  
Write to request Google Meet join info  
Mtg Day: Wednesdays  
Mtg Time: 8-00-9:00pm EST