

THE KNIGHT OF THE *Immaculata*

E-PUBLICATION OF THE MILITIA OF THE IMMACULATA, USA



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100th Anniversary of the First MI Magazine



"Arise, Let us Be on Our Way!" Farewell Message from John W. Galten, Former MI National President

Dear Knights of the Immaculata,

Maria! The National Assembly met in Peoria, Illinois, from August 5-7. The national election was presided over by Miquel Bordas Proszynski, the MI International President, and witnessed by Fr. Gilson Nunes, OFM Conv., the Delegate of the MI International Assistant. The Bishop of Peoria, the Very Reverend Louis Tylka, graced us with a warm welcome and presided over a lovely Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. His touching homily contained an account of his visit with his father to Auschwitz and the death cell of the priest/martyr St. Maximilian Kolbe.

It can be truly said that the Immaculata herself presided over the vote electing **Ronald L. Rodrigues** as **MI National President**. The election of Council members Michael Wick (VP), Donna Masek, Clifford Azize, Julie Elkinton, and Geoffrey Butz followed. I am personally delighted with her choices and confident that the new leadership will carry the Immaculata's banner forward.

I must thank, from the bottom of my heart, the former Council members, Michael Wick, Michelle Ordone, Julie Elkinton, Kit O'Brien, and Antonella Di Piazza, for their most generous sacrificial service over the last six years. They guided with inspired leadership as we transitioned and established the new MI National Center in Peoria, Illinois. I reported to the Assembly that all of our publications have been updated and improved, and new apostolic tools added. The MI established a strong, effective and inspiring MI presence on the internet and in social media. Strong ties were forged between MI Village moderators, and an MI electronic magazine, *The Knight of the Immaculata*, continues to grow, inspire and unite the MI movement. Beyond this, there are a myriad of small things that Council members gave without the recognition they justly deserve.

I am also humbled by the unstinting service of Antonella Di Piazza, Fr. Kolbe Missionary of the Immaculata, who has served as our national coordinator, and the band of MI volunteers who accomplish the day-to-day tasks of the National Center. Bless



(Continues on pg. 2)



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

– St. Maximilian Kolbe

Editorial

(Continued from pg. 1)

you one and all. Of course, my gratitude to all the MI-USA Knights who, by their prayers, apostolic service and generosity, form the heart of Our Lady's movement. May she, the Mediatrix of all graces, show-er you with blessings. I am most grateful to our MI donors who have sustained the movement. Without their generosity, we could not accomplish our evangelical goals.

I must mention with great affection Fr. Thomas Czeck, OFM Conv., our MI National spiritual Assistant, for his constant witness to the Franciscans charism and his loyal support to the Council. He is a spiritual rock.

Our presence in Peoria is due to one man—Fr William T. Miller, Rector of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and MI member. Thanks to his interven-tion, continued support, and prayerful guidance the MI National has found a home and a warm welcome in the diocese of Peoria. Bless you.

Finally, with deep gratitude, I thank the Immaculata and her spiritual son, St. Maximilian Kolbe, for their blessings, strength and inspiration to the whole MI movement. May our service resound to the glory of the Most Sacred Heart of Je-sus!

The new MI National President, Ron Rodrigues, will assume responsibility for this editorial next month. Blessings on him.

As always, "Arise, let us be on our way!"

With all my love,
John W. Galten



Daily Holy Mass

will be offered throughout 2022 for the MI-USA and all MI Members, living and deceased, at the City of the Immaculata established by St. Maximilian Kolbe near Warsaw, in Poland.

Send your prayer intentions to be placed in the MI Book of Intentions at the feet of Our Lady and St. Maximilian Kolbe's first class relic:
PrayerRequest@MissionImmaculata.com



Online MI Villages

Want to connect and pray with other MI members? Looking for support in deepening or preparing for your consecration? Join a virtual MI Village and live out your consecration with others. Email Moderators for information.

**Moderator: Scott Richard

Email: Virtual.MI.Village@gmail.com
Mtg Day: Friday (Last Friday of each month)
Mtg Time: 8:00pm CST

Weekly Consecration Renewal & Virtual Village Rosary Tuesdays @ 8:30pm CST

**Moderator: Douglas Eschbach

Email: MI.village.marytown@gmail.com
Mtg Day: Sunday (3rd Sunday of each month)
Mtg Time: 5:00pm CST

**Moderator: Donna

Knights at the Foot of the Cross (KFC)
Village of the Immaculata
E-mail: miutah.stmary@gmail.com

Mtg Day: Every Friday evening
Mtg Time: 8:00pm-9:00pm MST

**Moderator: Bill Bielawski

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

** Moderator: Lisa Fulgenzi

Email: drlisafmi@gmail.com
Write to request Google Meet join info
Mtg Day: Wednesdays
Mtg Time: 8-00-9:00pm EST

Invite Friends to Be
Consecrated to Our Lady!



Behold Your Mother! The Path to Total Consecration to Our Lady in the Spirit of St. Maximilian Kolbe

This beautiful 56-page booklet may be used individually or as a group activity (in a home or parish setting, for example), or as a series of classes led by a facilitator, or during a day of preparation for MI consecration to Our Lady. If you can offer a series of meetings, you can read each chapter with the group and invite the participants to reflect and comment on it. Alternatively, you can invite them to read each chapter beforehand and come together for discussion.

Many people have expressed the desire to promote total consecration to Mary in their parish and local area. **Behold Your Mother!** offers you an effective tool for making that possible!

Available also in audio book form.

Listen anytime, anywhere!

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

Now available in Spanish



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

What is the Eucharist?

The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life. The term “Eucharist” originates from the Greek word *eucharistia*, meaning thanksgiving.

Where is the Eucharist mentioned in the Bible?

The Lord Jesus, on the night before He suffered on the Cross, shared one last meal with His disciples. During this meal our Savior instituted the sacrament of His Body and Blood. He did this in order to perpetuate the sacrifice of the Cross throughout the ages and to entrust to the Church a memorial of His death and resurrection. The Institution of the Eucharist is written down in the four Gospels below:

Matthew 26:26-30

Mark 14:22-26

Luke 22:14-20

John 6:22-59 (The Bread of Life Discourse)

Why does Jesus give Himself to us as food and drink?

Jesus gives Himself to us in the Eucharist as spiritual nourishment because He loves us. By eating the Body and drinking the Blood of Christ in the Eucharist, we become united to the person of Christ through His humanity.



The USCCB posted short answers to common questions about the Most Holy Eucharist for easy reference.

“Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him” (Jn 6:56). In being united to the humanity of Christ, we are at the same time united to His divinity. Our mortal and corruptible natures are transformed by being joined to the Source of life.

Is the Eucharist a symbol?

The transformed bread and wine are **truly** the Body and Blood of Christ and are not merely symbols. When Christ said “This is my body” and “This is my blood,” the bread and wine are transubstantiated.

Though the bread and wine appear the same to our human faculties, they are actually the real Body and Blood of Jesus.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

The Liturgy of the Eucharist begins with the preparation of the gifts and the altar. As the ministers prepare the altar, representatives of the people bring forward the bread and wine that will become the Body and Blood of Christ.

The celebrant blesses and praises God for these gifts and places them on the altar, the place of the Eucharistic sacrifice. In addition to the bread and wine, monetary gifts for the support of the Church and the care of the poor may be brought forward.

The Prayer over the Offerings concludes this preparation and disposes all for the Eucharistic Prayer.

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On the Most Holy Eucharist

(Continued from pg. 3)

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Eucharistic Prayer is the heart of the Liturgy of the Eucharist. In this prayer, the celebrant acts in the person of Christ as head of His body, the Church. He gathers not only the bread and the wine, but the substance of our lives and joins them to Christ's perfect sacrifice, offering them to the Father.

The introductory dialogue establishes that this prayer is the prayer of the baptized and ordained, is offered in the presence of God, and has thanksgiving as its central focus. Following this dialogue, the celebrant begins the Preface, which consists of four different Eucharistic Prayers. After these prayers, Communion is then given.

The following timeline follows the traditional Liturgy of the Eucharist:

- Presentation of the Gifts and Preparation of the Altar
- Prayer over the Offering
- Eucharistic Prayer
- Preface

- *Holy, Holy, Holy
- *First half of prayer, including Consecration
- *Mystery of Faith
- *Second half of prayer, ending with Doxology
- The Lord's Prayer
- Sign of Peace
- Lamb of God
- Communion
- Prayer after Communion

Timeline

June 19, 2022
Feast of Corpus Christi
Launch of the Eucharistic Revival

June 19, 2022 – June 11, 2023
Diocesan Year of Eucharistic Revival

June 11, 2023 – July 17, 2024
Parish Year of Eucharistic Revival

July 17 – 21, 2024
National Eucharistic Congress
Indianapolis, Indiana

July 17, 2024 – Pentecost 2025
Year of Going Out on Mission

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.



A Winning Strategy for Pro-life Warriors

By John Wikoff, MI Member and Village Moderator

As one of the leaders of a Militia of the Immaculata Village in Peoria, the “School of Mary at the Little Garden,” I led a discussion recently in our group about the Marian manner that St. Maximilian Kolbe employed in his work with the MI movement he founded in 1917.

I’d like to share with you some of the insights I gained after our discussion in that meeting. I’m convinced we can use the saint’s strategy to advance effectiveness in our pro-life work, especially in a post-Roe and Casey world.

As a patron of the pro-life movement, St. Maximilian has something to offer us as we battle against the scourge of abortion. This strategy appears in *Behold Your Mother! The Path to Total Consecration to Our Lady in the Spirit of St. Maximilian Kolbe* published by the MI National Center—USA. The quotations I will use below come from a section entitled: “Collaborating in Her Maternal Mission,” pp. 36-38.

St. Maximilian is well known as a pioneer in the dissemination of

the printed word and the founder of the Franciscan friaries of Niepokalanow (City of the Immaculata) in Poland and Japan. Though very gifted in his own right as an organizer and spiritual force for good, he gave all the credit for his success to Mary, his Immaculata. What I want to highlight here is the Marian manner that “animated and characterized these apostolic achievements, particularly three aspects: 1.) passion for others; 2.) dialogue; and 3.) the gift of self.” We can also call upon Mary, our Immaculata, and use these aspects in our work as pro-life warriors.

St. Maximilian made a decisive choice in responding to his missionary call: “he put man at the center of his missionary action, man created in the image and likeness of God.” His passion for others drove him to win every person for God through the Immaculata as soon as possible. Following his example, we must also put the sanctity of human life at the center of our pro-life work. That includes the unborn child in

the womb and the mother and father of the child. Now that Roe is overturned, we must increase our efforts to provide the care and support needed by mothers, especially, in crisis pregnancies.

The second aspect of the saint’s Marian manner is dialogue. Kolbe was aware that the first step in evangelizing is personal, friendly contact with the other. This form of evangelizing demands that we “give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have (cf. 1 Peter 3:15).” We must be prepared with our own testimony when we are challenged to defend our belief in the sanctity of human life.

Dr. Steven Christie in his book, *Speaking for the Unborn: 30 Second Pro-Life Rebuttals to Pro-choice Arguments* states that we should prepare a one minute testimonial of why we are pro-life. He also shows you how to craft 30 second rebuttals to Pro-choice arguments to make our dialogue more effective

(Continues on pg. 6)



See and Share the MI Film!



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

"Simply excellent!"
"Inspirational!"

Share the link
<http://militiaoftheimmaculata.com/mi-movie/>
with your family and friends and promote the 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!*

A Winning Strategy for Pro-life Warriors

(Continued from pg. 5)

with those who oppose our position on the sanctity of life. The last aspect of Kolbe's Marian manner for apostolic achievements is the gift of self. Few of us will make the supreme sacrifice of giving up our life so that another person could live as St. Maximilian did at Auschwitz in 1941. His heroic act of self-sacrifice is our model when we are faced with a growing hostility from those in favor of abortion.

It is a frightening reality that there are segments of our population calling for violence, even threatening the lives of Supreme Court justices, and we hear no condemnation of these threats from those in the highest levels of our government and law enforcement. The destruction of property including pro-life pregnancy centers and Catholic churches runs rampant and is barely covered in the mainstream media.

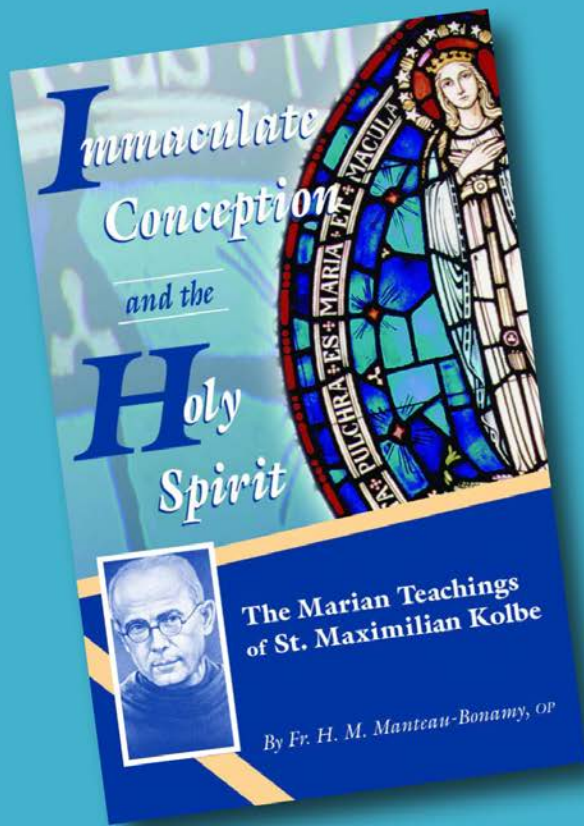
In spite of the threats of violence and destruction from those supporting abortion, we must not shrink from our God-given task to speak up for the unborn. We can take heart from the command of the Lord to Jeremiah: "To whomever I send you, you shall go; whatever I command you, you shall speak. Have no fear before them, because I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord." (Jer.1:7-8)

Let's call on St. Maximilian Kolbe and Mary, the Immaculata, to lead us to demonstrate our passion for the sanctity of life, prepare to dialogue with others about this issue and offer a gift of ourselves to protect life, especially the most vulnerable, the unborn child.

John Wikoff
MI Moderator of the "School of Mary at the Little Garden" in Peoria, IL



Kolbe Book Study



Immaculate Conception and the Holy Spirit

The Marian Teachings of St. Maximilian Kolbe

By Fr. H. M. Manteau-Bonamy, OP

Dear Knights of the Immaculata,

Maria! We continue our reading of the book, *Immaculate Conception and the Holy Spirit*. Please read pages 105-117.

1. Page 107.

Fr. Manteau-Bonamy quotes St. Maximilian Kolbe (text written in 1940) summing up the Immaculata.

How does this illustrate the power of the Total Consecration prayer—the heart of St. Maximilian’s spirituality?

2. Pages 108ff.

How does St. Maximilian sum up what “belonging to the Immaculata” means?

What stood out for you in his comments?

3. Pages 111ff.

What does Kolbe mean by “living by the Immaculata”?

What implications are contained herein for your life?

4. Pages 112ff.

What is it implied in the challenging term, “struggle under the Banner of the Immaculata”?

Just for comparison, look up Revelation 12:1-17 in the New Testament.

How does what St. Maximilian says stack up in comparison to the Holy Scripture quote?

John W. Galten

P.S. MI Village Moderators continue to meet on the Third Saturday of the month on Zoom. Please contact Mrs. Julie Elkin-ton, MI liaison for MI Villages, if you have not received the information;jaelkinton@pm.me



"I offer to you my musical recording of the Psalms..."

A testimony from an MI priest.

Fr. Charles Klamut, a priest of the diocese of Peoria, IL, and MI member, is a talented musician. Recently, he was inspired to composed music for the Psalms and on August 15, the Solemnity of the Assumption of Our Lady, he wanted to offer to her his recording, to be released in October, that she may do with it only whatever most pleases the Lord. After Holy Mass, he led the rite of total consecration and then asked his parishioners to be his witnesses as he recited the following prayer:

Jesus is Lord.

Blessed Mother Mary, it is because of your yes to God that we have Jesus, our Lord.

It is because of your docility, openness, and receptivity to God that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. May God be praised for your goodness and beauty.

Today as I re-consecrate all I have and am to Jesus through you, I offer to you humbly my musical recording of the Psalms.

I give you fully authority to do

whatever most pleases God and you with this humble work of art.

I pray that these musical settings of God's holy word, which I have made to the best of my ability amid all my poverty and limitations, may bring glory to God and help souls.

I pray that, through your maternal touch, a special anointing may be on these Psalms to inspire prayer, conversion, encouragement, hope, and a greater hunger for Scripture.

I pray that through your blessed intercession, even hardened hearts may be moved by these songs.

These ancient prayer poems were ever on the lips of your Son, His apostles, prophets and priests, saints and martyrs, and countless ordinary faithful over the millennia.

Moreover, these Psalms were ever on **your** lips and in your Heart. Please intercede that they may help a new generation of souls to pray, hope and love.

I do not wish to own, control, or benefit from this project. I ask only that it prove pleasing to God and effective in moving hearts and helping souls.

Please ask God to forgive the artistic imperfections of the recordings and the moral imperfections of their maker.

Please take them, present them to your Son, and then do with them as you will, through Christ our Lord.

Hail Mary...



2016-2022 MI National Report

Excerpts of the Report presented by John W. Galten

Shortly after the 2016 Assembly, the MI National Center was asked to relocate. After a brief stay at a Catholic church property in Mundelein, Illinois, in July 2018 the MI National headquarters moved to Peoria, Illinois, warmly welcomed by the local Ordinary, Bishop Daniel Jenky, and by the Catholic community at large. MI volunteers in Peoria and elsewhere throughout the country ensure the carrying out of the MI National Center operations. We have not only been blessed with capable, dedicated volunteers, but generous MI members have enabled the national headquarters to have sufficient financial wherewithal for its operations. On November 29, 2017, the Minister general and MI International Assistant, Fr. Marco Tasca, OFM Conv., appointed Fr. Thomas Czeck, OFM Conv., to serve as the MI-U.S.A. National Assistant.

As per private conversation between the President and Roy Samson, who had been elected to serve on the Council as National Director of MI Youth and Young Adults, it was inferred that Roy was unable to continue serving on the Council. In order to fill the vacancy, in October 2018 Michelle Ordoneo was elected to serve as Council member until the next elective Assembly. The National Council established monthly telephone meetings and a once-a-year face-to-face meeting when that was possible.

Attempts have been made to establish what we hope will be the beginnings of a renewed fraternal relationship with the U.S. Conventual Franciscan Friars.

Membership Currently, there are over 32,000 members in the U.S. While the major-

ity of members are lay people (young people, adults, married or single), there are also about 400 priests and religious men and women. Over the past six years, new enrollments have increased by almost 5,500 members, an average of just over 900 per year. Of the 5,500 new members, over 1,700 also enrolled as Knights at the Foot of the Cross. To ensure the unity of the Movement, in 2022, the MI-U.S.A. National Center resumed serving directly the Spanish-speaking MI members, grateful to the Father Kolbe Missionaries of the Immaculata who had managed the MI Spanish office for many years. MI members are reminded often of the missionary dimension of our total consecration to the Immaculata and are challenged to bring others to the MI.

Formation In order to maintain contact and to foster ongoing formation of members across the country, in November 2016 a free-of-charge monthly electronic newsletter, *The Mission of the Immaculata*, was initiated. It has been renamed *The Knight of the Immaculata* in honor of the 100th anniversary of the same founded by St. Maximilian himself. It has expanded both in content and in persons reached (approximately 13,500 people). The e-magazine is posted on the MI national websites for easy access. Non-members may also sign up to receive it. We have completed a rewrite and republication of all our recruiting and formative literature and we have shared them with other MI centers, in particular with MI Canada. In 2018, a 56-page booklet, *Behold Your Mother: The Path to Total Consecration to Our Lady in the Spirit of St. Maximilian Kolbe*, was published and has been reprinted twice.

About 15,500 copies have been circulated. The booklet is being used by individuals as well as in groups settings in parishes, seminaries and universities to prepare for total consecration or to deepen it. An audio version of the booklet was recorded and is on the MI-U.S.A. website. In 2022 the *Behold Your Mother!* booklet was published in Spanish. The ready-for-print file has been shared with MI International and the MI in the Philippines.

The new MI official prayer book *Glory to God Through the Immaculata!* and the *Novenas* booklet have been published and are very well received by members and non-members. The Spanish version of the prayer book is scheduled for publication in September 2022.

We have inaugurated formation by book study, beginning with sessions via videoconference for Village moderators and made available to everyone by regular articles in the e-magazine. Our regular videoconferences with Village moderators have proven most helpful for communion and the sharing of ideas.

Grateful for the publication of the critical English edition of *The Writings of St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe*, in May 2019 we launched the Daily Kolbe Emails.

About 60 MI Villages (MI groups) are active across the U.S., including at major seminaries and universities. One MI Village promotes the MI through an apostolate to the incarcerated.

We have not been able yet to relaunch the MI Youth and Young Adults Programs, which regrettably had been brought to a halt in 2015.

The crucial aspect that the MI needs to address in the immediate future is *Lead-*
(continues on pg. 10)



2016-2022 MI National Report *Excerpts*



ership formation and training and to develop an approach that is suitable for the nationwide and diversified reality of the Movement.

Mission MI members are involved in the evangelical mission of the Church in a variety of ways: catechesis, pro-life activity, charitable works of mercy, and example of Christian life in their environments. In the spirit of the MI, members have started a Radio Station, KMMK 88.7 and spread consistently the message of total consecration, while others are participating in local media apostolates. We are encouraged as a few teachers in Catholic schools have expressed interest in promoting the MI in primary and secondary schools. We hope this will grow. Also, it must be said that parish priests are increasingly asking for our promotional materials to introduce total consecration to Our Lady to their parishioners. All members are encouraged to disseminate various MI brochures, which have been revised, redesigned and made available to MI members for a free-will donation, several also in Spanish. Over 90,000 Miraculous Medals have been distributed. Generally, U.S. MI Knights are very zealous in taking on evangelical initiatives and promoting the MI.

There is a great deal of MI activity in the social media as well. Regular and timely fresh material is prompted on the social media platform. MI-U.S.A. has a

presence on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, TikTok and LinkedIn. In 2019, an MI donor provided funding for a new short film about the MI which has been produced by a nationally known film producer and MI member and launched on August 14, 2020. The film is available with captions in several languages and has been viewed as far away as Vietnam. The film has been a powerful tool for introducing the MI and its mission to countless people and is generating steady interest. It is posted on the MI website, on YouTube and Vimeo. It has been made available free-of-charge to EWTN for broadcasting on Catholic TV. In this way and others, EWTN has proven to be an important tool for people to learn about the MI.

Some members of the Council have conducted workshops, presentations and retreats, including a national TV broadcast and numerous radio interviews, and have established apostolic partner relationships with other Catholic organizations to promote total consecration and the MI.

We look with confidence into the future, urged by St. Maximilian's vision of winning all hearts for the Sacred Heart through the Immaculata.

Respectfully submitted by
John W. Galten
2016-2022
MI-USA National President



St. Maximilian Writes...

On the feast of the Nativity of Our Lady (KW 1037 & 1069).

September 8, the Feast of the Nativity of the Immaculata, our Queen, Lady, and most tender Mother, is at hand.

As her knights, members of her guard, we cannot let this day pass without offering her our best wishes.

But what more could we possibly wish her who, exalted above all creatures in heaven and earth, became the Mother of God and now reigns eternally in heaven?

She is Queen of heaven and earth, Mediatrix of us all; through her hands all graces flow unto the earth.

What should we wish you, therefore, most noble and sweet Lady?

...Many still do not know you... either because they were born into paganism, or raised in Judaism, or imbued with the baleful notions of Protestantism! Many have come to know you, yet... they elude you, or... they have abandoned you altogether and are now sinking into the mire of immorality!

Well then, holy Queen, on this beloved day of your feast, with all our hearts and with all our souls we wish you to take full and swift possession of our hearts and the hearts of one and all, without exception, be they Catholic, Protestant, Schismatic, Jew, pagan, good or bad. Reign over us all and in us all, poor inhabitants of this earthly

globe which glides across the heavens; reign not only during this our earthly pilgrimage, but also forever and ever, for all eternity!

For our part, we accompany our wishes with our work and by answering in person—at the cost of our labor, our property, our health, our reputation and our life. With your mighty aid (since we can do nothing alone), we will release to you the greatest possible number of souls from the bondage of the devil, of the world and of the flesh. And once they have been made happy, we shall offer them up for you to own, until we meet again, Loving Mother, in heaven...

Your MI men and MI women

God has always existed... without beginning, forever... without end. He created the universe and at a given time called man into existence. Man committed a sin of disobedience toward the Creator. Sentenced to death, but only to a temporary death, he leaves earthly paradise, to aim at a heavenly paradise through suffering and hard work. From that moment on, God promises a Redeemer and a Co-Redemptrix, saying: "I will put enmity between you (serpent, Satan) and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; she will strike at your head" (cf. Gn 3:15).

Years went by: tens, hundreds, and

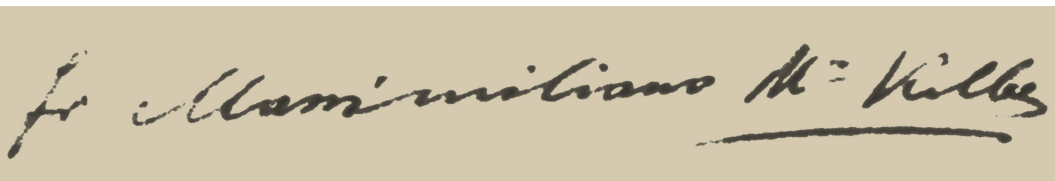
thousands of years, but humanity, handing down this promise from generation to generation, waited with bated breath for that blessed moment, the moment of mercy.

And the hour decreed centuries before finally came. There shone a dawn proclaiming the approaching sun: in the Palestinian town of Nazareth, placed on the slope of a hill between the lake of Galilee and Mount Tabor, Mary was born: the future Mother of the Man-God. That day, whose memory we celebrate precisely on the 8th of this month, was the beginning of a *new era*. The strict punishments of the Old Testament will be no more. Fear will give way to love: the redeemed creatures, even when found guilty, will easily reconcile with their Creator, since they have now forever obtained a most merciful and powerful Mediatrix who would never desert them and to whom God, Her true Son, cannot deny anything. Individuals as well as entire peoples have turned away from God at times, but no sooner have they fervently appealed to her than they experienced peace and happiness within themselves.

Even today, a flood of immorality and, consequently, of disbelief rages on in our cities and in our villages. As we witness evil spreading everywhere, sometimes a sense of discouragement sweeps over our soul. Where will it all end?... What will happen in a few years?... We wish we could peer into the future, to see if lights may still shine forth then...

O ye of little faith, why does doubt creep into your hearts? *Rekindle love and trust in Mary Immaculate everywhere* and you shall soon see tears flowing from the eyes of the most hardened sinners. You shall see prisons emptied, the ranks of honest workers increased; while home hearths will be redolent of virtue; peace and happiness will destroy discord and pain, for it will be already a *new era*.

Rycerz Niepokalanej





MI Intentions - September

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

*A Scripture reading.

*A text from St. Maximilian Kolbe's Writings.

*A quote from the Pope's teachings.

*A brief commentary.

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

September: O Immaculata, please intercede that we may be ready to pray and make sacrifices every day for the conversion of sinners and the sanctification of all through you.

Lk 19:1-10 – He came to Jericho and intended to pass through the town. Now a man there named Zacchaeus, who was a chief tax collector and also a wealthy man, was seeking to see who Jesus was; but he could not see him because of the crowd, for he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree in order to see Jesus, who was about to pass that way. When he reached the place, Jesus looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house.” And he came down

quickly and received him with joy. When they all saw this, they began to grumble, saying, “He has gone to stay at the house of a sinner.” But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, “Behold, half of my possessions, Lord, I shall give to the poor, and if I have extorted anything from anyone I shall repay it four times over.” And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house because this man too is a descendant of Abraham. For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost.”

KW 1069 – *Rekindle love and trust in Mary Immaculate everywhere and you shall soon see tears flowing from the eyes of the most hardened sinners. You shall see prisons emptied, the ranks of honest workers increased; while home hearths will be redolent of virtue; peace and happiness will destroy discord and pain, for it will be already a new era.*

From Pope Francis' Angelus, August 15, 2022

The Blessed Virgin Mary sings of hope and rekindles hope in us: in her, we see the destination of our journey. She is the first creature

who, with her whole self, body and soul, victoriously crosses the finish line of Heaven. She shows us that Heaven is within reach. How come? Yes, Heaven is within reach, if we too do not give in to sin, if we praise God in humility and serve others generously.

Do not give in to sin. But some might say, “But, Father, I am weak.” “But the Lord is always near you, because He is merciful.” Always close to us...

Our Mother takes us by the hand, she accompanies us to glory, she invites us to rejoice as we think of Heaven.

Let us bless Mary with our prayer, and let us ask her to be capable of glimpsing Heaven on earth.

Commentary

We are called to make room for the Lord Jesus in our lives, so that He may dwell within us. We are to let ourselves be converted and transformed by His grace. Then the Immaculata will truly reign in our hearts and the hearts of all our brothers and sisters.

Prayer: Act of Total Consecration to the Immaculata

MI RESOURCES

Available from the MI National Center



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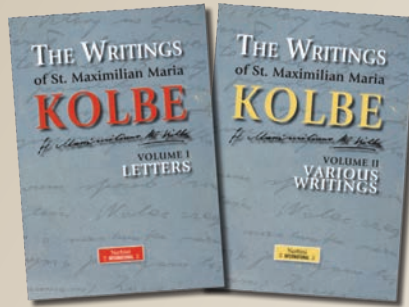
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— Fr. Peter D. Fehlner, OFM Conv

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MILITIA OF THE IMMACULATA
MI NATIONAL CENTER - USA

P.O. Box 5547, Peoria, IL 61601
331-223-5564
MilitiaoftheImmaculata.com

MINational@MissionImmaculata.com

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

St. Maximilian Kolbe