

THE KNIGHT OF THE *Immaculata*

E-PUBLICATION OF THE MILITIA OF THE IMMACULATA, USA



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of Hope - PAGE 3**

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"What's in a Name?"

By John W. Galten, MI National President

Dear Knights of the Immaculata,

Maria! The above quote is a common provocative question to get the reader to think a bit, or more than a bit, about what a name reveals. You will notice that our US MI newsletter has a new name, or, rather, an old name recalling St. Maximilian's magazine which began shortly after his founding of the Militia of the Immaculata.

So, what did the Saint have in mind for Our Lady's new organization? In his own words, in 1934 he stated, "The task of the *Rycerz* (Knight) will be to infuse the spirit of the MI into souls, to ensure its development, its enhancement, and its real application to present life, both social and private. At the same time, it will have to put all its energies to propagating the MI-1" (KW 599).

Clearly, we see here that this "messenger" has a call, a formation function and a celebration of the triumph of the Immaculata and her "seed" crushing the head of the infernal serpent. He envisioned the Total Consecration as a beginning and *The Knight* newsletter as the cultivation or development of that "gift of self" to Christian maturity, a fullness of holiness, and becoming the image of Christ her Son. Of course, it also served to connect MI members one to another, to spread the gift of Total Consecration, and to form apostles as Our Lady did in the raising of Jesus to His public ministry at Cana. It participates in the Virgin Mother's work as Mother of the Church and all human beings given to her at the foot of the Cross. This lofty goal is inherent in the name change to Kolbe's original vision in an explicit manner.

The Knight is her publication. We who work on it: writing, composing, graphically organizing and enhancing it, and distributing it, are merely her servants, acting in her name and at her complete disposal. As I write my small

(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

contribution each month, I make a request of her: “Let me write only what you wish and in the manner and spirit that you wish.” From the writings of St. Maximilian, “The Immaculata herself watches over her publishing house” (KW 137).

How should we in the MI view our relationship to *The Knight of the Immaculata*? I want to give you in Kolbe’s own words to a German official the truth about what *The Knight* is: “The Militia of the Immaculata wants to give souls the opportunity to know the Immaculata more and more and enhance their love toward her. We want to speak to every soul that lives on this earth and in all languages, to describe every grace that she pours into souls, in order to urge them to ever more intense trust and love,” and “the *Rycerz Niepokalanej* (Knight of the Immaculata) operates exclusively through love...” (KW 880).

Is there an urgency to get *The Knight* out to the MI and the public? St. Maximilian and his friars worked prodigiously in very, very difficult circumstances to get the Japanese version of *The Knight* out as quickly as possible, enduring poverty, ignorance of the language, and no distribution services to speak of to get the Immaculata’s publication to the people of Japan.

So, noting our Saint and founder’s zeal for this publication, I encourage you to read, share, and take to heart Mary’s monthly message in her very own publication.

As always, until next month, “Arise, let us be on our way.”

John W. Galten
MI National President



As we observe this special year dedicated to St. Joseph, we are encouraged to imitate his unconditional fidelity to God and to ask his powerful intercession. The following prayer might be useful:

Joseph, strong and gentle saint,
dear to God and His faithful shadow,
remember me in all
my spiritual and material needs.
Be my advocate before the Father.
To you I bring my heart and soul
and all my longings.

Sanctify them with your burning faith,
your unfaltering hope, and with that great,
self-sacrificing love that was the secret of
your hidden sanctity.

Christ was your peace: give Him to my
heart, then by His light I will see the way
that I must walk to stay with Him.

Give me the courage not to turn back
because of darkness, sorrow, or sufferings.
Teach me the joy of loving God’s Will, and
help me to live, as you have done, within its
calm and peaceful depths.
Amen.



Daily Holy Mass

will be offered throughout 2021 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

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!*





Dante Alighieri, Prophet of Hope

September 14, 2021, marks the 700th anniversary of the death of the great Catholic poet Dante Alighieri, author of *The Divine Comedy* (*).

Over the centuries, popes, saints, literary scholars, theologians and artists have profusely spoken and written about him. On March 25, Pope Francis published an Apostolic Letter *Candor Lucis Aeternae*, which offers insights into the remarkable legacy of the Poet.

You may find it at https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco-lettera-ap_20210325-centenario-dante.html

Enjoy the following excerpts.

In celebrating the mystery of the Incarnation, the source of salvation and joy for all humanity, Dante cannot but sing the praises of Mary, the Virgin Mother who, by her *fiat*, her full and total acceptance of God's plan, enabled the Word to become flesh. In Dante's work, we find a splendid treatise of Mariology. With sublime lyricism, particularly in the prayer of Saint Bernard, the poet synthesizes theology's reflection on the figure of Mary and her par-

icipation in the mystery of God: "Thou Virgin Mother, daughter of thy Son, Humble and high beyond all other creature, The limit fixed of the eternal counsel, Thou art the one who such nobility To human nature gave, that its Creator Did not disdain to make himself its creature" (*Par. XXXIII, 1-6*).

The opening oxymoron and the subsequent flood of contrasts celebrate the uniqueness of Mary and her singular beauty. Pointing to the blessed arrayed in the mystical rose, Saint Bernard invites Dante to contemplate Mary, who gave a human face to the Incarnate Word:

"Look now into the face that unto Christ Hath most resemblance; for its brightness only Is able to prepare thee to see Christ" (*Par. XXXII, 85-87*).

The mystery of the Incarnation is again evoked by the presence of the Archangel Gabriel. Dante questions

Saint Bernard:

"Who is the Angel that with so much joy Into the eyes is looking of our Queen, Enamoured so that he seems made of fire?" (*103-105*).

To which Bernard responds:

"he is the one who bore the palm Down unto Mary, when the Son of God To take our burden on himself decreed" (*112-114*).

References to Mary abound in *The Divine Comedy*. In the *Purgatorio*, at every step of the way she embodies the virtues opposed to the vices; she is the morning star who helps the poet to emerge from the dark forest and to seek the mountain of God; the invocation of her name,

"The name of that fair flower I e'er invoke Morning and evening..." (*Par. XXIII, 88-89*), prepares the pilgrim for the encounter with Christ and the mystery of God.

Dante is never alone on his journey. He lets himself be guided, first by Virgil, a symbol of human reason, and then by Beatrice and Saint Bernard. Now, through the intercession of Mary, he can rise to our heavenly homeland and taste in its fullness the joy that had been his life-long desire:

"and distilleth yet Within my heart the sweetness born of it" (*Par. XXXIII, 62-63*).

We are not saved alone, the poet seems to repeat, conscious of his need:

"I come not of myself" (*Inf. X, 61*).

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Dante Alighieri

(continued from pg. 3)

The journey needs to be made in the company of another, who can support us and guide us with wisdom and prudence.

Here we see how significant is the presence of women in the poem. At the beginning of Dante's arduous journey, Virgil, his first guide, comforts and encourages Dante to persevere because three women are interceding for him and will guide his steps: Mary, the Mother of God, representing charity; Beatrice, representing hope; and Saint Lucy, representing faith. Beatrice is introduced in the poignant verses.

"Beatrice am I, who do bid thee go;
I come from there, where I would fain return;
Love moved me, which compelleth me to speak" (*Inf.* II, 70-72).

Love thus appears as the sole means of our salvation, the divine love that transfigures human love. Beatrice speaks in turn of the intercession of yet another woman, the Virgin Mary:

"A gentle Lady is in Heaven, who grieves
At this impediment, to which I send thee,
So that stern judgment there above is broken" (94-96).

Lucy then intervenes, addressing Beatrice:

"Beatrice, ... the true praise of God,
Why succourest thou not him, who loved thee so,

For thee he issued from the vulgar herd?" (103-105).

Dante recognizes that only one moved by love can truly support us on the journey and bring us to salvation, to renewed life and thus to happiness.

At the conclusion of this brief glance at Dante Alighieri's work, an almost inexhaustible mine of knowledge, experience and thought in every field of human research, we are invited to reflect on its significance. The wealth of characters, stories, symbols and evocative images that the poet sets before us certainly awakens our admiration, wonder and gratitude.

In Dante we can almost glimpse a forerunner of our multimedia culture, in which word and image, symbol and sound, poetry and dance converge to convey a single message. It is understandable, then, that his poem has inspired the creation of countless works of art in every genre.

But the work of the supreme poet also raises provocative questions for our own times. What can he communicate to us in this day and age? Does he still have anything to say to us or offer us? Is his message relevant or useful to us? Can it still challenge us?

Dante today – if we can presume to speak for him – does not wish merely to be read, commented on, studied and analyzed. Rather, he asks to be heard and even imitated; he invites us to become his companions on the journey. Today, too, he wants to show us the route to happiness, the right path

to live a fully human life, emerging from the dark forest in which we lose our bearings and the sense of our true worth. Dante's journey and his vision of life beyond death are not just a story to be told; they are more than the account of a personal experience, however exceptional.

If Dante tells his tale admirably, using the people's language, it is because he has an important message to convey, one meant to touch our hearts and minds, to transform and change us even now, in this present life. A message that can and should make us appreciate fully who we are and the meaning of our daily struggles to achieve happiness, fulfilment and our ultimate end, our true homeland, where we will be in full communion with God, infinite and eternal Love. Dante was a man of his time, with sensibilities different from ours in certain areas, yet his humanism remains timely and relevant, a sure reference point for what we hope to accomplish in our own day...

At this particular moment in history, overclouded by situations of profound inhumanity and a lack of confidence and prospects for the future, the figure of Dante, prophet of hope and witness to the human desire for happiness, can still provide us with words and examples that encourage us on our journey.

Dante can help us to advance with serenity and courage on the pilgrimage of life and faith that each of us is called to make, until our hearts find true peace and true joy, until we arrive at the ultimate goal of all humanity:

"The Love which moves the sun and the other stars" (Par. XXXIII, 145).

Pope Francis
(*English translation of
The Divine Comedy
by H. W. Longfellow, 1867.

The Immaculata and the Missal: My Consecration Story

By Carla Guerriero, MI Member

A priest whom I greatly respect encourages everyone to consecrate themselves to the Immaculata. He often speaks about the methods of consecration promoted by both St. Maximilian Kolbe and St. Louis de Montfort. Last summer, I felt it was the right time to consecrate myself to Our Lady. I read St. Louis de Montfort's *True Devotion to Mary*, which is a masterpiece, and followed the 30-day consecration program that he sets out in that book. I also used the booklet entitled *Behold Your Mother!* published by the Militia of the Immaculata, which is a consecration composed in the spirit of St. Maximilian Kolbe.

Around this time, I was also searching for a used copy of the 1945 St. Andrew Daily Missal since I frequently attend the Traditional Latin Mass. I managed to find one online and I ordered it.

I was eager to begin my preparation for consecration and I decided to select the earliest possible consecration date. This happened to be August 22nd which is the feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary according to the traditional calendar and the feast of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary on the modern calendar.

I began my 30-day consecration and, about midway through, I received a package in the mail – my St. Andrew Missal had arrived! The cover was embossed with the initials of the priest to whom it had once belonged, S.E.F., along with a few holy cards he had tucked in as bookmarks. Some of the holy cards were addressed to him by his brother priests, “Dear Steve...”. He had not written his name anywhere in the missal, but at least I knew his first name.

Then I realized that on the inside cover, Fr. Steve had written just one note to himself, in pencil. It simply said “Page 1410”. When I turned to that page, the title jumped out at me: August 22nd – The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary. My heart started beating fast and I felt a surge of love and wonder in my soul. Perhaps this was a coincidence but it felt to me that Our Lady was affirming that I should go forward with my consecration.

The first anniversary of my consecration was August 22, 2021. So much has changed for me this past year. Before my consecration, I prayed for so many different things, big and small. We know that our Loving and Eternal

Father in heaven cares for all of our needs. But since my consecration, I have noticed that all of these diverse prayers started to give way to one pre-eminent prayer – that Our Lord and Our Lady will help me to save my own soul, and use me in some way to help other souls get to heaven. In the grand scheme of things, what else truly matters?

I believe this concern for souls, which seems to become stronger each day, is a result of my consecration to the Immaculata, who desires that her Divine Son “lead all souls to heaven” as we recite in the Fatima prayer.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, Have Mercy on Us! Immaculate Heart of Mary, Pray for Us!

Carla Guerriero,
West Orange, NJ

A Suggestion from a Fellow MI Member

On the 80th anniversary of St. Maximilian's martyrdom, I wanted to share a suggestion for a simple form of evangelization - writing a letter to the editor.

I am sharing a link to a letter to the editor I wrote in my local paper a few years ago near St. Maximilian's feast day describing his life and death. It didn't matter that it was a secular paper; who wouldn't be interested in reading about a heroic man who died to save another prisoner's life?

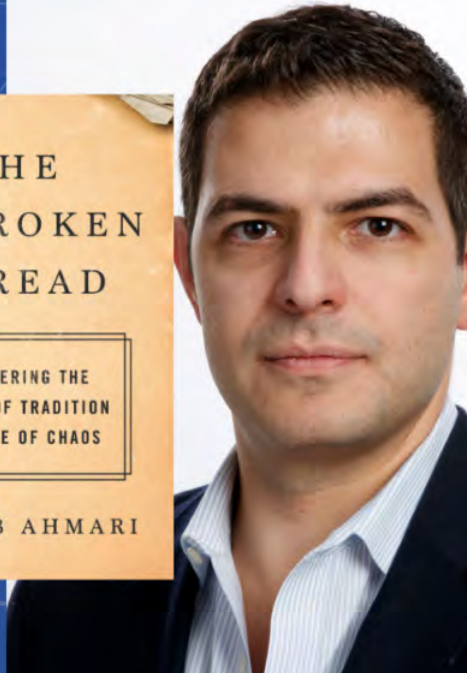
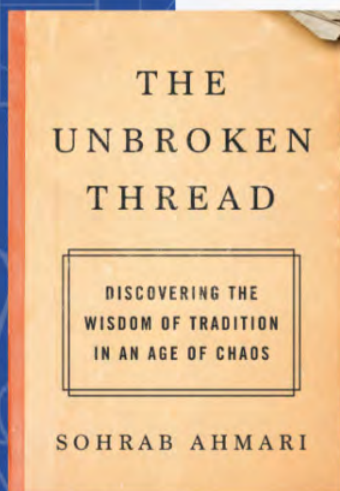
I would humbly suggest you consider doing the same and encouraging others to as well. It will only take a few minutes and will spread awareness of this wonderful man and, God-willing, through him, to Mary and Jesus.

<https://www.lehighvalleylive.com/opinion/2019/08/78-years-ago-polish-priest-gave-his-life-for-another-at-auschwitz-letter.html>

God bless you,
Bill Murphy, MI Member

THE UNBROKEN THREAD: DISCOVERING THE WISDOM OF TRADITION IN AN AGE OF CHAOS

SOHRAB AHMARI



A Book Recommendation

Once in a while, a current book explicitly refers to St. Maximilian Kolbe very pointedly and in a manner that reveals the contemporary relevance of the Saint.

Such a book is Sohrab Ahmari's *The Unbroken Thread—Discovering the Wisdom of Tradition in an Age of Chaos* (Convergent, 2001).

The author is a convert to Catholicism and currently op-ed editor of the *New York Post*. His conversion is recounted in a previous book—*From Fire and Water—My Journey to the Catholic Faith* (Ignatius Press, 2019). It itself is worth a read.

Why do I recommend this book? First, he boldly names his son Maximilian after our founder—recalling how important the Saint is for him, his family, and for our culture in general.

He writes this book to highlight his concerns for large elements of

our culture which are following the path of what Pope St. John Paul II called the “Culture of Death” and its possible effects on the future formation of his young son.

The author artfully confronts this “culture” with twelve fundamental questions that have every possibility of converting it to the “Civilization of Love.”

Let me illustrate just the first of his questions: “How do you justify your life?” He goes on to cite fact after fact to enable the reader to correctly assess whether he or she is on the right track.

I have come to the same conclusions and realizations about life that Ahmari lists.

It is an excellent read—clear, inspiring, wise—a “must read.”

John W. Galten

Invite Friends to Be
Consecrated to Our Lady!



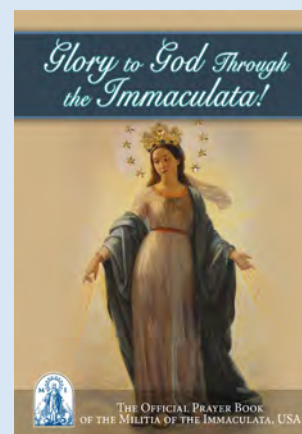
Behold Your Mother! **The Path to Total Consecration** **to Our Lady in the Spirit of** **St. Maximilian Kolbe**

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. **The Path to Total Consecration** offers you an effective tool for making that possible!

Now available in audio book form.

The suggested donation for multiple copies of the booklet is \$1.00/ea. plus shipping; for a single copy, the suggested donation is \$3.75 shipping included.



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

MI

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS




Dreaming Great Things... like St. Max!

The eightieth anniversary of the death of St. Maximilian Mary Kolbe and the fiftieth anniversary of his beatification are an occasion to reflect on his spiritual legacy, marked by love. His imprisonment in the extermination camp of Oświęcim (Auschwitz), crowned with his death in the starvation bunker, represents for us the absurd historical circumstance which reveal the chronicle of an ever-growing itinerary of holiness and love.

The darkness of the cell, illuminated by the prayerful testimony of Saint Maximilian, and his words of comfort addressed to his unfortunate companions in captivity, transform the place that symbolizes the irrationality of man into an altar on which the human and priestly dignity of the Franciscan friar are exalted to illuminate “this difficult century,” as Saint John Paul II affirmed.

Unconditional love is the clearest sign that distinguished the life of our holy martyr. First of all, the love for the Mother of God that filled the heart of little “Raymond” – still a child – and that in adolescence led him to put on the Franciscan habit; the dedication with which he applied himself to his formation and studies; the ability with which, despite his young age, he was able to interpret the events of that particular moment in history; moreover, his love for religious fraternity, his choice to live his Catholic priesthood in an authentic manner;

and his love for humanity, witnessed by his tireless work of evangelization and his commitment to the correct formation of the conscience of the people of his time; all of these led him to arrive at the “gift” of his “consecration to Mary Immaculate,” offered to the Church and the world, through missionary zeal and finally the love of total oblation in martyrdom.

All this is not the work of human will alone but is a virtuous itinerary that bears witness to the experience of God’s love as the formative motivation in the life of the Holy Martyr....

Perhaps we will never be able to bring to completion in us a total act of consecration to the Immaculata, as did our Saint. From many aspects it has been rightly pointed out that his was not a simple devotional act.

I like to consider **his total consecration to the Immaculata as the most sublime of devotions**: a total abandonment, existential, a full consistency in our lives in God, following the example of the Immaculata who let herself be completely permeated by the action of the Holy Spirit. It is therefore not simply a matter of being altruistic in this “difficult century,” but of being new creatures.

In the first creature redeemed by virtue of the merits of her Son, in Mary Immaculate, we too can become new creatures, renewing our baptismal consecration. This is the Christian way of offering a newness of life to our century: to become new persons in order to create a new world. **Father Kolbe teaches us not to be afraid to dream because, with the Immaculata, we can do great things.**

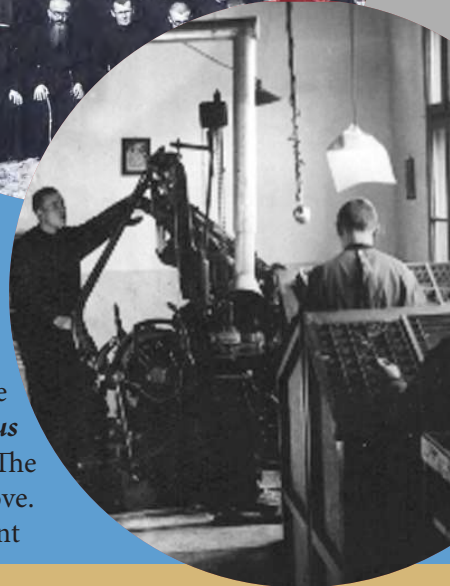
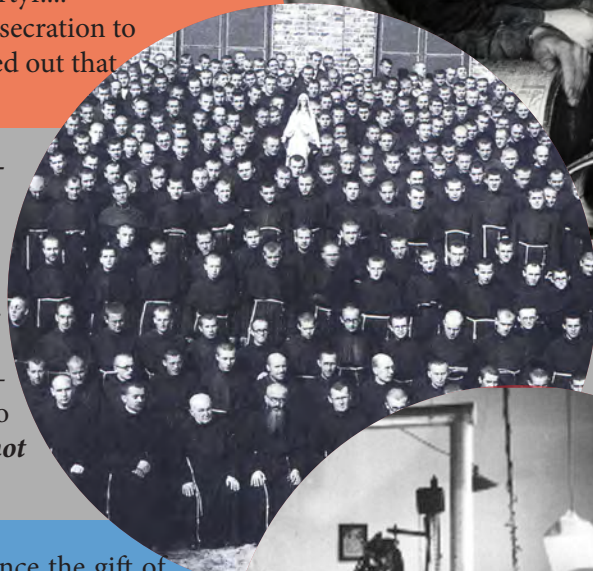
At the conclusion of this letter, I wish to consider with hope and confidence the gift of holiness that God has raised up in his servant St. Maximilian.

But above all, I address myself to those who invoke him – and there are many – and who, with confidence follow his example, consecrating themselves to Mary Immaculate so that they may be part of a renewed commitment to give witness to God’s love for humanity.

Saint Irenaeus of Lyon affirms that “the glory of God is man fully alive.”

This vision of the importance of humanity in the eyes of God can help us to understand how the labor of charity is a way of dignity for our brothers and sisters of every age. It is a way that **allows us to be instruments of God in the hands of the Immaculata, to die to ourselves and rise to new life.** The offering of our lives becomes, then, the supreme act by which we truly build the civilization of Love.

Fr. Carlos Trovarelli, OFM Conv., Minister General and MI International Assistant





St. Maximilian Writes...

In the following letter, St. Maximilian opens his heart to his Brothers (KW 461).

Maria!

Mugenzai no Sono, October 27, 1932

Dear Brothers, my Beloved Children!

I rejoiced very much, but the heart of the Immaculata rejoiced even more, for the many demonstrations of love toward her that you wrote on greeting cards for my name day. She looked in your hearts and saw it all, both what found its way on paper and what “neither time nor paper” were enough to convey.

“Someone” writes that he would like to have a “small part” of love. My dear children, when it comes to the Immaculata, let us never think in terms of “small parts.” Rather, let us all vie with each other so that each increase of love toward her in one of us may produce an even greater enhancement in the others. Our hearts are so small, so weak. We will never be able to offer her the love she deserves, the one with which she loves us.

I also like to read your wishes, namely that the strongholds of the Immaculata may grow in number all over the earth; your dreams of shedding blood as mar-

tyrs, to consume yourselves for the Immaculata, etc., etc. For that is, in fact, our main characteristic: all that and more, and more still: in a word, the *limitlessness* of love.

Unlimited love for the Immaculata! What is it? The Immaculata is so closely-united to God through love, that she rises high not only above all the Saints, but even above the Angels, the Archangels, the Cherubim and the Seraphim. Therefore, boundless love toward the Immaculata raises us up to her (and joins us to her through love), above them all...

What is unlimited love for the Immaculata? She is the closest to God, while we are the closest to her, and therefore, through her, to God Himself.

God gave us this white stairway and wants us to reach Him by climbing it. Or rather He wants her to take us up to Him as she holds us close to her motherly breast.

These, however, are nothing but images, similes, analogies. The reality is incomparably more beautiful, more sublime, divine...

She is Mother to us and... to God. Where, then, is her place? And ours as well? Of us who are her possessions, her property! Also, she penetrates our soul and directs its faculty with unlimited power.

We truly belong to her therefore, we are always and everywhere with her.

But what should we think of ourselves? Let us vanish in her! Let her alone remain, and we in her, a part of her.

Yet is it lawful for us, miserable creatures that we are, to rave in these terms?

However, that is the truth, it is a fact.

When will every soul all over the earth, until the end of the world belong to her this way?... MI, MI, MI.

My dearest children in the Immaculata, I wish you to be nourished by her with the milk of her graces, to be caressed by her, to be formed by her the way she did Jesus, our elder Brother, so that the divine Spouse of souls may ever more discern in us those same features He Himself received from the Immaculata, His Mother, those same eyes, the same dear heart.

Yours,

Br. Maximilian M. Kolbe



fr. Maximiliano M. Kolbe

West Coast MI Conference

We will be celebrating the founding of the Militia of the Immaculata on this year of the 80th Anniversary of the St. Maximilian Kolbe's martyrdom.

When:

Saturday, October 16

Where:

Our Lady of Grace Church
3433 Somerset Ave.

Castro Valley, California 94546

We begin at 8:15 am with Mass followed by Adoration with Confession

Conference begins at 10:00 am

Mary in the Gospel of John

Rev. Dr. Friar Francisco Nahoe, OFM Conv.

11:00 am

The Patristic Fathers' Understanding of Mary

Dr. Matthew Thomas, Scripture Scholar at the Dominican School of Theology

Lunch

1:30 pm

Marian Dogmas

Fr. Paul Fazio, OFM Conv.

2:30 pm

The Founding of the Militia of the Immaculata in 1917

John Galten, MI National President

3:30 pm

Living Consecration

Fr. Thomas Czek, OFM Conv.,
MI National Spiritual Assistant

For more information and to register please email Fr. Thomas Czek, OFM Conv.: casakolbe41@gmail.com

There is a \$25 registration fee which covers your lunch.

Registration ends on October 10.



Pilgrimage is a Time of Prayer and Renewal

by Fr. Thomas Czek, OFM Conv., MI National Assistant

To celebrate the 80th anniversary of St. Maximilian's martyrdom, we organized a "driving pilgrimage."

We began our pilgrimage on August 13 at the Shrine of St. Maximilian Kolbe, Libertyville, Illinois, as we gathered to celebrate his feast day. We moved on to the Basilica of St. Josephat, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where we had a presentation on the Marian Devotion by the Franciscan saints. Finally we celebrated the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary at the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help, Champion, Wisconsin. We joined in the Rosary procession and prayed at the site where she appeared to Adele Brice.

Adele Brice and St. Maximilian Kolbe both were given a mission from Our Lady for the conversion of souls and the evangelization of people in the faith.

Adele, as a simple immigrant farm girl with little education, was given a mission to educate children in the faith from our Blessed Mother through an apparition in October 1859.

The chapel, built by her father on the location of the apparition, would become the miraculous sanctuary which saved the lives of hundreds from the great Peshtigo fire in 1871.

This event, for the people of the area, showed the material protection of the Blessed Mother during this natural disaster.

St. Maximilian Kolbe, in the face of political upheaval, world war, rejection and persecution of the Church and the faith by political leaders and ideologies, was given a mission from Our Lady to build the Civilization of Love through consecration to the Immaculate Mary.

The Militia of the Immaculata, that is, total consecration to her mission to bring Christ to the world, is how we fight back against evil through love and praying for the conversion of enemies of the Church.

On August 14, 1941, St. Maximilian Kolbe (prisoner 16670) would live love to the end as he laid down his life for Franciszek Gajowniczek (prisoner 5659).

We remember how this heroic act of love 80 years ago gave witness that love could triumph in the midst of evil and give hope to humanity.

Fr. Thomas Czek, OFM Conv.



Reflection on September MI Intention

O Immaculata, please intercede that our relationship with you may mature and become fundamental for our journey of holiness, following St. Maximilian's example.

"His mother kept all these things in her heart" (Lk 2:51)

When asked how one may truly know the Immaculata, St. Maximilian suggested that we should ask the Holy Spirit to enlighten us and added: *"What is the Immaculata? Who will ever understand it perfectly? Mary, Mother of God, the Immaculata, in fact the 'Immaculate Conception' itself, as she chose to name herself in Lourdes. We know what 'Mother' means, but we cannot understand 'of God' with reason, with our finite heads. Only God Himself knows perfectly what 'the Immaculata' means."* (KW 508).

We strive to imitate Our Lady both in our prayer life and in our apostolic work. She looked for answers to the events of life, especially the meaning of her own life and the mission of her Son, Jesus. She did so, as the Gospel of St. Luke tells us, by treasuring and pondering all things in her heart. Thus Our Lady teaches us the path to enter ever more deeply into the mystery of the Incarnation. This mystery leads us to become truly her children, who live with her and fulfill her desires and plans, which are Jesus' desires and plans.

Jesus sent His apostles into the whole world to bring the Kingdom of God. St. Maximilian discerned how vital the relationship with the Immaculata is in following Jesus, precisely as he was led by the Holy Spirit to penetrate the mystery of her Immaculate Conception. This relationship with her became the secret of his journey of holiness and it may become ours.

St. Maximilian's experience with the Immaculata was a very personal journey. By his life and his writings our Saint opened his heart and revealed what we ought to do to make our relationship with her a reality in our lives. Kolbe exhorted us to strive to deepen our knowledge

of the Immaculata: *"We should also think about deepening our knowledge of the Immaculata. Knowledge of her relationship to God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, to the whole Most Holy Trinity, Jesus Christ, to the angels and to us men, so that such knowledge may become brighter and brighter, through humble studies enlivened by prayer. That material is inexhaustible"* (KW 647).

We have to learn from the Immaculata herself to listen to the Voice of God and to discern His will. This is how she was able to be always at unison with her Son. At the wedding of Cana we perceive clearly how she was certain that He would hear her request. She simply believed He could perform a miracle. Because of her intimate relationship and communion with Him, she "knew" Him and what He could do. May our consecration to Mary be authentically "total" as St. Maximilian's was, so as to persevere with her and through her intercession on the path to holiness. Let us make our own the words of St. Maximilian: *"The Immaculata is taking care of me most affectionately—really, with great affection. She provides all the nourishment that is essential to the soul at the right time—and in the required amount, but sometimes she also clasps me sweetly to her breast."* (KW 503).

Fr. Sebastiano B. Quaglio, OFM Conv.



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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
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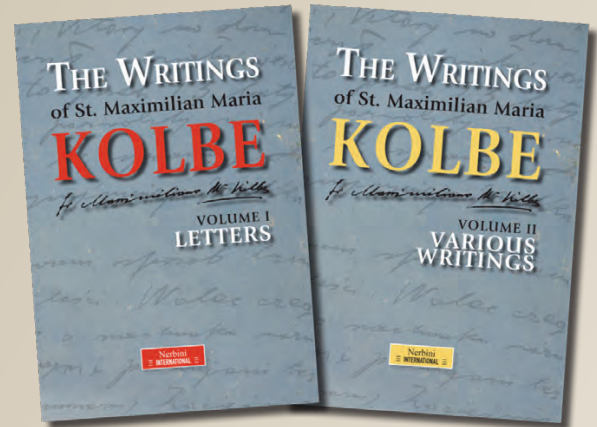
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Saint Maximilian Kolbe died at Auschwitz Concentration Camp as a “Martyr of Charity” in 1941. The Polish-born Franciscan Friar had spent the previous twenty-three years as a priest, evangelizer, media mogul, social commentator, missionary, and religious reformer. His life’s work cut short at age 47, St. Kolbe nonetheless left behind an impressive body of writings. In the 1950s the English-speaking world first began reading bits and pieces of those writings translated from the original Polish, Italian, and Latin. Now, at long last, devotees and scholars alike can find the entire wide-ranging array those writings collected together in a two-volume compendium published by Nerbini International.



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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*