



THE MISSION OF THE
Immaculata
E-PUBLICATION OF THE MILITIA OF THE IMMACULATA, USA

“The goal of the MI (the abbreviation comes from the Latin *Militia Immaculatae*, or Militia of the Immaculata) is, in fact, to make sure that all become saints. In all this activity, what strikes the eye most of all is its Marian thrust. This is a consequence of a precise understanding of the mission of the Immaculata.” (KW 1220)

APRIL 2017

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Prayer: To Seek the Face of Jesus at the School of Mary

By John W. Galten, MI National President

Dear MI Members,

Continuing the theme of Fr. Raffaele's Fatima Congress message, *Prayer: Prelude to Mission*, the General Statutes of the Militia of the Immaculata, March 2015, contain the following expression of the purpose of the MI: "He [St. Maximilian] lived a vital, dynamic relationship with Mary in a unique way, understood as becoming 'changed' into her, transubstantiated into her" (KW 508), in order to reach a more perfect union with Christ and in order to point Him out to all people, as she did (cf. Jn 2:5)" (MI General Statutes, Article 2).

The heart of our prayer is the consecration and the entrustment to the Immaculata that she might take us quickly to see the face of Christ. St. John Paul II not only called the youth of the world to seek the face of Christ, but the whole Church: "We wish to see Jesus" (Jn. 12:21). In our consecration and living it, we put ourselves into the School of Mary's love and she will show us the face of Christ. We will, if you will, "learn" Christ from Mary, contemplating her memories, the mysteries of the Faith. We pray to Jesus in the heart of Mary, who knew Him and loved Him more than any other, allowing us to do the same.

All of the above is the spiritual foundation of the MI Knight's interior life as expressed in his or her life. It is worth pondering these foundations frequently as the life of prayer depends on this intimate relationship with Mary and her Son. That is life--"to know Christ Jesus."

"Arise, let us be on our way."

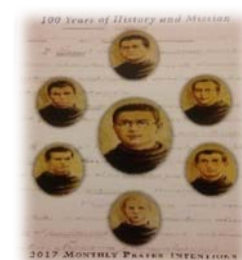
(To be continued)

Have a Happy Easter!

Who are the Knights at the Foot of the Cross?



News from around the country



Reflection on April MI Intention

Thank you, Ron and Immaculada!



*A deeply heartfelt
Thank You
to our fellow MI members,
Ron and Immaculada, from
Alabama, who generously*

responded to the appeal for a vehicle for the MI National Center. May Our Lady reward them and our grateful prayers accompany them!

PERMANENT MI NATIONAL OFFICE BEING SOUGHT

Now that the MI National has settled into a temporary space at Santa Maria del Popolo Parish in Mundelein, Illinois, the MI National Council has discussed and determined some specific needs in terms of moving to a permanent site. Placing our trust in the Immaculata, following the example of St. Maximilian Kolbe, the Council is seeking approximately 1,500 square feet of space. That would allow for an

administrative office, workroom/meeting area, kitchenette, storage space and perhaps a small chapel. Overnight accommodations on-site or very nearby, as well, would be ideal. If you or someone you know might have a property, a house or a building you are able to donate to the MI, we would like to discuss such a tax-deductible gift with you. Please call the MI National Office at (331) 223-5564 or email us at

MINational
@MissionImmaculata.com.

For info about the MI Youth & Young Adults visit:

MIYouth.org

Listen to the MI Youth Podcast on iTunes!

Check the MI official Facebook page:
[Mission of the Immaculata](#)



Three main MI Centenary Celebrations will be held around the country, open to MI members and all Catholic faithful. Detailed information will follow.

Midwest

Date: Saturday, June 24, 2017
Time: 8:30 am to 4:00 pm
Where: Santa Maria del Popolo Parish Center, Mundelein, IL

SAVE THE DATE Centennial Celebrations & MI National Pilgrimage

West Coast

Date: Saturday, August 12, 2017
Time: TBA
Where: St. Christopher Parish Hall West Covina, CA

East Coast

Date: November 2017
Where: Philadelphia, PA (location TBA)

Plan to come, celebrate and rekindle your dedication to Our Lady's mission in the XXI century!

MI NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE TO ASSISI, SIENA AND ROME with participation in the 100th Anniversary International Celebrations October 10-19, 2017

Be part of this once-in-a-lifetime-event!
Join the MI National President, John Galten, and MI members from around the country!
Pilgrimage Chaplain: Fr. Stephen Boyle, O. Praem.
Download brochure at [MissionImmaculata.com](#) and call TODAY 800-515-2632

Who are the Knights at the Foot of the Cross?

The Knights at the Foot of the Cross (KFC) is an outreach within the MI movement, comprised of Catholics afflicted by the cross of suffering – physical, spiritual or emotional. As MI members, KFCs consecrate themselves to Mary. As did Mary at the Cross of her Son, they also participate in "redemptive suffering" (also called sacrificial or reparational suffering). Read on!



This means they offer some of their daily prayers and trials to Jesus and Mary, who apply these sufferings where grace is needed most, such as to convert hearts and save souls, to make amends for the sins of others, and ultimately to bring about the Kingdom of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. KFCs especially offer up their difficulties for the success of the MI. They thus become a special core group or vanguard within the movement. Though often unable to actively evangelize because of infirmity, nonetheless KFCs generate untold graces as they link their sufferings with those of Christ. Through the intercession of Mary, they offer up all to the Father as a "sacrifice of praise."

Supernaturally, KFCs are perhaps the most important members of the MI - a spiritual powerhouse. Envisioned earlier by St. Maximilian Kolbe, the KFC was founded May 31, 1983. On the feast of Mary's Visitation, sixteen-aged and sick Conventual Franciscan friars, all MI members, decided to make use of their ailments and encourage others to do the same. Thus a spiritual vanguard was formed: individuals no longer isolated or frustrated in sickness or agedness, working in solidarity for the conversion of the entire world.

Theology of Redemptive Suffering

Sacrificial suffering is a rich Christian faith expression, modeled after Christ Himself. It is a partial answer to the

age-old question, "Why does God allow human suffering?" The Church has always taught that physical pain, mental distress, even minor annoyances, are not meaningless but are meant to be put to valuable use. As Jesus used the anguish of His Passion and the agony of Calvary to accomplish our salvation, so do our sufferings have supernatural value when joined to His Cross. By willingly accepting our struggles and presenting them back to God as a "burnt offering" for the intentions of others, we cooperate with Christ and become real participators in the mystery of His saving act.

Mary and Maximilian: Models of Redemptive Suffering

Mary Immaculate is a special model of redemptive suffering. Standing at the Cross in interior distress, her soul "pierced by a sword" (Lk 2:35), she offered all to the Father in a silent, "Thy will be done." She invites us, and strengthens us, to do the same through our MI consecration as a KFC. St. Maximilian Kolbe also is a model of redemptive suffering. Imprisoned at the Auschwitz death camp, Maximilian "emptied himself" for the Gospel (Phil 2:7). He shared his meager food and water with fellow prisoners while tending to their spiritual needs. He persevered in charity toward his Nazi captors though they singled him out for special brutalities as a Catholic priest. He willingly endured the torture of the starvation bunker by

taking the place of another prisoner. In this way, Maximilian became "another Christ," laying down his life for another.

How Do I Join the KFC?

If you are already an MI Member, you can join the KFC by registering at the MI National Center–USA. Upon filling out the online enrollment form, you will receive the KFC certificate and prayer book; recite the KFC consecration prayer and renew it frequently.

Not an MI Member yet? You can join the KFC with your enrollment in the MI. Please visit our website: MissionImmaculata.com and read the sections on joining the MI.

Consecrating yourself to Mary through the ideal of St. Maximilian will be one of the most important days of your life. You will be placing yourself under the protective mantle of Mary's care as the Immaculate Conception, Mother of the Church and Comfort of the Afflicted. Through total consecration you cooperate with Mary in the work of building up and renewing the Church. She will enlighten and guide you and intercede for you before our Heavenly Father. You will share in the intercessory prayers of MI members throughout the world. You will also have the support that comes from being a part of an international movement of spiritual renewal, including access to MI materials and online resources. Come, join our MI Family!

Our Tactics

The following is an article (KW 1075), written by Fr. Maximilian for the November 1925 issue of the Rycerz Niepokalanej magazine. Interestingly, Our Lady's young strategist had a clear plan of action for winning all hearts for Christ through her in the most effective way.

Knight, Militia, Battle: these terms have a warlike ring to them, because they are associated with warfare. Not, however, a war waged with rifles, machine guns, rockets, airplanes, poison gas. Yet a real and true war. What are some of its tactics?

First and foremost, *prayer*. Unfortunately, to Catholics less educated about the work of perfecting their souls, the very opposite often rings true. Work, action: that is what they believe the gist of their activity is all about. However, it is not.

Prayer, prayer in particular, is the effective weapon in the struggle for the freedom and happiness of souls.

And why?

Because a supernatural goal may be attained only by supernatural means. Heaven—the divinization of souls, so to speak—is a supernatural reality in the fullest sense of the word. Therefore, it cannot possibly be attained by natural means. What is indispensable here is also a supernatural means, namely divine grace, which is obtained through humble and trustful prayer. Grace, and only grace, which enlightens the intellect and strengthens the will, is the cause of conversion, that is, the freeing of the soul from the bondage of evil.

But a prayer raised up to God *through the hands of the Immaculata* cannot possibly remain unanswered, as it is said in the invocation of St. Bernard: Remember, O most gracious Virgin

Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, was left unaided by thee.” First and foremost, then, humble, confident, constant prayer.

Second, *mortification*. Despite the claims of Protestants, despite the vaunted, much celebrated, and distorted emphasis on “human rights,” mortification is vital and *indispensable to all* of us. For it is through mortification that we obtain divine grace. Like gold melting in a crucible, the soul is purified through mortification and radiates its love; it becomes more God-like, more pleasing to Him, and thus better able to receive more abundant graces for itself and its other poor brothers. In fact, could genuine love for God ever exist without suffering?!...

Finally, *love for one's neighbor*. Loving one's neighbor, not because he is “nice,” worthwhile, wealthy, influential, or just because he is grateful. For such would be very petty reasons, unworthy of a male or female Knight of the Immaculata. Genuine love rises above the creature and plunges into God. In Him, for Him and through Him it loves everyone, be they good or bad, friends or foes.

It offers a helping hand, full of love to everyone; it prays for all, suffers for all, wishes good to all, wishes happiness to all, because that is God's will!...

Ultimately, the ones to prevail will be those who, with prayer to the Immaculata on their lips or in the depths of their hearts, purified by suffering and inflamed by a burning fire of love toward God, driven by this same love, do whatever is in their ability to win the greatest number of souls over to God through the Immaculata, to free them from the snares of evil and make them happy. They, and only they will celebrate the triumph.

Fr. Maximilian M. Kolbe

Official Act of Consecration to the Immaculata

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.



When Everything Seems to Fail...

By Antonella Di Piazza, FKMI,
National Coordinator

“For more than a year after that first meeting, the MI made no progress. In fact, all kinds of setbacks piled up, to the point that members were uncomfortable even mentioning it among themselves. One of them even tried to convince the others that the MI was something useless.

“It was then that, with wonderful signs of election, the Immaculata summoned to her side Fr. Antoni Głowiński, and ten days later, Br. Antonio Mansi, both victims of the Spanish flu. As for me, the condition of my lungs got worse: every time I coughed, I spat blood. *That is when it all started to change.* Having been excused from school, I took the opportunity to copy out the ‘Program of MI’ and gave it to the Most Rev. Fr. General, in order to obtain his blessing in writing. ‘If there were at least 12 of you...,’ said the Most Rev. Fr. General. He wrote his blessing and voiced his desire (I believe on that very occasion) that the MI should be propagated among our youth. Membership started to increase, and has increased more and more ever since.” (KW 1278)

St. Maximilian himself continued to recall the first steps of the Movement that later would spread rapidly throughout Poland and in other nations. But now he speaks of the time of gestation, the time during which the grain of wheat has to die in order to become a full kernel and eventually bread (cf. Jn 12:12-26). Maximilian helps us to recognize the Gospel logic at work. For more than one year the MI had

not seen any progress, while difficulties and setbacks attempted to extinguish enthusiasm. Everything seemed to fail. The death of two of the young co-founders and the worsening of Maximilian’s TB, however, marked *the beginning of change.*

The MI began to flourish precisely thanks to this paschal journey of suffering and death, which gave rise to an increasingly numerous response from people who chose to embrace its ideal of total dedication to Our Lady as instruments of love in her immaculate hands.

During the past 100 years of life and mission, the MI has experienced many times this paschal journey of passion, death and resurrection in the footsteps of Our Lord Jesus Christ, both in the lives of St. Maximilian and other MI members, as well in various realities around the world. It is actually a good sign!

“Nothing great comes without pain in God’s works. And could there ever be too great a sacrifice, when it comes to the Immaculata? We are consecrated to her not only in theory, but actually, and in practice. And until we grow tired in our fight to conquer the world for the Immaculata, suffering will not cease to come upon us. ... But only until our death. Then there will be the resurrection. And even if (but that is impossible) the Immaculata were to give us no reward for this, yet we would still consecrate ourselves to her with fervor and enthusiasm throughout our entire lives. For we do not consecrate ourselves in view of a reward, but solely for her.” (KW 631).

Let us be encouraged by this supernatural perspective in order to spend ourselves generously for this great ideal!

From the MI International Office

IMPORTANT NOTICE

“The Militia of the Immaculata, founded by St. Maximilian Kolbe, has always been faithful and obedient to the Roman Catholic Church and the Holy Father. With great sadness we have come to know of group that calls itself “Militia Immaculatae of the Traditional Observance,” connected to the Society of St. Pius X. We disassociate ourselves from any of their manifestations and furthermore we are determined to take legal action against anyone who uses publicly the name of the Militia of the Immaculata outside of the association itself or without its authorization.

–Fr. Raffaele Di Muro,
MI International President”

It should be noted that this group, first established in Warsaw in the year 2000, uses a website, social media and various publications to encourage people to enroll, but it does not represent the authentic movement founded by St. Maximilian and it is not approved by the Catholic Church. It should be also known that Pope Benedict XVI declared that, for doctrinal rather than disciplinary reasons, the Society of St. Pius X (SSPX) has no canonical status in the Catholic Church and because it lacks canonical status, the ministries exercised by its ministers are not legitimate within the Church (cf. Pope Benedict XVI, Letter of 10 March 2009 to the Bishops of the Catholic Church concerning the remission of the excommunication of the four bishops consecrated by Archbishop Lefebvre).

Reflection on the April MI Intention

O Immaculata please intercede that all those who take inspiration from St. Maximilian's witness may embrace the logic of the Paschal Mystery.

The mystery of the Paschal Triduum and that of our life should always mirror each other. It would be illusory to want to eliminate the comparison between the journey of each one of us and Jesus' passage from death to life. The journey of Maximilian always leans to the imitation of the mystery of Jesus, the sacrament of God's love that manifests Himself to the poor and humble. The Paschal Mystery can reveal itself in our small daily crosses. As a matter of fact, we are Christians not to seek glory. The comparison of our life with Christ's allows us to welcome His life in us and open ourselves to the action of the Spirit so that we can imitate Christ in His *kenosis*.

Father Kolbe knew this well. In a letter to the friars of Mugenzai No Sono dated April 9, 1933, he wrote: "Dear children, let us remember that love lives and is nourished by sacrifices. Let us thank the Immaculata for inner peace, for the ecstasy of love, but let us not forget that all of that, though good and beautiful, is not the essence of love and love, indeed perfect love, may even exist without all that. The summit of love is the state in which Jesus came to find Himself on the cross when He said: 'My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?' There is no love without sacrifice." (KW 503). In this way even sufferings become positive and bearers of good.

It is important to identify our way of thinking. The true life is that of the Paschal Triduum of the Lord. Even in our life as disciples we will encounter misunderstandings and sorrow, but

behind these realities there is always the resurrection. If we don't accept in us the Paschal Mystery we will not be good Christians. After verifying our way of thinking it is important also to examine the desire to be spiritually free and strong in tending to good, overcoming any unhealthy attachment to ourselves and our views. It is necessary to avoid the damage that presumption can do to the heart and to engage ourselves in a continuous spiritual battle toward total abandonment in God.

The following expressions of Kolbe are important. They are taken from a letter written to the friars of Mugenzai No Sono, in Japan, on December 1, 1940: "In order to help us in activities aimed at the good of souls, God allows small crosses of various kinds, dependent, or independent of the will of others, coming from an upright will or not. It is an immense field of countless sources of grace that is to be used. Sources of merits are, among others, the grief caused by other people. In these cases we may indeed, with blessed hope, repeat each time in the 'Our Father': 'Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors' [Mt 6:12]. This prayer was taught to us by Jesus Himself. Therefore, complete forgiveness of the sins others committed against us suffices for us to be entitled to forgiveness for the sins that we commit against God. What trouble would it be then, if we had nothing to forgive, and what luck when, in the course of a day, we happen to have many and more serious matters to forgive. To be honest, nature is appalled when faced with suffering and humiliation, yet in the light of faith how necessary they are to purify our souls and, therefore, how agreeable they ought to be to us! They contribute to bringing us closer to God, and thus to greater efficacy in prayer, to more substantial missionary work!" (KW 925) It's worth it, therefore, to pray to the Lord to obtain the grace to be free to welcome the

times of the cross, the moments of passage from death to the resurrection. We cannot place ourselves in God's hands and affirm our will. Christ entrusts all of Himself to the will of the Father. He adheres His will to that of the Father, which is more than simply entrusting oneself to the desires of another. The episode of Gethsemane is especially enlightening.

In the course of discernment it is important to question our ability to give of ourselves, not only mentally or with the will. The small daily crosses help us to conform ourselves to Christ, poor and crucified. These crosses, if well-lived and welcomed, may be bearers of an enormous spiritual growth.

Saint Maximilian, in the wake of Francis of Assisi, wished to walk the journey of the Paschal Triduum, that is, to enter into the dynamism of resurrection by way of the cross. The martyr of Auschwitz faced every suffering, in particular that of the concentration camp, according to this reasoning. The cross is necessary for one's sanctification, opening the way to the eternal happiness promised by Jesus to the just, and the pinnacle of one's journey in the following of Christ. The one who finds inspiration with Kolbe cannot ignore his journey of suffering and of glory in Christ Jesus.

For Reflection

The way that Jesus calls us to, and that Kolbe fully lived, is acceptance of the Paschal Mystery in us. In our journey as believers the continuous passage from death to life is necessary. The times of the "cross," lived individually or in community are not to frighten us, because each is an opportunity for growth in the light of accepting the Paschal Mystery.

(From the International MI Office; translated by Ann O'Donnell, FKMI)

*Remembering with
gratitude MI member
Alice Ann Rooney
O'Donnell*



On March 7, 2017, Alice (born on February 20, 1928), entered eternal life. Widow of Richard, to whom she was married 56 years, mother of seven children, grandmother of 22 and great grandmother of 4, Alice was a member of St. Christopher Parish, West Covina, CA, where she helped establish Eucharistic Adoration and was an active Legion of Mary member for 10 years, organized the rosary makers and countless other apostolates. Her profound love for Our Lady led her to discover St. Maximilian and the MI. In 1977 she was instrumental in bringing the MI Youth programs (known then as YMI) to the West Coast and led its summer month-long program for 16 years, after which she remained active in the MI locally and through prayer.

“Alice O'Donnell led us to St. Maximilian, who led us to Our Lady, who leads us to the Holy Eucharist, our pledge of eternal life...she led me to the Holy Eucharist within the Immaculate Heart of Mary. She gave those two gifts to so many of us,” Fr. Joseph Illo stated during his funeral homily.

Our MI Family entrusts Alice to the Lord, certain that those who belong to the Immaculata will enjoy one day the fullness of Life.

Fifth Silent Marian Retreat

By Donna Masek,
MI Village Moderator, West Haven,
Utah



With over 50 people in attendance, the fifth annual silent Marian retreat entitled "One Hundred Years of History and Mission" at St. Mary Catholic Church in West Haven, Utah, successfully gave participants the opportunity to "be still and know that I am God." Retreat master, Father Gregory Dick, O. Praem., invited participants to deepen their knowledge of the Holy Spirit and their knowledge of total consecration to the Immaculata in the spirit of St. Maximilian Kolbe with four talks interspersed between various periods of prayer which included adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament and the singing of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. We look forward to the Spanish Community's Consecration Rite on the Feast of the Annunciation, March 25th.

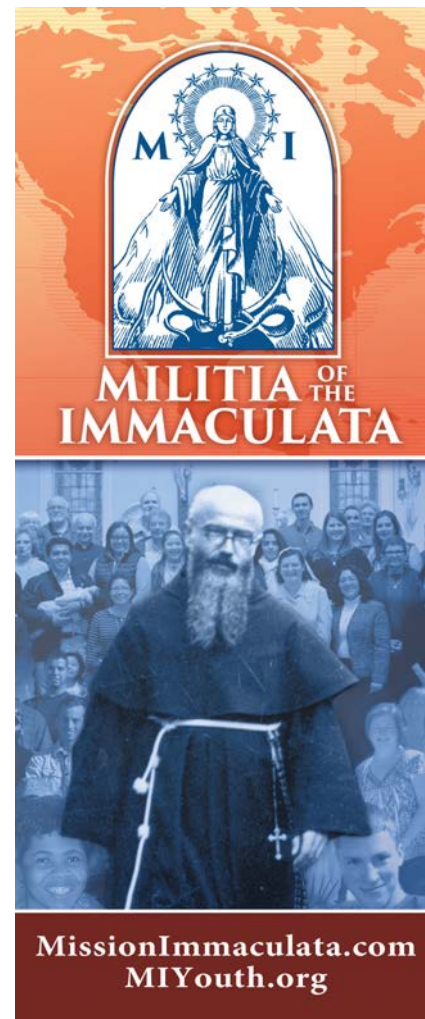


Attention MI Members!

We look forward to hearing from local groups/villages. Send news and pictures by the 20th of the month. Thank you!

The new MI brochure is now available!

Request copies for your apostolate from the MI National Center (see address on p. 8). A donation to cover shipping cost... welcomed!



Prayer for the MI Centenary Year

Into Your Hands, Immaculate Virgin!

May you be praised, Immaculate Virgin! You have been the light and soul of the MI during the first one hundred years of its life. In order to follow Christ faithfully, like St. Maximilian, we have contemplated your splendid virtues.

In you we have found the strength to love and have brought the charity of your Son everywhere. You still are our consolation in the trials of our lives. You are our light in our work of evangelization. You are our strength in our journey of faith, communion with the Lord and discipleship.

Into your hands we place again today the journey of the MI present throughout the world, so that it may bring to all people the love of the Lord and the beauty of your compassionate and maternal presence.

May our MI apostolate radiate to our brothers and sisters the mercy of God reflected also in your tender care toward each person.

We shall let ourselves be led by you, most sweet Mother, certain that with your protection we will live according to God's will. May the MI centenary year spur us on to be valiant apostles of God's Kingdom and to experience your support in our ecclesial mission. O Immaculata, we let ourselves be led by you! Amen.



Check regularly the MI website
MissionImmaculata.com
 for updates about the MI Centenary Year.
 Find reflections, the lyrics and music of the
 theme song, special events and more!

“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



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