

THE MISSION OF THE MEDICAL AND THE MISSION 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)

August 2017

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IN THIS ISSUE

# At the Heart of the MI: The Most Holy Eucharist

By John W. Galten, MI National President

Dear Knights of the Immaculata,

Maria! A consideration of the basic MI spirit would not be complete without a presentation of the Eucharist which is at the heart of the movement.

The contemporary Church, in considering anew her own identity, in Vatican II, concluding in 1965, has this to say about the Eucharist (cf. *Lumen Gentium*, 134; *Presbyterorum Ordinis*, 5): "The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life. The other sacraments, and indeed of ecclesiastical ministries and works of the apostolate are bound up with the Eucharist and are oriented toward it. For in the Blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ Himself, our Pasch."

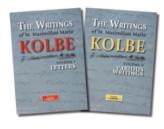
This succinct quote in *CCC* 1324 sums up the absolute and total focus of the Church and of the MI. St. Maximilian's life is a realization of this Christ-gift, not only in a life of self sacrifice but in his martyrdom.

The Eucharist formed the center of his family life as a youth. The family not only faithfully attended Sunday Eucharist but daily Eucharist, even to the extent that they attended 5:00 a.m. Mass and other parish Eucharistic devotions.

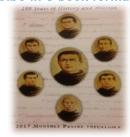
St. Maximilian, as a young seminarian, was conspicuous for his recollection and devotion to the Presence of Christ in the Liturgy and his visits to the Blessed Sacrament. His confreres were deeply moved by his total absorption at Holy Mass and when St. Maximilian was making one of his numerous visits to the Blessed Sacrament. The only way to describe his Eucharistic piety is to say that he was rapt in giving himself to the Eucharistic Lord.

# Happy Feastday of St. Maximilian to all!

Save the Dates!
MI Centennial Celebrations
& National Pilgrimage to Italy



The Writings of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe in e-book format



**Reflection on August MI Intention** 

(continues on pg. 7)

### PERMANENT MI NATIONAL SITE 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 – 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

Please continue to pray for this very special intention during the month of August. Thank you!

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



The National Center of the Militia of the Immaculata in the United States in collaboration with MI leaders around the country is sponsoring Centennial Celebrations to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the Militia of the Immaculata movement by St. Maximilian Kolbe on October 16, 1917 - three days after the last Fatima apparition.

### SAVE THE DATE!

### MI Centennial Celebrations throughout the U.S.A.

These special events are open to MI members and all Catholic faithful who wish to deepen their Marian spirituality and to find in Our Lady guidance and inspiration in living the Faith and giving authentic witness to it in the world.

We are grateful to acknowledge that

## OUR SUNDAY VISITOR Institute

is helping to underwrite the MI Centennial Celebrations.



### On the West Coast:

Date: Saturday, August 12, 2017 Time: 10:30 am -4:00 pm

Where: St. Christopher Parish,

West Covina, CA (see program on pg. 8)

### On the East Coast:

Date and Location TBA

\*See other local events on pg. 7

# The MI Co-founders Girolamo Biasi and Quirico Pignalberi

As we approach the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Militia of the Immaculata, we complete the featuring of the young Franciscans who joined St. Maximilian on October 16, 1917, to start our MI Movement.





#### Father Arcangelo Biasi (Girolamo)

He was born on December 7, 1897, in Sfruz (Trento), the son of Giovanni and Rosa Fedrizzi, the third of nine children. At his baptism he received the name Archangel, which he changed to Girolamo (Jerome) when he received the religious habit. At twelve, in 1909, he entered the College of Friars Minor Conventual of Camposampiero (Padua). On October 4, 1915, he made his simple profession; then in October 1916 he was transferred to Rome, where on July 18, 1918, at the Lateran University, graduated he philosophy and, on December 8, 1918, he made his solemn profession. In the founding of the MI, Brother Jerome has a special place, because "coming back from 'La Vigna," as said Father Kolbe, "for the first time I spoke with Brother Girolamo Biasi and Fr. Giuseppe Pal about the foundation of the Association." During the first meeting held on the evening of October 16, 1917, when the MI was started, Brother Jerome Biasi served as secretary. Having fallen sick with tuberculosis, in July 1918 Brother Jerome was sent to Genoa, to the Bolzaneto friary, to get healthy again. Eventually, he returned to Rome, but in December he was forced to interrupt his studies because

of the illness that consumed him. He returned to the Province and was sent to Arcella, for a complete rest. After recovering, in 1920 he resumed his theological studies in Padua. On July 16, 1922, he was ordained a priest in Padua, in the Basilica of Our Lady of Carmel, by Bishop Pellizzo. He celebrated his first Mass over the Holy Ark, and he was later bound to Venice, to the parish of Santa Maria Gloriosa, as an associate pastor. He spent seven long years in many hospitals. In his suffering, he learned to keep alive the flame of hope, accepting the will of God, while desiring the healing to be able to work in the Lord's vineyard. Despite his suffering, he was able to give peace and joy to his confreres and to the patients he met in the hospitals, regardless of the most complete inactivity and solitude to which he was forced. In his bed of suffering, Fr. Jerome prayed and offered, in a heroic way, his priestly service. He wrote: "Jesus does not ask me to do extraordinary things, but He wants me to be faithful to Him in the small things and that through these things I give Him a proof of my love." He continues, "Perfection does consist of arduous and difficult things, but of the accomplishment of our duties, accompanied by a great love for God and an ardent love for all men." He died at the age of 32, in the hospital of Camposampiero (Padua), on the eve of the feast of St. Luigi Gonzaga, June 20, 1929, smiling as he did during his whole life.

He rests in a chapel of the Basilica of Camposampiero. On November 17, 2000, he was recognized as Servant of God. His cause for beatification is underway.



### Father Quirico Pignalberi

Born in Serrone (Frosinone) on July 11, 1891, son of Egidio and Caterina Proietti, Quirico joined the Order of Friars Minor Conventual, made his simple profession on November 14, 1909, and his solemn profession on December 8, 1913. On August 10, 1917, he was ordained a priest. On March 12, 1918, he left for military service, returning a few months later for a long leave with his family. He was then assigned to the friary of Capranica in Sutri (Rome). On April 1, 1979, on the occasion of his pastoral visit to the parish of St. Bonaventure in Rome, entrusted to the Friars Minor Conventual, Pope St. John Paul II met with Fr. Quirico Pignalberi. last surviving the companion of Fr. Kolbe and cofounder of the MI. Fr. Pignalberi died on July 18, 1982, at age 94, at Anzio. He left behind some manuscripts: a collection of his personal meditation notes, sermons, homily outlines, memories, and letters. Because of his reputation for holiness, on June 29, 1992, his cause for beatification started. On March 3, 2016, he was declared Venerable.

### What It Will Be Like in Paradise

St. Maximilian prepares us to celebrate the solemnity of the Assumption of Our Lady through this catechetical article written for the Rycerz Niepokalanej magazine (KW 1065).

On the 15th of this month, the Holy Church, in celebrating the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, sings with exultation: "Mary is assumed into heaven; the angels rejoice, praise and bless the Lord." On that day, we naturally strive to picture the longedfor paradise in our imagination, but we are not satisfied, despite all our efforts. We tell ourselves that it must be different in some way up there from what we have been told or what we read in books. And rightly so. For in heaven things will not be different "in some way" but, it can be said with confidence, completely different in every way from what we could possibly imagine. And why? Because we draw all our concepts from the things around us, from material realities that we see here on this earth or amid the wide expanse of firmament. And because it is by starting from that, via concepts of similarity and causality, that we ultimately form some idea about paradise. And yet we end up with a most inaccurate idea of it. Everything around us, even the most

paradise. And yet we end up with a most inaccurate idea of it.

Everything around us, even the most beautiful and attractive things, is still very much limited, always and from any point of view. No infinite or unchanging beauty exists here.

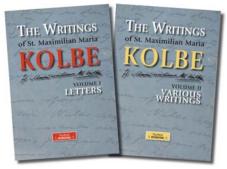
Everything we see, hear, or experience does not fully satiate our desires. We want something more, but that "more" is never there. We want it to last longer, but inevitably and inexorably we are here faced with its end. It will be quite the opposite in heaven. There is Good and Infinite Beauty: God and everlasting happiness. The difference is therefore absolutely infinite.

In the Holy Scriptures and in the works of the Fathers of the Church we find many similes, drawn from our earthly knowledge. Thus, for instance, St. John compares heaven to a happy city and writes: "The city had no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gave it light, and its lamp was the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light" (Rv 21:23–24)....

Often, priests in their sermons also strive to sketch a picture of paradise. We pick what is most beautiful and best around us to compose a picture, but that is only a distant image, a very distant resemblance, because similes will necessarily be infinitely different from paradise. Paradise was described even better by the man who, in this life, was plucked up to it for a short time: by St. Paul, who says: "What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love Him" (1 Cor 2:9). It is a description even closer to the truth, because it shows the infinite difference between the ideas that we hold about heaven and its reality. However, those who, here on earth, have had the chance to enjoy a small foretaste of paradise should be able to form an idea of what it will be like. And anyone may achieve that. One need only approach Confession with sincerity and great care, with deep sorrow for sins and firm resolve to make amends. Then they will immediately experience a peace and a happiness compared to which all the fleeting but dishonest pleasures of the world are, rather, loathsome torments. Let everyone come to receive Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament with a good preparation; let them never allow their souls to remain in sin, but purify them right away. Let them perform all their duties well; raise humble and frequent prayers to the throne of God, especially through the hands of Mary Immaculate. Let them also embrace their brothers with charitable hearts, enduring suffering and difficulties for God's sake. Let them do good to everyone, including their enemies, only for the love of God and not in order to be praised or thanked by men.

Then they shall realize what it means to have a foretaste of heaven and find peace and happiness even in poverty, in suffering, in disgrace, in sickness. Such foretaste of paradise is also a sure harbinger of eternal bliss. Indeed, it is not easy to exert self-control in the manner described above to achieve this happiness, but remember that those who ask it of the Immaculata with humility and perseverance will certainly achieve it, because she is unable to deny us anything, nor is the Lord God able to deny her anything. Anyway, we shall shortly know exactly what it will be like in heaven. Surely in a hundred years none of us will still be walking on this earth. But what are a hundred years in the face of what we have been through?... And who will have to wait as many more years?... Soon, therefore, provided we are well prepared, under the protection of the Immaculata.

The Writings
of St. Maximilian
Maria Kolbe
now also
in e-book format
Kindle edition
on Amazon.com



Available also on Nook Store and in other digital formats.



### MY ENCOUNTER WITH ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE

By Jason Jones

While a student at the University of Hawaii I discovered Maximilian Kolbe. I was an atheist, an ardent follower of Ayn Rand and a self-professed objectivist. I had committed my life to defending the individual from the mob, from the collective and in this Polish author and publisher, I found my model. Disturbingly, he was also a Catholic priest. I overlooked this flaw just as I forgave Ayn Rand for being "pro-choice."

What I found attractive about Saint

Maximilian Kolbe was his charity, zeal, practicality and straightforwardness. It is of course how he died that captured my attention. As publisher of the largest anti-Nazi newspaper in Europe, it wasn't long after the German invasion of Poland that he found himself in Auschwitz. In late July of 1941 after a prisoner escaped ten prisoners were selected for execution. One of the men broke down and begged for his life. The frail priest raised his hand and offered his life in exchange for this young father. On Aug 14, 1941. Maximilian Kolbe breathed his last breath after 14 days in a starvation

bunker and two shots of carbolic acid. With a gentle smile, Maximilian looked his captures in the eyes and said, "I forgive you."

Rene Girard, the French anthropologist, wrote: "to be in solidarity with the vulnerable is to become vulnerable." Saint Maximilian Kolbe spent his life reading the life of Jesus Christ. It was the act of dying on the Cross for us that inspired Maximilian Kolbe to give his life for his brother. Kolbe became vulnerable to death, following the example of our Lord, so that his brother could have life.

On October 16, 1917, as a young college student in Rome,
Maximilian Kolbe founded the
Militia of the Immaculata. The MI
was founded for the love and
conversion of the enemies of the
Church and Christian civilization.
As a well-formed Christian, the
young Kolbe knew what I didn't.
There are no individuals, and there
are no mobs. We live in a world of
persons, of brothers and sisters. We
are called to defend the vulnerable
from the violent, but we are also
called to love our enemy.

This October in Rome MI members and admirers of Saint Maximilian Kolbe will gather for the 100th Anniversary of this wonderful apostolate. I will be there for the events in Rome, and I hope you can join me.

For Life, Jason

MI member Jason Jones, married to Alexandra and father of seven children, is the CEO, President and Founder of Movie to Movement, President of Human Rights Education and Relief Organization, and producer of the prolife movie *Bella*.

# October 10-19, 2017 MI 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary National Pilgrimage to Italy Register TODAY!

With participation in the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary MI International Celebrations

You can still be part of this once-in-alifetime experience and travel to Italy during this MI Centenary Year.

Join **John Galten**, the MI National President, **Jason Jones**, producer of the pro-life movie *Bella*, and other MI members from around the country.

Walk in the footsteps of St. Maximilian Kolbe and visit churches, shrines and other sacred places in Assisi, Siena and Rome.

Our Pilgrimage Chaplain will be Fr. Stephen Boyle, O.Praem.

As part of the pilgrimage we will participate in the three-day 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary MI International Celebrations organized by the *Militia of the Immaculata* International.

The MI National Centenary Pilgrimage departs from Chicago-O'Hare airport on a direct flight to Rome. Flight, taxes, accommodations and a number of meals are included in the price. Space is limited so make plans to join us soon.

Contact Mater Dei Tours TODAY to register 1-800-515-2632.

Visit MissionImmaculata.com to download the complete itinerary.



### Reflection on the August MI Intention

O Immaculata please intercede that each MI member may give witness to the love of Christ, with the fidelity of St. Maximilian.

The outstanding gesture of St. Maximilian Kolbe, in the extermination camp, August of 1941, was not the fruit of improvisation, but rather the result of the development of his capability to love and to offer himself. This famous Franciscan friar demonstrated this capacity throughout his spiritual journey. He felt called to make of his life a gift for God and his brothers and sisters. In this way, he was richly supported by a serene and continuous confidence in the Immaculate Virgin. Love and the cross represent the factors of preparation for martyrdom on the part of our Saint. In every phase of his life, he welcomed situations of great trial, a continuous prelude to the heroic final gesture of his existence. At the base of this journey is the practice of a fundamental charismatic Franciscan element: conformity to Christ. Saint Maximilian, on July 16, 1940, writing to the friars living outside the City of the Immaculata because of the dangers of the war, quotes from letters he received from friars living outside the friary: "I have resolved to do anything, even to go back to Niepokalanów, because hunger, cold and martyrdom may be found anywhere... My soul now longs to stay in that paradise where we all worked for many years, even to receive the palm of martyrdom... We are still in a time of war and at

any time they could force us out or make us prisoners, but who on earth would be afraid of suffering for the cause of the Immaculata? Yet I have suffered too little for you, my Loving Mother! Therefore, I wish to suffer something for your sake; accept me into your team. [...]. We are all scattered like autumn leaves in the wind, in all directions, just as we had come from all directions..." Fr. Kolbe then adds, referring to which brothers may return to Niepokalanów, "One who is ready to do anything for the Immaculata, even to give up his own life before her, because blood is still running in Europe and it is hard to know what may happen." (*KW* 895)

These words of friars (formed by Kolbe at Niepokalanów), and his own, help us understand how the Saint was ready for martyrdom. His journey is a continuous gift that now reaches its pinnacle. Father Kolbe is always open to the action of the Holy Spirit, which prepares him for the heroic gesture. The spiritual experience of the Polish Franciscan reveals that great gestures of love are not improvised. They are the result of a journey always oriented to the generous giving of oneself in full conformity to Christ, under the guidance and protection of the Immaculata. Mary "plays" a fundamental role in the martyrdom of Maximilian. Her intercession, her example, her maternal protection assure the Martyr of Auschwitz all the spiritual help he needs, that his life will always express a great love, a charity that leads to heroism. Whoever entrusts himself or herself to her has nothing to fear, because the Virgin will favor and care for one's desire of following Christ and conforming to Him. Kolbe makes it understood that, in the hands of Our Lady, it is possible to perform

gestures of great courage for love.

Here are meaningful words from the Saint: "Actually in the act of consecration to the Immaculata we repeat that she may do with us 'whatever she likes,' which does not mean not having fears, but relying solely upon her and asking for the necessary strength in prayer. However, since the 'flesh is weak' [Mt 26:41; Mk 14:38], it does not always manage to keep pace with the spirit, so at times someone may happen to regret not having removed himself from suffering. That is, then, the essential condition." (Ibid.) Martyrdom is not improvised! It is the fruit of a precise journey of faith, that is born from God's call to offer one's testimony even to extreme consequences. It is what is verified in the experience of Maximilian Kolbe, Franciscan and Martyr of Auschwitz. The gesture of offering himself for a father of a family in the terrible death cell has made him famous all over the Church and in the world.

### For Reflection

Whoever lives a MI journey, cannot help but question his own capability to love. Saint Maximilian helps us to understand that only by giving ourselves for love, day after day, is it possible to perform great gestures of charity. The Saint offers us a marvelous example. Our life, in his footsteps, should be a continuous giving of ourselves and of our talents to God and our brethren. Whoever follows the Polish martyr is called to a great generosity, to possess a heart always open and willing to give all. May each day be a continuous expression of love, a continuous readiness to perform gestures that speak of our belonging to Christ and Our Lady.

(From the MI International Office – Translated by Ann O'Donnell, FKMI)

### **Editorial**

(Cont. from pg. 1)

As was the custom of his time, he kept a register of his Masses and the intention for each Mass. This record is a key to how seriously St. Maximilian took his daily Eucharistic celebration and his respect for the tremendous power of the graces liberated, flowing to the Church and indeed all of creation. He saw the august Sacrament as the wellspring, the very source, of holiness and indeed prepared for his own Mass diligently and offered thanksgiving after Mass in joy and gratitude for the graces of the Sacrament.

As World War II disrupted the life of the Polish city of the Immaculata, Niepokalanów, St. Maximilian Kolbe instructed progressively Eucharistic adoration teams of the Friars until it reached a 24/7 regime. He often remarked that this was the most important work of the Friars as the true and only source of their MI apostolate.

As the Friars at Niepokalanów prepared to build a new basilica on their property, St. Maximilian shared his thoughts on its design, making the tabernacle its total focus and a statue of the Immaculata near or above it, emphasizing the Eucharistic presence of the Lord and the Immaculata's mediation.

The MI must mirror and witness to the very same love for the Eucharistic that drove the heart of St. Maximilian. As Father Raffaele Di Muro emphasized at the Fatima 2016 Congress: Mission always begins in prayer and there is no greater prayer than that of the liturgy - especially the Eucharist.

The quality of our MI witness is radically dependent on our selfconscious and devoted gift of self to Christ at Holy Mass and our devoted gift of self to Him in Eucharistic devotions. Certainly, as Knights, we should promote and encourage everywhere we can this devotional commitment to the Eucharist, particularly at this time when so many Catholics have abandoned Him in the Sacrament or have adopted a cold and indifferent attitude to the glorious presence of Christ.

I heartily encourage all of you, Knights of the Immaculata, to read Fr. Jerzy Domanski's book For the Life of the World—St. Maximilian and the Eucharist, as is carried by the Marytown bookstore. Read it slowly, and meditatively, in order to absorb the depth of importance of the Eucharist for the Saint, the MI, and the world.

Until next month, "Arise! Let us be on our way."

In the Immaculata,

John W. Galten MI National President

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### LOCAL MI CENTENNIAL EVENTS

### New Haven, Utah St. Mary Catholic Church, 4050 South 3900 West

Please join our parish MI Villages in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Militia of the Immaculata by St. Maximilian Kolbe!

### Sunday, August 6th

Monthly meeting after the 11:30 a.m. Mass, Consecration
Preparation: Room #8

### Sunday, August 13th

Rite of Total Consecration followed by a potluck reception.

For more information, please call 801- 898-3821 or e-mail miutah.stmarys@gmail.com Phoenix, Arizona

Saturday, September 16, 2017 @ 7:00 p.m.

### In Celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the MI

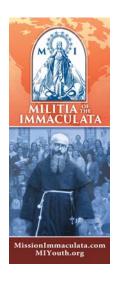
We are honored to have John W.
Galten, MI National President
coming to Arizona to speak to us
about our Blessed Mother,
St. Maximilian Kolbe and
re-establishing the MI here in
the Valley of the Sun.
Please bring friends and spread the
word.

Mount Claret Retreat Center, 4633 N. 54th Street, Phoenix, John Paul II Room, located behind the NE corner of the chapel

Any questions: Julie Blackstock, 602-538-9993 Carolyn Burch, 602-920-1880

Request copies of the new MI brochure for your apostolate from the MI National Center 331-223-5564

A donation to cover shipping cost... welcomed!



### West Coast MI Centennial Celebration: One Hundred Years of Mission

### Saturday, August 12, 2017 St. Christopher Parish West Covina, CA

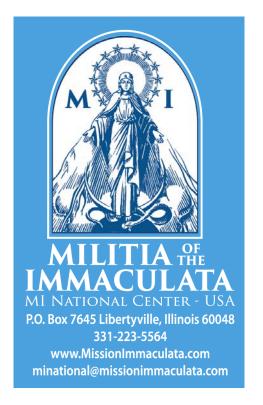
10:30 am Welcome

11:00 am The New Evangelization with the Immaculata in the Footsteps of St. Maximilian Kolbe –John W. Galten, MI National President

1:00 pm Veneration of a Firstclass relic of St. Maximilian

2:00 pm **Holy Mass** and consecration to the Immaculata, followed by a light reception

For more information or to collaborate in this event, please contact the Fr. Kolbe Missionaries of the Immaculata: FKMissionaries@gmail.com 626-917-0040



## Update concerning the East Coast Centennial Celebration

Plans for an East Coast MI Centenary Celebration are still underway. Please stay tuned for more information in the upcoming issues and on the website.

\*Local groups everywhere in the country are encouraged to find ways to celebrate this historic anniversary of our MI Family. See on pg. 7 local events scheduled in New Haven, Utah and Phoenix, Arizona.

\*The Mary Star of the Sea Village in Bremerton, Washington, will host a show of *Maximilian, Saint of Auschwitz* at their Mary Star of the Sea Parish.

Are you interested in hosting a show during this MI 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary? It's very easy and affordable. Contact Saint Luke

Productions at 360-687-8029.





total consecration to her?

MILITIA OF THE IMMACULATA
MI NATIONAL CENTER- USA
P.O. Box 7645, Libertyville, IL 60048

Disseminate the Miraculous Medal and introduce Our Lady to others!

Miraculous Medals and these new cards can be requested from the MI National Center.

MINational@MissionImmaculata.com 331-223-5564

# 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

Support Our Lady's Work by Helping the MI

DONATE HERE