



MI Centennial Pilgrimage to Italy

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)

December 2017

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IN THIS ISSUE

What Is the Path We Are Called to Tread?

By John W. Galten, MI National President

Dear Knights of the Immaculata,

Maria! As the centennial year of the founding of the Militia of the Immaculata draws to a close, but yet continues to abound in grace, gifts and actions to be discerned and performed, we have dutifully reflected in the centennial message of Fr. Raffaele Di Muro, MI International President, on the absolute necessity of prayer preceding mission in order that the mission be the fruit of prayer, therefore discerned as the Holy Will of God. What is the mission—the path we are called upon to tread?

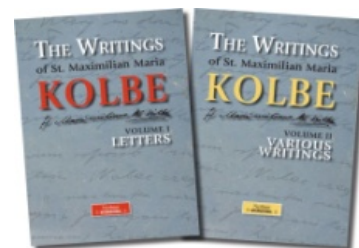
To discover this path, we look both at the signs of the times and the call of the Church. The signs of the times reveal an almost apocalyptic battle between good and evil. We have witnessed a growing secularism in our own culture, which seeks to banish God from public discourse and creates a society without reference to Him. Public morality has collapsed amid the pressure of a media avalanche promoting a lifestyle alien to the Gospel. We have noted the shocking defection from the Church and vows—priesthood, religious life, marriage and youth, not to mention the most calamitous fact of all: the mass killing of over 50,000,000 unborn babies in the U.S. since 1973. These are not vague, vacuous happenings—they form part of the real horizon of our lives.

Such darkness and shadows do not make mention of the two catastrophic world wars and the annihilation of millions in various genocide and concentration killing camps throughout the world.

(continues on pg. 7)

Celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculata!

Meet the new MI National Assistant



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



Reflection on December MI Intention

*Meet the
MI NATIONAL
ASSISTANT
for the U.S.A.*



The MI National Council is happy to announce that on November 29, 2017, Fr. Marco TASCIA, Minister General of the Franciscan Conventual Order and MI International Assistant, appointed
FR. THOMAS CZECK
National Assistant of the MI for the U.S.A.

Friar Tom grew up in Minnesota, and entered the friars after completing studies at the University of Minnesota in Geography. He entered St. Anthony Province in Staten Island, NY. He began theology studies at De Sales School of Theology, and Oblate College in Washington D.C., and taught school at Archbishop Curley High in Baltimore, before moving to the St. Joseph of Cupertino Province, where he received his M.Div. from St. Patrick Seminary in Menlo Park, CA. Friar Thomas has ministered as a parish priest at All Saints Church in Hayward, St. Paul the Apostle in Pismo Beach, CA, Our Lady of Guadalupe in Hermosa Beach, CA, and St. John Neumann Parish in Egan, Minnesota, where he also did retreat ministry at Prior Lake Retreat Center. He served as rector of St. Thomas Aquinas Cathedral in Reno, NV, and as vocation director, before his current assignment as pastor of

Our Lady of Grace Parish, in Castro Valley, California. Some of his memorable ministries have been forming the RCIA program at St. Paul's, learning Spanish and ministering in the missions in Bolivia, retreat work, and outreach to the poor. He enjoys downhill skiing, and leading pilgrimages.

We look forward to a fruitful collaboration with him in furthering the mission of the Immaculata in our country!

For info about the MI Youth & Young Adults visit:

MIYouth.org

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



Let us join MI members throughout the world in renewing our total consecration to the Immaculata and receiving the gift of plenary indulgence on December 8th!

Let us invite others to be totally consecrated to her on this 100th anniversary of the MI!

Let us celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception!

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.

MI Centennial Pilgrimage to Italy: from the Pilgrims' Memories...

A few pictures for sharing a remarkable experience.



From Sandy: *"This long awaited Pilgrimage was for me the fulfillment of a life-long dream! I was filled with anticipation! We began our pilgrimage visiting Assisi, home of St. Francis and St. Clare."*

From Karen: *"Before I write another thing, I truly need to say a most heartfelt 'Thank you!' to all of my fellow pilgrims.*

It was such a tremendous joy! Everyone got along so well; there was no antagonism, no cliques, no discord whatsoever. This was amazing and added so much to the overall experience. I knew I could approach anyone on the trip and be received with kindness and love.

Below is a picture of the Portiuncula. Francis came to a place called the Portiuncula, which means 'little part, little portion of the earth.' It was here that there was an ancient church dedicated to the Mother of God that was in ruins. St. Francis repaired it with his own hands. It became the first headquarters of the Friars Minor."



The Portiuncula is enclosed within the Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli. We celebrated our first Holy Mass in a small chapel here.



From Karen: *"We traveled to Siena along the way to Rome. The most amazing part of the trip for me was to see / experience the ongoing Eucharistic Miracle."*



From Sandy: *"We had the privilege to celebrate Mass at the altar where the Eucharistic Miracle is preserved! By this miracle, 230 Hosts have remained whole and shiny, and have maintained the characteristic scent of unleavened bread. They are in a perfect state of conservation, maintaining the appearances of bread. The Catholic Church has assured that although they were consecrated in the year 1730, these Eucharistic Hosts are still really and truly the Body of Christ. They have been cherished and venerated in the Basilica of St. Francis in Siena for over 250 years."*

From Sandy: *"As we arrived in Rome, on Sunday, October 15, we visited the MI International Center in Via San Teodoro."*



"This is where we found the room where the MI was founded and his handwritten notes for the MI! We celebrated Holy Mass and seven of us made their MI consecration here."

From Karen: *"The below is our guide at the MI International Center and the Expo Kolbe. He was a priest from Ghana - knowledgeable and joy-filled!"*



From Sandy: *"We joined MI members from around the world for a concelebrated Mass at Sant'Andrea delle Fratte, where Fr. Maximilian Kolbe celebrated his First Mass at the Altar of the Miracle, where the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to Alphonse Ratisbonne, the Jewish man who converted instantly."*

With Greater Fervor and Enthusiasm

In preparation for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Fr. Maximilian wrote to the Knights of the Immaculata the following compelling message (cf. KW 1218).

Our feast, the feast of the Immaculata, is drawing near.

Even the most ardent fervor may cool down as time passes. Everyday worries and concerns sometimes suffocate the loftiest ideals. Even the highest realities are little by little debased. In fact, the frailty of limited human nature is such that our most recent impressions overcome the earlier ones, even if those earlier ones are somewhat more important.

Consequently we too, knights of the Immaculata, have to wake up from time to time, to reflect on ourselves, to question ourselves thoroughly to see if we are serving the cause of the Immaculata with sufficient enthusiasm, to beseech her to forgive our negligence and indifference, to ask for help for the future, to commit ourselves more diligently in our work, with the aim of making up for the past a hundredfold with our fervor.

The feast of the Immaculata provides the best occasion for the renewal of our spirit.

What do we have to do therefore?

First of all, on December 8, let us renew together or individually our consecration to the Immaculata according to the formula contained in the enrollment card. Let us prepare for it beforehand, however, by going to holy Confession either on the very day of the feast or during the preceding eight days. Let us approach Holy Communion during the solemnity itself and pray according to the intentions of the Holy Father to obtain the plenary indulgence that all members of the Militia of the

Immaculata can acquire on that day. Moreover, let us renew our soul in the way indicated by the Militia of the Immaculata, that is through the Immaculata. Let us entrust to her the success of our confession, maybe through a single “Hail Mary.” Let us implore her to prepare in our soul the most pleasant welcome possible for Jesus in Holy Communion. And, last of all, let us renew the act of our complete, total, unconditional self-offering to the Immaculata for life, for death, and for all eternity.

Is this sufficient?

Could we perhaps limit ourselves to words? Or is it not necessary, maybe, in the period of the feast of the Immaculata, to give her a proof of our love through our deeds?

What else can be done therefore?

We often hear of a “sea week,” a “mountain week,” a “thrift week,” and so on. Why should we not organize a week of the Militia of the Immaculata? May the novena in preparation for the feast of the Immaculata be, therefore, this week of the MI.

How should it be organized?

If each person turns to the Immaculata as a child turns to his own mother, and reflects on what he could do in his own situation, in the conditions and circumstance in which he lives, she will suggest the most appropriate ideas with the aim of winning over the greatest number of souls possible for her and for her Militia. “Any means, provided it is legitimate,” states the enrollment card of the MI.



The means will not be lacking at all, therefore. Much depends, however, on whether there is greater or lesser fervor. The most important means are *prayer, work and sacrifice*.

Prayer, so that the Immaculata becomes as soon as possible the queen

of all hearts all over the earth; so that the others too may love her as we do and even more than we do, and that through her they may come to know and love Jesus—who died on the Cross because of the love He had for us—in a more perfect way.

Work, to recruit an ever greater number of new members for the MI, since there are still many who are not part of it. Let the knights of the Immaculata who live abroad seek to attract toward the Immaculata also the citizens of those nations....

And sacrifice. Let us sacrifice ourselves, offering to the Immaculata our humiliations, sufferings, failures. Let us sacrifice our belongings, offering a portion of our goods....

Every means, every latest invention in the field of machinery or systems of work ought to be placed first of all at the service of the work of the sanctification of souls through the Immaculata. ...

So, with the help of the Immaculata, all of us her knights will renew the complete gift of ourselves to her, and during the novena in preparation for her feast we shall commit ourselves with authentic enthusiasm to give the greatest contribution possible in the conquest of the whole world for her.

We shall ask her frequently to enlighten us on what we have to undertake and how we have to act. Besides, we shall turn to her to beg for the necessary energy to accomplish for her the most difficult and heroic actions.

Let us reawaken within us all, without any exception, a wise concern for the salvation and the sanctification of our neighbor, whether he is nearby or far away, including even those who are complete strangers..., and let us carry out all this through the Immaculata, Mediatrix of all graces, of any grace of conversion and sanctification. We are actually all brothers and sisters, since we have one common heavenly Mother, the Immaculata, one common Father who is in heaven, and one common elder Brother, Jesus, Man and God. ■

MI Centennial Celebration, Houston, Texas October 15, 2017



The MI Village Moderator, Maggie Brown, reports:

"We had a wonderful MI Centennial Celebration. Our opening introduction was about the founding of the MI read to us by James Stacy. Then national speaker Rich May gave us a informative talk that went into the theology of Total Consecration with the teachings of St. Maximilian Kolbe. We had a statue of Our Lady of Fatima which we carried in the processional of the Mass and before which we made/renewed our Total Consecration. Special thanks once again to MI Member, Fr. Alvaro Interiano for celebrating the Mass and presiding over the Ceremony and Fr. David Angelino for helping with the confessions and the Mass and Ceremony. Congratulations to Fr. David Angelino on his enrollment in the MI!"



Also thanks to MI Members, Pat Schultz, David and Vanissa Sparks, Elizabeth and Susan Wysocki, as well as Robert Wysocki for helping out! To all the New MI Members a big Welcome!"

MI Friends, you are in our prayers in the aftermath of hurricane season.

MI Men's Retreat and Centennial Celebration, Malvern, Pennsylvania November 17-19, 2017

A large crowd of Knights of the Immaculata (300 men and counting) celebrated two important milestones: the 100th anniversary of the MI and the 35th anniversary of their Mid-Atlantic MI chapter, with a weekend retreat led by Fr. Paul Scalia.



On Saturday evening, Fr. James McCurry, OFM Conv., offered a special talk about St. Maximilian Kolbe and the MI, which enkindled great enthusiasm and immediate preparation for total consecration to the Immaculata in the men who became MI members through their MI consecration at the closing of the retreat.



MI National Coordinator, Antonella Di Piazza, addressed the participants on behalf of the MI National Council and was deeply edified by the prayerful and committed presence of men attending the retreat. A special *Thank You* to the group leader, Brian Gail, and his team, for the warm welcome and their dedication to furthering the MI mission in the East Coast.

NEWS from the MI International Center



On September 26, 2017, an important Kolbean event took place at the Vatican: the Europe premier of *Two Crowns*, a new movie about St. Maximilian Kolbe. The movie was shown in the presence of the movie director, Michał Kondrat, the main actor, Adam Woronowicz, and the producers. Fr. Emil Kumka and Fr. Raffaele Di Muro represented the St. Bonaventure Pontifical Theological Faculty and the Militia of the Immaculata International. The film presents the life of the Martyr of Charity through a harmonious sequence of scenes about his life and interviews with Kolbe experts and scholars. The production is truly a masterpiece. The figure of Father Kolbe is well portrayed in the brilliant performance of all the actors and accurately from the historical point of view. We hope that the film may soon be available worldwide.

Chicago will host special screenings of the movie on Saturday, December 2nd and Sunday, December 3rd, at the Copernicus Center, 5216 W Lawrence Ave.

Tickets available on <http://copernicuscenter.org/dwie-korony/>

Reflection on the December MI Intention

O Immaculata please intercede that MI members may experience the joy of adhering to God's plan.

In a writing of October 16, 1935, St. Maximilian tells of the beginnings of the MI journey. It is important to remember at the closing of this centenary year that this Kolbean movement arose from the adherence of the Saint, and other confreres, to God's plan. Even today, this Marian association is called upon to question itself regarding the divine will towards it. Here are Kolbe's words: "I remember talking with my brother clerics about the wretched state of our Order and about its future. And in those moments, the following idea was being impressed on my mind: either rebuild it or break it all up. I felt deep sorrow for those young people who often came to us with the best intention and most of the time ended up losing their ideal of holiness in the very friary. Yet I did not quite know what to do. Let me go further back in time. I still recall how as a young boy I had bought a small statue of the Immaculata for five kopeks [the hundredth part of the ruble, the Russian currency]. And in the minor seminary, where we attended Mass in the choir, with my face to the ground, I promised the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, whose image overlooked the altar, that I would fight for her." (*KW* 1278)

The young friar Maximilian questioned himself about God's plan in his regard and for the Conventual Franciscan Order. He only knew that, in his adolescence, he had promised to fight for the Immaculata and to be open to the divine will. Obedience to his superiors was the means that allowed him to understand and live in the plan of the Most High. He

understood that his Order was in difficulty, but he didn't resign to the fact and sought with all his strength a way to holiness for himself and for his confreres. He understood that he was called to begin a new journey: that of the MI.

"Thus, with the consent of the Father Rector, on October 17, 1917, the first meeting of the first seven members took place, namely: (1) Fr. Jozif Pal, a young priest of the Romanian Province; (2) Br. Antoni Głowiński, deacon of the Romanian Province (died October 18, 1918); (3) Br. Girolamo Biasi, from the Province of Padua (died 1929); (4) Br. Quirico Pignalberi, of the Roman Province; (5) Br. Antonio Mansi, of the Province of Naples (died October 31, 1918); (6) Br. Enrico Granata, of the Province of Naples; (7) myself. The meeting took place at night, in secret, in a locked, inner cell that was constructed by means of a temporary wall. In front of us there was a little statue of the Immaculata between two lighted candles." (*Ibid.*)

So began the story of the MI, with a Marian itinerary that at first had only seven young friars as protagonists, inexperienced and without means, capable though of dreaming of a great mission in virtue of their total dedication of their lives in the hands of the Immaculata.

This exemplary surrender is the fundamental characteristic revealed by the founders. Thanks to their "yes," a Marian-missionary journey began and it has a century of life and is spread throughout the world. "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." (*Ibid.*)

The beginnings weren't easy. Shortly after the founding, Fr. Antoni

Glowinski and Friar Antonio Mansi died as a result of the Spanish fever. Friar Maximilian himself suffered terribly for pulmonary disease. Nevertheless, the future Saint entrusted himself once again to obedience and turned to the Minister General of the Order. The Minister required that there were at least a dozen members of the MI in order to receive his approval, but "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. In that early period of life of the Militia, our activity - besides private prayer - consisted in handing out medals of the Immaculata, called 'Miraculous Medals.' On one occasion, the same Most Rev. Fr. General gave us money to purchase some." (*Ibid.*)

Once again, his surrender gets the better. Kolbe believed in a supernatural plan and, with much determination, he surrendered it to the superiors who approved a new missionary program. Listening, obedience and surrender are the precious pearls that S. Maximilian passes on to us.

For Reflection

Every member of the MI is called interiorly to feel part of a divine plan. St. Maximilian, through the mediation of the Immaculata, was given a program of life, that involves all who belong to the Association. Today, after one hundred years of history and mission, it's of vital importance to walk in the way of Fr. Kolbe. By listening, obedience and surrender, we become "transmitters" (like in the radio-television broadcast dear to the Saint) of the divine will.

(From the MI International Office- Translated by Maria Franceschini and Ann O'Donnell)



Editorial

(Cont. from pg. 1)

Finally, we come to the various movements of atheism attempting to stamp out the light of God in the world: communism, national socialism (Nazism), and our own particular scourge—secularism. All these tragedies constitute a significant part in our world experience—a very, very dark shadow indeed.

However, Christ founded a Church of which He is the Head and he promised never to abandon her (us) even in extreme circumstances. The Church in our time has responded to these dark challenges with a clear and unwavering voice—in Vatican II and in papal magisterial teaching. The closing words of the New Testament, Revelation 22:17, “The Spirit and the Bride say, ‘Come.’ And let him who hears say ‘Come.’ And let him who is thirsty come, let him who desires take the water of life without price” fulfill the promise of Christ, to speak, to inspire and to lead us into all truth. The message of truth is the call to evangelize the world—a recalling of Jesus’ commission to announce the Good News of the Gospel to all the world. Here is the solution, the answer, the hope—and because it is an announcement that Jesus Christ is Risen as He said and now offers through His Church, the Bride, His gift of salvation!

The Grace of redemption is available in word and sacrament to all who seek through faith the “living waters,” the indwelling of the Most Holy Trinity—sharing the very life of God.

Pope Paul VI, in his letter to the Church on Evangelization, put it thus: “We wish to confirm once more that the task of evangelizing all the people constitutes the *essential mission* of the Church. It is a *task* and *mission* which the vast and profound changes of present-day society make all the more *urgent*. Evangelization is, in fact, the *grace* and *vocation* proper to the Church, her deepest *identity*. She *exists* in order to evangelize. That is to say, in order to preach and teach, to be the channel of the gift of grace, to reconcile sinners with God, and to perpetuate Christ’s sacrifice in the Mass, which is the memorial of His death and glorious resurrection.” (italics mine) (*Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 14)

In subsequent newsletters, we will speak further of the “new” evangelization and how the Militia of the Immaculata fits into this deeply serious call from the Spirit and the Bride, the Church. Until then, think and pray over the words, “Arise, let us be on our way!”

In the Immaculata,

John W. Galten
MI National President

Not a member yet?

Consider making your Marian consecration in the MI during this 100th anniversary of the Fatima apparitions and of the founding of the MI!

Visit MissionImmaculata.com for more information and to download Novena in preparation for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.

Letter to Fr. Di Muro from the Secretariat of State

From the Vatican,
October 26, 2017

Reverend Father,

On the occasion of the General Audience of October 18, 2017, on behalf of the Association, you wished to express closeness and reverence to the Holy Father Pope Francis, assuring him of constant prayers for his ministry as Successor of the Apostle Peter and offering a relic of the Founder, St. Maximilian Kolbe, two volumes and two magazines as a sign of filial homage.

His Holiness, who deeply appreciated the gifts and the expressions of devotion and spiritual affection that accompanied them, exhorts all to welcome the precious life teaching of the Franciscan Saint, Martyr of Charity and Apostle of the Immaculata. Furthermore, as he asks perseverance in praying for his universal ministry, the Holy Father, through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, imparts wholeheartedly his Apostolic Blessing to you, the whole Militia of the Immaculata, and all those who benefit from its daily apostolate.

With profound esteem I remain yours in the Lord,

Msgr. Paolo Borgia
Assessor



The Pope venerates St. Maximilian’s relic.

MI Resources



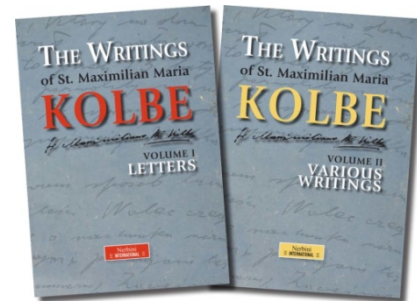
Disseminate the Miraculous Medal and introduce Our Lady and the MI to others!

Miraculous medals and brochures can be requested from the MI National Office at 331-223-5564 or via email: MINational@MissionImmaculata.com

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Attention MI Members!
Is Our Lady inspiring you to start an MI group-MI Village in your area?

Request the new MI Village Kit from the MI National Office.



Now available in E-Book format!
 Order your set of the Writings of St. Maximilian Kolbe on Amazon.com or Barnes&Noble.com

A perfect Christmas Gift!

Check regularly the MI website MissionImmaculata.com for updates, resources, 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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