



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)

June 2017

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IN THIS ISSUE

Prayer: Knowing Christ through Devotion to Holy Scriptures

By John W. Galten, MI National President

Dear Knights of the Immaculata, Maria! Continuing the theme of Fr. Raffaele’s Fatima Congress message on prayer: “Prayer Precedes Mission”...

In the prayer armory of a Knight of the Immaculata should be an appreciation for and a devotion to the Holy Scriptures as the Word of God. The Word of God as one of the twin sources of the Deposit of Faith (the other being Tradition) which shows us the Face of Christ as St. John Paul II would say. This loving knowledge of Christ is primary as He is the supreme good of the Church, for the Bride/Church must seek the Face of the Beloved and adore Him.

In the concluding paragraphs of the New Testament, Revelation 22:17, we hear the invitation to the living waters flowing from the wounded side of Christ—“The Spirit and the Bride say ‘Come.’” Let everyone who listens answer, ‘Come.’ Then let all who are thirsty come: all who want it may have the water of life, and have it free.” The Holy Scriptures form part, with the Sacraments, of the life of Christ poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit.

The Word of God as a source of Divine life makes up the first part of the Eucharistic celebration and is the very stuff of all the sacramental liturgy. We owe this gift our deep attentiveness and adoration of Him of whom it speaks. But also, the Church has always recommended using God’s Word as a source and means of personal prayer. This attentive listening is formally called “Lectio Divina.” The Lord Himself extolled this practice when he affirmed Mary’s listening to Him as opposed to the busyness of Martha. We, too, should choose this better part by listening to Him.

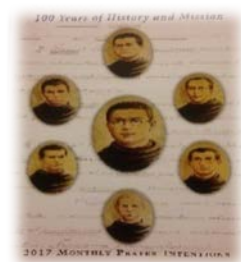
(continues on pg. 7)



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



News from the International Office, Rome



Reflection on June MI Intention

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 June.
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 is sponsoring Centennial Celebrations to commemorate the 100th 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. These special events are open to MI members and all Catholic faithful who wish to deepen their Marian

SAVE THE DATE! MI Centennial Celebrations throughout the U.S.A.

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 announce that **OUR SUNDAY VISITOR Institute** is helping to underwrite the MI Centennial Celebrations.



In the Midwest:

Date: Saturday, June 24, 2017
Time: 8:30 am to 4:00 pm
Where: Santa Maria del Popolo Parish Center, Mundelein, IL
(see complete program on p. 8)

On the West Coast:

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

On the East Coast:

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

The MI Co-founders Anton Maria Głowiński and Antonio Mansi

As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Militia of the Immaculata, let's come to know the young Franciscans who joined St. Maximilian on October 16, 1917 to start our MI Movement.



Father Anton Maria Głowiński was born in Galati (Romania) on June 12, 1892, on the eve of the feast of St. Anthony of Padua, and that is why on his baptism he was given the name of Anton. The father, Callisto, of Polish origin, was an official of the Romanian State Railway; his job forced him to be absent from home, and his wife, Antonina Antonovici, of Romanian origin, had to take much more care of the Christian formation of the children, Anton and Valeria. Anton was good-natured, sober, measured in his speech, engaged in studies. After secondary school, Anton felt the call to consecrated life in the Order of Friars Minor Conventual, in whose parish church every day he participated in the Holy Mass. In September 1911, he was sent to Assisi to complete his novitiate year. On November 7, 1912, at the tomb of the St. Francis, he made his simple profession. Later he was sent to Montottone (Marche region, Italy) for a philosophical course and to Rome to the Seraphic College for theology, where, on December 16, 1915, he made his solemn profession. On August 10, 1917, in the church of St. Apollinaris, he was ordained a priest by Cardinal Basilio Pompilj. The next day he celebrated his first Mass, at the tomb of St. Peter. The superiors, having noted his deep intelligence, decided that he had to achieve a doctorate in theology. He received that on September 6, 1918. On September 13, Father Głowiński left for Assisi with the mandate of prefect of the student friars. In the ancient friary of Le Carceri on Mount Subasio, there

were thousands of prisoners of World War II, among whom there were a hundred Romanians of Transylvania. Father Anton often went among these compatriots, bringing them material and spiritual help. Along with Father Pal he had printed a booklet of prayers in Romanian with brief remarks on the principal truths of the Faith, and he distributed it to all prisoners. In 1918 throughout Europe there was the great pandemic influenza, called “Spanish flu” because the first cases occurred in Spain. Father Głowiński contracted it during a visit to the Romanian prisoners. On the evening of October 11, 1918, he was confined to bed. After eight days of illness, he died on the feast of St. Luke, on October 18, 1918, at approximately 9:00 pm, at the age of 26. Thus, in the exercise of his priestly ministry, the first knight and co-founder of MI died. St. Maximilian remembered him with these words: *“I will never forget the simplicity, the purity that shone from his face.”*

Friar Antonio Maria Mansi was born in London on March 9, 1896, the son of Maria Michela and Bonaventura Mansi of Ravello (Salerno). At age 13, on the feast of St. Anthony, Antonio took the Franciscan habit of the Order of Friars Minor Conventual, in the convent of Ravello. He was sent to Bagnoregio (Viterbo) for high school studies, and to Assisi for the novitiate. On the tomb of St. Francis, on October 4, 1914 he made his simple profession. After the novitiate Friar Antonio was sent to

Montottone (Marche region, Italy) for a philosophical course. For theology studies, he was sent to Rome to the Seraphic College, where he met Friar Maximilian and they became friends. On March 19, 1918, Brother Antonio Mansi made his solemn profession in the hands of His Eminence Cardinal Boschi and he was ordained a priest on May 9, 1918, in the chapel of the Seraphic College. As a man of culture, Brother Mansi spoke English, French, and Latin well, and knew the Greek language. He cultivated poetry, singing and music, which he studied at the Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music in Rome, showing a keen talent. Like Father Głowiński, he also fell ill with Spanish influenza, contracted while he took care of a fellow Franciscan priest. He died on October 31, 1918, giving his life for the good of the Church, for Pope Benedict XV and the Order, invoking the name of Mary.

Father Kolbe wrote in his diary: *“On October 31, 1918, in the morning, fell asleep in the Lord Brother Antonio Mansi, with a very edifying death. Before he died he promised ‘to make me walk straight by hook or by crook.’ He cultivated so sublimely humility, obedience, patience, simplicity, religious poverty, fraternal love, the commitment in the exact observance of the rules, the most lively faith, the most tender attachment to prayer, the glory of God, the Church, the Holy Father and to the Order, a firm and unshakable hope.”*

(to be continued)

Where Are We Heading?

The following is an article (KW 1231) that Fr. Maximilian wrote for the April 30, 1938 issue of the Echo Niepokalanowa (Echo of Niepokalanów) an internal magazine directed especially to the Friars' community. What is striking is the clarity of St. Maximilian's vision concerning the calling and mission of the MI: A powerful inspiration as we celebrate our 100th anniversary!

“Through the Immaculata to the Divine Heart of Jesus”: that is our watchword.

“Through the Immaculata”: that is our essential feature, that is, as instruments in her hand.

As a result, it is not enough that we care to be ever more of the Immaculata in every regard, within well-defined boundaries.

We want to radiate the Immaculata to the point of being able to attract to her even the souls of others, indeed of all those who exist now, who will exist, and may exist in the future, without any limitation.

In a word, we wish to belong ever more to her and become her “knights,” willing to embrace total sacrifice for her till our last drop of blood in the conquest of the entire world and every single soul for her, and that as soon as possible, as soon as possible, as soon as possible: that is the *MI*.

Each of us, then says: I wish first to translate into action, to achieve more and more, and ever more quickly, that ideal in myself. I must do everything *myself* in order to belong ever more to the Immaculata. *I* am the one who

needs to offer myself ever more to her, to make myself like her, live by her, radiate her so that my environment may be more clearly enlightened by knowledge of her, warmed and inflamed ever more ardently with love for her; so that an ever increasing number of other people become like me, as I am toward her; so that, through me they belong ever more to her and, like me, may have more and yet more influence on their neighbors and enlighten and inflame an increasing number of yet more people. That the whole world and every individual soul may become ever more like her, be turned almost into her herself: that is the “MI-me.”

What means do I use? Any, as long as they are lawful.

A formidable means is the connection of energies of individual members, the link of individual souls with one another. That is why the Militia of the Immaculata is an “association.” And the Main Center endeavors to lend its help, that the goal of the MI may be reached both by members of Niepokalanów (*MI-N* [MI for Niepokalanów]), by our compatriots (*MI-P* [MI for Poland]), and also by all the others through the *MI-M*, that is, the worldwide MI.

Br. Maximilian M., Guardian

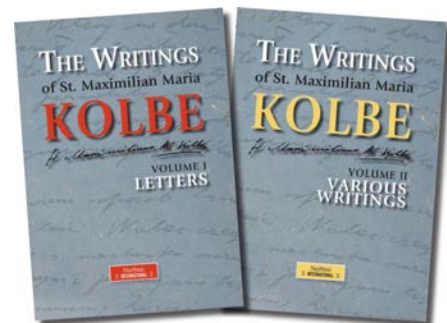
Not a member yet?

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.



**Call us
for information about
the English critical
edition of
*The Writings
of St. Maximilian
Maria Kolbe***



**MI National Center
331-223-5564**

Our Only Motive

By Antonella Di Piazza, FKMI,
National Coordinator

“Love toward the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus is the only motive that spurs us to bind as many as possible, as closely as possible to Him through the Immaculata” (KW 1094). Since the beginning of the journey of the MI, the young Fr. Maximilian emphasized that the love of God, of which the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus is the symbol *par excellence*, is the ultimate goal of the life and activity of the new Marian association.

The fundamental dimension of the MI spirituality is indeed total consecration to the Immaculata, but Fr. Maximilian highlighted always that Mary is wholly relative to God, to Christ, and her maternal action is completely directed toward leading hearts to Jesus. Love for Him and the pursuit of His Kingdom, therefore, represent the drive and the ultimate purpose of every MI member’s commitment.

Constantly Fr. Kolbe pondered and explained how devotion and consecration to Our Lady are the means for reaching the end of all: “As she is the most perfect instrument in the hand of God, in the hand of divine mercy, the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, so we are instruments in her hand. Thus through her we are the instruments of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, that is, of God’s mercy. Thus our watchword is ‘Through the Immaculata to the Heart of Jesus’” (cf. KW 339).

In order to expel every doubt he states: “Precisely because we have consecrated ourselves to the Immaculata without limits, with much greater courage, despite our

wickedness, we come closer to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. In reality, therefore, we are fully, completely and exclusively consecrated to the Immaculata with all of our actions, and in her and through her, we are again fully, completely and exclusively consecrated to Jesus Christ” (KW 643). Therefore, he stresses the need to draw ever closer to Our Lady through total consecration: “To be more and more of the Immaculata, to belong to her more profoundly, and so let fly more and more the wings of love, especially toward the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and the manifestations of His love” (KW 1284).

With similar expressions St. Maximilian elucidates how authentic devotion to Mary leads to a deeper love for Jesus, in fact to love Him with the Immaculata’s Heart, while making us participate in her maternal mission: “Thus the divine life, the life of the Most Holy Trinity flows from the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, into our wretched hearts, but often also through other created hearts” (KW 503).

St. Maximilian introduces us to a marvelous stance: We are members of the Mystical Body of Christ and members one of another (Cf. Eph 4:25), called to be “neighbors” to one another (cf. Lk 10:25-37), to become instruments of good, channels of grace, of divine life for one another. Like Mary! This is still today the crucial mission of the MI: to sow Mary into all hearts so that she, the Mother, may lead them to the knowledge of her Son and kindle in them the fire of love toward His Sacred Heart. During this MI 100th anniversary, then, let this life-giving fire spread...!

October 10-19, 2017 MI 100th Anniversary National Pilgrimage to Italy

With participation in the
100th Anniversary
MI International Celebrations

Be part of this once-in-a-lifetime 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 100th 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 or to obtain more
information 1-800-515-2632.
Visit MissionImmaculata.com
to download the complete itinerary.



Reflection on the June MI Intention

O Immaculata please intercede that, following St. Maximilian's example, MI members may let themselves be led by the Holy Spirit.

Saint Maximilian, like Francis of Assisi a few centuries earlier, defines Mary as the Bride of the Holy Spirit. It's evident that for the two Franciscans this appellation isn't born only from the conception, by the work of the Paraclete, but also, and above all, because she is able to be "molded" perfectly by Him. The Immaculata is the masterpiece of God, she who let herself be fully "formed" by divine grace.

Here are the expressions of the Martyr of Auschwitz: "Yet, from all eternity, God had foreseen a creature who would be at a distance from Him in nothing, not the slightest thing, who would squander no grace, and never claim possession of anything received from Him. From the first moment of her existence the Giver of graces, the Holy Spirit, established His dwelling in her soul, took possession of it absolutely, and permeated her so completely that the name of Bride of the Holy Spirit conveys but a pale, distant, imperfect, albeit truthful shadow of such union. He then did not allow her to be defiled by the stain of original sin; she was made without sin, conceived immaculately." (KW 1224)

Mary has the supporting role in the story of salvation, giving the Redeemer to humanity, participating fully in the divine work. She was prepared and preserved by God's mercy for a truly great mission. She offers us the opportunity to consider that even to us has been entrusted a project through the goodness of the Most High, a plan that we are called to realize, adhering in full to His will, as the Virgin did and teaches.

"The Immaculate Virgin, however, the most perfect of creatures, was raised above every creature, she is a 'divine' creature in an ineffable way. The Son of God, in fact, descended from the Father through the Holy Spirit, took residence in her, became incarnate in her, and she became the Mother of God, the Mother of the Man-God, the Mother of Jesus. Since then each grace – which comes from the Father through Jesus, the Son incarnate, and the Spirit, who dwells in the Immaculata – is bestowed precisely through the Immaculata. In addition, any manifestation of love among creatures does not come before God unless the Immaculata has purified it of all its imperfections, unless Jesus has raised it up to an infinite value and, therefore, made it worthy of the majesty of the Heavenly Father. The union between the Holy Spirit and the Immaculate Virgin is so close that the Holy Spirit, who permeated the soul of the Immaculata profoundly, exerts no influence on souls, except through her." (*Ibid.*)

The union between the Holy Spirit and the Immaculata didn't happen

by chance nor only by divine work. There was the full collaboration of Our Lady, who, even though she possessed great privileges, constantly adhered to the work of the Almighty. Mary's collaboration with the overflowing divine grace is distinct and crucial. She teaches each believer, and whomever embraces the MI journey, to always be available to the divine calls which define our unique role in the life and history of the Church, as well as in the edification of the Kingdom.

"Because of that she has become the Mediatrix of all graces, precisely because of that she is truly the Mother of all God's graces. And also because of that she is also the Queen of angels and saints, the Help of Christians, the Refuge of sinners." (*Ibid.*) Even today the Immaculata continues her most precious role towards humanity. She is the Mediatrix of the graces that come from God. Continuously she takes care of her children interceding for them and accompanying them in the journey of sanctification. The presence of the Virgin in the story of humanity continues to be decisive and enlightening.

For Reflection

The journey of the MI wasn't born by chance, but had its origin, and developed, in virtue of a divine plan, to which Saint Maximilian adhered. Many men and women, attracted by the Kolbean ideal, have welcomed the MI mission. The centennial journey of our Association has been made possible thanks to the "yes" of many persons. The MI will continue to go forth and in the best of ways, in the measure in which its members, just like Mary, welcome the project entrusted to them by God.

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

Editorial

(Cont. from pg. 1)

Vatican Council II affirmed and reiterated the importance of the Holy Scriptures in the document on the Word of God, *Dei Verbum*. This beautifully encouraged the faithful in *DV* 25—“It must be remembered that prayer should accompany the reading of Holy Scripture in order that there might be a dialogue between God and man, for ‘we speak to Him when we pray, and He speaks to us when we read Divine utterances.’” And also, *DV* 26, “Just as persevering devotion to the Eucharistic mystery augments the Church’s life, so it is permissible to hope that a new impulse will be given to the spiritual life as a result of increased veneration for the Word of God which endures forever.”

How important is the teaching of Vatican II for the Church in the contemporary world situation?

Let us listen to the words of St. John Paul II in his Apostolic Letter, *The Third Millennium (Tertio Millennio Adveniente)*:

“The best preparation for the new millennium, therefore, can only be expressed in a new commitment to apply, as faithfully as possible, the teachings of Vatican II to the life of every individual and of the whole Church”.... so the Spirit and Bride say!

One more note from St. John Paul II’s Apostolic Letter, *At the Beginning of the New Millennium (Novo Millennio Ineunte)* n. 39: “There is no doubt that this primacy of holiness and prayer is inconceivable without a renewed listening to the Word of God. Ever since the Second Vatican Council underlined the preeminent role of

the Word of God in the Church, great progress has certainly been made in devout listening to Scripture and attentive study of it.” As Knights of the Immaculata, we must be attentive to the words of our founder St. Maximilian and as Catholics we must be obedient to the voice of the Church. We have tried to do this in these short meditations.

Next time... Whisperings of the Holy Spirit—The Word of God’s Advice on the Scriptures and Praying Them.

“Arise, let us be on our way!”

In the Immaculata,

John W. Galten
MI National President

Attention MI Members!
We look forward to hearing from YOU or from your local groups/villages.
Send news and pictures by the 20th of the month.

Thank you!



Please find MI locations in the US posted on the MI website

MissionImmaculata.com

The new MI brochure is now in print!

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

A donation to cover shipping cost... welcomed!

MILITIA OF THE IMMACULATA

MissionImmaculata.com
MIYouth.org

Save the Date!**Midwest MI Centennial Celebration: One Hundred Years of Mission**

Saturday, June 24, 2017
Santa Maria del Popolo
Parish Center
Mundelein, IL

- 8:30 a.m. Registration
- 9:00 a.m. Opening Prayer and Welcome
- 9:15 a.m. *The New Evangelization with the Immaculata in the Footsteps of St. Maximilian Kolbe*
—John W. Galten, MI National President
- 10:30 a.m. *The Call to Missionary Discipleship with Mary*
—Michael D. Wick, MI Natl. Vice-President
- 11:30 a.m. **Holy Mass** and Rite of Consecration to the Immaculata

- 1:00 p.m. Luncheon Buffet
- 2:45 p.m. Holy Rosary with meditations from St. Maximilian's Writings
- 3:30 p.m. Closing Remarks:
Let Us Arise and Be on Our Way!
—John W. Galten
- 4:00 p.m. Farewell

Free Admission
 Please RSVP due to limited seating
 by Saturday, June 10
 by phone: 331-223-5564 or write to:
MINational@MissionImmaculata.com



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

MILITIA OF THE IMMACULATA
 MI NATIONAL CENTER - USA
 P.O. Box 7645 Libertyville, Illinois 60048
 331-223-5564
www.MissionImmaculata.com
minational@missionimmaculata.com

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