



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)

MAY 2017

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IN THIS ISSUE

Prayer: Preparation for Spiritual Battle Under Mary’s Lead

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 our last monthly message, we spoke of seeking the Face of Christ through the prayer of consecration and Mary’s role in showing us this Face. We now will look at two other prayers and devotions which St. Maximilian lived and promoted.

The image of the knight errant in Franciscan spirituality begins in the life of its founder, St. Francis, as he at one point early in his life sought the life of a knight, going so far as to purchase a suit of armor, weapons, a horse and a squire to maintain all of this garb. As he rode along, he cringed at the thought of doing battle where his life was in peril. He quickly dismissed his servant and sold his knightly armor. God had other plans for St. Francis which took into account this holy desire to “fight” for God. St. Maximilian uses the terminology of knighthood to describe the Immaculata’s crusade for the spread of the Kingdom of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. St. Maximilian even made the same mistake as St. Francis of considering leaving the seminary to fight for Poland; only his mother’s intervention saved him from the morass of war and set him on the Immaculata’s true path of spiritual knighthood.

We want to see prayer as an act of militant preparation for the real spiritual battle...against the “principalities and powers” as St Paul would say. Paul proclaims in Ephesians 6:10-20, that the Christian must don the whole armor of God in order to proclaim the Kingdom of God and battle against the resistance of the Evil One and his forces.

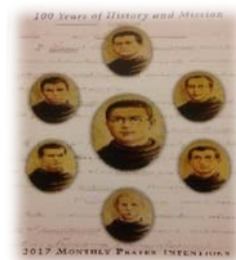
(continues on pg. 7)



All Means, especially the Miraculous Medal...



News from the International Office, Rome



Reflection on May 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 May. 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



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

A Fellow Knight's Cause for Beatification

*By William J. Murphy,
MI Member and Village Moderator*

On April 27, 2016, Pope Francis approved the decree of heroic virtue for Servant of God Wenanty Katarzyniec (or, as he is known in English speaking circles, Father Vincent Catherine), setting him on the path for possible beatification.



Shortly after his ordination as a Franciscan priest, Father Wenanty spent four years as a master of novices, also employed as a master of clerics and a lecturer in philosophy, Latin, and Greek. Throughout this time, Father Katarzyniec gave conferences and retreats for religious sisters and also visited those suffering from cancer in the oncological hospital. Father Katarzyniec's faith was marked by a deep Marian devotion, specifically a love of the Immaculate Conception.

One of the first to have sought his intercession was St. Maximilian Kolbe.

A fellow Polish Franciscan, the two men met in 1912. Saint Maximilian would recall being struck by Father Katarzyniec's "modesty and a certain shyness." (KW 1252). Kolbe would remember that when the idea of publishing a journal of the MI began to be discussed, Father Katarzyniec urged him to begin the work as soon as possible.

It had been Father Katarzyniec's hope to write an introduction to the magazine. However, he passed away from tuberculosis at the young age of 31 on March 31, 1921, before he could do so.

After Katarzyniec's death, Kolbe would recall the dire financial condition of the MI and a fellow friar's remark that if the magazine were to be produced, it would be a miracle.

Father Kolbe urged his friars to ask for Father Katarzyniec's intercession that the magazine would be produced, and when it was, he credited it to Father Katarzyniec.



St Maximilian wrote this about his friend: "He was well aware of how important the cause of the Immaculata is to our Order: like a gold thread it is woven in our Order from its very cradle. After seven whole centuries promoting the privilege of the Immaculate Conception, our work was finally crowned by the official proclamation of the dogma.

He knew well that victory must be exploited, that once weapons have been gained, one needs to go out and lead souls back to the Immaculata. So when he enrolled in the MI, he established the MI novitiate circle among the clerics and lay brothers. He was also planning to extend his action to laymen, but illness prevented him. Even when it came to starting a magazine as the official voice of the MI and we asked for his opinion, he wrote humbly: 'If my word is of any worth, I believe that the magazine, the voice of the MI, should be published as soon as possible'" (KW 1261).

In the first issue of *The Knight of the Immaculata*, Saint Maximilian invoked Father Katarzyniec's intercession. Shortly after, Saint Maximilian sought to write a biography of his dear friend so that others would know of his holiness.

Although Saint Maximilian was unable to complete this work before his own death, now, 96 years later, as Father Katarzyniec's cause moves forward, it may be that Saint Maximilian's prayers for his friend have been answered.

Servant of God Wenanty Katarzyniec, pray for us!

The Rosary

The following is an article (KW 1171) written by Fr. Maximilian for the October 1933 issue of the Mugenzai no Seibo no Kishi magazine, directed to Japanese people, both Catholic and non-Catholic. An inspiring read for the month of May.

In every Catholic home, even the poorest, it is possible to find a rosary.

Above all in the hour of prayer, in church, or during a funeral, one notices that the faithful keep in their hands a rosary.

In moments of joy or sadness, whenever the faithful turn to God in prayer, they recite the Rosary and are deeply bonded with it.

The rosary is similar to the Buddhist “juzu.” However its essence is completely different. The number of beads that make up the rosary is greater than in the “juzu” and there is a certain distance from one bead to the other. Every “decade” is made up of one larger bead and ten smaller ones, and the full rosary is made up of 15 decades.* Usually the faithful use a reduced form of the rosary, made up of five decades. The prayers to be recited are the following.

The “Lord’s Prayer”: “Our Father, Who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy Will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.”

The “Angelic Salutation”: “Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is

with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of death. Amen.” And the “Glory be to the Father.”

The “Lord’s Prayer” was taught to us by Jesus Christ Himself. Popularly the “Angelic Salutation” is referred to as the “Ave Maria.” It is a prayer composed from the salutation to Mary by the Archangel Gabriel, from Elizabeth’s salutation, and from a supplication used by the Church to invoke Mary’s intercession. The “Glory be to the Father” is a prayer of praise to the Most Holy Trinity. Each and every one of these prayers is widely known and has been used from the times of the origins of the Church.

On the larger bead, one prays the Our Father; on the smaller ones, the Hail Mary; and after every decade, one prays the “Glory Be.” During the reciting of these prayers one reflects on the fifteen mysteries.

The mysteries are joyful, sorrowful and glorious, grouped together in fives. The joyful mysteries are: (1) The annunciation to Mary, (2) Mary’s visit to Elizabeth, (3) The birth of the Lord, (4) Mary’s offering of Jesus in the temple, (5) The finding of the Lord in the temple. The sorrowful mysteries are: (1) The mortal agony of the Lord Jesus in the Garden of Olives, (2) The scourging, (3) The crowning with thorns, (4) Jesus carrying the cross, (5) The crucifixion and death of the Lord. The glorious mysteries are: (1) The resurrection of the Lord, (2) The ascension of the Lord, (3) The descent of the Holy Spirit, (4) The assumption of Mary, (5) Mary’s queenship over angels and men. When meditating these mysteries, we pray to God according to how the Divine Mother teaches us.

As one can see, the Rosary is a very easy prayer, as long as one remembers the three above-mentioned prayers. It is so easy to understand that children, and also simple persons who do not know how to read, can use the rosary as a means to prayer. If literate people, however, reflect deeply on these mysteries, they can easily understand Catholic doctrine. Whoever reflects on these mysteries embraces many necessary teachings for daily life. Evidently, even the infidels can recite the Rosary. Not only they can recite it but, reflecting upon the mysteries they will easily understand the Rosary devotion. Moreover, through the recitation of the Rosary they can ask for themselves the grace of perfect truth and of faith. The Church established that the month of October should be dedicated to the praying of the Rosary. Already, from a long time ago, the faithful customarily recite the Rosary during this month, in church or in a devout family.

In her apparition at Lourdes, in 1858, the Mother of God held in her arms the rosary, and through Bernadette, recommended to us the recital of the Rosary. We can conclude, therefore, that the prayer of the Rosary makes the Immaculata happy. Moreover, with this prayer we can easily obtain great graces and divine blessing.

Kolbe

*Pope St. John Paul II introduced the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary in October 2002, through his Apostolic Letter *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*.

All Means, especially the Miraculous Medal...

By Antonella Di Piazza, FKMI,
National Coordinator

In the program that friar Maximilian had drafted for the MI, the Immaculata's strategist described the means that the newly established association would have to use in the work of evangelization: "1. To entreat the Immaculata possibly every day with this *ejaculatory prayer*: 'O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you, and for all those who do not have recourse to you, especially the *Freemasons*.' 2. To use *all legitimate* means, according to one's possibilities in the various states and conditions of life, as occasions arise: which is entrusted to the *zeal* and *prudence* of each; let the special means be *the Miraculous Medal*" (KW 21).

In the course of the years, Father Maximilian would not hesitate to state that, in addition to the supernatural means – prayer and sacrifice – all legitimate means inspired by love and all inventions are to be at the service of the Gospel through the Immaculata: "Art, literature, theater, cinema, books, journalism, radio, etc., etc." (KW 991 Q). His mind and heart were always drawn toward new horizons in order to reach as soon as possible every person and to share the gift of Mary, the new life of grace. However, he would never forget to remind himself and others that in this enterprise we are called to be personally engaged: "But before everything else we ourselves must be hers, even to the utter annihilation of our ego, to a *total holocaust*, without

reserve and without limits ('penance, penance, penance'). Everything for her sake, then: our soul, our body, all the faculties of the soul and of the body, talents, energy, science, art, etc., etc... everything! Everything: the past, the present, and future, life, death, eternity. In a word, everything, everything without even the slightest, tiniest reservation" (Ib).



While he valued all means, Maximilian reminded us that among them the Miraculous Medal, which Our Lady herself gave us through her appearances to St. Catherine Labourè, has to be cherished in a special way. The Medal is a small yet powerful tool for touching hearts, a mini-catechism on Our Lady's role in the history of salvation. How many stories of spiritual and physical healing, of conversion and openness to the work of grace are connected to the Miraculous Medal...! The Medal is not only the exterior sign of our total consecration to Mary (cf. KW 991 Q), but also a tool we can all use to introduce her to others: "Behold your Mother!"

During this month of May in the centennial of the MI, let's rediscover the simple effectiveness of offering the Immaculata's Medal to a friend, a family member or even a stranger. We'll be surprised by what the Lord can do through little means accompanied by faith and love. ■

From the MI International Office

International Council Meeting, Lodz, Poland

On April 18-21, 2017, the MI International Council met at the post-novitiate house of the Conventual Franciscan Friars, in Lodz, Poland. Among the fruits of this gathering are to be mentioned above all the approval of a Directory for MI Spiritual Assistants and the drafting of the MI Monthly Intentions for 2018. Moreover, the organization of the International Centennial Celebrations to be held in Rome (October 16-18, 2017) was discussed, along with updates about the National events worldwide and the International President's visitation to the MI in Italy, Brazil, U.S.A. and Spain.

The members of the International Council were able to visit St. Maximilian Kolbe's birthplace, Zdunska Wola, and Pabianice, where he grew up.

Finally, the Council made a resolution about an International MI Youth meeting, which will take place in 2018.

Fr. Raffaele Di Muro,
MI International President



Reflection on the May MI Intention

O Immaculata please intercede that the MI may imitate the example of your discipleship.

Nothing escapes Saint Maximilian regarding the mystery of Mary. She is a constant point of reference in his journey of sanctification. Here are his words: “Even the hour of her entry into the world was unheralded. She was born in hiding, in silence, in a poor dwelling in a Palestinian town. “Not even the Scriptures make much mention of her. In them we see her at the Annunciation, when she becomes Mother of God. We trace her journey to Bethlehem, where we stand amazed at the birth of her Son, Son of God and son of man, in a poor cave. Then her escape, full of dread, into Egypt. Hard life in a foreign country and finally the return to Palestine. Her caring search and finding of the young Jesus lost in the temple. Later, we see her beside her Son at the wedding in Cana of Galilee, where she urges and obtains the first miracle in favor of two young newlyweds. Jesus leaves to perform His teaching, while she stays behind in her small dwelling, wrapped in the thought of His destiny. The arrest, passion, and the journey toward Calvary. Mary reappears and accompanies Jesus to the place of execution. She is beside Him at the time of His death and clasps His ice-cold body, deposed from the Cross, to her breast. Later we see her again, at the time when the Holy Spirit descends on the apostles, when she stays among them as a good Mother and trains those future apostles.” (KW 1312, *For a Book*)

For the Saint, Mary’s life is a book to continuously leaf through to find useful insights to nurture and support one’s personal journey of faith. Above all, he admires the Virgin in her humility. She comes into the world in silence and in listening to the divine will: she doesn’t make a noise, her presence is almost invisible, yet it’s fundamental for the entire story of salvation. In the poverty of the grotto of Bethlehem, she gives the Redeemer to humanity. The Queen, God’s masterpiece for humanity, is a miracle of listening and humility. She is with Jesus and introduces Him among men. She is with Him in His infancy and youth. She accompanies Him to the wedding in Cana. We find her on Calvary in vigil with her Son in the moment of His passion and death. Finally, after the resurrection of Jesus, she is with the Apostles to give support to the first Church. Father Kolbe takes inspiration from the example of Our Lady to be more convinced and fervent in his own discipleship. He is attentive to the events of Mary’s earthly existence, because he wants to understand and actualize in his own life the secrets of her holiness. Furthermore, he welcomes with great faith the wonderful gift that the Lord gives us of His own mother on Calvary. Saint Maximilian teaches us to “live Mary,” that is, to make sure her virtues shine in each one of her children. The Virgin helps us to always adhere to the will of God, to cultivate an immense faith in Him. She teaches us to “stay with Jesus.” We can do so through prayer and spiritual communion with Him. She shows us how to face our moments of the cross and how to enter a path of resurrection.

Saint Maximilian understands and teaches that, besides praying to Mary, it’s fundamental to admire her in her earthly journey, to “grasp” by her life the aspects that characterize true discipleship. The example of the Virgin is most precious to each member of the MI, called to claim as one’s own the virtues of the Mother of God. The events in the life of the Immaculata don’t represent only episodes of the past that we encounter at times in the liturgy, but they are a true “mirror” in which to see how to grow in holiness of life. It’s what Kolbe, by his life, teaches us today. Whoever is inspired to follow the journey of the Polish Martyr, is called to discern how to make shine the attributes of Mary in his or her personal experience of faith.

For Reflection

Let us make the most of the Rosary: it is the prayer that nurtures one’s contemplative dimension, because it “opens” one to meditation on the reality of man’s salvation, on the mystery of Christ, on the Immaculata’s maternal mediation, on her availability to cooperate in the plan of salvation, on the role of the Church, called to evangelize and to transmit with its testimony all this prayer contains. Saint Maximilian often recollected himself to pray the Rosary and make his the attributes of the Virgin. It isn’t just about praying, but learning the way of holiness of the Immaculata.

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

Editorial*(Cont. from pg. 1)*

In that most stirring of passages, he enumerates with inspired words the various spiritual armor and weapons with which we must arm ourselves. Please take a minute to look up this passage and drink it in. This is the very spirit that inspires our very own St. Maximilian to describe what a Knight of the Immaculata must do as preparation for both prayer, first, then mission. The foundational prayer for the Knight is the morning consecration prayer. It is an act of filial knighthood to serve the Queen beneath her standard at the dawn of day. This prayer sets the tone of service the Knight's daily actions and opens them to the guiding hand of the Queen always in the direction of God's will, which is her will, to the ever widening Kingdom of the Heart of Her Son. One could say that this consecration is the new form of the Knight's life characterizing everything in his or her life revealing her virtues and her person.

Next in the "armory" of the Knight is the Holy Rosary. St. Maximilian described this devotion as the Knight's sword. We see in his writings—"A prayer both simple and sublime that the Immaculata herself indicated when she appeared in Lourdes is the Holy Rosary. May it become the sword of each knight of the Immaculata, just as the Miraculous Medal is the bullet that strikes down evil." (Kolbe Writings, 1088).

Who would go into battle, daily life, without sword and bullet!? Providentially, this year also marks the Centenary of Our Lady's appearances at Fatima. She asked many, many times at Fatima that

the Rosary be said for poor souls in Purgatory and for peace. She identifies herself at Our Lady of the Rosary. The daily Rosary is the Immaculata's wish, for the Knight our command. The Miraculous Medal bullet is not only the external sign of our consecration but the source a many graces. The prayer that surrounds the Medal and amended by St. Maximilian is the constant invocation to the Immaculata as the Mother of Mercy to save souls by her intercession.

So, in this meditation, we are partially suited up in our spiritual armor and have taken up the arms at our disposal. In our next meditation, we will look at several other "weapons" in our prayer arsenal. Note well that this is serious business... being a Knight of the Immaculata.

Arise, let us be on our way!

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!

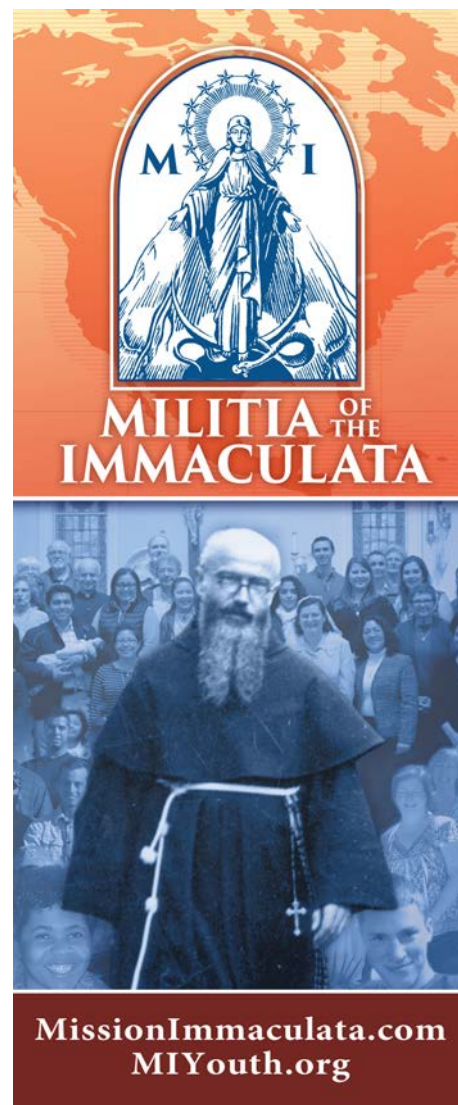
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is now in print!

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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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