



*Elizabeth Mary Satoko Kitahara:
The first MI lay person declared Venerable*

Painting by Geoff Butz

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)

September 2017

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IN THIS ISSUE

Living the Mystery of the Eucharist: “To Become What We Eat”

By John W. Galten, MI National President

Dear Knights of the Immaculata,
Maria! Last month we discussed St. Maximilian’s love and devotion to the Holy Eucharist in order to gain some clues as to how we might, as Knights, imitate our founder. Clearly the Eucharist was at the heart of his spiritual life. Why? Because it is the sum total of the riches of the Church—the Presence of Christ. We want to pose a question: How did this devotion translate into the daily life of the Saint contributing to his sanctity?

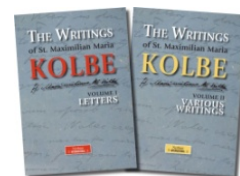
Let us begin with a quote from the Holy Scriptures: “For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from Whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of His glory He may grant you to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, rooted and grounded in love, may have power to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses all knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” (Eph 3:14-19) St. Paul in his prayer accurately describes for us the Presence of Christ living in the soul of the Catholic who has worthily received Holy Communion. This stupendous source of unlimited grace now must be put, we might say, to “good use.” How? Undoubtedly Saint Maximilian prayed and meditated on these graces and lived in the light of these gifts.

Now the Eucharist became the form of his daily life—grateful love (Eucharist=thanksgiving).

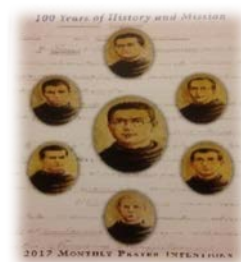
(continues on pg. 7)



Local MI Centennial Celebrations
& National Pilgrimage to Italy



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



Reflection on September
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 to 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. A reasonable distance to an airport of some size would be a great bonus.

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.
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



MI leaders around the country are 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

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

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.

* See dates and details on pg. 7

October 10-19, 2017

MI members from around the country, accompanied by John Galten, MI National President-

USA, will be on pilgrimage to Italy and participate in the three-day 100th Anniversary MI International Celebrations organized by the *Militia of the Immaculata* International Center. Our Pilgrimage Chaplain will be Fr. Stephen Boyle, O.Praem.

As part of the pilgrimage, we will visit the cell where the MI was founded on October 16, 1917. *Send your prayer intentions to be entrusted to St. Maximilian at this special place.*

Elizabeth Mary Satoko Kitahara: The first MI lay person declared Venerable

As we approach the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Militia of the Immaculata, let us discover a fellow MI member, whom we may imitate in living our total consecration.



On Tuesday, January 13, 2015, the Ordinary Assembly of Cardinals and Bishops of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints voted favorably to approve the heroicity of virtue of the Servant of God, Elizabeth Mary Satoko Kitahara.

Satoko Kitahara was born into a Shi family on August 22, 1929, in Tokyo. Raised in pre-war Japan, she began university studies after the war ended amidst a rapidly evolving society. She initially bumped into Christianity by chance, but afterwards she was greatly influenced by various consecrated people. After attending catechism classes, she was baptized at the age of 20 and received the name of Elizabeth and, at Confirmation, Mary. She came under the influence of Friar Zeno Żebrowski who had come to Japan with St. Maximilian Kolbe and, after the war, committed himself to help destitute survivors.

Like him, Elizabeth Mary also devoted her life to those in need, in particular the children of the rag-pickers living in “Village of Ants” (Arinomachi). She settled among them and gave herself without reserve, to the same life of total consecration and privation.

Elizabeth’s story has moved many generations of Christians in Japan and around the world. It shows the depth of her conversion, which led her to share the life of the least in her society. Her story has been told in a Japanese musical which was broadcast all over the world.



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With the consent given by the Special Congress of the Theologian Consultors on last June 1, and today’s approval by the Cardinals and Bishops, Pope Francis’ approval is all that remains for Elizabeth to be declared “venerable”. Following an eventual miracle to be obtained through her intercession, she would be declared blessed. Elizabeth Mary Satoko Kitahara is the first Japanese Servant of God recognized for her heroic virtues. All others declared up to now, blessed or saints, have been recognized as martyrs.

Friar Angelo Paleri, OFM Conv.
Postulator General



To Our Heavenly Mother on Her Name Day

In preparation for the feast of the Holy Name of Mary, September 12, St. Maximilian offered the following prayer published in the September 1932 Rycerz Niepokalanej magazine (KW 1165). The short article must have been written between July 16 and 18, 1932, since the Angkor ship, which Fr. Maximilian was on, made the crossing from Saigon to Hong Kong at that time (see the closing words, following the signature; see also KW 991 G, dated July 16–18). This brief text is a vivid testament of his passionate dedication to Our Lady translated into sacrificial love in order to win for Christ through her “every heart that beats on the whole terrestrial globe.”

What am I to wish you, what can I wish you? I would like to gather as much as possible the sweetest greetings to make you happy; but I do not know what and how to do it, so... I remain dumb...

O Immaculate Mary, I wish you—but you already know what I wish you from the bottom of my heart, the bottom of my poor heart—all that your heart desires; I wish you everything that Jesus wishes you, your divine Son, your true Son, who loves you infinitely; I wish you what your divine and virginal Bridegroom, the Holy Spirit, wishes for you; I wish you everything that the Heavenly Father and the Most Holy Trinity wish for you.

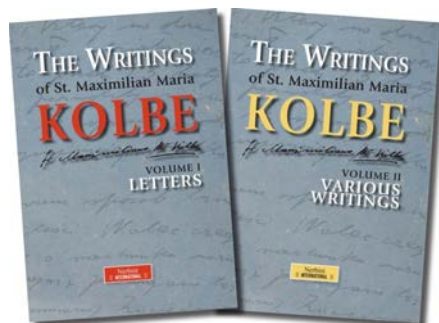
What am I to wish you more, my dearest Mother, my only hope? I wish you everything that my poor heart, with your help, wishes, can wish, or could wish... What am I to wish you more, my Lady, Lady of earth and heaven, Mother of God

Himself? Anything I can say is little and limited, but it pleases you: I wish you to take possession of me, as soon as possible and in the most perfect way, and that I may do the same with you. So much the sooner will I be truly yours, without limits, unconditionally, irrevocably, forever; and you mine. And I wish that you take possession, in the same way, of every heart that beats on the whole terrestrial globe, in the whole universe, and this as soon as possible, as soon as possible, as soon as possible; I wish that you possess all hearts, together and individually, of those who will live in the future, from the very first instance of their existence for ever. What more shall I wish you? ...I do not know...

M. K.

Away from homeland, between Saigon and Hong Kong, between Annam and China, amid the foaming waves of the rough sea, scorched by the heat: for you.

**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.**

MI PRAYER OF TOTAL CONSECRATION TO THE IMMACULATA

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.

**Let us renew our
consecration daily,
especially on Our Lady's
feast days, to stir into flame
our devotion to Her.**



West Coast MI Centennial Celebration, West Covina, CA, August 12, 2017

Co-sponsored by the Fr. Kolbe Missionaries of the Immaculata and the MI National Center, this Centennial Celebration was held at St. Christopher Catholic parish, in West Covina.

John Galten, the MI National President, welcomed by a joyful family atmosphere, addressed the audience with a very motivational talk on the urgency to missionize and evangelize our culture.

As members of the MI, we are to strive for holiness of life and thus be generous and enthusiastic instruments in Our Lady's hands with the boldness, authenticity and passion of St. Maximilian. A vital and dynamic spiritual life is to be the source of our witness everywhere we may be.



The celebration culminated in the public veneration of St. Maximilian's relic and the Holy Mass in his honor, presided over by Fr. Hildebrand Garceau, O. Praem.,

during which a group of people made their consecration and enrolled in the MI.



*We are grateful to acknowledge that **OUR SUNDAY VISITOR Institute** helped to underwrite the MI Centennial Celebrations.*



August 15, 2017 Solemnity of Our Lady's Assumption

A Consecration Ceremony was held at St. Emydius parish, in Lynwood, California, following consecration preparation offered in Spanish by Ada Locatelli, FKMI.



**Attention MI Members!
Promote consecration to Our Lady in your parishes!
Call the National Office for support and material.**

NEWS from the MI International Center Rome

The MI International President, Fr. Raffaele Di Muro, OFM Conv., recently visited the MI in Luxembourg, Czech Republic, and Poland.

The movement is very active and dynamic in these European countries and contributes to the new evangelization in the spirit of St. Maximilian.

In the near future, an elective National Assembly will be celebrated for the first time in the Czech Republic.



MI leaders in the Czech Republic

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The MI International is happy to announce that the English version of its official website is now live. You may find it at the following address: www.mi-international.org/en or by clicking on the EN flag (top right) of the Italian website.

Through the English version of its website the MI International aims to reach many more visitors around the world, given the widespread popularity of the English language. As St. Maximilian Kolbe teaches us, we must have no limits in our love and desire to communicate. We extend a special "Thank You" to the MI-USA for sponsoring and supporting the realization of this project and to our experts, Graziano Meneguzzo and Laura Magni, who made this wonderful development technically possible.

Reflection on the September MI Intention

O Immaculata please intercede that the MI may communicate to all people the precious value of your presence in the life of each and every person.

We read the words of Fr. Kolbe: “The power of the Immaculata is the power of God without limitation, because she is without stain, and her power extends over all things, like the goodness and power of God. Therefore, prayer is powerful, in fact boundlessly powerful when it appeals to the Immaculata, who because she is Immaculate, is almighty Queen even over the Heart of God.” (KW 1302)

Apart from his strong theological beliefs regarding Mary’s maternal mediation, Maximilian weaves with the Mother of God a relationship of filial love, that invades his soul and gives him strength and determination in the journey of union with the Most High, and in his being an apostle of the Kingdom. Like the Immaculata, he is assured of being in the plan of God, and he wants to walk with joy and the availability of Mary herself. He strongly feels Our Lady’s loving presence in his life and entrusts himself in everything to her, especially in the moments of “darkness” that, as we shall see, make more precious the mystical dimension of his spiritual life.

In turning to the Virgin, the faithful receive abundant fruit for their spiritual journey. In fact, she

sustains those who invoke her in trial and in temptation. She intercedes with the necessary graces for personal sanctification, guides with her example and her maternal help for a greater love for God and neighbor. Praying to Mary means to entrust ourselves to her for the realization of one’s sanctification, allowing her to guide us to an always deeper communion with the Lord and to a greater Christian perfection. “What great echo does the mere invocation of ‘Mary’ – perhaps with a soul steeped in darkness, dryness, and even the misfortune of sin – produce in her Heart that loves us so much.” (KW 509)

Striving for sanctification means to undertake a journey of constantly overcoming one’s fragility and temptations. This allows the person to weave with God a relationship of profound love which bears great interior peace and spiritual strength on the road to eternal beatitude. Saint Maximilian reveals himself a true prophet. By way of his writings, the spoken word and his life, he instills courage in the companions of his journey, helping us persevere and remain determined to reach a state of continuous conversion. It’s fundamental not to harbor sentiments of sadness, but to walk in faith, certain of the loving presence of the Most High and the sure knowledge of the care and constant intercession of the Immaculata, who takes care of man’s heart and striving for perfection. Even falls and uncertainties can become a reason for interior growth, if we have limitless trust in the sanctifying

action of God, through the mediation of the Virgin. From this certainty is born Father Kolbe’s courage, as well as the counsels that he paternally bestows.

The entire spiritual life of the Polish Martyr is marked by a penitential spirit characterized by his desire to better his heart, his spiritual journey, himself, and a firm will to overcome his human fragility, seeking a continual growth in being a gift to others. His spiritual life is a continual ascent, a constant purification, in imitation of Christ’s love for all humanity and the beauty and purity of the Immaculata. His interior battles are determined by his desire for an ever more profound communion with our Lord, Whom he wants to love with all his strength and serve with every means.

For Reflection

Kolbe teaches that the relationship of the believer with the Immaculata must be something vital, fundamental in the journey of faith.

This bond with Mary allowed the Saint to engage in a journey of sanctification ending in martyrdom. The MI and each of its activities are, in fact, based on the certainty of Mary’s presence. We are called to transmit the beauty and the importance of the Virgin’s role in the centennial journey of our association.

Kolbe was fully convinced that to know Mary meant to learn to know and love Jesus better.

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

Editorial

(Cont. from pg. 1)

He would not be like the nine cured lepers in the Gospel who did not return to Christ out of gratitude to thank Him for the deliverance from this terrible disease.

St. Maximilian's prayer, assisted by his consecration to the Immaculata, guided him to explore the full extent of Christ's love for him and for us. We can surmise that this is the formula for sanctity.

The Immaculata and her Spouse the Holy Spirit collaborate to create through grace and intercession the likeness and conformity to Christ promised in the New Testament. In our prayer life we must beg that we receive this sensitivity to the work of these Two who team up to remind us of the Presence of God in our life, being always attentive to those promptings, taking advantage of all those actual graces and the Holy Spirit's gifts attending those who pay attention.

St. Thomas Aquinas makes the following comment: "By sharing in God's life, we start to see and evaluate everything as if through His eyes" (*In Boeth. De Trinitate*, qu 3a.1.) The created Immaculate Conception and the Uncreated Immaculate Conception (Kolbe's terms) work to give us the mind and Heart of Christ. This gift conspires to convert us ever more deeply to being Christ in the world because we have in the Pauline sense, "put on Christ" and have the "mind of Christ." Thus we "become what we eat," that is Christ, for it is no longer I who live, St. Paul says, but Christ. To know this reality of the Christ, the Eucharist, we must meditate on these truths and beg the Immaculata in our daily consecration to appreciate these mysteries.

Christ does not wish to hide Himself but to reveal the unsurpassed riches of Himself. To see Him is to see the Father! Praised be Jesus Christ!

In the Immaculata,

John W. Galten
MI National President



LOCAL MI CENTENNIAL EVENTS

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.

Where:

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

Houston, Texas

Sunday, October 15, 2017
@ 2:20 p.m.

Join us for a special day of celebration of the 100 years of History & Mission of the Militia of the Immaculata with our guest and national speaker Rich May Presentation "Foundations of Marian Consecration in the teachings of St. Maximilian Kolbe" begins at 2:35 p.m.

3:30 p.m. Confessions

4:00 p.m. Holy Mass

Celebrated by MI Member Priest Fr. Alvaro Interiano Consecration and Enrollment in the MI following Sermon

Where:

Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish
1731 Blalock Rd, Houston

RSVP:

www.midomusmariae.wordpress.com/current-events/

**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!**



MI Updates & News

Update concerning the East Coast Centennial Celebration

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

*Are you interested in hosting a show of *Maximilian, Saint of Auschwitz* at your parish during this MI 100th anniversary? It's very easy and affordable. Contact Saint Luke Productions at 360-687-8029.

News from Utah

MI Families: We celebrated the 100th anniversary of the founding of the MI in August with a consecration preparation class followed by a Rite of Total Consecration and reception on Sunday, August 13th.

Flame Keepers Village (men): We had our annual men's retreat in Idaho, during which 18 men made their total consecrations to the Immaculata in the Spirit of St. Maximilian Kolbe.

We studied Vinny Flynn's book *Seven Secrets of the Eucharist* and had our largest turnout yet with 48 men, 18 years of age and older.

Youth Ministry Village: We will begin regular meetings again at the end of the month for youth 12-17 years of age.

Daughters of Mary Village: We will meet twice this month due to Labor Day weekend.

Spanish Village: A statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe is taken into the homes of parishioners each week. We, also, have a village banner that was made in Mexico.

- Donna Masek



The Miraculous Medal 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 enemies of Holy Church and all those recommended to you.

Would you like more information about the Blessed Virgin Mary and total consecration to her?

MILITIA OF THE IMMACULATA
MI NATIONAL CENTER - USA
P.O. Box 7645, Libertyville, IL 60088
MINational@MissionImmaculata.com
MissionImmaculata.com - MIYouth.org

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



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