

# THE MISSION OF THE *Immaculata*

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Photo by F.G.V.

## Going Deeper into the Heart - II

By John W. Galten, MI National President

Dear Knights of the Immaculata,

Maria!

As I write this message to you, I am still basking in the glorious light of the Lord's Resurrection. I am still experiencing the joy of the Easter Vigil of Holy Saturday night and the full splendor of that excellent liturgy, the words of the sung *Exsultet* liturgy resounding in my memory: "Let this house rock with joy" for He has risen! I hope this was your experience and that it continues to be.

We continue our consideration of the path to the Sacred Heart of Jesus to Whom we have pledged to spread His Kingdom. How so? We pledge it every day in our renewal of Total Consecration prayer.

Last month we considered how the obstacle of exterior noise has seeped into the consciousness of our souls, preventing the peace that comes from His presence. Now, we consider another obstacle to the interior growth of the Kingdom, namely, "activism."

"Activism" is that temptation by which we Americans are uniquely tempted—the almost total giving of ourselves over to a compulsive and exhaustive dedication to good exterior works alone. Often this activism causes us to neglect prayer and family, in the relentless effort to "do." We must take heed of how often Our Lord took time to break away from His punishing schedule of preaching, teaching and working signs to pray to His Father, often spending all night in communion with the Father. His example teaches louder than words.

Of course, there is our work of the apostolic mission and our duties to our state in life, which we are bound to obey. However, we must also carve out a

(continues on pg. 2)



*"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)*

**Editorial**

(cont. from pg. 1)

regular rhythm of our daily time for prayer. Hopefully, these times will broaden to enable us, as St. Paul says, to “Pray always.” It is possible to see in all things and circumstances of life the working of God and to give Him glory and praise. This can be done and God wishes this gift for us, but we must make time for Him in prayer. Only then can we, by a gift of the Spirit and the Immaculata, see Him everywhere. All of creation testifies to Him.

It is most helpful to recognize something about ourselves that St. Elizabeth of the Trinity, O.C.D., calls to mind: “We exist for the praise and glory of God.” So be it.

Our own patron saint, St. Maximilian, uses the very practical example of “oil” to an “engine” analogy about grace, the Sacraments, and prayer. “On the other hand, we see that the motor weakens when it is not properly serviced, or if the oil is removed or exhausted. For a while, it seems to go on its own strength, but in the end it stops. The soul, if grace be lacking, immediately begins to weaken and finally dies.” St. Maximilian is so clear, so uncompromisingly simple.

So, *pray your re-consecration daily with sincerity*. Punctuate the day (noon and night) with a rhythm of prayer. Ask for the gift of prayer always. Resist the temptation of banishing prayer in favor of mere activism.

Until next month, “Arise, let us be on our way.”

John W. Galten  
MI National President

P.S. Don't forget to promote our MI Newsletter! Use it for your ongoing formation and for your MI Village's gatherings!

**Daily Holy Mass will be offered throughout 2019 for the MI-USA and all MI Members at the City of the Immaculata established by St. Maximilian Kolbe near Warsaw, in Poland.**



**Send your prayer intentions to be placed in the MI Book of Intentions at the feet of Our Lady and St. Maximilian Kolbe's first class relic:**

[PrayerRequest@MissionImmaculata.com](mailto:PrayerRequest@MissionImmaculata.com)

**Have you considered hosting or promoting consecration classes in your parish? Please contact the MI National Office and request resources and assistance! Do not be afraid to take initiative...! Our Lady will open doors if we trust her.**



Dear Knights,

Maria! I traveled to Marytown, the National Shrine to meet with the new Rector, Fr. Benedict La Volpe, who hails from far away Australia. We had a most cordial and delightful visit and shared our mutual love for both the Immaculata and her beloved MI. The visit paved the way to future collaboration and combined apostolic efforts to promote the MI and the Faith. I had the benefit of hearing Fr. Benedict preach several times and I was edified in every instance. I am overjoyed at the prospect of future combined actions to restore all things in Christ through the Immaculata. The picture of Father and myself with the tapestry figure of St. Maximilian between us speaks louder than reams of words on paper. May it continue to be so! All praise to the Immaculata and her Resurrected Son.

**John Galten**  
MI National President

As the new Rector and Guardian of the National Shrine of St Maximilian Kolbe at Marytown, I have been slowly trying to get my bearings being in a new ministry in a new country! I have spent the past 14 years in two parishes in my homeland of Australia, and was very excited to have been asked to come to Marytown to take the reins, so to speak, and take a leap of faith and trust, and I am so glad that I did!

As the Rector and Guardian of the National Shrine of St. Maximilian Kolbe I believe in the importance of the Shrine in being a major promotor and witness to the MI. I made my total consecration in the MI back in 1994!

With this conviction, I was very excited to welcome Mr. John Galten, the MI National President, to Marytown the weekend of April 13 and 14. I had been in contact with John since my arrival at Marytown back in September 2018, and finally we were able to get together, all for the Immaculata!

John and I spent a good deal of time speaking about our mutual love for the Militia of the Immaculata, for St. Maximilian Kolbe, and for the need for Marytown to be a continued center for promoting this love for the MI. The Conventual Franciscan Friars at Marytown are all of one heart and mind regarding the role of the MI in encouraging “all people of good will to develop a trusting relationship with Our Lady. The aim of the MI is to win the whole world for Christ through the Immaculata, Mother of God and of the Church” (from the MI Mission Statement). I am hopeful of the continuing cooperation between Marytown and the MI here in the USA, a cooperation that will further enhance our mission in building up the Kingdom of God.

Ave Maria!

**Fr. Benedict M. La Volpe, OFM Conv.**  
Rector and Guardian of the National Shrine of St. Maximilian Kolbe at Marytown



# Growing in Faith through Marian Consecration

*A testimonial by MI member Daniel Colby.*

I consecrated myself to our Mother the first year I entered seminary formation at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio. In my spring semester, I went through St. Louis de Montfort's *True Devotion to Mary* and sealed my consecration on the Solemnity of the Annunciation. My first year of belonging to her has been tremendously fruitful and joyful. I have been inspired to devote prayers and sacrifices to her, to cast my thoughts up to her during the day, and to meditate on her life. I am going deeper into the power of the Rosary with Pope St. John Paul II's *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*. The Immaculata is leading me to live more simply, to give myself to others more willingly, and to spend more of my time in the chapel in front of Our Lord. She has been slowly but surely leading me to trust her in every area of my life, especially in how I use my time. Our days at seminary are quite rigorously scheduled with set hours for prayer, classes and mealtimes. However, I was still accustomed to being master of my free time outside of the requirements of the *horarium*. But the more I learned to listen to Our Mother, the more I have been willing (with copious infusions of grace) to put aside my own plans and go where she guides me. While giving up control of my daily agenda has been painful, she has shown me that I can still do everything I truly need to do if only I put her guidance first and follow her path.

Where I would normally spend lots of time checking email or news, I am now interacting more with the seminarians, faculty, and maintenance staff at the Josephinum. When I would normally burn through the hours (over) preparing for classes and finishing assignments days in advance, I now try to put work aside and do my daily devotions on her schedule instead of mine. The Immaculata has also shown me how many habits and routines I accumulated over the years that were really

self-serving instead of God-serving. She has shown me how I tend to seek escape in personal hobbies when I should be spending time in the chapel; She has shown me how I tend to seek escape in the chapel when I should be spending time developing relationships with my brothers. Reflecting on my first year consecrated to the Immaculata as her devoted son



*“How many souls can she save in the future if we are willing to follow her guidance? Through my consecration to Mary and our work in the Militia of the Immaculata, I hope to share her with everyone I can for the rest of my life.”*

and slave, I see how much I have grown from who I was before I came into the Church, and I also get a sense of how much further I have to go. But I trust that if I focus on living with Mary and Jesus one day at a time, there will be nothing to worry about.

We started a chapter (that is, a Village) of the Militia of the Immaculata at the Josephinum during the 2018-2019 school year. Every meeting we read from St. Maximilian's writings and other Marian readings, sparking deep spiritual reflection on Our Mother's life and her role in salvation history. We have hosted special Rosaries for the seminary community, such as the Franciscan Crown and the Seven Sorrows of Mary.

Just before Easter break we held a multi-lingual Rosary to take advantage of the many nationalities among the members of our chapter. We led the seminarians in decades of the Rosary in Italian, French, Spanish, Igbo and Japanese, each starting with a reflection on a Marian apparition particular to that culture. I never expected to see so many of our brothers enthusiastically attempting to speak Japanese or Igbo, but there is something about being united in prayer to Our Lady that helps us come out of ourselves.

Another part of our Village's apostolate is distribution of Miraculous Medals. I sent several dozen with my Christmas cards to my Presbyterian and Evangelical friends and family. Once I overcame my initial hesitation at passing out religious articles to strangers, I was willing to give the medals to people I met on the streets, in grocery stores, and even at polling stations. The most touching encounter I had was in a nursing home during the weekly Communion call visits for our pastoral ministry. One of our regular elderly clients, Patrick, had a non-religious roommate named Chester who was usually barely conscious and incoherent. However, after giving some medals to Patrick during one visit, Chester sat up and managed to communicate that he wanted a medal as well. We helped him put it on and we shared the Miraculous Medal prayer with him. This was our only significant interaction with Chester during our months of ministry, and we learned on a subsequent visit that he had passed away. Because of those brief moments of encounter and grace, I know that Our Lady is taking care of him in eternity.

How many opportunities like that have we let slip by? How many souls can she save in the future if we are willing to follow her guidance? Through my consecration to Mary and our work in the Militia of the Immaculata, I hope to share her with everyone I can for the rest of my life. And I trust in the words St. Maximilian spoke to a visitor to Niepokalanów: “If you belong to the Immaculata, my son, you will be happy – so very happy!” ~



# MI Young Adults at Notre Dame University in Action

Ave Maria! The NDMI has been abundantly blessed this school year! The Notre Dame Militia of the Immaculata (NDMI) is the local chapter (that is, Village) of the Militia of the Immaculata (MI), a worldwide movement within the Catholic Church founded by Saint Maximilian Kolbe in 1917. The main goal of the NDMI is to promote and enrich devotion to Mary in her identity as the Immaculate Conception while promoting the Catholic identity of the University of Notre Dame. Father Sorin wrote that he “dreamed of building a great university in honor of Our Lady,” and we continue his vision by honoring her and her special relationship to Christ.

We started off the fall semester with gameday Grotto evangelization. Many visitors to campus came to visit and pray at the Grotto before Notre Dame football games and members of the NDMI distributed Miraculous Medals and rosaries to them. We also took prayer intentions and had some incredible conversations with the visitors about the role Mary has played in our and their growth in faith by leading all of us to Jesus! We collaborated with ND Campus Ministry to help run a “Confession Stand” where various priests on campus heard confessions of visitors for several hours on gameday! What an awesome opportunity to share the message of God’s mercy! We also partnered with Saint Paul Street Evangelization to host an evangelization training and learn how to be more effective and bold in our evangelization, in the spirit of St. Max, on campus and beyond!



In September, we also made a pilgrimage to the National Shrine of St. Maximilian Kolbe at Marytown for a time of prayer and commu-

nity. We were blessed to hear from two of the friars on the topics of prayer and contemplation and Mary and the Church, attend Mass, tour the St. Maximilian Kolbe museum, share a meal with the friars and pray in the adoration chapel.

We also organized Marian consecrations for the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. Each semester we run information sessions on Marian consecration, facilitate small group discussion, and plan the consecration Mass. We usually use *33 Days to Morning Glory* by Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC, for our consecration preparation, but we added an option to use St. Louis de Montfort’s preparation for those students who were renewing their consecrations too. The time of preparation was abundantly blessed!

Over Christmas break, a group of NDMI members were able to attend the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS) SEEK 2019 conference in Indianapolis in January with 17,000 other college students. It was a very inspirational and impactful time of formation and prayer for all of us!

Many NDMI members also traveled to Washington, D.C. for the March for Life along with nearly 800 other Notre Dame, Saint Mary’s College, and Holy Cross Students!

We were blessed to kick off our Lent (and Spring break) by attending one of Fr. Michael Gaitley’s Mercy and Mary retreats when he visited South Bend. Since we all make our Marian consecration using his book, Fr. Gaitley’s work has played a huge role in our group’s growth in understanding Marian devotion and the gift of entrusting everything to Jesus through Mary in a Marian consecration.

He gave talks on Divine Mercy, St. Therese and her Little Way, Pope St. John Paul II, and St. Max during the retreat. In his discussion of St. Max’s life and ministry, Fr. Gaitley talked about how Our Lady used St. Max to bring her tender, loving maternal presence to Poland, Rome, Japan, and ultimately Auschwitz. Fr. Gaitley also emphasized and challenged us to embrace the reciprocal nature of the Marian consecration which Kolbe so exemplifies, that is, where Mary brings us closer to Jesus’ pierced Heart, and we seek to console her pierced heart by giving her complete permission to use us as

she wills. Our NDMI group also had the opportunity to meet and receive a blessing from Fr. Gaitley!

For the Annunciation, we organized a Marian procession around campus concluding at the Grotto. It was a beautiful way to honor and celebrate Our Lady!

This spring, we hosted Catholic speaker Derya Little who spoke about her conversion from Islam to atheism to Protestantism to Catholicism and how we can more effectively evangelize. Derya grew up in Turkey and her conversion was greatly impacted by the work of missionaries, so she encouraged us to “aim higher” in our missionary zeal!

As we wrap up the semester, we have a lot in store! We are preparing for more students to make Marian consecrations on the feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel (April 26), we are hosting a two-night movie event to watch Fr. Gaitley’s film “The Second Greatest Story Ever Told” about JP II and Divine Mercy, and we are organizing an all-night adoration vigil running from the vigil of Divine Mercy into Divine Mercy Sunday morning.

As you can see, there is never a dull moment in the NDMI because we are so blessed with so many opportunities to bring the whole world to Jesus through Mary and don’t want to pass up a single chance to reach more souls! Although we have many larger events, our smaller weekly meetings and times of prayer where we work toward furthering our own formation and conversion are also crucial as a means to receive the necessary graces and encouragement to be able to devote ourselves fully to our mission with utmost zeal. At our weekly meetings, we invite fellow students, priests who work or study on campus, seminarians, visiting sisters, professors and community members to give talks about various aspects of our Catholic faith, with special focus on evangelization and Marian devotion. After our meetings, we always pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet and eat dinner as a group to build community. Outside of meetings, several of us gather to pray a nightly Rosary at 11pm at the Grotto too! Having a community of accountability and support is such a gift and helps us stay focused on our mission to bring the whole world to Jesus through Mary! Please keep us in your prayers and be assured of ours! Ave Maria!

Mackenzie Kraker



# I Owe St. Maximilian My Life!

by Antonella Di Piazza, FKMI,  
MI National Coordinator

As I serve at the MI National Center, I have the privilege to talk or to exchange correspondence with many people and MI members from across the country. When we converse, often I share that I belong to the Fr. Kolbe Missionaries of the Immaculata, a community of consecrated laywomen that started within the Militia of the Immaculata in my hometown, Bologna, Italy. I thought it would be appropriate to introduce myself to all of you who receive this newsletter and to give credit to St. Maximilian for the gift he has brought into my life. In fact, I often say that I owe him my life!

I became acquainted with Fr. Maximilian Kolbe and the MI in my parish at the age of nine, and I can say he introduced me to Our Lady who, in turn, introduced me to a personal relationship with her Son, Jesus... and the adventure of a lifetime began! I clearly recall, as if it were yesterday, the very first MI gathering I attended, with over 500 children from the nearby towns. On that day, during Holy Mass celebrated in the magnificent St. Francis Basilica, a Fr. Kolbe Missionary received the Crucifix and the mandate to set out on mission in Argentina. My little heart was truly set on fire. "I want to be a missionary like you!" I told her. Wisely, she invited me to pray, to be obedient to my parents and teachers, to stay close to Our Lady, and to be open to the gentle voice of the Lord...

Even though I participated regularly in MI retreats and events, I went through the ups and downs of a typical

teenager, but eventually the inner quest to discover God's plan for my life began to make itself felt... The way of life of the Fr. Kolbe Missionaries of the Immaculata attracted me deeply. It spoke to me of Our Lady's life—a life totally consecrated to the Lord, immersed like leaven in the midst of His people, "in the world but not of the world," as Jesus instructs (cf. Jn 17), called to proclaim and give witness to the life-changing message of the Gospel in union with her.

After the years of discernment and formation, I made my profession of vows just a week before the glorious day of St. Maximilian's canonization October 10, 1982.

My first missionary assignment abroad brought me to the United States, as a member of our missionary community in West Covina, California, ministering to families, youth, the sick, and MI members at large. Upon returning to the Institute's motherhouse, in Bologna, Italy, I was entrusted with various assignments until the summer of 2006, when I received one more gift: the call to be stationed in St. Maximilian's homeland, at the St. Maximilian Kolbe Retreat Center in Oswiecim, near the very place of his martyrdom. Eventually, I came back to the United States, honored to serve the Militia of the Immaculata nationwide and to promote total consecration to Our Lady, which is the very core spirituality of our missionary life, the treasured gift we wish to share with everyone! ~

## Bringing Mary's Joy into the World

By Fr. James McCurry, OFM Conv.

When you see a Franciscan with a rosary suspended from his cord, you may notice the rosary does not have the customary five decades, but has seven. That rosary is known as the Franciscan crown of Our Lady's seven joys. In the joy-filled spirit of St. Francis of Assisi, the followers of the "Poverello" love to honor Our Lady and particularly to meditate upon her seven joys.

An Italian Franciscan who found great joy in meditating upon Our Lady's joys was inspired by her to found a new community in the Church that would bring Mary's joy into the world in a new way. This Franciscan, Fr. Luigi Faccenda, OFMConv. (1920-2005), then MI regional director in Bologna, Italy, founded during the Marian Year 1954 a secular institute of consecrated laywomen, the Fr. Kolbe Missionaries of the Immaculata, who received pontifical approval from Pope St. John Paul II, in 1992.

In St. Maximilian Kolbe's writings and example, Fr. Faccenda had discovered an insight about Our Lady that he wanted the whole world to see and understand. St. Maximilian's insight was that Mary is a real person whom God wants to be personally involved and incorporated into every dimension of life in the world and that she is God's instrument for transforming the world into the home that Christ wants it to be. Therefore, Fr. Faccenda founded a secular institute that would be a "corporate Mary," a "collective Mary," a visible presence of Mary. He wanted this community of consecrated laywomen to resemble Our Lady so closely that when people looked at them they would see the Mother of Jesus.

Why did he establish a secular institute rather than a religious institute? Simply, because Mary was a laywoman who lived a consecrated life in the secular world and who, after Christ's Ascension, gathered around herself a community of believers. Fr. Faccenda wanted to let the world see and learn the lesson that Mary, the laywoman, taught those believers who flocked around her: the joy of consecration and discipleship that God still wants Our Lady to bring into the lives of today's believers.

(Cont. on pg. 8)



**Please, keep my sister Fr. Kolbe Missionaries and me in your prayers, and ask the Lord for many generous missionary vocations. Thank you!**

# Reflection on May MI Intention

O Immaculata please intercede that consecration to you may give Christians inspiration and strength in supporting the Church.

“Let it be done to me according to your word” (Lk 1:38)

Mary was chosen to be the Mother of Jesus and she represents the community of the new covenant, the Church. She responded to God’s invitation with the complete giving of herself. Her response is an act of availability, consent, obedience, and above of all faith and trust in God. Only one who surrenders totally to God expresses the assent to the covenant with Him.

The Blessed Virgin Mary replied with determination and her “fiat” manifested her continued assent to the Divine action and its consequences. Our Lady uttered her consent on behalf of all of humanity. Therefore, we, Knights of the Immaculata, shall join her in giving the Lord our firm and complete response so as to live with her in the dynamism of the Kingdom of God.

Our Lady’s unwavering voice will sustain ours as sometimes we feebly respond to God’s designs. St. Maximilian Kolbe believed consecration to the Immaculata fosters a total dedication to God: “Consecrate oneself totally, with boundless confidence to the hands of Divine Mercy, whose personification, by the will of God, is the Immaculata. Not rely on oneself but rather be afraid of oneself, trusting without limits in her and turning to her as a child to his mother every time one feels impelled to evil. No fall shall occur then. The saints say that he who prays to the Divine Mother during temptation certainly shall not sin. And he who turns with confidence to her for a lifetime will certainly be saved” (KW 1100).

As the Annunciation was the Lord’s gift of love toward all of mankind, so accordingly our consecration to the Immaculata embraces all our brothers and sisters. “I wish you to win as many souls as possible for the Immaculata, for this is our life, our breath, every beat of our hearts: to consecrate ourselves to the Immaculata more and

more, without limit, unconditionally, irrevocably, and impress this dedication of one’s self in the hearts of everyone, all over the earth, so that she can freely direct our hearts and the hearts of all those who live in the world” (KW 326).

The Incarnation took place in simplicity and humility, but this Grace should not remain hidden! Through her Yes, Our Blessed Mother opened the door of the world’s salvation, and we, who belong to her, wish to bring salvation to everyone, all over the world. That is the purpose of the MI. In his apostolic exhortation, *Gaudete et Exsultate*, Pope Francis writes: “This is a powerful summons to all of us. You too need to see the entirety of your life as a mission. Try to do so by listening to God in prayer and recognizing the signs that He gives you. Always ask the Spirit what Jesus expects from you at every moment of your life and in every decision you must make, so as to discern its place in the mission you have received. Allow the Spirit to forge in you the personal mystery that can reflect Jesus Christ in today’s world” (n. 23).

May our total consecration to the Immaculata be our life venture, our way to respond to the Lord’s voice and to embrace the Kingdom of God with ardor, always and everywhere.

(From the MI International Office)



**2019 MI  
Intentions  
leaflets are  
available  
in English  
and Spanish**

**Request them from  
the MI National Office**

**Invite Everyone to Be  
Consecrated to Our Lady!**



**Behold Your Mother:  
The Path to Total Consecration  
to Our Lady in the Spirit of  
St. Maximilian Kolbe**

This beautiful 56-page booklet may be used individually or as a group activity (in a parish setting, for example), or as a series of classes led by a facilitator, or during a day of preparation for MI consecration to Our Lady. If you can offer a series of meetings, you can read each chapter with the group and invite the participants to reflect and comment on it. Alternatively, you can invite them to read each chapter beforehand and come together for discussion.

Many people have expressed the desire to promote total consecration to Mary in their parish and local area. **The Path to Total Consecration** offers you an effective tool for making that possible!

The suggested donation for multiple copies of the new booklet is \$2.00/ea. plus shipping; for a single copy, the suggested donation is \$3.75 shipping included.

Order copies today from the  
MI National Office:  
MINational@MissionImmaculata.com  
Or call:  
331-223-5564



## The Life of the Trinity in Man and Mary, Mediatrice of All Graces

At the urging of his superiors, St. Maximilian Kolbe began to draft a book on Our Lady. Due to his arrest, he was unable to complete it.

Our Heavenly Father is the first principle and ultimate end of all. Human language and the intelligence of man, in an altogether inadequate fashion, endeavor to think and to talk of God by borrowing their concepts from the environment that surrounds them. Those concepts are imperfect, yet they are truthful. From divine revelation, we know that from eternity and for ever the Father begets the Son, while the Spirit proceeds from the Father and from the Son. This life of the Blessed Trinity resonates, in the most diverse and innumerable echoes, in the creatures who emerge from the hands of the One and Triune God, in the form of more or less distant semblances to Him. The universal principle according to which each effect is similar to the cause, has its full application here too, and it is an application even more strictly due to the fact that God creates out of nothing; anything that exists in creation, then, is all His work.

From the Father, through the Son and the Holy Spirit, descends every act of God's love: creative acts, acts that maintain existence, acts that give life and its growth, according to both the order of nature and the order of grace. Thus, God bestows love on His innumerable finite semblances; and even creation's reaction of love does not ascend to the Father except through the Spirit and the Son. That does not always occur in full awareness, yet it always truly occurs. Only God and no one else is the creator of the act of love of creatures, but if one of these creatures is endowed with free will, such an act never occurs without his or her consent.

The highest manifestation of the love of creation returning to God is the Immaculata, the being without stain of sin, all beautiful, all God's. Not even for an instant did her will move away from the will of God. She has belonged always and freely to God. In her there takes place the miracle of God's union with creation. To her, as to His bride, the Father entrusts the Son, the Son descends in her virginal womb, becoming a son to her, while in her the Holy Spirit prodigiously shapes the body of Jesus and comes to dwell in her soul. He

permeates her [the Holy Spirit] ineffably that the definition of "Bride of the Holy Spirit" is but a distant semblance of the life of the Holy Spirit in her and through her. In Jesus there are two natures (the divine and the human) and one sole person (the divine one), while here there are two natures as well as two persons, the Holy Spirit and the Immaculata. Yet, the union of the divinity with mankind surpasses all understanding.

From the moment such a union took place, the Holy Spirit grants no graces, the Father, through the Son and Spirit, infuses no supernatural life into the soul except through the Mediatrix of all graces, the Immaculata, with her consent, with her cooperation. She receives all the treasures of grace in property and distributes them unto whom and to the extent that she herself wants.

Jesus, the Son of God and Son of man, the God-Man, the Mediator between God and mankind, is the fruit of the love of God and of the Immaculata. As the Son from eternity is, so to speak, the mediator between the Father and the Spirit, so Jesus, the Incarnate Son, has become the direct mediator between the Father and the Holy Spirit—quasi incarnate [quasi incarnatus]—[that is,] the Immaculata, Representative, Spiritual Mother of all humanity. In no other way than through her does the love of the creatures reach Jesus and, through Him, the Father. The creatures are not always aware of this, and yet this is always the case.

In practice, souls will appeal directly and with full liberty both to the Immaculata and to the divine Spirit, both to Jesus—Eternal Word and to the Heavenly Father.

Yet, the more keenly a soul understands that all acts of love are addressed to the Father, who is the ultimate goal, and that in the Immaculata such acts take up an immaculate purity—while in Jesus they obtain infinite value worthy of the Holy Majesty of the Father—the more it will blaze forth with love for Jesus and Mary.

The soul offers to the Immaculata its acts of love, not as an object delivered to any mediator, but in property, in full and exclusive property because it understands that the Immaculata offers such acts to Jesus as though they were hers; that is to say, she offers them to Jesus without stain, immaculate. Jesus then offers them to the Father.

This way, the soul becomes more and more of the Immaculata, just as the Immaculata is of Jesus, and Jesus is the Father's. And since life within the Most Holy Trinity consists of the ebb and flow of love, so it is also between the Creator and the creature who returns to the Creator, from whom it had come.

(KW 1310)

## Official Act of Total 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.



## Bringing Mary's Joy into the World

(cont. from pg. 5)

My earliest impression on meeting my first Fr. Kolbe Missionary of the Immaculata was the joy of her soul that reflected Our Lady's joy of the *Magnificat*. The Fr. Kolbe Missionaries of the Immaculata are laywomen consecrated in their poverty, chastity, and obedience as was Mary and are dedicated to practical works of discipleship and evangelization, gathering people and teaching them the joy of loving Jesus the way Mary did. Our Lady still wants to be a leaven in our secular society to

transform it from within and to spark it with God's inflaming love.

The Fr. Kolbe Missionaries of the Immaculata were founded to be that yeast, to be that spark, and to resemble Our Lady individually and corporately in such a way that we can see Mary, the laywoman, transform the world through their ministry and life. Our Lady was an instrument of joy, the joy that became incarnate in the God-Man. Throughout her life she continued to serve as an agent of joy, because she was full of grace. Our world today, more than ever, is joyless: we see con-

flict, division, and hatred. Our Lady, the Cause of our Joy, leads her children to the Source of her joy and ours: the Holy Eucharist. The Fr. Kolbe Missionaries of the Immaculata, in imitating Our Lady, follow her example and guidance by centering their lives around the Holy Eucharist where the source of all life, all grace and all joy is to be found.

Jesus said in the Gospel, "Live on in my love.... All this I tell you that my joy may be yours and that your joy may be complete" (Jn 15:9-11). Our Lady was the first to take those words and live them totally. His joy was hers and her joy became full and complete. Through Our Lady, the Cause, the Agent, and the Instrument of joy, may our joy, like hers and through hers, become complete.

Fr. James McCurry, OFM Conv.

**For more information about the Fr. Kolbe Missionaries of the Immaculata, visit [KolbeMission.org/en](http://KolbeMission.org/en)**

**or contact Antonella at [MINationalCoordinator@MissionImmaculata.com](mailto:MINationalCoordinator@MissionImmaculata.com)**

**or the West Covina, California, community [FKMissionaries@gmail.com](mailto:FKMissionaries@gmail.com)**

## My Path to the Immaculata by Gerald Pilley

"What is this religion all about?" I asked myself that question within the first week of being sent to do some reparation work on St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Norfolk, Virginia, a minor Basilica designated a historical landmark.

"What is this?"

I was raised a Baptist, and a nominal Baptist for the most part. We only went to church at Easter, so at 32 years old in 1985, this "religion" was unlike anything I had ever experienced. I had gone to a noon Mass one day at my lunch break and couldn't make heads nor tails of the rituals I had seen and heard, but yet something intrigued me and I knew I wanted to know more.

Fast forward 10 years later... 1995: I still had that desire to know more about the Catholic faith, but procrastination and being busy with a sports career had taken precedence over the curiosity that had stayed with me for 10 years.

I had earned my 1st degree Black belt in Tae Kwon Do in 1980 after 5 years of training and instruction. I had participated in various tournaments including winning the Bronze Medal in the very first AAU Tae Kwon Do State Championships, which qualified me to participate

in the National Championship Tournament, geared toward organizing the first Tae Kwon Do Olympic Team, as Tae Kwon Do was newly inducted into the Olympic Games.

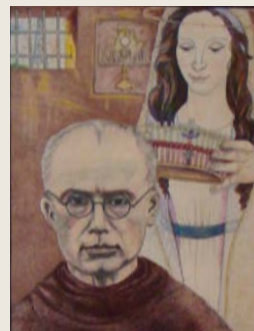
Not being financially able to make it to the Nationals, I focused on Kick-boxing, more violent and more challenging. I ended my career as sparring partner and co-trainer for the four-time World Kick-boxing Champion, who we also got on the under-cards of boxing greats, Evander Holyfield and Pernell "Sweet Pea" Whitaker. After our fighter won two boxing titles and four World titles in kick-boxing, I retired. I had fought 11 fights myself and knew, at 32 years old, I was an old man in this sport.

One day, a friend of mine, whom I was working with, had to take care of some business at lunchtime in Norfolk. Instead of waiting for him in the truck, I asked him to drop me off at St. Mary's, knowing they had a noon Mass... That was the beginning of my conversion and I never looked back.

Here now, at 65 years old, I am a devout Catholic. Once I realized the significance of God's Holy Church, I asked God to allow me, through Him to do what I should have done 10 years earlier:

to bring my family into this truth I had found and waited so long to move on. My Mother converted at 83 years old, and my whole family is Catholic.

Over the years, I have been enlightened and convicted that all blood sport is immoral and I have denounced the fight game and any "sport" that the primary object of the game is to injure another of God's children. I encourage people to embrace truth, love of neighbor, Our Blessed Mother Mary, and God's Holy Church. I became a member of the Knights of the Immaculata in November after doing research on St. Maximilian Kolbe. I have found a more intimate relationship and understanding of the humble role of our Holy Mother in the salvific process. May God bless, and Our Holy Mother intercede, and St. Maximilian pray for us and the MI!  
*Gerard is one of over 1,200 Catholics who enrolled in the MI in 2018. Let us keep all the new members in our prayers that their consecrations may bear great fruit for the conversion of souls. --ed.*





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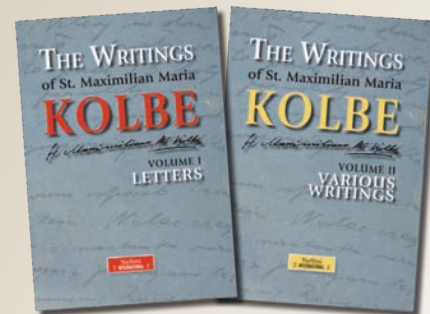
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— Fr. Peter D. Fehlner, OFM Conv.

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*"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