

THE MISSION OF THE *Immaculata* E-PUBLICATION OF THE MILITIA OF THE IMMACULATA, USA

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A Time for Grateful Waiting

By John W. Galten, MI National President

Dear Knights of the Immaculata,

Maria!

We are now immersed in the Holy Season of Advent, that time of year filled with hope, preparation to receive the newborn Savior and the anticipation of the fulfillment of all our hopes and dreams—the Christ Himself. With Mary in her pregnancy we long to see His Face.

In an insistent way, this is the season of gratitude summed up in the plenitude of the Gift Himself. I wish to look not only forward but, for a little while, back in gratitude.

The question is often put to me, “Why Peoria?” The question is a fair one, but it smacks of the assessment: “Why so little, so unknown, in comparison to the larger, more glittering cities?” It is a little like, “What good can come out of Nazareth?”

Well, as part of my gratitude, let us roll up our sleeves and tell this story. The MI badly needed a permanent home and so we went fishing. We put out a call all across America for ideas, perhaps even invitations, to put down our roots. From coast to coast and everything in between, suggestions from thoughtful souls came in. Although all had merit, none quite rang perfectly with the will of the Immaculata. However, one small bell rang insistently and with increasing true-ness—from the center of America in the middle between the coasts. Yes, Peoria. A wonderful priest, Father William Miller, rang that bell with all his might. The Diocese of Peoria was more than welcoming, making available a small house near the Bradley University campus for our use. With great care, they prepared,

(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)

through repair and improvement, the MI National Home that is now known as the Little Garden of the Immaculata after the more famous Mugenzai no Sono, the Garden of the Immaculata founded by St. Maximilian in Nagasaki, Japan.

Bishop Daniel R. Jenky, CSC, has welcomed us with unsurpassed graciousness and has enabled us to work as a national office but also to promote total consecration to the Immaculata in the local area. Several long-time members have stepped up to help with the running of the MI office.

Last, and by no means least, is the knowledge that Peoria is the home diocese of Servant of God Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen. He hardly needs any introduction from me. He is one of the most extraordinary apostles and missionaries of the Gospel on radio and TV while not neglecting thousands of individual talks, retreats and personal contacts. He was for years associated with the Society for the Propagation of the Faith and tirelessly raised awareness of the missions—raising untold millions of dollars and oceans of prayers for the worldwide spread of the Kingdom of God. For me, he was a modern “St. John the Baptist” who prepared the way for the greatest missionary since St. Francis Xavier—St. John Paul II, who embraced Archbishop Sheen with these words: “You have written and spoken well of the Lord Jesus. You are a loyal son of the Church.” This saintly Archbishop had exceptional devotion to Our Lady—writing numerous books on her, visiting Lourdes thirty times, and writing a chapter in his autobiography *Treasure in Clay* entitled: “The Woman I Love.” The MI is honored to be nationally located in the home diocese of the “Apostle of the Airways” so like our own founder

St. Maximilian Kolbe. How about another happy coincidence... his Bishop's motto is “Grant that I may come to thee through Mary”...!

Providentially his day of death is December 9th. Remember him on this important day. Servant of God, Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, pray for the Militia of the Immaculata and inspire us to be the missionaries we are called to be. How about for December spiritual reading you read his autobiography *Treasure in Clay*...? I guarantee that you will be inspired and just maybe get a glance at why the MI is located in Peoria. Pray for his canonization.

As ever, forward, always forward: “Arise, let us be on our way.”

John W. Galten
MI National President

**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

**Daily Holy Mass
will continue to 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, Poland.**



**Join us in prayer to obtain
healing for MI member Mark
Buettner through the inter-
cession of the Servant of God
Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen.**

Mark is a husband and father of five young children. He has a malignant tumor on his pancreas and liver, which has been diagnosed as incurable. Mark wrote: “Pamela and I will be praying to Fulton Sheen asking his intercession for the complete healing of my body. We have been blown away by all the prayers being said for us. Would you join us in this prayer every day and please share it with any and everyone you know? We believe in the power of prayer. A holy man, Fulton Sheen, is in Heaven gazing on the face of Jesus—why not ask him to pray for me to ask God to heal me so that God may be glorified through this miracle?”

Eternal Father, You alone grant us every blessing in Heaven and on earth, through the redemptive mission of Your Divine Son, Jesus Christ, and by the working of the Holy Spirit. If it be according to Your Will, glorify Your servant, Fulton J. Sheen, by granting the favor I now request through his prayerful intercession—for the complete, miraculous physical and spiritual healing of Mark Buettner. I make this prayer confidently through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Purely Fabulous: The God-given Dignity of Being a Woman

By Rev. Edward Ahn,
Priests of the Apostles of the
Interior Life, MI Member



“God created man...male and female he created them” (cf. Gen 1:27).

Gender ambiguity has caused confusion with regard to authentic notions of masculinity, and with it, of an authentic femininity. Women’s liberation or radical feminist movements are misled when they renounce or neglect femininity and seek out a distorted and androgynous form of it. Authentic “women’s liberation” consists in embracing the unique God-given femininity to which He has called women, not merely in settling for certain prerogatives of their male counterparts. Radical feminism often manifests a certain masculine aggressiveness which betrays the beauty and gracefulness characteristic of women. Perhaps this “aggression” is a reaction to the stereotypical notion of women perceived as being “weak.” If this is the case, I wholeheartedly agree that women, like men, are called to manifest strength, for “God did not give us a spirit of timidity but a spirit of power” (cf. 2 Tim 1:7). Women are called to be strong, and thus, the first step to promoting authentic femininity begins by doing away with stereotypes that relegate women as weak, passive, psychologically fragile creatures who need to be rescued at all costs.

Mary of Nazareth is the Woman, *par excellence*, one who expressed authentic femininity in the manner in which God has called all women. We can be certain that Mary embod-

ied characteristically feminine virtues such as: a woman’s intuition and feminine tact (at the Wedding Feast in Cana); joy (Lk 1:47) that takes the form of refreshing optimism, an uplifting smile, and good humor; a hospitality and nurturing personality that would have rendered the family home an oasis and a pleasant environment for her husband and Child.

**“Women, by looking to
Mary, find in her
the secret of living
their femininity with
dignity and achieving their
own true advancement.”**

Pope St. John Paul II

Mary of Nazareth embodies feminine strength. Often, Mary is portrayed as an otherworldly graceful, gentle, and nurturing woman—all of which are true—but these qualities are in no way incompatible with her assertive boldness, unwavering perseverance, and her steadfast and encouraging presence, all of which were on full display in the last days of her Son’s life. Her strength enabled her to boldly accompany her Son in the Way of the Cross and heroically endure three hours under the bloody and violent scene at the Foot of the Cross. Furthermore, Mary is the Woman who crushes the head of the Enemy (cf. Gen

3:15). This is the same Enemy who terrorizes and has frightened many souls throughout human history and who fears no human creature, save one: the Woman. I love the fact that a human creature, a Woman, the Immaculate and Virgin Mary, is the greatest and most feared person in God’s army against evil. In other words, she’s our most feared and powerful warrior!

From the perspective of the natural creative order, receptivity is perhaps the principal characteristic of the female creature: the man is the active agent and the woman is the recipient of the seed. So too, Mary perfectly embodies this feminine receptivity: a hospitable and welcoming attitude, openness, and an active and heartfelt docility. Mary’s virtue of Purity consists in this same receptivity to God and to her neighbor: a perfect and rhythmic “yes” in her life, a perfect assent to God’s love throughout her life. And a natural consequence of Mary’s perfect receptivity is her Beauty. Mary is Beautiful because she responds and loves perfectly. Beauty limited to mere “appearance” is a restricted and very incomplete notion of the term. Beauty, is above all, a moral category, inasmuch as it connotes order and harmony. Any integral and authentic beauty has an inherent order and harmony.

Mary’s Beauty radiates through her incessant “yes” to God in all things (“Fiat voluntas tua,” Lk 1:38), the aesthetically pleasing and melodious tune she offers to Him.

How can women everywhere continue to promote an authentic notion of femininity? Not being a woman, my credibility is limited. Nonetheless, I offer some suggestions as to how to foster feminine virtues. First, as has been discussed thus far, I believe it is important to emphasize that women are called to strength.

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Purely Fabulous: The God-given Dignity of Being a Woman



(Cont. from pg. 3)

Women are called to be strong in the manner that God has called them, according to their uniquely feminine gifts. Knowing that you are called to be strong is uplifting and inspiring, and coincides with the promotion of the dignity of women. Second, I believe it is important for women to be inspired by Beauty: To become increasingly beautiful (aka moral goodness) as a person, you must contemplate Beauty in the created order. We do this by coming face to face with Divine Beauty, meeting God in prayer. We do this by being inspired by Mary and holy women throughout history and in the present day who demonstrate feminine strength and beauty (Catherine of Siena, Teresa of Avila, Therese of

Lisieux, etc.). We do this by encountering Beauty in God's work (the planets, landscape, animals) and in human work (music, poetry, art).

Finally, I believe for women to be authentically feminine, they are called to help men in their own call to be authentically masculine. "God created man... male and female he created them" (cf. Gen 1:27). Because God did not just create one sex or the other, but both, there is an intrinsic reciprocity which is essential to each gender's self-discovery of authenticity. Men have much to learn from women: the prioritization of people over things, of relationships over business (the context of our universal and eternal vocation to love) and the undivided attention, care and listening capacity they have. Women have a pivotal role in bringing out the best in men, in helping them fulfill their potential as men.

Rev. Edward Ahn

(To Be Continued)

"If You Knew the Gift of God" (John 4:10)

"The figure of Mary of Nazareth sheds light on womanhood as such by the very fact that God, in the sublime event of the Incarnation of His Son, entrusted Himself to the free and active ministry of a woman. It can thus be said that women, by looking to Mary, find in her the secret of living their femininity with dignity and of achieving their own true advancement.

"In the light of Mary, the Church sees in the face of women the reflection of a beauty which mirrors the loftiest sentiments

of which the human heart is capable: the self-offering totality of love; the strength that is capable of bearing the greatest sorrows; limitless fidelity and tireless devotion to work; the ability to combine penetrating intuition with words of support and encouragement.

"Woman can only find herself by giving love to others.

"The order of love belongs to the intimate life of God Himself, the life of the Trinity. In the intimate life of God, the Holy Spirit is the personal [substance] of love...Through the Spirit, Un-created Gift, love becomes a gift

for created persons. Love, which is of God, communicates itself to creatures: 'God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit Who has been given to us' (Rom 5:3-5).

"The calling of woman into existence at man's side as 'a helper fit for him' in the 'unity of the two,' provides the visible world of creatures with particular conditions so that 'the love of God may be poured into the hearts' of the beings created in His image."

Pope St. John Paul II
Mulieris Dignitatem,
On the Dignity
and Vocation of Women

Reflection on December MI Intention

O Immaculata please intercede that the MI may be able to communicate everywhere the beauty and importance of your maternity for each person.

When Jesus saw His mother and the disciple there whom He loved, He said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son.” Then He said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his home. (Jn 19:26-27)

As we come to the end of 2018, we are invited to pray for a vital intention for all MI members. Our call to belong totally to Mary, in fact, aims at radiating her maternity wherever we are.

More than ever, our world needs a mother. Confusion, uncertainty, fear, lack of mutual trust... are signs of a void that only a mother can fill. This is true for individuals and families, for countries and the whole world. This is true for each of us, in varying degrees. And yet we have been blessed with the unique grace to live out our daily journey as disciples of the Lord with the Immaculata.

As we grow in our total consecration to her, we experience her maternal presence and, therefore, are called to introduce her to our brothers and sisters, with simplicity and boldness. They have a right to our witness. We cannot keep the gift to ourselves, because Mary's motherhood is literally extended to everyone, as the Gospel clearly shows (cf. Jn 19). As she welcomed the beloved disciple at the foot of the Cross, Mary embraced every man and woman within her maternal Heart so as to accompany each person to salvation and holiness in Christ.

This is the mission of the MI today and everywhere.

We are called to make her maternal presence visible and tangible to men and women of every race, nationality, age and religion, so as to draw all to Christ through her. It is not only a most beautiful task, but also an extremely urgent one. Only the power and beauty of Divine Love can save the world from self-destruction.

The Immaculate Mother of God, the New Eve foreshadowed in the book of Genesis (3:15), intimately united to her Son, our Redeemer, continues the crushing of the serpent's head, also through us, her humble instruments. Our lives and our evangelical action shall unceasingly spring forth from the foot of the Cross. Daily we are to “take her into our home” (cf. Jn 19:27), that is, into our very lives. If we allow her to take up residence into our hearts, she will stir us in the right direction toward our brothers and sisters, whom the Lord places on our paths every day of our lives. There is no place or time we may be prevented from introducing the loving presence of the Mother of God. St. Maximilian's luminous example testifies to that. He was able to transform even Auschwitz into a “maternal home,” as he made Our Lady visible by his humble, sacrificial love.

Let us go out, then, to warm up, illumine and transform our world with the fire of Divine Love, which we receive from the Heart of our Mother!

(From the MI International Office)

Look for the 2019 MI Intentions leaflet in the upcoming mailing from the MI National Office!

NEW MI RESOURCES

New resources to help with preparation for total consecration to Mary and to help with ongoing formation of MI members are ready for broad distribution.



One such resource is just back from the printer—a beautiful 56-page booklet called,

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

This booklet may be used in various ways: 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 Mary.

Call the MI National Office to order copies!

Request this new brochure to promote MI Family Consecration to Our Lady.



Who Is She?

In the Summer of 1940, St. Maximilian drafted some texts *For a Book*. He was not able to complete this project, but these pages reveal his insight into the mystery of the Immaculate Conception.



Who is she? She is nothing in herself, like all other creatures, but thanks to God's work she is the most perfect among creatures. The most perfect semblance of the Divine Being in a purely human creature.

She derives, therefore, from the Father through the Son and the Spirit, as the Creator who from nothing, in the image of Himself, in the image of the Most Holy Trinity, calls finite beings into existence, out of love for His own finite likenesses, which they reproduce.

Beings endowed with free will and reason know and acknowledge their provenance and are aware of having received from God all they are, all they can do, and all they possess at every instant. They reciprocate with love, both for what they have received, and for the fact that He, as infinite perfection, is worthy of infinite love. Consequently, as limited beings, unable to render unto Him infinite love, at least they overcome the constraints and efforts of such love.

The Immaculata never had any stain of sin, which means that her love was always full, without flaws. She loved God with all her being, and love united her with God in this perfect fashion from the first instant of her life, such that on the day of the Annunciation, the Angel could address her saying: "Full of grace, the Lord is with thee" [Lk 1:28].

She is therefore a creature of God, the property of God, the semblance of God, the image of God, the daughter of God, in the most perfect way possible for a mere human being.

She is God's instrument. In full awareness, she lets herself be guided by God. She conforms to His will. She desires only what He wants; operates in accordance with His will and in the most perfect way possible, without the slightest blemish

without any deviation of her will from His. [She is God's instrument] in the perfect use of her faculties and privileges she was granted, in order to carry out always and in all things, solely and exclusively God's Will, out of love toward God One and Triune.

Such love toward God reaches such heights that it produces divine fruits of love. Her union of love with God reaches such point that she becomes the Mother of God.

The Father entrusts her own Son to her, the Son descends into her womb, while the Holy Spirit, from the body of her, shapes the most holy body of Jesus.

Jesus Christ, Man-God, the true God, the second Person of the Most Holy Trinity, is the true Son of her. She is His true Mother. Keeping the fourth commandment, He honors His Mother: He is her devotee. A son never ceases to be the son of his mother, and so Jesus will be eternally the Son of her, and she will be forever the Mother of Him. He will forever be her devotee.

Jesus venerated her from eternity and He shall venerate her for eternity. No one will draw near to Him, will be like Him, will be saved, will be made holy, unless he venerates her: no one, neither angel, nor man, nor other being. She is the Queen of the Universe, Queen of Heaven and earth. In Heaven they all recognize her as their Queen. Hell detests her and trembles before her, while here on earth, how many souls do not yet know her, or know her too little....

At all times, in different locations around the globe are born souls, who, all ablaze with love of her, have kindled such love around them. They came together in order to win hearts over to her more effectively and have consecrated their entire lives to her. One of... these associations is the Militia of the Immaculata.

(KW 1320-1321)

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.

MI Co-founder Declared Servant of God



On October 31, 2018, on the 100th anniversary of his death, Friar Antonio Mansi, OFM Conv., was declared a Servant of God. He was born in London on May 9, 1896, and died at the headquarters of the Seraphic International College on Via San Teodoro al Palatino in Rome.

The decree was signed by His Eminence, Angelo Cardinal De Donatis, the Pope's Vicar for the Diocese of Rome. On October 30-31, to celebrate the news, the Franciscan community of Ravello, the Mansi family, and the ecclesial and civil community commemorated one of the Amalfi Coast's most illustrious sons, Friar Antonio Mansi who, along with St. Max-

imilian Maria Kolbe and five other confreres, founded the Marian movement of the Militia of the Immaculata on October 16, 1917.

In Ravello an exhibition was set up in the hall of the St. Francis library: Writings and Signatures of Friar Antonio Mansi, produced by Friar Francesco Capobianco and Salvatore Amato. On the first day of the celebrations, there was a significantly large representation of the Militia of the Immaculata from Campania and Basilicata, Italy.

A prayer celebration began in the library hall and was continued at the tomb of Friar Antonio. He has been buried there

since 2004, after a long stay at the Verano cemetery in Rome. Now he reposes at the Franciscan shrine of St. Bonaventure in Ravello. Fr. Mauro De Filippis Delfico, MI National Assistant for Italy, led the prayer, while the Most Reverend Angelo Spinillo, Bishop of Aversa, Italy, concluded with a brief meditation on St. Maximilian. A presentation of the book by Fr. Gianfranco Grieco took place.

Fr. Grieco explained the historical, spiritual and cultural motivations of the book and talked about the personality of Friar Antonio Mansi, who deeply deserves to be known and loved. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass was presided over by the Most Reverend Orazio Soricelli, Archbishop of Amalfi-Cava de' Tirreni, Italy.

On October 31, the Minister Provincial, Friar Cosimo Antonino presided over the Holy Mass attended by many relatives of the new Servant of God as well as the faithful of the city of Ravello.

The historic day ended with fireworks. It was a "party in the heavens" for Friar Antonio Mansi and for the inhabitants of the beautiful coast town.

Fr. Gianfranco Grieco
For more information about the Servant of God Friar Antonio Mansi, see the June 2017 e-newsletter at MissionImmaculata.com MI Resources/e-publication archive).

MI Events - Past and Current

Randy, from Colorado Springs, Colorado, wrote: "I wanted you to know that we had a great weekend prior to the feast day of St. Maximilian Kolbe. Over the weekend, we handed out hundreds of brochures and rosary meditations, as well as, over 300 blessed miraculous medals. Here are two pictures of the St. Kolbe table at St. Gabriel's parish in Colorado Springs. I have a few ideas to make it better next year.

Also, as I was putting together the tri-fold display, my mother (an agnostic), texted me a picture and said "Hey son, I found this medal walking, what is it?" It was a Miraculous Medal! I sent her a bunch of information and she is now wearing it!!"

Across the country, MI Consecration classes and ceremonies are being held in conjunction with the Solemn-

nity of the Immaculate Conception. Let us keep in prayer everyone involved in offering the classes and the participants, that all may be totally consecrated to the Immaculata and become generous instruments in her Immaculate hands for the coming of the Kingdom of the Most Sacred Heart in all hearts!



Colorado Springs, CO



Ellicott City, MD

SHRINE OF ST. ANTHONY
INVITES YOU TO

MARIAN CONSECRATION
MILITIA OF THE IMMACULATA

THE MILITIA OF THE IMMACULATA (MI) IS A
WORLDWIDE EVANGELIZATION MOVEMENT FOUNDED
BY ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE IN 1917 THAT PROMOTES
TOTAL CONSECRATION TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN
MARY

Friday, Nov 2nd - 6:30 PM-8:30 PM
Meeting 1 MI Formation

Friday, Nov 16th - 6:30 PM- 8:00 PM
Meeting 2 MI Formation

Sunday, Dec 2nd: 10:00 AM- 3:00 PM
Retreat, Mass and Confession

Saturday, Dec 8th - 12:00 PM- 3:00 PM
Mass, Rosary Procession and Rite of
Consecration

Welcome: 16 yrs old and up

For more information, please contact the Shrine
of St. Anthony at 410.531.2800 or Michelle at
202.670.4907 MICap16670@gmail.com

Free will offering is accepted

MI RESOURCES

Available from the MI National Center



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

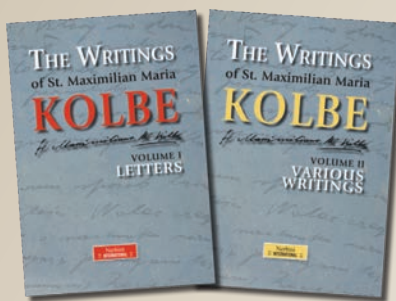
Miraculous medals and various MI brochures can be requested from the MI National Office at 331-223-5564 or via email: MINational@MissionImmaculata.com

The Writings of St. Maximilian Kolbe

VOLUME I: LETTERS • VOLUME II: VARIOUS WRITINGS

The Definitive English Edition!

The Martyr of Charity, St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe (1894-1941), before his death in the Auschwitz concentration camp, had a full and fruitful life. The Polish-born Franciscan Friar had spent the previous twenty-three years as a priest, evangelizer, media mogul, social commentator, missionary and religious reformer. His life's work cut short at age 47, St. Kolbe nonetheless left behind an impressive body of writings. In the 1950s the English-speaking world first began reading bits and pieces of those writings translated from the original Polish, Italian and Latin. Now, at long last, devotees and scholars alike can find the entire wide-ranging array of those writings collected together in a two-volume compendium, published by Nerbini International.



Now Available in e-Book Format!



At long last the complete works of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe in English: accurate, readable and with explanatory introduction and footnotes. Both scholars and general readers will find this edition of the Writings of St. Maximilian Kolbe an inspiring practical aid for learning what this Franciscan saint has contributed to the study of Mariology and living the consecration to Mary's Immaculate Heart. May the translators' work contribute to a renewal of Kolbean studies in the English speaking world.

— Fr. Peter D. Fehlner, OFM Conv

Order e-Book Online at BarnesandNoble.com or Amazon.com.



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Check regularly the MI website **MissionImmaculata.com** for updates, resources, special events and more!

"If you love the Immaculata, if your heart burns with gratitude to her, offer your contribution to this work, according to your capabilities! It is worth making such an effort! The Immaculata will not forget it! May all MI Knights be zealous in winning the world over to the Immaculata!"

St. Maximilian Kolbe