



The Mission of the Immaculata

“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)

December 2016

© OFFICIAL E-PUBLICATION OF THE MILITIA OF THE IMMACULATA, USA

IN THIS ISSUE

The Portrait of a True Knight of the Immaculata

By John W. Galten, MI National President

In the November e-newsletter, I invited all of us to reflect on the meaning of knighthood.

Here is what St. Maximilian says as he encourages us to carefully meditate on the features of the true Knight of the Immaculata.

“He does not confine his heart only to himself or to his family, his relatives, his neighbors, his friends, his fellow countrymen. Rather, along with them he embraces the whole world, each and every person individually, for all were redeemed by the Blood of Jesus without exception. He desires true happiness for all, enlightenment through the light of faith, purification from sin, a rekindling of the heart through love for God, a love that sets no limits. The happiness of all humanity in God through the Immaculata: there lies his dream. *Thus, he is not at all indifferent* to the evil that rages on. Rather, he hates it with all his heart and ... he attacks any evil that poisons the souls of men. *Yet, he does not rely on himself.* He is mindful of the fact that he can do nothing by himself and that whatever he has or he can do, he has from God. And being also aware that the Mediatrix of all graces is the Immaculata—in her he places boundless hope.

“Also, he clearly understands that conversion, sanctification and perseverance in good are *the work of divine grace*. Divine grace is a gift of divine mercy. In the words of St. Bernard, God entrusted the whole economy of grace to his Blessed Mother, the Immaculata. She is unable to abandon anyone, because it was never heard that anyone who fled to her protection was left unaided. Thus, the most direct way to save souls is to urge them to do or suffer *anything*, even the smallest thing, for the sake of the one who, by the will of Almighty God, is the most gracious Queen of heaven and earth. With all his zeal, therefore, the knight of the Immaculata propagates *devotion to her* and filial love toward her.”

Let us consider these powerful words during this Marian season and be ready to live out our Ideal with heroic dedication!



MI International Congress in Fatima



MI News from the West Coast

Our Lady will lead Youth to 2019 WYD in Panama

By Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life

These are the themes chosen by Pope Francis for the three-year World Youth Day journey that will culminate at the international celebration of the event to be held in Panama in 2019:

32nd World Youth Day, 2017

“The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name” (*Lk 1:49*)

33rd World Youth Day, 2018

“Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God” (*Lk 1:30*)

34th World Youth Day, 2019 (Panama)

“I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word” (*Lk 1:38*)

The spiritual path indicated by the Holy Father continues the reflection that started with the last three WYDs (2014-16) when the themes were



next three WYDs. At the same time they give a picture of young people on a journey between the past (2017), present (2018) and future (2019), inspired by the three theological virtues of faith, charity and hope.

focused on the Beatitudes. As we know, Mary is the one that all generations call blessed (cf. *Lk 1:49*). In Pope Francis’ prepared address for the meeting with WYD volunteers in Krakow, he spoke of the disposition of the Mother of Jesus and described her as a role model to be imitated. While speaking without notes on that occasion, the Holy Father invited young people to have *memory of the past, courage for the present and to have/be hope for the future*.

The three themes announced above are intended to give a clear Marian tone to the spiritual journey of the

For info about MI Youth & Young Adults visit:

MIYOUTH.ORG

Check the MI official Facebook page:
Mission of the Immaculata



The MI International Congress (October 28-30, 2016) marked the beginning of the celebrations of the Centenary of the Founding of the Militia of the Immaculata (1917-2017) and took place at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima, Portugal. A sign of the historic relevance of the event was the participation of

MI International Congress in Fatima

by Fr. Raffaele Di Muro, OFM Conv., MI International President

representatives of MI National Centers and the Definitory of the Order of the Franciscan Conventual Friars. The Minister General, Fr. Marco Tasca, invited all to value the precious legacy that Fr. Kolbe left behind.

MI Delegates from Spain, Brazil, Poland, Italy, Croatia, Portugal, the U.S.A, and the Czech Republic took active part in the Congress, which began with the opening address offered by Fr. Raffaele Di Muro.

He underlined the importance of the community dimension in order to

actualize and pass on to the new generations Fr. Kolbe’s thought and works. The Militia of the Immaculata, in fact, was born of the enlightened minds and hearts of seven young friars and carries in its DNA the missionary thrust and consecration to Mary.

The choice to celebrate this Congress in Fatima highlights a fundamental character of the Kolbean spirituality: the unconditional offering of oneself to the Immaculata through total consecration, as further explained by Mariology Professor Alfonso Langella.

FATIMA MI INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS



Participants joined the Rosary candlelight procession

With Mary, from Mission to Martyrdom: the Secret of St. Maximilian Kolbe

By John W. Galten, MI National President

From October 28-30, I was privileged to attend the 100th Anniversary Congress of the International MI leaders in Fatima, Portugal. This celebration heralds the founding of the MI in 1917 by St. Maximilian, and as God would have it, the centenary also of Our Lady's appearances at Fatima. What a happy conjunction of supernatural events!

The Congress was organized and presented by the International MI Office headquartered in Rome, and led by Fr. Raffaele Di Muro, international President. Leader delegates everywhere from Brazil to Poland were present including the Minister General of the Conventual Franciscans, Fr. Marco Tasca.

The goal of the Congress, it seems to me, was to alert all the Knights of the Immaculata worldwide to these key dates in the history of the movement and the Church. These dates are a cause to renew and re-consecrate ourselves to the work of the Immaculata. In the near future, we shall speak more of this centenary with respect to local MI groups and how we can join this chorus of celebration and joy.

In addition to the very inspiring participation with other Fatima pilgrims, two talks highlighted the Congress. Professor Alfonso Langella

and Fr. Di Muro presented well-received talks on the message of Fatima compared to the MI and St. Maximilian's apostolic mission.

As the U.S. MI National President I took to heart that these messages constituted themes that not only begin the centenary celebration but also are the themes and "marching orders" for our own local initiatives. I had the sense that both the Immaculata and St. Maximilian were speaking in the present time to us through the words of both speakers. Because the talks were extensive and detailed, I will stretch my report over several months of the newsletter.

First, I present the main points of Professor Langella's talk which compared the appearances and messages of Our Lady at Fatima to the aims and goals of the MI as conceived by our founder. The speaker pointed out that there is no direct evidence in the writings of St. Maximilian referring to the appearances at Fatima. So, the speaker proceeded to compare the two events for context and similarity of purpose. The revelation at Fatima contains several references to "consecration."

The first three appearances of the Angel of Peace, the Angel of Portugal, prepared the children for the

appearances and messages of Our Lady. He taught them a reverential attitude in prayer; the centrality of the Holy Eucharist; and the content of new prayer, especially for the conversion of sinners. Mary's appearances confirmed in the children her role as mediatrix of graces, her love for sinners, the need for penance and prayers, especially the Rosary. Prof. Langella pointed out similar themes in St. Maximilian's writings and spirituality.

The children were invited to deliver themselves into her hands...the theme of entrustment or consecration. The angel made clear the connection between Mary and the Trinity, particularly her relationship to the Holy Spirit—a major Kolbean note.

Prof. Langella went on to call to mind Pope Paul VI's letter *Marialis Cultus* and Vatican II's *Lumen Gentium* 6, 7, 24 on themes from the above, especially the universal call to holiness and the laity consecrating the world. As one can clearly see, Prof. Langella proposed an over-arching view of the last century—from 1917 to our contemporary times, tying together themes from Fatima, St. Maximilian and current Church teaching both from the Council and papal writings.

St. Maximilian's Vision for the MI

Part Two

Young Fr. Maximilian was on fire, promoting the MI among his fellow Franciscan friars, university students, lay people and clergy. The following is Part Two of his most powerful talk, given on November 15, 1919 (cf. KW 1248). He spells out the means that we are to employ as instruments in the hands of the Immaculata, both individually and communally, in order to win every heart for Christ through her. Read on and be set on fire!

III. The Means of the MI

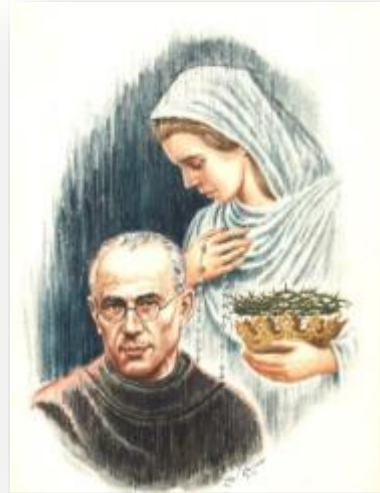
We are instruments in the most loving hands of the Immaculata, and that is the only way we can possibly achieve our ultimate goal: the glory of God, not only a greater glory, but *the greatest possible glory*. All of our concern, therefore, ought to consist in this: to let ourselves be led, so that nothing is done except what she wants and how she wants it.

But how shall we know the will of our Queen and Leader? On this earth, there is only one safe way: *holy Obedience* to the representatives of God, whose will is all the Immaculata desires.

Also, at times we may know her intentions even by means of *inner inspirations*, but on our own we are hardly ever able to be sure that they do indeed come from her and not from our self-love, or from Satan. Because with his angelic splendor, Satan can at times suggest even things that may be most holy in themselves, but are meant for another person,

while God may not want those particular things from us.

So, in that case too, our surest proof is obedience, that is, confiding what we feel in our internal or external “forum” to our Superior and doing what he commands without question. If he forbids, but the Immaculata wants, then she will find a way to achieve her goal, as in the case of the Miraculous Medal. Sometimes God allows such obstacles in order to enhance His own work. However, if the inspiration is not coming from



her, may it quickly fall through! We thus come to know the bidding of our Queen not only through the orders of our Superiors, but also by means of a warrant to act upon our inner inspirations.

Our whole life, every thought, word, and deed are in her hands: let her direct everything as she pleases.

At different times the Most Blessed Virgin Mary has come to the aid of her children and offered them many ways to obtain salvation more easily and the prompt deliverance of others from the yoke of Satan. Now, in the era of the Immaculate Conception, the Most Blessed Virgin has given humanity the Miraculous Medal, which through countless miracles of healing and above all through conversions, confirms its heavenly origin.

As she revealed the Medal, the Immaculata herself promised many graces to all those who would wear it. And since conversion and sanctification are divine graces, the Miraculous Medal is the best means to reach our goal. It is therefore the best weapon of the “Militia.” It is the bullet with which the loyal “knight” engages in battle against the enemy, that is, against evil, thereby saving the wicked.

“And above all the Miraculous Medal.”

On the medal, then, is imprinted the *ejaculatory prayer*: “O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.” The Immaculata herself put that prayer on our lips, by revealing it to us and urging us to recite it. Let us therefore follow this recommendation as well. Moreover, since there are also some who do not have recourse to her, we add: “And for those who do not have recourse to thee.” And because in our time the leader of the non-Catholics, the head of the infernal serpent—we could say—is Freemasonry,

we remember especially those who are seduced by it.

In this way, therefore, every day we launch an attack against the infernal dragon in all its limbs, but especially in its head. We cannot now see the results of this work, or rather of prayer, but after death we shall see how true the words of the Savior are: “Ask and you shall receive” [Jn 16:24]; in this case we can be sure that what we are asking for is certainly not at variance with the will of God.

“Any means, provided it is lawful, that our state, conditions, or circumstances permit, and that is entrusted to the zeal and prudence of each.”

A vast field of action opens up here because our “state, conditions, circumstances” can be quite different and our modes of action quite various.

Modes of Actions

Among the modes of action, however, we may set up two broad categories: *individual* (of a single person) and *social* (common).

In individual work, every single person may do many things, depending on the talent that God has given them and on their ardent, confident love in prayer. Still, there may be a situation that one single person will be quite unable to cope with.

The same happens in prayer: for Jesus Himself stated: “Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in their midst” [Mt 18:20]. With joined

forces, therefore, we can pray and work more effectively.

In this regard, however, the nature of social relations must be different according to the varying “states, conditions, circumstances.” What is common to all is only the striving toward a more perfect and swifter achievement of the purpose, which in our case is the salvation and greatest sanctification of the greatest possible number of souls.

As I mentioned earlier, all means, either solely individual or social, must be used in accordance with *obedience*, which is the only safe criterion, upon this earth, of the Will of God and hence of the Immaculata. “And that is entrusted to each one’s *zeal* and *prudence*” (of course without the slightest obligation under pain of sin), except that in the other world each shall receive a reward according to what we have done.

It is only by leaning on that steadfast rock that we can be as steadfast as God, because we are sure of His Will through the Immaculata. Even if obedience were to say “yes” today and “no” tomorrow, we should do “yes” today and “no” tomorrow.

We will never say, though, that we were wrong in doing things differently before. We shall say that it was good then and it is good now. In the same way, God is immutable, even if He makes rain fall today and not tomorrow.

(to be continued)

NEWS FROM FAR AND WIDE

The MI National Center received by a very circuitous route a letter from a HAM (amateur short wave) radio operator Lloyd Bankson Roach, K3QNT, who along with Dr. Theodore Figlock, W1HGY, co-founded a “Special Event Station” K3M to promote knowledge of St. Maximilian and the MI movement. They have over 500 contacts worldwide. For all you HAM operators, station K3M broadcasts every Sunday on the 75 meter amateur radio band as 3814 KHz. To my complete surprise, Lloyd mentioned that St. Maximilian is the only Catholic saint with an amateur radio call sign—SP3RN! Check it out and pray for their work.

The “St. Maximilian Kolbe Net” website is www.saintmaxnet.org and lists all of the information as to day, times and frequencies.

As we were preparing this December issue, we also received the following email from a fellow MI member about KMMK Radio Station, Coggon/Cedar Rapids:

Dear Friends of Maximilian Kolbe,
We are planning a radio station named after Fr. Kolbe, since he is the patron saint of amateur radio. We have a construction permit for a smaller station, but have just applied to the FCC to make it a strong station (25 kW) and move it south of where we initially applied. It is not on the air yet, but fundraising efforts are underway. KMMK 88.7 FM (NCE). Please pray for this effort. St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe, Pray for us.

Reflection on the December MI Intention

O Immaculata please intercede that the Incarnation and Nativity of Christ may cause us to ponder the mercy of God for mankind and instill in us the courage to look to the future with hope.

All the earthly experience of Christ is the triumph of his merciful love. Saint Maximilian "reads" the way of the Lord among humankind with this special "lens." His Incarnation, public life, passion and death express the infinite love of God for man, manifested in Jesus and poured out over all creation. Here are the touching and significant words of the Polish martyr, contemplating with sublime expressions the divine benevolence.

"Who would dare imagine that You, O infinite and eternal God, have loved me for ages, and more than that, from before the ages? In fact, your love for me exists, as long as You exist as God, so it follows that You have loved me and will always continue to love me!... even before I existed, You already loved me, and precisely because You loved me, O good God, You brought me to existence from nothingness!...

"For me You created the heavens adorned with constellations of stars, for me the earth, the seas, the mountains, the rivers and the many, many beautiful things here on earth...

"As if this was not enough, to show me that You really love me

tenderly, You descended from the pure delights of heaven to this degraded world full of tears. You led a hard life in poverty and suffering; finally, despised and derided, You chose to be hung up on a base scaffold in terrible pain between two thieves... O God of love, You have redeemed me in this terrible but generous way!...

"Who would dare imagine?...

"Alas, You were not content with this, knowing that I would appear here on earth 19 hundred years after this moment of the effusion of Your revelations of love, You have provided even for this! Your heart did not consent that I would be nourished only by the memory of Your immeasurable love. You remain upon this miserable world in the Most Holy and exceedingly admirable Sacrament of the altar, and now You come to me and unite Yourself intimately to me as nourishment... Now, Your Blood already flows into mine, Your Soul, O incarnate God, penetrates my soul, strengthening and nourishing it...

"What miracles! Who would dare to imagine?...

"What could You have given me more, O God, after having offered Yourself to me to become mine?..

"Your heart, inflamed with love for me, suggested to You another gift, yes, yet one more gift!...

"You asked us to become children, if we wish to enter the heavenly kingdom (cf. Mt. 18:3). You well know that a child

needs a mother: You Yourself established this law of love. Your goodness, Your mercy, therefore, created for us a Mother, the personification of Your goodness and infinite love. From the cross, on Golgotha, You offered her to us and us to her... Furthermore,

You, O God of love, arranged to make her the omnipotent Dispenser and Mediatrix of all Your graces: You refuse nothing to her, but neither is she capable of refusing anything to anyone... "Who therefore, will be damned? Who will not reach heaven?" (KW 1145)

Even the Immaculata is an expression of the merciful love of God. He does not limit Himself to saving humanity in Jesus Christ, but He gives us a mother to whom we can turn to in every circumstance of life. In the following prayer, the martyr of Auschwitz expresses his gratitude to the Holy Trinity for the gift of the Virgin Mary. In this prayer is the perception of a triune God, great, infinite, omnipotent, Almighty, who, even so, Saint Maximilian feels close, intimate to his heart. He speaks to God with the familiar "You," with confidence and in a spirit of abandonment, even if he is aware of His grandeur. The intent is to praise and worship God: a prayer of blessing the Trinity and not to ask God favors or graces. He is aware of his littleness before the omnipotence of God, he exalts Him in His work of salvation and for His love for mankind and his journey of sanctity. He expresses his adoration for the gift of the Immaculata, of whom he underlines the work of perfect cooperation in the divine plan of salvation.



For reflection

“I adore You, Our Father in Heaven, because You placed her most pure womb Your only-begotten Son.

“I adore You, O Son of God, for You have deigned to enter her womb and became real, true Son of her.

“I adore You, Son of God, for You have deigned to shape in her immaculate womb the body of the Son of God.

“I adore You, O Most Holy Trinity, one God in the Holy Trinity, for having raised up the Immaculata in such a divine way.

“And I shall never cease, every day, as I wake up from sleep, to most humbly adore You, O Triune God, with my face to the ground, repeating three times: “Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.”

(KW 1305)

(Translation by Ann O'Donnell, FKMI)



MI Local Events – West Coast

CALIFORNIA

Sebastopol

St. Sebastian's Village of the Immaculata

Where: St. Sebastian Church
3rd Sat., 9:30-11:00 am at St. Sebastian Catholic Church, Parish Hall
Contact: John at jwgalten@comcast.net

Modesto

Adult Prayer Village

Where: John Paul II Center, Room 5 of St. Joseph's Catholic Church.
Every 1st Saturday after 8:00 am
Holy Mass

Spanish Village

Where: John Paul II Center, Room 7 of St. Joseph's Catholic Church
Every 1st Sat. after 8:00 am Holy Mass
Both Adult Prayer and Spanish Villages begin with fellowship and light fare followed by the Holy Rosary, Chaplet of St. Maximilian and ongoing formation coupled with discussion.

Family Village

Where: Fr. O'Hare Hall at the west end of St. Joseph Catholic Church campus
1st Sun. following the 9:00 am Latin Holy Mass.
Light fare and fellowship, Holy Rosary and renewal of the consecration as a family, followed by formation for both children and adults separately.
After formation, potluck and family fellowship often laced with songs and games. Closing with Chaplet of St. Maximilian Kolbe.

For Modesto contact:
Suzanne 209-521-8299

Riverside

Holy Cross MI Village St. Therese MI Village Padre Pio MI Village

Contacts: Freddy Solorio at sonofppio@gmail.com and Michael Prosser, mykeprosser@yahoo.com

West Covina

Fr. Kolbe Missionaries of the Immaculata Spes Nostra MI Center

Thursdays with St. Maximilian Kolbe

Read and Share the Kolbe Writings
Every Thurs. beginning
Oct. 6, 7:30-9:00pm

Teens to the MAX

2nd Friday, 6:00-9:00 pm
(from October to June)

MI Women

Scriptural Reading, Sharing and Prayer
Wednesdays 7-8:30 pm
1st session - Dec 7, 14
2nd session - March 8, 15, 22, 29
April 5, 12

Families to the MAX

Dec. 4, Jan. 22, March 26, May 7
Also: Santa Clarita Dates - TBA 2017

MI Spanish Village

First Wed. of the Month 9AM-1PM
October 5 - June 7 (no March meeting)
Lenten Retreat March 11, 2017
Contact: Fr. Kolbe Missionaries of the Immaculata at
FKmissionaries@gmail.com

UTAH

West Haven

MI Family Village

Where: St. Mary's Parish,
West Haven, UT
1st Sunday of the Month 12:30 pm
Contact: Donna at
miutah.stmary@gmail.com

WASHINGTON

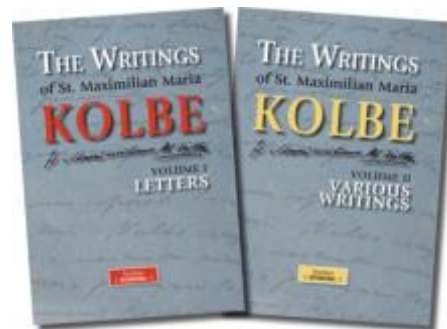
Bremerton

MI Star of the Sea Village

1st Saturday of the Month
Contact: Julie at
julieelkinton@gmail.com

**...Is anything happening in
some other areas on the
West Coast?**

**Did we miss you? Contact the
National Office with your
current information!**



Order your set NOW!
1-800-743-1177

Prayer for the MI Centenary Year

Into Your Hands, Immaculate Virgin!

May you be praised, Immaculate Virgin! You have been the light and soul of the MI during the first one hundred years of its life. In order to follow Christ faithfully, like St. Maximilian, we have contemplated your splendid virtues.

In you we have found the strength to love and have brought the charity of your Son everywhere. You still are our consolation in the trials of our lives. You are our light in our work of evangelization. You are our strength in our journey of faith, communion with the Lord and discipleship.

Into your hands we place again today the journey of the MI present throughout the world, so that it may bring to all people the love of the Lord and the beauty of your compassionate and maternal presence.

May our MI apostolate radiate to our brothers and sisters the mercy of God reflected also in your tender care toward each person.

We shall let ourselves be led by you, most sweet Mother, certain that with your protection we will live according to God's will. May the MI centenary year spur us on to be valiant apostles of God's Kingdom and to experience your support in our ecclesial mission.

O Immaculata, we let ourselves be led by you! Amen.



Check regularly the MI website – MissionImmaculata.com – for updates about the MI Centenary Year. Find reflections, the lyrics and music of the theme songs, 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! Suggest, encourage, persuade. By word of mouth and in writing. 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

The Mission of the Immaculata

MI National Center – USA

P.O. Box 7645
Libertyville, IL 60048

331.223-5564

Support Our Lady's Work
by Helping the MI
DONATE HERE