



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

“The goal of the MI (the abbreviation comes from the Latin *Militia Immaculatae*, or Militia of the Immaculata) is, in fact, to make sure that all become saints. In all this activity, what strikes the eye most of all is its Marian thrust. This is a consequence of a precise understanding of the mission of the Immaculata.” (KW 1220)

FEBRUARY 2017

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Looking into the Future

By John W. Galten, MI National President

Dear Knights of the Immaculata,

Maria! The National United States MI Council met near Guerneville, CA, from Tuesday, January 24, to Friday, January 27, 2017. Although we have been meeting via monthly telephone calls, this was our first face-to-face meeting since June 2016, when we were canonically elected at the first MI Elective National Assembly to serve as your MI National Council. We were honored and delighted by the presence at the Council meeting of Fr. Raffaele Di Muro, the International President of the MI. Also in attendance were Julie Elkinton (Council member), Kit O'Brien (National Secretary), Antonella Di Piazza (National Coordinator), Mike Wick (Vice President) and John Galten (President). Council member Roy Samson (MI Youth and Young Adults National Director) was unavailable because of work commitments.

A wide-ranging series of topics was discussed and action proposed: the location of a permanent home for the National MI Center; the relationship of the National US Center to local, regional and international centers; the rejuvenation of the MI Youth ministry; local and national centenary observances; national US pilgrimage to Italy and Rome for the International Centenary Celebration in October 2017; budget; and development of new MI promotional materials.

Fr. Raffaele presented to the Council two stirring talks responding to our many questions. His answers were most helpful and went a long way toward helping the Council understand its role. Fr. Raffaele impressed us with his wisdom, kind words, encouragement and graciousness.

The MI National Council, through its meetings, liturgy, prayer and friendly exchanges, developed the communion of persons so often highlighted by Fr. Raffaele in his presentations.

More to come on the above in the near future.

Arise, let us be on our way!



“Why an MI Village?”
News from and about MI Villages



MI Centenary Celebrations
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Reflection on February MI Intention

Open House and Office Blessing MI National Center



Saturday, February 11, 2017
Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes
Santa Maria del Popolo Parish
Mundelein, Illinois

Come celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes on Saturday, February 11, 2017, by attending the Open House and Blessing of our new, temporary National MI Office located at Santa Maria del Popolo Parish in Mundelein, Illinois. Since our relocation, the Immaculata has been assisting us in equipping

the new temporary office to serve MI members better around the country. We are so grateful for your prayers and support!

2017 is the centenary of the MI movement. You are invited to visit the MI National Office and discover how Our Lady and St. Maximilian Kolbe might be asking you to participate in the work of conversion and sanctification of souls! Invite your family and friends to attend too.

Date: Saturday, February 11

When: 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm
3:45 pm Blessing of the MI Office
by Fr. Gerald O'Reilly
5:00 pm Parish Mass
(optional)

Where: MI National Office-USA
Santa Maria del Popolo Parish,
(lower level of Parish church),
40 N. Seymour Ave., Mundelein,
IL 60060

RSVP by calling 331-223-5564 or email:
minational@missionimmaculata.com

A SPECIAL REQUEST

To carry out Our Lady's vision and mission in spreading the Gospel of Jesus, the MI National-USA is in need of reliable transportation. **The donation or the temporary use of a car** would be a great blessing. The vehicle will be used by MI National Office staff and for transportation of supplies to MI locations and events.

May Our Lady and the Holy Spirit be your guide in giving: "He who is generous will be blessed" (Proverbs 22:9). If you have a vehicle to donate, please contact the MI National Office at 331-223-5564. *Thank you!*

For info about the MI Youth & Young Adults visit:

MIYouth.org

Check the MI official
Facebook page:
[Mission of the Immaculata](#)



To commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the MI, there will be three main Centennial celebrations across the country, on the East Coast, in the Midwest and on the West Coast.

MI Centennial Celebrations Announced

Dates and detailed information will be posted as soon as possible on the MI website: MissionImmaculata.com and in the upcoming E-Newsletter.

October 11-20, 2017
MI National Pilgrimage
to Rome

We will participate in the International Centennial Celebration with MI members from around the world. Information about the pilgrimage will be available on the MI website and in the upcoming E-newsletter.

August 7-18, 2017
Franciscan Pilgrimage to Rome
and Poland
For information contact Pat Tours,
West Springfield, MA
E-mail: info@pattours.com

Local Celebrations

MI Villages and individual MI members are encouraged to find ways to celebrate this special anniversary! Consider sponsoring the powerful play on St. Maximilian by Leonardo Defilippis. Please visit www.stlukeproductions.com

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

By John W. Galten, MI National President

The October MI International Congress held in Fatima highlighted the path for the MI journey during the 100th anniversary year and beyond, especially through the International President's opening address.



The Content of the Mission

What is the mission about? Kolbe preaches Christ Jesus, the whole of His life teaching; and the saving event of His mystery. This kerygmatic teaching, this announcing of Christ makes up the core of His teaching. Not far from and linked to the preaching of Christ is the role of Mary in Salvation—her virtues, model of discipleship, entrustment to her as a privileged way to union with Him. Fr. Kolbe spoke of her person and role in salvation history, the plan of God, because many do not know her. Fr. Raffaele stressed John 19: “This is your mother,” as the heart of Kolbean teaching. St. Maximilian preaches about her from his own experience of her—his protection by her, and he is secure in her presence. His call proceeds from his own personal sanctification and results in apostolic success, ending in the courage and love revealed in his martyrdom at Auschwitz.

St. Maximilian's missionary call is deepened by his conviction in the constant effort to conquer every heart for the Immaculata. Our Marian entrustment heals our

weakness and results in her triumph.

What is hurting the MI is the mistaken belief that we need a charismatic leader to effect the missionary work. St. Maximilian relied on communities of friars and others to further the work. He always worked with others. This is his genius from which we must learn. Even in the starvation bunker, he created community in prayer and mutual support.

St. Maximilian was attentive to the present moment—signs of the times. He sought always the opportunity afforded by the moment. To this trait, he added creativity, seeking new opportunities, using his intuition and organizational skills that lead to concrete action.

For the MI to be revitalized to fulfill its mission, we must rediscover *prayer* and *entrustment/surrender*. By these means we will realize that there are no limits to our apostolate—it must happen everywhere, anytime, and in every situation. All our gifts and talents, indeed everything, can be used to contribute to the mission.

Seen in the above light, Kolbe's martyrdom is the fullest extent of

his spirituality, his missionary, Marian mysteries, his strategy, if you will—the total sacrificial gift of self to others. Take note, St. Maximilian was at Niepokalanow three years from 1927 to 1930, after which he moved on to bring about entrustment/consecration and communion of persons everywhere possible. Today's MI must commit itself to understanding him, St. Maximilian, his spirituality and his strategy for spreading this Marian community of persons. We must deepen it in ourselves and our times—and strategize on how to communicate the vision and actuality of the message. We must ask the question, “What do the Immaculata and the Holy Spirit want *us* to *do*?”



St. Maximilian's Vision for the MI

Part Four

The following is the closing segment of the powerful talk given by young Fr. Maximilian on November 15, 1919 (cf. KW 1248). He concludes his presentation inviting us to lift our hearts and contemplate the sure rewards that the Lord and Our Lady have in store for us, if we are but ready to desire and love without limits...!

V. Our Reward

In order to draw us ever closer to Him and encourage us to work, at times God, in His infinite goodness, lets us taste here on this earth a bit of that happiness, the fullness of which will be our crown. By devoting all our strengths to responding to God's grace as faithfully as we can and to spreading the glory of God in ourselves and in others through the Immaculata, we shall sometimes experience the joyful *peacefulness* of the child who, abandoning himself unreservedly in the hands of his own mother, worries about no thing and fears no thing, confident in the wisdom, goodness, and strength of his good parent. At times, a storm will be raging around us, lightning will strike, but, consecrated unreservedly to the Immaculata, we will be certain that nothing could possibly befall us, as long as our excellent Loving Mother does not allow it, and we will rest pleasantly as we work and suffer for the salvation of souls. At other times sore trials will come heavily upon us, but the grace of God will warm our hearts, kindling them with such love that we shall burn with a desire for suffering—suffering without reserve—for humiliation, ridicule and oblivion. Thereby we will have a chance to prove our love toward the Father, toward our dearest friend Jesus, and toward His most beloved Mother, the Immaculata. Suffering is, in fact, a school: the nourishment and strength of love. "Afflicted, yet always rejoicing" [2 Cor 6:10]. There is a life spent for an ideal. Then, even if a whole army of bitterest enemies were to plot against us on one side, we will also find *true friends* on the other, joined to us with sincere love in the

unity of a common ideal. They will comfort us in sadness and come to our rescue when we fall, so that we never drop our guard but fight on with tenacity and firmness unto death, trusting only in God through the Immaculata.

All this, however, is only a small particle of the reward that awaits us, and it does not accompany us at all times. When our Loving Mother, seeing our weakness, wants to strengthen us, she will send to us, her children, these sweet rewards, which we must accept with the utmost gratitude and humility, in order to get back to work willingly, having been strengthened.

However, we will obtain most graces when, plunged in inner and outer darkness, full of sorrow, exhausted from work, suffering, without consolation, persecuted at every step, in the midst of continual failures, abandoned by all, mocked, ridiculed, alone... like Jesus on the Cross, we endeavor to pray for all, to attract everyone by any means (as Jesus did at the last moment even with the thief) to God through the Immaculata and join them with Him as intimately as possible.

But this life shall pass and then our true reward will begin. Nothing, not even the smallest effort, even the smallest suffering embraced for the glory of God will escape a lavish reward, and that for all eternity... As we can see from history, God will reward not only what we have done, but also what *we would have desired to do*, even though we did not have enough strength to put it into effect. We should desire, then, but desire without limits!... And He, infinite goodness! often enables those who love Him to satisfy their desires, even after death, to take action upon this earth, to pray and work for the salvation and sanctification of souls. ...We also may entertain the hope that, if we now emulate holy people

who died in recent times, we shall burn with the desire to save souls, and after our death the Immaculata will fulfill her work still using us. In fact, only then will we be able to comfort the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus much more than we have done on this earth, where, as we hold out a hand to others, we must be careful lest we fall ourselves.

We should not grieve too much if we cannot see the fruits of our labor on this earth. God's will may be that we collect those fruits after we die, or that someone else should see them in this world. Our first reward, then, is the ready chance *to be able easily to "fish" for souls as effectively as we can, even after death*. And we should also envision how much gratitude shall come to us from all those countless souls to whom we have opened the doors of heaven...! They will be grateful to us for all eternity! ... We will never stop then to pay homage to her goodness, for she deigned to choose us, unworthy, poor and unfit as we are to be her knights and to conquer hearts for her. Ultimately, all the inhabitants of heaven shall lift up a hymn of adoration, praise and thanksgiving to the Heart of Jesus, for giving us such a Loving Mother... Also, He made her so good that she is unable to abandon even the worst of sinners who has recourse to her, and so powerful that even one of her desires is enough to bend immediately God's Infinite Heart. So, together with the Immaculata, we shall all thank and worship the eternal mercy, goodness, wisdom, power and justice of God, as we come to possess the reward that He had promised to us. And then, forming the ranks of her bodyguards, and being very close to God because we are very close to her, we will reach the ultimate goal of the MI, which is the highest possible glory of God through the Immaculata.

(The End)

“Why an MI Village?”

By Julie Elkinton,
MI National Council Member

I have often been asked this question and would like to share with you what I think is a good response. St. Maximilian in his letter to Fr. Florian Koziura on December 2, 1931, discusses the future of the MI and in it details as follows:

“...Since we are to gain the whole world and every individual soul and see to it that in the future no one removes the banner of the Immaculata from souls that exist today and will exist in the future we’ll have to organize, of course. So, I imagine that there will be a time when every soul will wear the Miraculous Medal and belong to the MI-1 (according to the certificate). Beside that groups of MI-2 [villages] will be organized in every locality. They won’t have too many members but those who will belong will be zealous. There will be different groups formed depending on the differing social classes, conditions and circumstances to be dealt with. Their aim will be to do within the limits of their ability what we in the City of the Immaculata do without fixing any limits. We dedicate our whole life to that cause only, whereas they have other worthwhile aims also.”

In an MI Village those who have consecrated themselves to Jesus through His mother Mary in the MI will come together, as the Apostles in the Upper Room did, and with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit continue to pray, praise, learn and give thanks to God. This is done with others who wish to consecrate themselves whole-heartedly, forming a community of souls committed to a common effort. An MI Village is missionary/apostolic prayer group of the faithful inspired by and meeting under the patronage of a canonized saint, St. Maximilian Kolbe, whom St. John Paul II called “A sign and prophet of the new era, the civilization of love.” An MI member who wishes to start an MI Village is to contact the MI National Center to register the new Village by submitting the MI Village registration form. Once approved, what happens at an MI Village gathering? The National MI Center promotes a format suggesting the following:

Part One

- Invocation of the Holy Spirit
- MI Consecration Prayer

Part Two

- Recitation of the Rosary (or one decade)

Part Three

- A reading from the Writings of St. Maximilian Kolbe and/or from the MI Monthly Intention Reflection
- Individual reflection on the readings

Part Four

- Intercessory Prayer and Thanksgiving
- MI apostolic discussion (optional)

Part Five-Closing

- Miraculous Medal Prayer

Sharing refreshments, socializing and in general building up the community is highly encouraged.

In our local MI Village, we use this format and I appreciate it because it really keeps the gathering on task. It also prevents the gathering from being ambushed with current events or personal agendas. We can focus on Jesus and what He wants us to pray for and learn about. We begin by calling on the Holy Spirit and renewing our consecration. Members have commented that the renewal helps them remember to do so daily. The Rosary is such a beautiful meditation. Even though we meet on Saturdays and the mysteries called for are usually the same, we change them from time to time depending on the needs of the group or a possible feast day. Having the formation material from the National MI Center allows us to explore new material from St. Maximilian’s writings each month. The questions and reflections are insightful and give the group an opportunity to take a closer look at St. Maximilian and the MI movement, but also deeply to consider our own walk with Jesus and how His Mother might be leading us. It helps the group collectively learn and focus outside of self toward the Church and the whole world.

Our intercessory prayer is a combination of petition and thanksgiving for favors granted. Then we sing to Our Lady and recite the final Marian prayer of the Miraculous Medal. We are currently learning the *Salve Regina* in Latin to honor Our Lady.

Before we all go in separate ways, we discuss what some of our apostolic efforts might be for the coming month. We have a few in which we participate as a group, or as many members as can join.

(Continued on p.7)

News about MI Brazil

By Fr. Raffaele Di Muro,
MI International President

The Brazilian reality is a “jewel in the crown” of the MI’s apostolic experience. In fact, our Association has been active in Sao Bernardo do Campo, near Sao Paulo, for over 40 years, with a growing number of members and activities. A special appreciation is due to Fr. Sebastiano Quaglio, OFM Conv., who believed in a Kolbean project in that country, where it took root in a magnificent way. Today, the MI National Center in Sao Bernardo is a true City of the Immaculata, where hundreds of lay people work through the mass media for the spreading of the Gospel and Marian devotion.

Immaculate Conception Radio broadcasts across the country, thanks to several satellite stations. In Campo Grande the MI operates a TV channel, which offers prayer, catechesis, information and formation for the people of God. Additionally, the MI publishes a monthly magazine, *O Milite*, which serves as the voice of the Association along with the latest social media. We may say that the MI carries out a very innovative missionary work, in keeping with St. Maximilian’s dynamic apostolic drive. Many young people belong to the Militia of the Immaculata in this area and are involved in its activities with great generosity, notwithstanding the ongoing financial crisis that the country is experiencing. Kolbean formation is at the heart of every activity in Sao Bernardo, where a permanent call center assists people who call in with questions about the Faith or with requests for comfort in dealing with life challenges. The chapel of the MI Center recently has been erected as a diocesan Shrine and, consequently, welcomes many pilgrims who wish to entrust themselves to the Immaculata and be guided by her in their faith journey.

Another MI apostolic center is in the city of Brasilia, where a “Garden of the Immaculata” was established, responsible for the publication of *The Knight of the Immaculata* magazine, youth activities and a significant Marian apostolate that reaches the Amazonian regions.

The MI-Brazil gives witness to the fact that in the Immaculata’s hands our Association can place no limits in the quality and extension of its missionary thrust.

Reflection on the February MI Intention

O Immaculata please intercede that each MI member may reflect the beauty of belonging to the Immaculata.

Belonging to Mary is truly an immense joy. Her presence fills us with every spiritual grace necessary to our interior growth. Belonging to the Immaculata places us in the condition of experiencing a very important mission: to reach the hearts of our brothers and sisters most distanced from the love of God, to bring them closer to the font of charity, through the most precious mediation of the Virgin herself. Who comes to know her cannot do less than to take on an authentic Christian journey. St. Maximilian thus expresses himself in the Polish *Knight of the Immaculata* in May 1932: “With the act of consecration to the Immaculata we offer ourselves to her as her absolute property. There is no doubt that she is the most perfect instrument in God’s hands, while we, on our part, must be instruments in her immaculate hands. When, therefore, will we overcome evil in the most rapid and perfect way throughout the whole world? When we are going to let ourselves be guided by her in the most perfect manner. This is the most important and only issue. I have said, ‘only.’ In fact, each and every one of us has to be concerned only with this: to harmonize, conform, merge our will completely with the will of the Immaculata, as much as her will is completely united with God’s, and her heart with the Heart of her Son Jesus.” (KW 1160)

Belonging to Mary is, therefore, a very eminently contemplative experience because, through prayer, we experience her love and her intercession for our sanctification. In the Polish *Knight of the Immaculata* of May 1922, Kolbe writes: “The easiest and safest help is, by the will of God, the Blessed Virgin Mary. To her the Holy Church applies these words from Scripture: ‘She will strike at your head’ [cf. Gn 3:15] (that is, that of the infernal serpent), and of her the Church sings: ‘All heresies you alone have destroyed throughout the earth’ [Office of the Madonna]. ‘All,’ then without exception; ‘heresies,’ so not heretics, because those she loves; ‘You alone,’ so she will suffice; ‘have destroyed,’ thus not only weakened them - and all this takes place across the entire globe. The ‘head’ of the most varied members of the infernal dragon is in our times, no doubt, Freemasonry. And she will crush that head. Besides, history teaches us that a conversion hardly ever occurred without the especially notable presence of Mary’s hand. All the saints have held particular devotion toward her [...]” (KW 1007)

Who belongs to Mary has the urgent purpose to introduce her to many of our brothers and sisters in difficulty and offer to them the importance of the love of the Immaculata and a journey of continuous maturity in the faith. Kolbe word’s, taken from the Polish *Knight* of January of 1924, help us still: “Our goal, therefore, is ‘to engage in the work of converting sinners, heretics, schismatics, etc.; but above all the Freemasons, and

through the mediation of the Immaculata.’ Consequently, the essence of the MI consists of the total offering of ourselves, without limitation or condition, to the Immaculata as her property, so that she may do with us what she likes and act, through us, in other people.” (KW 1046)

Belonging to the Immaculata deeply touches the life of Maximilian. He teaches that belonging to her means, above all, to imitate her virtues and to entrust ourselves to her maternal and loving protection. The entrustment to the Immaculata represents the summit of a relationship with the Virgin, a relationship that isn’t only devotional, but touches in a very radical way the spiritual life. Love for the Virgin isn’t only a theory. It expresses the greatest trust in her and being assured that her tender support and her loving guidance will accompany the believer to the fulfillment of the will of the Most High. On the other hand, every member of the MI must give the utmost attention in developing all that he can regarding asceticism, offering a splendid testimony of commitment and willingness in the service of the Lord and the Kingdom.

For Reflection

Belonging to the Immaculata means to experience her tender maternity, which calls us to the values of contemplation. To love the Virgin doesn’t mean to stay inert, rather making her presence a stimulus to take flight on a journey of mission. Love toward Mary and the apostolic dimension are bonded. The MI of today is called, in all its components, to rest its actions on the limitless trust towards the Immaculata who encourages us to seek ever more missionary frontiers.

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



NEWS FROM UTAH

"New life" would be the theme of our February blessings, with the formation of two new parish MI Villages and the wedding of two MI members!

We visited an assisted living home and prayed for the 10 priests and religious who visited our parish during its Annual Vocation Awareness Night.

We now have three MI Villages at our parishes and another Village at Hill Airforce Base was established on the Feast of the Presentation, November 21st, 2016.

We celebrated the Feast of Mary the Mother of God on January 1st. We watched part of the DVD given to us at the MI National Assembly.

We hosted the annual multi-lingual Living Rosary for Life.

We look forward to the annual MI silent, Lenten retreat in March with Father Gregory Dick, O. Praem.

New Villages:

Youth Ministry Village at St. Mary Catholic Church

Meetings: Monday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.

Contact person: Liz Rios

Daughters of Mary Village of the Immaculata

Meetings: First Saturdays of the Month from 7:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Adoration for Vocations, MI Rosary, Communion Service, Fellowship

Contact Persons: Liz Rios and Donna Masek



We look forward to hearing from local groups/villages. Send your updated information, news and pictures by the 20th of the month.

Thank you!

MI Local Events East Coast and more...

New York

Syracuse

Assumption of the BVM MI Village

Contact: Linda Alteri-O'Brien at 315-254-0204

Willsboro

Mother of Mercy MI Village

Contact: Margaret Mary Smith at 518-963-7814 or rmsmith@gmail.com

New Jersey

Belvidere

MI Village

Contact: William Murphy at 201-608-5706 or wmurphyesq@gmail.com

New Hampshire

North Haverhill

MI Village

Contact: Francis Kalil at 603-989-5559

Pennsylvania

Eagleville

Totus Tuus MI Village

Contact: Joseph Valovage at 610-322-0007 or jrvmjm@verizon.net

Carlisle

Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament MI Village

Contact: Mary Stringfellow at 717-701-3789 or mary.stringfellow@comcast.net

Cochranville

MI Village

Contact: James Vahey at 610-869-3296 Or vaheyjnm@juno.com

Virginia

Wake

Our Lady of Fatima, St. Joseph & Infant Jesus MI Village

Contact: Mary Kunzinger at vaprof@earthlink.net

Virginia Beach

Jesus the Light of the World and Our Lady of Grace MI Villages

Contact: Bridget Lukeman at 757-497-284

Burke

Spouse of the Holy Spirit MI Village

Contact: Daniel Sebastianelli at 703-975-5426 or miholyspirit@gmail.com

Idaho

Boise

Our Lady of Fatima MI Village

Contact: June St. James-Pfouts at 208-331-1234 or c-and-c06@live.com

Illinois

Mundelein

MI Adults Village

Contact: Faith Phillips at 847-630-0970 or Sharon Meroni at 847-778-3495

“Why an MI Village?” (cont. from p. 5)

Several of us volunteer at Mary's Place, a community meal prepared by volunteers and supported by a local parish. They serve dinner once a week, and our MI members work once a month, usually the 3rd week. We also help with the funeral committees when a funeral is being hosted and one of our MI members is responsible for organizing and preparing food donations. We have various members involved in lots of community projects and ministries, from a new Catholic High School, Uganda Clean Water projects, men's and women's homeless shelters, RCIA, parish sacristans, etc.

What a “form” might an MI Village take on? Our local Village is a women's only group-by continued request from the membership. I do think we pray differently when it is all men or all women. We hope to have a men's group that our husbands and male MI members can join in. We occasionally have babies and small children in attendance, but we do not have separate activities for them. I think a Family Village would be wonderful to facilitate some of the youngsters needs to pray and be consecrated in due time! This is another hope for the near future. We meet at members' houses and share refreshment responsibilities. At our last gathering, one of the members commented to a new member, “This is not just refreshments, it is a veritable feast!” So, we do like good coffee and awesome food, but truly that is all secondary to praising Jesus and serving His Mother Mary!

Julie Elkinton

Star of the Sea MI Village Moderator
Bremerton, WA

Plenary Indulgences for the MI and Fatima Centenary Year

On the occasion of the MI Centenary, the Holy See has granted a plenary indulgence to all those who will prayerfully visit the cell where the MI was founded and the chapel of the St. Maximilian Friary in Rome, Via San Teodoro 42, from February 1st to October 31, 2017.

Moreover, for the 100th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal, Pope Francis has decided to grant a plenary indulgence opportunity throughout the entire anniversary year, which began November 27, 2016, and will end November 26, 2017. The Executive Secretary of the Rectory of the Fatima Shrine in Portugal explained that the plenary indulgence can be obtained during the entire Jubilee Year. In short, to obtain the plenary indulgence, the faithful must also fulfill the ordinary conditions: Go to confession and Communion, be interiorly detached from sin, and pray for the intentions of the Holy Father. There are three ways of obtaining the indulgence, detailed in a statement on the shrine's website.

1. Pilgrimage to the shrine

The first way is for “the faithful to make a pilgrimage to the Fatima Shrine in Portugal and

participate in a celebration or prayer dedicated to the Virgin.” In addition, the faithful must pray the Our Father, recite the Creed and invoke the Mother of God.

2. Prayer before any statue of Our Lady of Fatima

The second way applies to “the pious faithful who visit with devotion a statue of Our Lady of Fatima solemnly exposed for public veneration in any church, oratory or proper place during the days of the anniversary of the apparitions, the 13th of each month from May to October (2017), and there devoutly participate in some celebration or prayer in honor of the Virgin Mary.” The visit to the statue of the Virgin “does not necessarily have to be only at Fatima or exclusively in Portugal, but can be done anywhere in the world. Those seeking an indulgence must also pray an Our Father, recite the Creed and invoke Our Lady of Fatima.

3. Application for the elderly and infirm

The third way to obtain a plenary indulgence applies to people who, because of age, illness or other serious cause, are unable to get around well. These persons can pray in front of a statue of Our Lady of Fatima and spiritually unite themselves to the jubilee celebrations on the days of the apparitions, the 13th of each month, between May and October 2017. They also are to offer to God with confidence, through Mary, their prayers, sufferings, or sacrifices.



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! It is worth making such an effort! The Immaculata will not forget it! May all MI Knights be zealous in winning the world over to the Immaculata!”

St. Maximilian Kolbe



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by Helping the MI
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