February 2018 ISSUE 16





# **Getting Equipped for Mission-II**

Dear Knights of the Immaculata,

Maria! Last month we talked about the sources of our knowledge of the Faith and spoke of the marvelous *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and its companions, the Compendium, the YOUCAT, and the DOCAT. The Holy Scriptures complete the armory of an MI Knight.

These sources of our knowledge of the Faith are necessary for evangelization because many Catholic adults for at least two generations now have not been adequately catechized (instructed in the Faith) and therefore do not know the Faith very well. Hence, they feel intimidated by this lack and consequently are reluctant to attempt to explain the Faith to anyone else or to witness too openly, as this might raise questions which they cannot answer. So, thoughtful prayer and study of the Faith are key to our becoming evangelizers.

What is evangelization, much less New Evangelization? Evangelization is the duty of the Church (all of us) to proclaim the Gospel to all nations, proclaiming the Good News that Jesus, Son of God and Son of Mary, is the long-awaited Redeemer who reconciles the world to God. This is accomplished by proclamation (announcing), teaching and witness. The proclamation happens in word, example, and courage to witness. The world, all people, cannot come to believe, be confronted with the Good News of Jesus the Savior unless they hear of Him and His invitation to faith and unite themselves to Him through the Church. To make this announcement we must be convinced ourselves, having given our life over to Christ and, as Knights, having done this through our Total Consecration to the Immaculata. Our Lord desires this and the Immaculata does as well.

(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)

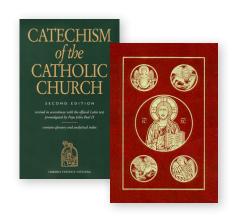
#### **Editorial**

(cont. from pg. 1)

The simple teaching or instruction which occurs in ordinary life comes from knowing our Faith and communicating by "giving witness to the hope that is in us." (cf. 1 Peter 3:15). I am not speaking of complicated or elaborate theological explanations, just the simple, ordinary explanations of the Faith as articulated in the *CCC* and the Compendium, with appropriate words from the Holy Scriptures.

Last, we must give evidence for our hope by being a witness. Blessed Paul VI counsels us that we do not need any more teachers of the Faith but teachers who are witnesses to the Faith, those true evangelizers who live the virtues of Christ and the Immaculata and who have committed themselves in faith, hope and love to Him through the Immaculata. For the message to be convincing, this gift of self to the Lord through Mary must, though we are sinners, give evidence that we know Jesus by striving to be like Him; as St. Paul would say, "It is no longer I who lives but Christ in me" or, to put it another way, "for me to live is Christ." This prodigious transformation can take place only by the work of the Holy Spirit and the Immaculata—that is, by living our consecration.

It is the role of the Holy Spirit to do many things, but one promise for sure is that "the Holy Spirit, whom the Father sent in my Name, will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you" (Jn 14:26). That same Holy Spirit that was promised and who came to the Apostles has been given to you. The Spouse of that same Holy Spirit has also been given to you, dear Knights, and the Spouse, the Immaculata, who is perpetually united to that same Spirit, is given to you as well as "one more gift."



With the *CCC* and the heavenly gifts of great power, how can we not be prepared and fit to announce the Good News by word and witness!

Until next month, "Let us arise, and be on our way."

In the Immaculata, John Galten MI National President

P.S. Please keep the MI National in your prayers and know that you are included in daily prayers at the National Center.

Send your prayer intentions to be placed at the feet of Our Lady in the MI Book of Intentions:

MINational@MissionImmaculata.com

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**Daily Holy Mass** 

will being offered throughout 2018 for the MI-USA and all MI Members at Niepokalanow, the City of the Immaculata established by St. Maximilian Kolbe near Warsaw, Poland.



# Prayer to Our Lady of Lourdes

Hail Mary, poor and humble Woman, Blessed by the Most High! Virgin of hope, dawn of a new era, we join in your song of praise, to celebrate the Lord's mercy, to proclaim the coming of the Kingdom and the full liberation of humanity.

Hail Mary, lowly handmaid of the Lord, Glorious Mother of Christ! Faithful Virgin, holy dwelling-place of the Word, teach us to persevere in listening to the Word, and to be docile to the voice of the Spirit, attentive to his promptings in the depths of our conscience and to His manifestations in the events of history.

Hail Mary, Woman of sorrows, Mother of the living! Virgin spouse beneath the Cross, the new Eve, be our guide along the paths of the world. Teach us to experience and to spread the love of Christ, to stand with you before the innumerable crosses on which your Son is still crucified.

Hail Mary, woman of faith, First of the disciples! Virgin Mother of the Church, help us always to account for the hope that is in us, with trust in human goodness and the Father's love. Teach us to build up the world beginning from within: in the depths of silence and prayer, in the joy of fraternal love, in the unique fruitfulness of the Cross.

Holy Mary, Mother of believers, Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us. Amen

Pope St. John Paul II



With the Blessed Mother's desire to lead every individual to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, 2017 was a year filled with grace, blessings, and the incessant reminder that the Lord is with us in our world today. This was truly evident with the celebration of the centennial anniversaries of both Mary's apparition at Fatima and the founding of the Militia of the Immaculata (MI) by St. Maximilian Kolbe.

Personally, it was also by coming to a deeper knowledge of Our Lady through the renewal of my Marian consecration. This was accomplished by traveling abroad on my first Marian Pilgrimage, joining the MI, and by returning home to Our Lady for my second year of seminary at the University of St. Mary of the Lake - Mundelein Seminary. Mary's desire to lead others to her Son's Most Sacred Heart was burning within me and those around me. It was this fire placed within a heart by the Blessed Mother that would lead to following her unrelentingly to her Son and His will.

His will, as understood after a year's preparation for joining the MI using St. Max's consecration method, was to bring the MI to seminaries. Kolbe knew that belonging to the Immaculata unconditionally, irrevocably, unreservedly, and entirely would draw us to her Son, Jesus Christ, and, under her protection and through her intercession, would provide for the sanctification of all. In forming future priests to be like Jesus Christ, His will taught how indispensable it is that seminarians follow the example of the Immaculate Virgin, who performed the will of God perfectly, in all areas of

their lives. That they should continuously strive to be ready to answer God and His requests, to work for the sanctification of every soul (especially their own and those around them), and to serve as a Soldier in God's Army like that of the Blessed Mother.

Therefore, how desirable it is for Jesus and Mary that seminaries create their own MI village. Doing so allows seminarians to enter into Mary's Militia before ordination in order to learn from her and to serve her (who serves the Lord directly) in a multifaceted way. In doing so, not only would one draw closer to her Son, Jesus Christ (being

#### "How desirable it is for Jesus and Mary that seminaries create their own MI Village."

formed in His image and likeness), but one would also become a stronger and more effective instrument of grace for the heavenly Family. On the grassroots level, this Militia (when particularly adapted for seminarians) is capable of attaining and training priestly souls to serve at the hands and feet of Jesus and Mary. It prepares and trains them to cultivate the same kind of service to Jesus and Mary in the countless number of other souls they will meet and care for in their future ministry. It also practically serves a seminarian, making him familiar with the MI so he may look after the MI village in the parish he will be asked to serve at (or advance the MI and build a village in his parish if one is not already established).

In the formation of an MI group at a seminary, men who desire to be part of Mary's Militia gather in a collective effort to serve her and her Son directly on their campus in entrenched ways. They are to be understood and valued as true soldiers for Mary who serve their community as her active force of divine grace! They become an active presence in the seminary; conquering souls for her in such a way that the hearts of their neighbors may open wide before her, so that she may extend her own reign over the hearts of all those they know and will come to know (especially as future priests).

The motive to help the greatest possible number of souls become united with the Sacred Heart of Jesus through the mediation of the Immaculata and by way of the MI became a reality at Mundelein Seminary on December 8, 2017. It was on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, during a nightime induction ceremony when 14 men (including a deacon and a priest) renewed their personal commitment to serve Jesus through Mary by way of the MI. It was then that the proof of grace, blessings, and the incessant reminder that the Lord is with us in our world today, was made known. I have no doubt, through Jesus and Mary, that this will continue this year and every year until the end of time.

Fr. Kolbe points out the need to do something more toward direct involvement in the apostolate for the dissemination of the MI. He says, "In addition, we ought to devote more energy to the cause of the Militia" (*KW* 202).

If you are a seminarian (or know a seminarian) and desire to advance the MI and allow Our Blessed Mother to fully complete her role in the formation of future priests at seminary, please reach out to the MI National Center and inquire about how to bring the MI to your campus. They have all the resources and more to aid you in the mission. Ave Maria!

**USML** Seminarian

### "And then... There Were TWELVE!!!"









Late summer of 2017 a Young Adult Ministry decided to consecrate themselves to Our Lady, the Immaculata, through St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe's Militia of the Immaculata (MI) and hopes to grow and spread the devotion to her.

The Young Adult Ministry was established about one year ago at St. Catherine Labouré parish in the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. The ministry is dedicated to service in faith formation under the influence of the Franciscan charism and in the spirit of St. John Paul II.

The young adult coordinator, Michelle Ordono, had previously consecrated herself to the Immaculata and had promised Our Lady to bring one person to her before the end of 2017. As the ministry began gradually to increase and the desire to grow closer to Christ and His Church was evident among the young adults, she decided to share all that she has received from the Immaculata and the young adults were eager to consecrate themselves to Our Lady!

Formation began promptly as the Feast of the Immaculate Concep-

tion was fast approaching! The young adults met at their usual Wednesday meetings and learned about the founding father of the MI, St. Maximilian Kolbe, the history of the MI, the Marian dogmas, and finished it off with the MI Total Consecration Novena along with the Novena to the Immaculate Conception!

Halfway through formation, the young adults made a retreat at the Mount Saint Mary's University in Emmitsburg, Maryland. The retreat was led by a wonderful Franciscan friar, Fr. Patrick Mary, MFVA, who has been a great supporter of the Young Adult Ministry's spiritual journey and vocation. The retreat included adoration, confession, Marian Consecration talk by Fr. Patrick Mary, visit to the National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes, Holy Mass and concluded with the visit at the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.

On Friday, December 8, 2017, the Young Adult Ministry along with another candidate from St. Catherine Labouré parish made their consecration to Our Lady in the Militia of the Immaculata. The consecration also took

place at the Mount Saint Mary's University. The consecration ceremony was once again celebrated by Fr. Patrick Mary, MFVA, with a homily and investiture of the Miraculous Medals. At the consecration, each candidate recited the consecration and received the Miraculous Medal, concluding the consecration with Mass with the seminarians from the Mount Saint Mary's Seminary.

The Young Adult Ministry has accomplished a lot in the past year of their existence. The main highlight for them is consecrating themselves to Our Lady and joining the Militia of the Immaculata. Originally, the young adult coordinator hoped to bring at least one person to the Immaculata before the end of 2017. Well she did find one person, and then there were twelve!

#### **MORE NEWS!!!!**

This faithful group of young adults is very excited to announce they are now part of the Militia of the Immaculata Villages. Because their vibrant members often see themselves as Fr. Kolbe's Young Adult Ministry, they are declaring the Village title as the *Militia Immaculatae Capital*. Its members humbly recognized as the first official MI Village from our nation's capital. They would welcome any MI member and communities who would like to connect with them or plan to be in the Washington, D.C. area.



Please reach out to the local MI Moderator, Michelle at micap16670@gmail.com.

# Reflection on February MI Intention

O Immaculata please intercede that St. Maximilian's example may inspire MI members and every believer to find ever new ways of evangelization.

"No one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the skins are ruined. Rather, new wine is poured into fresh wineskins."

(Mk 2:22)

There are times in our lives when we get together for one reason or another and begin to remember the past, reawakening memories. Our present is built upon the past, and this is even more positive when in the past we have been able to make the right choices. Often, there are things we regret and things of which we are proud.

So, we may ask ourselves: What do we draw from the past for the future? As Christians, we are called to be witnesses of hope and therefore we should be on the forefront in looking into the future with the confidence that *the best is yet to come*. Yes, these simple words remind us that we are waiting for the fulfillment of God's Plan for humanity.

The Gospel newness not only awaits us but also requires our doing our little part, in the light of that cooperation for the coming of the Kingdom of God, present and yet to come, entrusted to each of us at our Baptism and Confirmation. St. Maximilian would say: "Every generation has to add its own hard work and the fruits of that effort to those of previous generations" (KW 486). There is both an individual and collective responsibility in the transmission of the Gospel within the world. We cannot deny the changes that have been taking place in our world, nor can we simply look back to the past with nostalgia, judging negatively everything that happens.

The Evangelist Mark points out the correct outlook in dealing with the present. The new wine, the newness that the Lord wants or allows in the unfolding of human history, requires from us both a creative fidelity to the truth and new ways of evangelizing. It requires developing an interior disposition of authentic compassion toward the world that God entrusts to our care. "Only love creates," was Fr. Kolbe's leitmotif. Nothing new can truly arise if it is not born out of love.

Charity animated by truth leads us to perceive when the "old wine-skins" need to be set aside in order to make room for "fresh wineskins," that is, when new courageous approaches are required in order to let the Gospel renew our lives and culture. St. Paul reminds us, however, that the Word of God is not chained (cf. 2 Tim 2:29), and cannot be chained by our human attempts to manipulate or to adapt it to our shortsighted ideas and interpretations.

The splendor of God's truth and the transforming power of His love are to be shared with all our brothers and sisters, helping them, through our witness of Christ-like charity, to discover our divine destiny as children of God.

(From the MI International Office)

Request your 2018 MI Intentions leaflet if you have not received it yet! Call (331) 223-5564

#### News from MI Villages in the U.S.A.

Our MI Village, called Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament MI Village, in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, has been led to many apostolates. One of those is Adopt a Seminarian Program. In this apostolate, we give prayerful support as seminarians journey to the priesthood. They so much appreciate the prayers and cards we send them. All the seminarians of our diocese have several parishioners from Saint Patrick's Church, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, who have "adopted" them. Jesus and Mary led us to this apostolate and several others.

Recently we started a new apostolate: "The Rosary is a light in the darkness of the prison." (Briones - a converted prisoner). There is so much power in the Rosary to convert sinners. We are collecting rosaries to be given to our local prisons. Donated rosaries will allow Our Lady to accomplish so much in the hearts of our prisoners.

Mary Stringfellow MI Village moderator

We would like to feature
MI VILLAGES
in each upcoming
newsletter.
Please send reports,
photos and
testimonies to:

MINational@MissionImmaculata.com

# "Who Are You? Where Are You from?"

St. Maximilian invites us to reflect on important questions concerning our eternal destiny (cf. *KW* 1270).



Have you ever reflected at times, to find out who you are? Quite rightly, you feel superior to the irrational creatures around you, to stones, even if precious; to flowers, although pretty and attractive; to animals, though very useful. You feel you are master of what is around you, and rightly so. With pride you look at an airplane gliding by, you listen on the radio to music played at the other end of the earth, and you still expect to see many other inventions of human intelligence.

Who are you? You know you are able to reflect on yourself to know who you are; you have the power of reason. You also have the ability to postpone this reflection until a later time: you have freedom, freedom of will.

Even if you were shown many books by different authors, who had reasoned long and hard and maintained that you do not have free will, yet, at every moment, in the smallest of actions, even when it comes down to lifting a finger, you have the chance to rebut their sophistry. You can rightly assert that they are arguing a priori, because they assume the nonexistence of free will and rig proofs that rule it out. By doing that they sin against logic, which clearly requires an issue not to be judged in advance, but to be tested, because the ground of demonstration is experience. So, you are endowed with free will. You are free, free lord of the creatures around you. You are truly great.

Have you ever reflected, at times, to find out where you come from? With

feelings of gratitude, you love your parents, who gave you life and raised you, but you know that they too had their parents, and so on. However, none of your ancestors was able to design your limbs. None of them sketched the very first project; none put atoms together in such a way that they could form an eye capable of seeing, an ear capable of hearing, a hand capable of working. Yet you do need such organs for those purposes. Wherever you spot a structure built for a purpose, you rightly claim that it was the hand of a man, guided by intelligence, that set it up, for instance in the case of a house, a train, a plane, or others. Yet a human eye is much more perfect than the best of planes. Who assembled it? Not a man. Who, then? That cause, the first cause, not produced by anyone, we call God.

I said "the first." For if it were not the first, we would keep inquiring until we get to the truly first cause. And precisely because it is the first cause, it cannot possibly have been produced by anyone, so it would make no sense to place limits on it. And that must mean it is unlimited, infinite. Since it was not produced, it has no beginning, it has always been, and there is no reason to suppose it should cease being sooner or later, which means that it is eternal.

That first cause is God: perfection without limits, immeasurable, eternal. It is the first cause of the universe.

M.K.

(to be continued)

# 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.



The Franciscans of Life, whose formation includes total consecration to the Immaculate and membership in the MI, were graciously hosted by Fr. Jeff McCormick, pastor of St. Maximilian Kolbe parish (Archdiocese of Miami), to offer two formation talks providing the candidates sufficient preparation for total consecration to the Immaculate and membership in the MI.

The talks were based on the MI Catechism and the Total Consecration to Mary booklet as well as on the encyclical Redemptoris Mater by St. John Paul II. They covered the role of the Immaculata in the economy of salvation, the main differences between the Montfortian and Kolbean consecrations, and how to live one's membership in the MI.

During the Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, on Thursday December 7 at 7 PM, the candidates recited the Act of Consecration and were invested with the Miraculous Medal. The celebrant was Fr. Jeff McCormick, accompanied by Deacon Scott Joiner and Deacon Pierre Doujon. The M.I. leader was Br. Jay, FFV, our superior, assisted by Br. Bernardo, FFV.

At the end of Mass, our Extern brothers Chris Thomas More and Tom Holmberg distributed over 143 Miraculous Medals to members of the congregation.

Brother Bernardo, FFV

### MI Day of Reflection Feb 16-17 West Haven, Utah



MI Members, please send your testimony for everyone's inspiration!

#### HALO DAYS, PRAYERFUL KNIGHT St. Maximilian M. Kolbe MI Village @ THE BIG A - 5/14 & 9/14

Join in this season for two nights @ Angels Stadium with St. Max, Patron Saint of Families, Right to Life, and more. A Catholic/Marian gathering with our youth/families and all in the discernment of their vocation. Enjoy a night at the ballpark as a way to connect and fellowship with others while sharing in the love and mercy of God through the Immaculata, in the HALO spirit of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe.

**5:00 pm** – Stadium gates open **5:03 pm** – St. Max MI Village by the rocks/waterfall behind center field. Here we will have a chance to meet, pray, and fellowship with our Blessed Mother Immaculate. (This will also be where you can pick up your Catholic/baseball give away gift box)

**7:03 pm** - Game start time... you are free to roam the stadium, go to your assigned seat (padded for parents) or have dinner and watch the game at Saint Archer Brewing Company (Stadium restaurant, which your ticket will give access to)

## \*Tickets include a gift box give away (May 14th, 2018) box items include:

- Trinity (small) Crucifix
- Immaculata (pocket) statue
- St. Maximilian Kolbe (Family) prayer card
- and more...





There are 16 reserved tickets available (1/26/18)

For more information or to reserve tickets:

Text: (951) 321-0425 or email: mykyprosmi@icloud.com

Online ticket purchases coming soon Youth sponsorship welcomed

#### MI RESOURCES

#### New MI resources available from the MI National Center







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

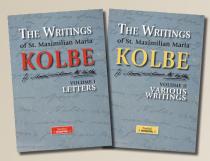
Miraculous medals and brochures can be requested from the MI National Office at 331-223-5564 or via email: MINational@MissionImmaculata.com

### 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!



"I heartily welcome this first English critical edition of The Writings of St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe. Its pages are suffused with Christian hope. Under the general editorship of Antonella Di Piazza, the text has meticulous footnotes, comprehensive indices,

and a brilliant introduction by Fr. Giuseppe Simbula, OFM Conv. Because the frenetic pace of St. Kolbe's active ministry afforded him no time to compose a theological Summa, this edition assembles together the wide scope of his extant writings into a unified synthesis. It represents a virtual magnum opus of Kolbean thought at one and the same time pastoral, anthropological, philosophical, spiritual, ascetical and mystical.

"These two volumes give vigorous new life to the prophetic voice of truth of one of the greatest saints of our times."

- Fr. James McCurry, OFM Conv

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Check regularly the MI website

MissionImmaculata.com

for updates, resources, special

events and more!

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