

# THE MISSION OF THE *Immaculata*

E-PUBLICATION OF THE MILITIA OF THE IMMACULATA, USA

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## Seeking the Lost and Wounded

By John W. Galten, MI National President

Dear Knights of the Immaculata,

Maria!

As I write these words to you, we have already begun the new liturgical year by seeking Christ in Advent, experiencing the long period of waiting for the promised Savior and His coming in the form of a tiny Child. We now enter for a while into the calmer liturgical waters of the life of the Savior as He grows in age and wisdom.

Our thoughts turn again to challenges and opportunities of our present time. As a result of the present difficulties of the Church, we note that a number of prominent Catholics have publicly declared themselves so scandalized by the hierarchical sins and the subsequent culpable cover-ups, that they are leaving the Church, presumably in disgust and, sadly, with much public fanfare.

How are we to evaluate these very public leave-takings? Do these events imply that the Church has lost her salvific mandate, that is, to announce the Gospel and, by the power of Christ, to make mankind holy and fit for heaven? Is *our* faith to be rocked and weakened also?

As I reflect on all this, I keep going back to Pope Saint John Paul II's formulation of the reason for calling the Second Vatican Council. The reason he cites is the search for an answer to the question, "Who are you, O Church?"

Before we take the fateful step of judging the Church morally deficient, do we not have to answer that question? Otherwise, leaving the Church would be abandoning a most necessary means to heaven. As we look at the New Testament, especially the Gospels, we see Jesus founding the Church, endowing her

(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)

with the sacramental means for salvation, giving her form, leadership (the bishops, successors of the Apostles), the Word of God, the Gift of the Holy Spirit, and His own Mother. The Catechism of the Catholic Church repeats the age-old teaching: “Outside the Church there is no salvation” and goes on to say: “How are we to understand this affirmation, often repeated by the Church Fathers? Reformulated in positive terms, it means that all salvation comes from Christ the Head through the Church which is His Body and “This teaching is not aimed at those who, through no fault of their own, do not know Christ and His Church” (CCC 846-7). It is clear that those who leave are turning their backs on the means and the gifts that Christ has given us as a sure path to His Father’s house.

We can only grieve for those who abandon Christ and His Church, but we must do more. Like Christ the Good Shepherd, who comes to seek the lost sheep, the evangelizing mission of the Church calls us as Knights of the Immaculata to seek out the lost and those who have left the fold. “Love alone creates,” St. Maximilian would remind us, so motivated by profound love, we can organize local group and personal efforts to seek out the fallen away Catholics and establish parish programs to re-evangelize them and bring them back to the sheepfold. Perhaps this is why Pope Francis has called the Church a “field hospital” for those “wounded” and “demoralized” by the scandals.

I recommend to all of you a remarkable little book by Francis Cardinal Arinze, *The Evangelizing Parish*, Ignatius Press, with numerous examples of how to evangelize. Let us never bury our talent (the Faith); let us re-

commit always to increase it by passing it on (drawing others to or back to the Faith). All this begins with you and me. We must ourselves appreciate ever more deeply the great treasure that the Church is, and knowing this, we must burst the bounds of ourselves and spread this most good of all Good News, and announce Him to the world. Like the Good Shepherd, let us seek out the lost sheep.

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

John W. Galten  
MI National President

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

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

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**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  
in 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.

# Dignity and Nobility of Being a Man of Christ

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).

What does it mean to be a man, a real man? Similarly, what does it mean to be a woman, to be authentically feminine? (I’ll limit myself to the former question.) The gender identity crisis in our culture has caused great confusion. Misguided notions have led expressions such as political power, bulging muscles, and sexual exploitation to be identified with masculinity. A resulting counter-reaction is a rejection of this type of masculinity and any distinction between the two sexes: emasculation and gender ambiguity. A correct view of the human person cannot be limited to sociology or the observation of cultural trends, but requires an anthropology (the study of man) as revealed by man’s Creator: God. To acquire knowledge about ourselves and how we are called to be as human persons – male and female – we have no better models than the two people who loved perfectly and were without sin: Jesus and Mary of Nazareth.

“Virility” and “virtue” share the same root word *vir* for “man” in Latin. In the classical tradition, there is the notion that virility and virtue go hand in hand; that being a real man consists in being virtuous. Masculinity ought to be characterized by strength – the strength demonstrated by the practice of the virtues – not the distorted notion of strength as often portrayed by the culture: machismo or being “ma-

cho” or any form of oppressing others and affirming one’s selfishness. Our culture seems to suggest that real men thrive on sexual conquest, that real men ought to solemnly impose their will upon others, and that real men are never supposed to reveal their feelings or allow themselves to be vulnerable.

Instead, to discover what it means to be a real man, we are to fix our gaze upon the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus

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embodies the strength characteristic of certain masculine virtues: perseverance, patience and long-suffering, industriousness, taking the initiative, generosity, self-sacrificing love, vulnerability. A prayerful reading of the Gospels will reveal that no one is more “masculine” than Jesus. And yet, Jesus sheds tears (at the death of Lazarus; lamenting over Jerusalem) and is not embarrassed to do so. Jesus is not averse to revealing His emotions (at the Last Supper) and His fears (in His agony at Gethsemane). Jesus’ masculinity is so integral, authentic, and so confident that He is free to express affection toward men (His disciples) as well as to show gestures of tenderness

and care (toward children). His affection toward women was genuine and humane, and a testament to His purity and authentic love for them lies in the fact that, in all His constant interaction with the opposite sex, not once did His enemies even dare to insinuate of unbecoming behavior. Jesus demonstrates that vulnerability, too, is an expression of strength, because acknowledgment of the truth or of our limits is a virtue (humility), not a weakness. Jesus never made a mistake because He’s God. But if He ever would have, we could be sure that Jesus would be willing to admit His mistakes or ask for forgiveness.

On a practical level, I believe there are two important means of fostering the “masculine” virtues modeled by Jesus: through sports (or physical activity) and through fraternity. Sports have the potential of becoming a “school of virtue” as Pope St. John Paul II affirmed. Sports (and physical activity in general) are pedagogical tools for cultivating perseverance (the “never give up” attitude), disciplining the will, and working hard. Sports as a school of virtue becomes increasingly important in a society which often leads to laziness and becoming “soft” through luxury and the various material creature comforts that surround us. Training and disciplining the body through habitual discomfort and salutary pain has the advantage of making other challenges seem relatively easier: completing a physically stressful activity can make, for instance, dealing with that annoying person or facing an unpleasant situation easier to bear. It can be an aid to curing the “me” tendency which seeks exaggerated bodily comfort, in being impatient, and giving in to complaint. And of course, fraternity is critical to fostering virtue: relationships with other Christian men seeking virtue is reinforcement and inspires us in our pursuit because we all need support and can’t do it alone. ■





## The Golden Thread of Franciscan Devotion to Our Lady

By Fr. Thomas Czeck, OFM Conv,  
MI National Assistant

The roots of the Militia of the Immaculata begun by friar Maximilian Kolbe and several other Conventual Franciscan friars in 1917 were a continuation and development of Marian devotion among the Franciscans. The roots of this devotion and understanding of Mary go right to St. Francis, whose mystical experiences in prayer led him to put his community under the patronage of Mary as Queen to the Franciscan Order.

St. Francis wrote a psalter dedicated to the Virgin Mary along with many prayers, which revealed new understandings of the pivotal role of Mary in our Faith and her relationship with God. Francis nurtured his devotion to Mary as he formed his community at St. Mary of the Angels of the little portion (Portiuncula). During a mystical experience of prayer in that chapel, in July 1216, he had an encounter with Jesus and Mary in which he asked for

and received the gift of an indulgence for all who entered and prayed at that church. Pope Honorius III granted this privilege, which is granted on August 1st and 2nd. Mary as the intercessor for grace and privileges from her Son to get humanity to heaven was set. Francis, in the prayers he composed, developed with love and devotion new understandings of Mary. In his prayer, "A Salutation of the Blessed Virgin Mary," he reveals Mary who is the Virgin made Church. In his antiphon for the Office to the Passion, he recognizes Mary's singular role as Spouse of the Holy Spirit. These titles reveal an understanding of Mary and her relation to the Trinitarian God and Salvation. St. Francis in his Salutation to the Blessed Virgin Mary shows new profound insights into the unique and privileged position of the Blessed Virgin.

*Hail Lady, Holy Queen, Mary holy  
Mother of God,  
who are the Virgin made Church  
and the one chosen by the Most Holy  
Father of Heaven,  
whom He consecrated with His Most  
Holy Beloved Son  
and with the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete;  
in whom there was and is all fullness  
of grace and every good.  
Hail His Palace; Hail His Tabernacle;  
Hail His Home.  
Hail His Vestment;  
Hail His Handmaid; Hail His Mother  
and hail all you holy virtues, which  
through the grace and illumination of  
the Holy Spirit are infused  
into the hearts of the faithful, so that  
from those unfaithful you make them  
faithful to God.*

Mary as the Virgin made Church was a unique title St. Francis used to understand Mary and her unique position. Mary is the Mother of God, chosen by the Father and consecrated by the Son and the Holy Spirit. At the Incarnation, she became the dwelling place of God and the one who bears

Christ to the world. Mary is the Virgin made Church.

St. Francis in his Office of the Passion further reveals the relationship of Mary to God as she is at the side of her Son. The antiphon for the Office of the Passion speaks of Mary as daughter to God the Father, Mother of Jesus, and Spouse of the Holy Spirit.

*Holy Virgin Mary, among the women  
born into the world,  
there is no one like you.  
Daughter and servant of the most high  
and supreme King and of the Father  
in heaven,  
Mother of our most holy Lord Jesus  
Christ, spouse of the Holy Spirit,  
pray for us with Saint Michael  
the Archangel, all the powers of  
heaven and all the saints, at the side of  
your most holy beloved Son, our Lord  
and Teacher. Glory to the Father, and  
to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.  
As it was in the beginning, is now,  
and will be forever. Amen*

Through devotional love and prayer, St. Francis comes to experience Jesus and Mary at the Cross and at the Manger. The connection to Divine love through the humanity of Jesus and Mary, the themes that are to become central to the Franciscan Mariological School, emerge from his unlimited devotion to Mary as Mother of God. Francis had a sense of her unique mediation, first as an active co-cause of the Incarnation and then as spiritual Mother of the Church and her members; and then, as a consequence, a sense of her person as one capable of being the Mother of God and our Mother. For she is Spouse of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin made Church, who is able to bring into this world the Son of God and Savior by the operation of the Holy Spirit, and by the operation of the same Spirit make of the Church virginal Mother of Christ in the minds and hearts of the faithful. ■

# Reflection on January MI Intention

O Immaculata please intercede that the Church may bring peace and hope always and everywhere.

The Apostle Paul reminds us that as Christians we live in a new condition, because “we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God” (Rom 5:1), through the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross. This is the absolute gratuitous gift of God to sinners. In a society where we are used to speaking of profitable or unprofitable investments, the love of God revealed in Jesus is an absolute unconditionally gift of grace, which challenges us to ponder and to change our attitudes and behavior. Our individual total consecration to our Lady in the Militia of the Immaculata is also a work of God’s grace.

St. Paul addresses the Romans with a wish that could fittingly be a New Year wish for our world: “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit” (Rom 15:13). The Lord wants to stir up His transforming love in us, so that we, His Church, may be bearers of peace and hope always and everywhere.

St. Maximilian Kolbe carried out his mission both with an attentive look at the world with the hopes and concerns that marked the first part of the 20th century, and with his heart rooted in the certainty of Mary’s maternal presence. He did not allow sickness and setbacks to discourage him, nor did he see them as limitations for his mission. Truly, God’s grace in him was not ineffective, because he allowed Mary to sustain him! “Dearest Children, how I would like to tell you, to repeat to you how good the Immaculata is, in order to stave off sadness,

inner dejection, or discouragement from your little hearts” (*The Writings of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe*, 509).

This sentence is found in a letter that Fr. Kolbe wrote to his confreres who were in Nagasaki, Japan, while he was in Hong Kong, on his way back to Poland for a Provincial Chapter. St. Maximilian proved to be a man full of missionary ardor, even in the face of hardships and uncertainties. Her very Name brought him peace of heart, as he himself stated: “What great echo does the mere invocation ‘Mary’—perhaps with a soul steeped in darkness, and even in the misfortune of sin—produce in her Heart who loves us so much!” (Ibid). Mary is indeed a refuge for everyone: “The more unhappy or mired in guilt the soul is, the more that Refuge of us poor sinners surrounds it with caring protection” (Ibid).

Further, he reminds us that “Without struggle victory would be impossible and without victory there can be no crown, there can be no reward [cf. 1 Cor 9:25]. Therefore, from now on be prepared for anything....The Immaculata cannot abandon her children.” (*The Writings of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe*, 149). May we all be willing to face every challenge with the Immaculata, in this new year of grace, and be bearers of lasting hope!

(From the MI International Office)



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

## NEW MI RESOURCES



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

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

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

The suggested donation for multiple copies of the new booklet is \$2.00/ea. plus shipping; for a single copy, the suggested donation is \$3.00 shipping included.

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Or call:  
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## Truth

In the only issue of the *Rycerz Niepokalanej* magazine published during WWII, St. Maximilian wrote this most significant article about Truth (KW 1246). Arguably, it was the excuse for his final arrest by the Nazis.

Although not everyone loves the truth, yet only truth can be the basis for lasting happiness.

*Truth is one.* We know it well, and yet in real life we sometimes behave as though in any given matter both “no” and “yes” could be true. It is not difficult, for instance, to recognize that at times we act in accordance with the faith that Divine Providence will come to our aid, while on other occasions we worry excessively, as if Divine Providence did not exist. Therefore, Divine Providence either is, or is not. Equally, it is true, for instance, that at this moment I am writing these words and that you, dear reader, are reading them. But this notwithstanding, the reverse cannot be true; that is to say, that I have not written these things, or that you are not reading them. On this matter, the “yes” and the “no” cannot both be true. Truth lies either in “yes” or in “no.” For the truth is one.

*Truth is also powerful.* If someone wanted to disprove me and were to assert that neither have I written nor have you read, the truth would not change, and he who denied that would be mistaken, would deceive himself. And even if such deniers were many, the power of truth would not suffer at all. Indeed, even if all the men on earth were to assert, publish, film and swear all their lives that I did not write these lines, and that you did not read them, all that would not be enough for even a particle to be removed from the hard rock of truth, that is to say, that I wrote

and that you read. Nor does God erase, nor can erase, the truth by a miracle, for He is the Truth itself.

How great is the power of truth! A power truly infinite, divine.

*Even in religion.* This issue applies also in connection with religious truth. On the earth, we see many religious confessions and encounter the fairly widespread notion that every religion is good. Yet we cannot possibly agree with that notion. It is true that many of those who do not adhere to any religion, or who profess one or another of them, may be exempt from all guilt before God, for the fact that they are fully convinced that they walking along the right path. However, even in religious matters the truth can be one only, and those who hold beliefs that differ from the reality of things are mistaken. Only those who judge according to the truth have a true faith.

And so, if it is true that God exists, disbelievers who say that He does not are in error; on the other hand, if He did not exist, all those who profess any religion would be in error. Also, if it is true that Jesus Christ is risen, then what He taught is true and it is true that He is God incarnate; yet if He had not risen, all Christian denominations would have no reason to exist.

Finally, if Jesus really turned to Peter with the words, “You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build *my* church” [Mt 16:18], and thus gave a sign on the basis of which everyone has the opportunity to easily recognize *His* Church in the midst of hundreds of different Christian churches, then only those who are in the universal, Catholic Church walk along the true path. And if they move toward God faithfully, following the teachings of the Church, they have the assurance of achieving eternal happiness and peace and joy even on this earth....

*Acknowledging truth.* No one can change any truth. One can only seek the truth, find it, acknowledge it, conform one’s life to it, walk on the path of truth in each matter, especially those concerning the ultimate purpose of life, one’s relationship with God, that is, the questions of religion.

*Lasting happiness.* There is no person on earth who does not pursue happiness. Indeed, in every action we take, happiness presents itself to us, in one form or another, as the purpose to which, by nature, we tend. However, a happiness that is not built on truth cannot be long lasting, as is the case with mendacity itself. Only truth can be and is the unshakable foundation of happiness, both for individuals and for the whole of humanity.

Maximilian Kolbe

## 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.

# SAVE THE DATE! MI Retreats 2019



**SAVE THE DATE!!!  
APRIL 12-14, 2019**

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with*

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**MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON ON MIYOUTH.ORG**

## MI ADULTS WEEKEND RETREAT

**MARCH 22-24, 2019**

**Single Adults  
and Married Couples**

**Where:** Franciscan Prayer Center, Independence, Missouri

**Cost:** \$175 per person/Fri-Sun (double occupancy)  
\$200 per person/Fri-Sun (single occupancy)

**Retreat Master:** Rev. David Kueter, OMV and MI member

**To register or for Retreat information,  
please contact:**

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

**331-223-5564**

**MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON**

## MI Celebrations around the Country

On the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, literally hundreds of people from around the country made their consecration to Our Lady and many enrolled in the MI.

Additionally, after having offered preparation classes, solemn consecration ceremonies we held in several parishes, as well as at the Shrine of St. Anthony, Ellicott City, Maryland, and at the National Shrine of St. Maximilian Kolbe, Libertyville, Illinois.

The following events are worth noting and a cause for great rejoicing: at the **University of St. Mary**

**of the Lake, in Mundelein, Illinois**, eight seminarians made their consecration and joined the MI Village that was established last year on campus; at the **Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio**, several students made their consecration and started an official MI group, open to men and women (for more information, please check the "MI Locations in the US" tab on the website).

Let us keep in prayer all new MI members, that we may all be totally consecrated to the Immaculata and be generous instruments in her Im-

maculate hands for the coming of the Kingdom of the Most Sacred Heart in all hearts!

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



# MI RESOURCES

Available from the  
MI National Center

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



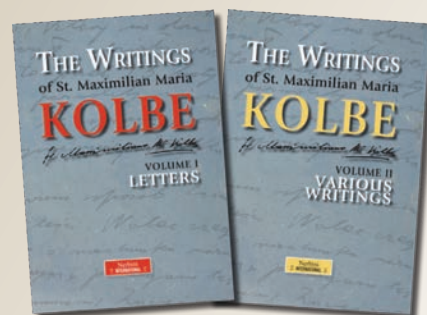
Miraculous medals and  
various MI brochures  
can be requested  
from the MI National Office

# 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.



*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

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