



"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)

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IN THIS ISSUE

As We Start the Year 2017...

By John W. Galten, MI National President

Dear MI Knights,

We are grateful to announce that the MI National Office has officially moved to a temporary location in a local parish, Santa Maria del Popolo, in Mundelein, Illinois, as we discern where the Immaculata wants the MI National

Center to locate permanently.

As you know from my previous correspondence, this move was not our choice, not our preference. The Immaculata, however, has been looking out for her MI quite beautifully. As you can see in the pictures posted in the next page, we have a new and very nicely equipped temporary office. Still, the challenge remains, to find a suitable permanent location within the coming months, all while we maintain the ordinary operation of the National Center. Know that we appreciate all the prayers and encouragement shown to us during this difficult transition. Please stay in touch and feel free to let us know if you have questions.

As part of our negotiations, the MI was finally able to secure a copy of the database, which is now being set up. This may take several weeks. Because of this delay, we were not able to send out an appeal for funds to support the Immaculata's mission. <u>Would you please consider making a tax-deductible online donation?</u> If you wish to send in your gift via USPS, please address donations to: MI National Center, P.O. Box 7645, Libertyville, IL 60048.

In collaboration with Conventual Franciscan Friars, MI priests and leaders, we are planning special celebrations in various areas of the country, pilgrimages to Rome and other events. We will keep you posted via mailings, this MI E-publication, *The Mission of the Immaculata*, Facebook and our website.

MI International Congress in Fatima Report from National President, Part Two



MI Centenary The Beginning of a Great Adventure



Reflection on January MI Intention

May the Lord grant us all His Peace throughout this new year of grace.

Some Photos of the New Temporary National Office



A very heartfelt **Thank You** to MI members who volunteered time, talents and treasure to paint, clean, furnish and arrange the new MI Office! Their names are written in Our Lady's Heart.

We are still in need of some office equipment:

- a color printer and copier,
- a paper cutter,
- a space heater,
- a microwave



If you wish to visit the new MI Office, please call 331-223-5564.

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 of a car**, one that could brave the cold weather here in the Midwest, would be a blessing. The vehicle will be used by MI National Office staff and for transportation of volunteer workers and 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: <u>MIYouth.org</u>

Check the MI official Facebook page: Mission of the Immaculata



The March for Life continues to be a leader in the pro-life community and it is our goal to continue to fight and inform the public on how we can overturn Roe v. Wade.

Our job is not done until the voiceless have a voice that is heard. Realizing that no sound action can grow out of a vacuum of purpose, March for Life formulated

MI Members to Join March for Life Movement across the Country

the Life Principles as a forthright, comprehensive statement of the position motivating the prolife movement.

Purposefully, the Life Principles are not framed in the negative tone of "thou shalt not," and are framed in the positive tone of duty and responsibility of each human being and of society.

The 2017 Theme is *"The Power of One."* The schedule for Friday, January 27, 2017, is the following:

11:45 a.m. Musical Opening
12:00 p.m. Rally
1:00 p.m. March
3:00 p.m. Listen to *Silent No More*testimonies outside U.S. Supreme Court
3:30 p.m. Visit your Representative or Senator to advocate for life.

If you cannot attend the official March for Life in Washington, D.C., be sure to find a local event. Or attend both! For updates visit: http://marchforlife.org/mfl-2017/local-march-for-life-events/

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

By John W. Galten, MI National President

The relevance of the October MI International Congress held in Fatima for the MI journey, during the 100th anniversary year and beyond, is well expressed by the International **President's** opening address.



Spirit, impels us to "go" even unto martyrdom.

The Immaculata is the disciple on the road, who welcomes the will of Jesus and the Father, beginning always in prayer, and in the fire of love. It is the force of Fire, the living Flame of Love, the Spirit, who drives her and St. Maximilian to the mission.

I will continue my report in next issue. I do believe that the International President's words are important for understanding this centenary year and the will of the Immaculata. Please read them thoughtfully and prayerfully. Arise; let us be on our way!



Maria! I now continue my report from the MI International Congress held in Fatima, Oct 28-29, 2016, in a two-part summation of Fr. Raffaele Di Muro's presentation "Maximilian Kolbe's Missionary Strategy". I apologize in advance if I miss important parts or muddle up any details in Father's excellent talk, which was so closely reasoned and fully packed of Kolbean insights.

The title itself provided the key to how Father proceeds in his talk on the preparation for and the carrying out of St. Maximilian's apostolic work. Another way of putting the title would be, "What is the Basis of the Missionary Life of St. Maximilian."

The Foundation

Father Raffaele pointed to two keys for the understanding of the extraordinary saint's missionary strategy—prayer and entrustment to the Immaculata. Kolbe's continued insistence on prayer, on the necessity of

prayer as the true source of missionary activity was mirrored in his life and in the MI movement, which he founded. We see this clearly in his writings and in the rhythm of prayer leading to apostolic action. Like the first principle of prayer, the second principle of entrustment to Mary works in an indispensable tandem. From those twin principles, Father Raffaele moved to a consideration of the role of the Holy Spirit in Kolbean

missionary strategy. He pointed out that St. Therese of Lisieux, the co-patron of the missions, never left her convent, yet her prayer sustained Catholics all over the world, even in the most remote areas. Prayer leads to docility to the Holy Spirit, open necessarily to the Word of God, to the will of God expressing itself. Father pointed out the total docility of Mary to the action of the Holy Spirit. This docility in the life of Mary led Kolbe to "going" onward with mission, impelled by the Holy Spirit. He had first "gone" inward. He, the

St. Maximilian's Vision for the MI Part Three

The following is Part Three of the powerful talk given by young Fr. Maximilian on November 15, 1919 (cf. KW 1248). He speaks honestly of the difficulties the MI will face while instilling unwavering confidence in God through the Immaculata. Read and be ready to soldier on!

IV. The Difficulties of the MI

Difficulties and setbacks to be faced will certainly come. In fact, every time something good has taken place on this earth, the greater and better that good was, the worse were the setbacks to be endured. One need only take a look at history. We should therefore expect something quite similar. And what I am saying is not merely based on theory, since I myself have seen with my own eyes and have heard how the MI in Rome was purified by fire.

But where could such setbacks possibly be coming from? We must be ready to receive them from any direction. I am not speaking here of the labor we experience in every job or even the struggle that the very people whose eternal salvation we strive for will be mounting against us: misreading our intentions and our best purposes (and occasionally doing so deliberately) and casting the most deceitful slurs, according to their slogan, expressed, if I remember correctly, by Voltaire: "Slander, slander: something will stick." I want to talk, instead, of the persecution we may have to suffer at the hands of sensible, cautious, and even pious and holy people (possibly even enrolled in the ranks of the MI), who may be acting with the best of intentions.

In truth, what hurts the most (if you fail to trust only in God through the Immaculata) is seeing that someone,

for the greater glory of God and with the greatest fervor of which he is capable, cuts off our activity, ruining and trying to destroy whatever we build. And the same person, after having joined the cause of the Militia, may later take others out of it, insinuating doubt, sowing distrust and indifference.

As if that were not enough, we also are inconstant. What we keenly take on today may seem to us trivial tomorrow; what entices us with its charm today may well discourage us tomorrow on account of the number and the harshness of sacrifices it entails.

What are we to rely on in such cases? For a foundation to be unshakable, it must have something steadfast, unchanging, in a word, something divine, which for us is solely holy and blind obedience to the Immaculata, who reveals her will through our Superiors. If one leans on such foundation, then, one shall fear no storm. All the good and the wicked may rise against him by word or action; his burdened body may succumb when facing fatigue; his intellect may be darkened; he may hesitate and lose hope; everything in and around him may conspire against him; hell itself may go on a rampage; the whole world may be overturned and everything end up in turmoil: he will despise all that, not at all trusting in himself, but in God through the Immaculata

without limits. In her all-powerful hands he will act with assurance. That, and that only, is indeed the granite rock against which all the foamy billows break.

I can say, not only in theory, but on the basis of my experience and that of others, that I have to my great surprise witnessed how some people were able to cope with all trials unperturbedly, even when such trials, quite understandable in themselves and often suggested by prudence, aimed to annihilate the MI at its very roots...

All these setbacks are quite useful, necessary, and even indispensable, since they make our whole cause much clearer; they strengthen and train our will to hard work, becoming a source of merits in heaven. As a matter of fact, quite a few things were made clear "de facto" already in the test of fire in Rome, namely the basis and principles of the whole Militia, just as it happens in the holy Church, where heresies function as a stimulus for articulating and clarifying the truth. And since it is aware of the strength and the immutability of the truth being thwarted, our will is keenly urged to preserve it. After setbacks have vanished, it takes courage and is revived. Having been put to the test through sufferingalbeit supported by hope and a firm assurance of victory that comes from an unshakable foundation—our will is ready to engage in harsher and riskier battles that will entail more suffering. Because of that, we will also be granted a *reward* much greater than that which we would have obtained if everything had gone smoothly; a reward all the greater and more wonderful, the harder the trial; the more painful the suffering, the more ardent was the love we will have shown exclusively to God through our work of salvation and sanctification of souls.

(to be continued)



The Beginning of a Great Adventure

By Antonella Di Piazza, FKMI, National Coordinator

"A lot of water has already passed under the bridge: it all took place nearly 18 years ago, so I have almost forgotten a number of details". Thus, at the prompting of his superior, Fr. Kornel Czupryk, Fr. Maximilian begins to unveil the beginnings of the Militia of the Immaculata, (MI) in one of his unpublished writings (KW 1278) - a precious gift for us! It is winter of 1917. Friar Maximilian is in Rome, at the International Theological College of the Franciscan Order, preparing for his priestly ordination. He is only 23 years old, but his mind and heart embrace already cosmopolitan horizons. He takes deep interest in the life of his Franciscan family, the Church and the world. He loves God and the Immaculate Virgin with evangelical simplicity, and desire to live the Gospel to the letter, serving the Lord with the generous dedication of his seraphic father Francis, the knight of the Great King. Goodness attracts him to the highest, while the manifestations of evil move him to action.

"When in Rome the Freemasons started coming out in the open daringly, flaunting their banners under the windows of the Vatican, depicting, on the black banners of the followers of Giordano Bruno, St. Michael the Archangel crushed under the foot of Lucifer, and openly lashing out against the Holy Father in propaganda pamphlets, the thought came of setting up an association committed to fighting Freemasonry and other servants of Lucifer. To make sure that such idea was coming from the Immaculata, I sought counsel from my spiritual director at the time. Fr. Alessandro Basile, a Jesuit.... Having obtained assurance from holy obedience, I decided to get down to work." Young Friar Maximilian observes with

lucidity the destructive effects of atheistic secularism, represented by freemasonry that impudently celebrates its 200th anniversary. He is aware of the spreading of dangerous religious indifferentism and various antireligious theories, as well as of the subtle decline of morality. He suffers in witnessing a certain quietism among Catholics, despite the persecution the Church undergoes in various nations and the Popes' unrelenting appeals to live out the missionary dimension of the Christian calling. However, Friar Maximilian does not stop at a pessimistic outlook of reality. He knows that Jesus is the Lord of history, the Prince of peace. He understands that the Immaculate Virgin is the new Woman, called by Jesus Himself to be the model, guide and Mother of grace for all men of every time and place: "Woman, behold your son" (Jn 19:26). Maximilian ponders, prays and discerns.

A few months later, the young Franciscans spend their vacation outside Rome, at the "Vigna" friary. "During a football game, blood started coming out of my mouth. I drew aside and lay down on the grass. Br. Girolamo Biasi, of blessed memory, took care of me. I spat up blood for quite a while.... Two weeks later, the doctor finally allowed me to go out for the first time. When the clerics saw me, they cheered and were in high spirits, and brought me fresh figs, wine and bread. Having had something to eat and drink, my aches and pangs ceased, and for the first time I mentioned the idea of starting an association to Br. Girolamo Biasi and Fr. Iosif Pal, who had been ordained a priest before me although we were attending the same year of theology. However, I stipulated that each of them should consult their spiritual directors first, to make sure that it was in fact God's will." As it happens often, a great adventure begins with the coming together of friends who share one grand ideal... sometimes around a basket of fresh figs!

(to be continued)

From New MI Members

Over the past few months, we have received literally hundreds of new enrollments in the MI and the Knights at the Foot of the Cross. In their comments, new members often indicate that they came to know about the MI through one's spiritual director, an MI member, a friend or a relative (a woman wrote: "Through my adorable, amazing, God-sent husband"), or while attending a Church event. Others say they felt compelled to join Our Lady's family while reading St. Maximilian's own writings, or one of his biographies or a book on Marian consecration, or while seeking how to improve one's spiritual life.

We like to share just a few of the comments some of them left behind with their enrollments. Enjoy and be inspired!

*I made a pilgrimage at the Casa Kolbe this past November 2016. I decided then I want to be a part of the movement. Because of St. Maximilian Kolbe's intercession, I was granted to serve at the Vatican during the week of the Closing of the Year of Mercy in November. For that, I am indebted to him. Michelle

*I am looking forward to being a contributor to the MI movement. William *Thank you for all you do for Mary. We own a restaurant so I try to promote her by wearing a miraculous medal ring so my customers can have a good look at it while I wait on them. I also pray for each of them to Mary Immaculate. Michelle *I have already spread the word in my parish and also told my clients at work! Now I have a personal relationship with our Mother, stronger than ever before! I certainly hope that in my own little way that will be able to help people come closer to our Blessed Mother. Maria

Reflection on the January MI Intention

O Immaculata please intercede that the MI worldwide may be a sign of peace and joy for all people.

The testimony of a heart at peace and perfectly in harmony with the Lord and others is the very best a Christian can offer to the society in which he lives. For this purpose, and if we consider the splendid example of St. Maximilian, an MI member is urgently needed. Their heart is constantly inhabited by the Lord and is in peace, which they transmit to all who they accompany spiritually or just meet. It's enough to think of the peace of mind that he instilled in fellow prisoners in Auschwitz to understand the richness of Maximilian's interior life. The Saint is able to pacify the souls of those who live trying moments. For example, when it comes to carrying on pioneering works, he doesn't stop to encourage others' hearts to trust in the Lord, a sentiment that lies deep in his soul. The same is true in respect to those who are with him in the death camp, who nourish their hopes thanks to the word and the martyrdom of Maximilian.

Some time before the last arrest on September 10, 1940, he wrote from Niepokalanów to the friars of Mugenzai No Sono in Japan: "In fact, prayer is a means that people do not know about, and yet it is the most effective way to restore peace in the soul, to give them happiness, because it serves to bring them closer to God's love. Prayer revives the world. Prayer is the indispensable condition for the regeneration and the life of every soul. By means of prayer, St. Therese of Lisieux, without leaving the walls of her convent, became the patron of all missions and not only the titular patron saint, as experience shows" (KW 903).

These expressions make us understand that prayer allows humans to live in the peace of the Lord: indeed, it allows the total regeneration of heart, now free from every kind of obstacle. With prayer, a person, full of consolation and strength, manages to reach abundant spiritual fruit. In the journey of the M.I. member prayer is an essential element, from the moment Maximilian places it as a means for those who follow this Marian itinerary.

Very eloquent are the following words, taken from the same letter: "Let us pray, let us pray well, pray much, both with our lips and in our thought, and we shall experience in ourselves how the Immaculata will take increasing possession of our souls, how our belonging to her will deepen more and more in every respect, how our sins will vanish. and our flaws will weaken, how gently and powerfully we will come ever closer to God. Outer activity is good, but of course, is of secondary importance, and even less than that when compared to the inner life, to the life of recollection and prayer, to the life of our own personal love for God" (KW 903). The prayer of the martyr of Auschwitz is extremely concrete because it bears the fruit of conversions.

Praying doesn't mean just talk with God, but pursue, with his support, a path to sanctification with abundant and positive results. Progress in the spiritual life depends upon the quality of communion with God: the more profound it is, the greater is



the possibility to grow in holiness of life. This involves achieving a great peace of heart, which becomes, like Maximilian teaches, a testimony of love, also thanks to a constant attitude of listening, fundamental in the practice of all virtues. Peace, according to Maximilian, flows from a relationship of profound union with the Most High, by Whom he lets himself be instructed and guided. The Polish martyr helps us understand the importance of silence and meditation. To foster a fruitful and on-going dialogue with God you must make room for prayer in suitable places and times: prayer marks a real lifestyle.

In this way people rise above the worries that society presents, working above all to nourish their conversation with God. Who is to be loved above all things and gives strength in all circumstances. Prayer, then, is also listening. St. Maximilian is exemplary as well in terms of discernment precisely because he can create the silence needed to be challenged by the voice of God. Prayer is always characterized by an undercurrent of confidence and trust in divine providence. When the heart is filled with the love of God in prayer it is pacified and knows how to pacify.

For Reflection

The MI today and in the future is called to assume this style. Our witness becomes credible if that peace reigns in the heart, a peace that ripens and is fed by communion with God and the subsequent spiritual progress. The world needs peace and peaceful hearts pacified. Maximilian teaches us the way, and it's up to us to follow it with conviction.

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

NEWS FROM TEXAS

MI *Domus Mariae* Village, Houston

http://www.midomusmariae.com/ http://www.midomusmariae.wordp ress.com/ Contact: info@MIDomusMariae.com

An MI Consecration Ceremony was held on Wednesday, December 7, 2016. To all the New MI Members a big *Welcome*!



Special Thanks to MI Member, Fr. Alvaro Interiano, for celebrating the Mass and presiding over the Ceremony. Also MI Members, Richard Zamecki, Delores Lemp and Susan Wysocki, as well as Robert Wysocki for helping out! Photos of the MI Consecration can be seen here: http://polishchurchhouston.com//anon s/galerie_fotografii/1320-

Consecration_of_Militia_Immaculata. html



We look forward to hearing from local groups/villages. Send news and pictures by the 20th of the month. Thank you!

MI Local Events Midwest

Wisconsin

Elroy

Rosa Mystica MI Village Contact: Bev Cousineau at 608-572-1266

Fond du Lac

Mother of Mercy MI Village

Where: St. Clare Terrace / St. Francis Home, 31 Everett St., Fond du Lac, WI Second Monday @ 1 PM, 2nd floor chapel in meeting room Contact: Ann Fontecchio at <u>annf.prolife@gmail.com</u>

Milwaukee

Village of the Immaculata

Where: 1428 W Howard Ave Every 1st Saturday Contact: Kurt Keidl at kkeidlofs@gmail.com

Colorado

Denver

MI Village Where: 2160 S. Zenobi, Notre Dame Catholic Church Contact: Tomas Fuerte at tfuerte@denvernotredame.org

Ohio

Gahanna

MI Village Where: St. Matthew Church, 626 Waybaugh Drive, Gahanna, OH 43230 Contacts: Jeffrey Bernard at jeff.bernard@cat.com militiaimmaculatacbus@gmail.com

Bay Village

Contact: Carl at carldister@ieee.org

Kansas/Missouri

Spiritual Vessel Village

Second Thursday of the month at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, La Cygne, KS Contact: Juanita Chrisman, jvcathrtlnd@hotmail.com

Ave Maria Village

Where: Senior Center at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 3333 Broadway, Kansas City, on 1st Saturday of the month at 11:00 a.m. Contact: Christine Rossi, immaculata8@kc.rr.com

Mystical Rose Village

Where: Sacred Heart Church, Mound City, KS. Second Saturday of the month at Cecelia Clay, fatchick3955@yahoo.com

Totus Tuus Maria Village

Where: Holy Trinity Church, 13615 W. 92nd Street, Lenexa, KS Third Sunday of the month at. Ly Luck-Smith, Amy Huerter, or Kym Brungardt at totustuusmariamivillage@gmail.com

Children of Mercy Village

Wednesdays, Atchison KS. Agnes Pouy, 913-367-4174

Queen of Peace Village

Third Friday of the month, Immaculate Conception Church, 711 N. 5th St., Leavenworth, KS. 8:30 a.m. Mass, followed by a 9:00-11:00 a.m. meeting in Miege Hall in the church basement. Contact: Virginia at gemmaj@aol.com

The Upper Room MI Prayer Village

Where: Upper Room, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Wichita, KS Third Wednesday of the month Contact: Mary Rubeck, 316-778-1939, mrubeck@aol.com

Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe Family Village

First Saturday of the month, at 4:30pm, Lenexa, KS. Anabella Wasserman, 913-599-1536, gonwas@gmail.com

Bon Secour Village

Whe: Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, Kansas City, MO. Contact Fran Cobb for meeting time and location, 816-456-6048, mfcobb@gmail.com

Queen of Angels Village

Blue Springs, MO. Meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 9:00 am. Contact for location and directions: Helen Boos, 816-229-3849 or Becky Malicoat, 816-229-7134, jmalicoat@att.net

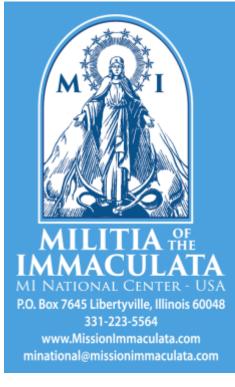
Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Village

Liberty, MO. Meets on the 3rd Saturday of the month at 10:00 am. Contact Deacon Chuck Koesterer, chuck@stjames-liberty.org

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. MI INTERNATIONAL

Check regularly the MI website <u>MissionImmaculata.com</u> 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

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