

THE MISSION OF THE *Immaculata*

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The Problem of Evil

By John W. Galten, MI National President

Dear Knights of the Immaculata,

Maria!

I want to visit one last time the subject of the sins of some of the hierarchy and the victims of sexual abuse. Remember that I have called you to prayer and penance as a response to this moral crisis.

The problem of evil has vexed humanity from the beginning. All people are confronted with the “mystery of evil” or *mysterium iniquitatis* as it is named by the Church. The mystery of evil manifested especially by sin shocks us and causes us to stop and ask, “Where does it come from? Why does it persist? Why does it seem so powerful?”

Christ and His Church have the answer to this most pressing of issues. They take us back to the beginning, to the truth that everything that God has made is good. Scripture reveals that sin (evil) entered the world as a result of the revolt of some angels and the fall of our first parents. Here is the source of evil, the misuse of the gift of our freedom and the rejection of the gift of God’s love. The beginning, however, also promises a future salvation through the “woman and her seed.”

St. Maximilian trumpets this promise of God in his MI Movement and the prayer of Total Consecration—which unites us to the Woman and her Seed, the Lord Jesus Christ—the living out of which consecration will crush the head of the serpent. So, we have the derivation of evil and its antidote in our grasp.

(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)

What, however, makes the “mystery of evil” so shocking to us after so many years and millennia since Our Lord in His Paschal mystery triumphed over evil? First, it is the prevalence and the proliferation of sin, even seeming to engulf whole human cultures. Second, that so many have grown proud of sin and even brag about it, shedding even the slightest of shame. Third, the evidence that evil has become a culture, a culture of death, seemingly vying with the “civilization of love” that is based on the values of the Gospel. Last, it has reached a stage in which many are claiming shamelessly that “good is evil and evil is good” In short, we have reached as a culture a sense of the malice of evil.

In Pope Saint John Paul II’s encyclical letter, *Dominum et Vivificantem*, On the Holy Spirit in the Life of the Church and the World (May 18, 1986, Solemnity of Pentecost), he provides teaching on this matter. The Holy Father reminds us that Jesus at the Last Supper promises His Church the Holy Spirit and in one part of that promise indicates that the Spirit “will convince the world of sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no more; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is already judged” (Jn 16:8-11). Sin is in this sense the rejection of His mission—not believing that He is the Savior, the Redeemer. The Holy Spirit will prove to the world that He came to save the world but was killed by sinful men. Satan is defeated and already judged, to be assigned at the end of the world to hell forever. Jesus has not come into the world to judge it but to offer it salvation by faith in Him. The Holy Spirit will reveal the

malice of sin in the light of the suffering and death of Jesus its Savior. The Resurrection will reveal by the Spirit the gift of salvation in Christ, crucified and risen. It is the full dimension of the *mysterium pietatis* (the saving mystery of Christ) that will be shown in all its splendor as opposed to the dark defeat of the mystery of evil. Christ and the Spirit will bring to naught, to nothing, the deeds of sin and darkness.

And what of St. Maximilian’s gifts? He sees clearly in the Immaculate Conception, the Spouse of the Holy Spirit, how this Bride will, by her intercession and collaboration with the Holy Spirit, give the graces necessary for her children to reject Satan and sin to the resounding triumph of her Son. We read the words of St. Maximilian: “The Holy Spirit does not act except through the Immaculata, his Spouse. Hence she is the Mediatrix of all the graces of the Holy Spirit.” The is the power of the Total Consecration, that we, armed with the graces of Jesus Christ, given to us by the Holy Spirit, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, can and will triumph over evil. The Holy Spirit and the Immaculata not only convince of sin but offer the riches of salvation contained in the Kingly Heart of Jesus.

We, armed with this knowledge and power, sally forth as Knights, filled with confidence and are “not afraid” for the outcome already decided by His Paschal Mystery. He has triumphed over sin and death! Forward, always forward! Arise, let us be on our way!

John W. Galten
MI National President

**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



MI NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

On October 1-2, 2018, the MI National Council met at the Little Garden of the Immaculata, the newly established National Home in Peoria, Illinois, to discuss future plans for furthering Our Lady’s MI mission in the United States.

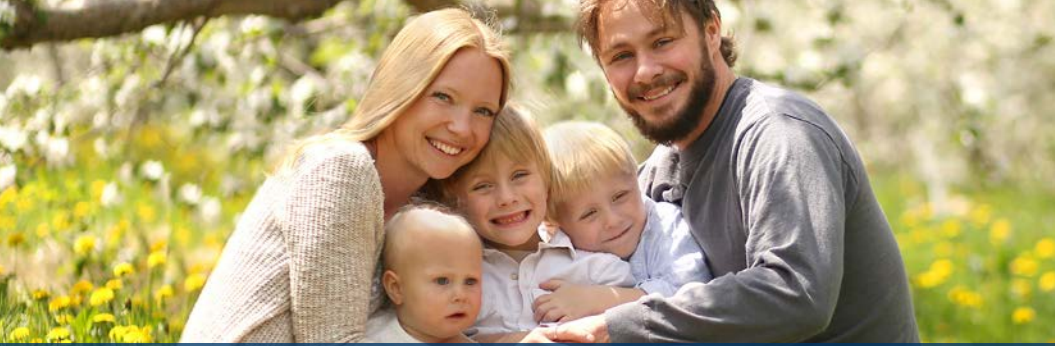
Fr. William Miller and the MI National Assistant, Fr. Thomas Czeck, OFM Conv., concelebrated the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

A special gift was a meeting with the Bishop of Peoria, Most Reverend Daniel Jenky, CSC, who showed a most warm welcome to the MI in his Diocese.

Following the Council meeting, the National President offered a parish mission in Galesburg, Illinois.

More to report in the upcoming Fall mailing, which will include the 2019 MI Intentions leaflet.





Humanae Vitae: The Reason My Wife and I Returned to the Church

By Paul Turano, as told to Sue Ellen Browder

As MI members we are committed to live and give witness to the beauty of our Faith in all walks of life. Obedience to God's will and fidelity to the teaching of the Catholic Church about married life and love are crucial today as we strive to bring Christ back to the heart of our culture. An inspiring testimony.

When I recently read about the new assault within the Church on Pope St. Paul VI's 1968 encyclical on contraception, I was deeply disturbed. *Humanae Vitae* told the truth about contraception and all its negative impacts on people and society. It was precisely because we read *Humanae Vitae* that my wife, Margaret, I and became "reverts" to the Catholic Church after being away for almost 20 years. Margaret and I were both raised Catholic and attended Catholic grammar schools, high schools and young people's retreats. But by 1980, when we met in graduate school, we had essentially left the Church.

Still, there was enough "Catholic" in us that when we decided to get married, we got married in the Church. Before our wedding, we did the pre-Cana weekend, where we heard a talk on natural family planning (NFP), and Margaret said, "That's what I'm doing!" We went to a NFP class, and she came away very confused. She couldn't make head or tails of the information she had been given. It seemed almost incomprehensible. I'll be quite honest with you: I was relieved! NFP relies on periods of abstinence to avoid conception, and I wasn't at all interested in abstinence — I was getting married! Margaret had received the "standard freshman talk" on the pill in college and was totally opposed to the idea of pumping her healthy body full of hormones. So when we were

married in 1982, to avoid pregnancy, we began using barrier methods, which, honestly, felt more like a barrier to intimacy.

Two years into our marriage, Margaret was diagnosed with endometriosis, and the doctors wanted to put her on hormones. She told the doctor, "Wait a minute! I was just reading I could have a baby and that would take care of this." And the doctor said, "Yes, but you don't want to do that." Well, she did. We stopped us-

When we read Pope St. Paul VI's Encyclical on contraception, we were stunned. Based on our lives and observations, we knew *Humanae Vitae* was right.

ing contraception, and three weeks later, she was pregnant. After our first son was born, Margaret breast-fed and didn't have a period for 14 months. When she finally realized she hadn't been fertile all that time, but we'd been using barriers to prevent pregnancy when we didn't need to, she was upset. She told me, "I'm not doing that again!" So I agreed to have Margaret look into natural methods.

Margaret found that there were two local NFP classes available: One was taught by Planned Parenthood, and the other was presented by the Catholic Church. She spoke with her midwife about it. Margaret told her, "I'm not going back to the Catholic Church. I left the Church over contraception." But her midwife reasoned that

the Catholic Church's NFP classes were bound to be more effective than Planned Parenthood's because the Church doesn't have abortion as a backup.

So we went to the local Catholic church for a natural family planning class. We ended up practicing NFP for the remaining years of our fertility and found it very effective, as all four of our pregnancies during that time were planned. We had been using NFP for at least eight years when our former NFP instructor mentioned *Humanae Vitae*. "What's that?" we asked. In spite of all our Catholic upbringing and education, we'd never heard of *Humanae Vitae*. She was shocked. She said, "You've been using NFP for eight years, and you've never heard of *Humanae Vitae*? We have to read it together."

When we read Pope St. Paul VI's encyclical on contraception, we were stunned. Based on our own lives and observations, we knew that *Humanae Vitae* was right. You didn't need to be a theologian to see that!

I remember Margaret saying quite emphatically, "This is the truth, and these are the only people saying it. We're Catholic!" And so back to the Church we went. I often hear the charge that NFP is just "Catholic contraception."

No way! *Humanae Vitae* condemns contraception while condoning natural methods — and, from experience, for good reason. Contraception facilitates the death of love, while NFP facilitates the love needed to build a marriage and raise children. I know from using contraception the negative effects it can have on love. When you take the procreative part out of sex, it's all too easy to fall into the trap of looking at your wife simply as a means of easing your own sexual tensions. That's dehumanizing. That kills love.

I've learned a lot about love through the practice of NFP and through the Faith. As Catholics, we believe that God is love. To learn about love, look at God. Look at the Cross: Love is self-sacrificing. Christ died for us on the Cross so that we might have eternal life in union with Him. In marriage, by sacrificing for each other, you know you're loved and that you love your wife and children.

(Continues on pg. 4)

Praying the Word of God

Lectio Divina with Mary



Lectio divina means:

-A prayerful reading (*lectio*) of the Word of God (*divina*), a Word which can save our lives (James 1:22-25).

-Also, a reading of God's Word in His company; that is, in His presence and under His guidance.

This kind of "reading" is meant to encompass/engage our mind, heart, spirit, that is, our whole life. Our Lady is our perfect prayer companion and model, as the account of the Annunciation clearly shows.

1. Preparation

First set a time (if possible, at least a half hour) and look for a quiet spot, whether at church, in a chapel, or in your room, where you can turn off all interior and exterior distractions (cell phone, computer, iPad, etc.). Before starting your reading and listening to the Word of God, call to mind that you have been given the grace actually to encounter God in the Heart of Mary, His Mother and yours. In order to do so, you can simply say a Hail Mary or renew your consecration to her. With Mary invoke the Holy Spirit, that He may purify and open your heart, enable you to recognize God's Voice, and guide you to be gradually formed and transformed, like Mary, into a disciple of Jesus. Thus, you enter into prayer with Mary, in union with her Heart, poor, pure, docile and receptive (cf. *Marialis Cultus*, 17-20).

2. Reading

Open the Word of God and attentively read the chosen passage (i.e., the Gospel reading of the day). Read it and re-read it, seeking to listen to the Lord who, today, wishes to speak with you, through His Word. It may be useful to locate the passage in its original context, and to read it while keeping in mind what took place before and after. To discover better its central message, it may be useful to pin down key words: the verbs, the different

players, the adjectives that describe people and situations. Following the Holy Spirit's inspiration, it may be helpful to read a similar/parallel Scripture passage, or a pertinent writing of a saint, which may broaden your understanding of God's Word. In any case, you should avoid superficiality and rushing through the texts.

Turn again to Mary, who kept words and events and pondered them in her Heart (Lk 2:19 and 2:51), so as to listen to this Word of the Lord with her disposition and observe with her eyes what's happening in the Scripture scene that you are meditating upon. Most important, let yourself be led by her not only to listen to the Word but also to welcome it and put it into practice (cf. Mt 8:19-21; Jn 2:5), so that the Lord may live in you and you may bear fruit (cf. Jn 15:1-17).

3. Meditation

Now you should be ready to meditate. Meditation presupposes that the text has been read, re-read, almost chewed. Try to capture the Gospel values that the Lord wishes to point out to you, to discover why they are important, and the significance they hold for your life at this time. As Mary did at the Annunciation, enter with her into dialogue with the Word of God.

Following the Holy Spirit's lead, ask:

- What is the treasure found within this Scripture passage?
- What mystery does it reveal to me?
- Which attitude/stance/way of thinking does it suggest to embrace or to avoid?
- What does it want to tell me, today?

Allow yourself to be led by Mary in becoming docile to the working of the Holy Spirit. Following in her footsteps, you will gradually learn how to perceive God's action and direction in your life and how to act according to His Spirit in the different situations, events, choices, problems, so as to make decisions according to the Gospel values.

4. Prayer

As you ponder God's Word, Mary draws you deeper into prayer, toward an intimate encounter with the Lord, teaching you how to dwell in the Divine Presence, as she did in her own life. She invites you to share in her *Fiat* and *Magnificat* in the reality of your life, wherever you are called to respond to the call to holiness and participate in the Church's mission.

5. Contemplation

Prayer with the Word of God gives way to contemplation; that is, experience of intimacy with God, experiential knowledge of Him, adoration, praise, surrender, thanksgiving... a sincere response of love to the One who loves me. Don't get discouraged, though, if you experience dryness or distraction: the quality of prayer doesn't depend on feelings.

6. Action

Prayer compels you to action, or rather to contemplation in action: to live in union with Our Lady, in the presence of God, in communion with Him in the most varied, and sometimes challenging circumstances of life: "I can do all things in Him who strengthens me (cf. Phil 4:13), through the Immaculata" (St. Maximilian Kolbe).

Lectio divina, therefore, does not really end, but rather continues in your daily life of love of God and others, and can truly lead you to become a living presence of Mary, an instrument of love and mercy in her Hands, wherever God calls you to be...

ADP

Humanae Vitae

(Cont. from pg. 3)

When practicing abstinence to space children, it leads to very serious discussions with your wife. You can ask every month, "Why are we abstaining?" As a couple, you should talk about all of your various problems and difficulties and look together for options and solutions. It's through the process of working together through the difficulties of married life and wanting the best for each other and your family that love grows in a marriage and the marriage is built.

After experiencing the positive impact of of NFP on our marriage, Margaret and I wanted to share this gift with other couples, which Paul VI encouraged in *Humanae Vitae*. So we trained to be NFP instructors and were certified in 1999. Margaret and I teach NFP as a couple to other married and engaged couples. Why? Because of their mutual fertility, both the husband and wife need to be fully informed about why and how to use NFP, so they can use it effectively. They both need to be fully on board to experience the marriage-building effects of NFP. I feel it's my role in the classes to be supportive of the guys, speaking to them from my experience and saying, "This is very, very important, and you can do it!"

Margaret and I returned to the Catholic Church because *Humanae Vitae* told the truth. By living our lives according to its precepts, we've avoided the damage of contraception and, through NFP, have found our love increasing as we navigate the challenges of married life. *Humanae Vitae* is right!

Sue Ellen Browder is the author of *Subverted: How I Helped the Sexual Revolution Hijack the Women's Movement*. Margaret and Paul Turano currently teach through Natural Family Planning International, a comprehensive program that teaches all methods of NFP.

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Reflection on November MI Intention

O Immaculata please intercede that the life of the MI may be a continual invitation to holiness for every person.

I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. (Jn 13:34-35)

At times, we may wonder: What do people see when they look at us at the store, on the highway, at the airport...? What do we communicate with our attitude, behavior, our eyes...? We belong to the Lord and the Immaculata, strive for holiness and desire to give witness to the truth in love... but are these things apparent to others? We might have to admit that sometimes it might be difficult to see who we are, especially when we are going through difficult days. However, we must remember that we are on a mission 24/7 and therefore we are to pay attention to make sure we are offering an authentic witness to the Lord, day in and day out.

The universal call to holiness reminds us that each of us is responsible for radiating sanctity wherever we are. St. Maximilian Kolbe noted, very early in his rule of life, "I must be a saint, the greatest saint possible" (KW 971). He challenged himself to respond to the God's call before the world and the Church. From the personal commitment to holiness derives the sanctity of our Movement and groups.

To become saints is really a call to become truly who we were created to be, as individuals, as families and also as a Movement. St. Maximilian constant invitation to MIs was to look at the Immaculata so as to become like her, to become one with her, to love God and others with her Heart.

We belong to the Immaculata at all times: when we pray and work, when we socialize and rest, when we shop and relax. Our lives thus become instruments for inviting others to draw closer to God through Mary, even when we do not think about it. St. Catherine of Siena used to say, "If you are who you are called to be, you will set the world on fire!" St. Maximilian's ideal echoes this vision.

Holiness does not imply wishing to be noticed or singled out. Actually, the less fuss about ourselves we make the better. Our Lady's holiness was marked by humility and her daily life appeared to be very common, but she indeed radiated Divine Love everywhere she went. Let us ask her to be with us and to show us the way to be holy and to be instruments of holiness in our world.

(From the MI International Office)

PRAYER IN HONOR OF ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE
Lord Jesus Christ, who said, "Greater love than this no man has that a man lay down his life for his friends," through the intercession of St. Maximilian Kolbe whose life illustrated such love, we beseech you to grant us our petitions... (mention special requests.)
Through the Militia of the Immaculata movement, which Maximilian founded, he spread a fervent devotion to Our Lady throughout the world. He gave up his life for a total stranger and loved his persecutors, giving us an example of unselfish love for all men, a love that was inspired by true devotion to Mary.
Grant, O Lord Jesus, that we too may give ourselves entirely without reserve to the love and service of our Heavenly Queen in order to better love and serve our fellowmen in imitation of your humble servant, Maximilian. Amen.
(Three Hail Marys and a Glory Be.)

MILITIA OF THE IMMACULATA
The MI Journey:
Evangelizing in Communion

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2018 Monthly Prayer Intentions

Invite your family and friends to be consecrated to Our Lady!

MI Local News Talk on Spiritual Warfare in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin



Our Mother of Mercy Village was honored to host the Very Reverend Richard Heilmann for a talk on Spiritual Warfare. Father is the author of 54 Day Basic Training in Holiness with St. Maximilian Kolbe Marian Consecration, and Church Militant Field Manual, founder of Knights of Divine Mercy, and Spiritual Advisor on Relevant Radio's Inner Life.

We learned of his journey from the seminary in the 1980s, when belief in the supernatural and sense of the sacred had been diminished by the revolution of the 1960s. New fads and compromises with the world had stripped away our sense of awe and wonder in our churches, leaving us with a lack of fire and conviction, no spiritual weapons, "naked on the battlefield," paving the way for Modernists to take control and for Satan to do whatever he wanted.

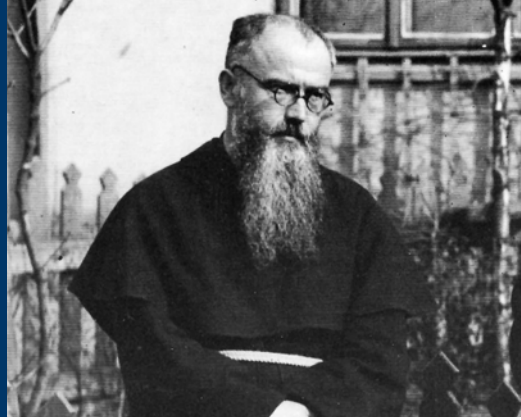
In 1998, while at Mass with St. John Paul II in Rome, he experienced an enlightenment to the beauty, awe, and wonder of the Holy Mass and resolved to bring back that reverence and sense of the sacred in his own parish and to lead in spiritual battle.

We received a call to arms as "We are all in a spiritual battle, maybe the greatest in history, as the devil is really active now." But, a historic new light is shining the way to purification, taking power from Satan. An army of faithful Catholics is arising; engaged, on fire, consistent, strong in values, virtues, ethics. The army has swelled, mainly through the 54 Day Novenas. In 2016, 60,000 people committed to pray the Novena and many more have been praying the novena now up to our Spiritual D-Day, October 7, when the Rosary Coast to Coast took place at 800 sites, all praying the Glorious Mysteries at the same time. We are to have on our "fit armor at all times"; Confession, Rosary, Masses, Adoration, Scripture reading, Devotions. Let us all adopt Father's motto: "Peace through Strength," and his rallying cry to the Church Militant, "We're going in."

Ann Fontecchio,
Our Mother of Mercy MI Village Moderator

Mary's Gift

In his writings, St. Maximilian shares many of his personal experiences as he offered the Medal to everyone and everywhere. As we approach the feast of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal (November 27), let us be inspired by his example in our daily apostolate!



I was at the Fatebenefratelli hospital, where a Jew accepted the Miraculous Medal for his housemaid (5 more medals to other people). In the morning, the children of a seriously ill woman accepted the Miraculous Medal (8): a total of 13.

Everywhere, both in Czechoslovakia and in Austria, in Italy, and in France, everyone gratefully accepts the Miraculous Medal: even ticket collectors on trains, policemen, and other people. It means that the Immaculata can find a way to enter hearts. May this happen as soon as possible across the whole world!

If it should happen, because of more difficult circumstances, that no more Miraculous Medals are available, the MI would not cease to exist; the medal is an external sign of our total consecration to her. ... We unite ourselves to her; we become her instruments; we belong to her and actually become one with her. The MI act of consecration illustrates these ideas. ... During the apparition of the Miraculous Medal, she dictated an ejaculatory prayer. That is our prayer; in it we include all men. She gave us the Miraculous Medal, so that is the bullet [we need] to strike hearts. In addition, any other means may be used, as long as they are legitimate; anything that fervor and prudence may suggest—in a word, whatever Love commands us, a love without limits: her. Whatever this Loving Mother of ours, Mother of the whole world and of each and every soul, wishes to achieve through us. All inventions should be first in her service and only later for other purposes: art, literature, theater, cinema, books, journalism, radio, etc., etc. But before everything else we ourselves must be hers.

I offer the cab driver some Miraculous Medals for the whole family. He immediately showed his warmth and gratitude. They love the Immaculata. I did the same to a policeman and a ticket clerk, as I approached him to buy tickets.

Without losing heart at such display of unwillingness on the part of the sick man, I struck up a conversation with him and sat be-

side his bed. Since the patient was stubbornly putting Confession aside, I took the "bullet" that we use in the Militia, namely the Miraculous Medal. The patient asked: "What is it?" I explained briefly. He kissed it, agreed to have it put around his neck and... Confession began. Eternal thanks be to the Immaculata for such loving and merciful victories.

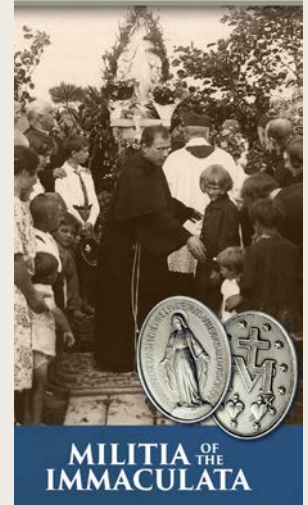
In 1920, a fairly unusual case happened even to me. In the Zakopane hospital, where for a time I lived as a patient and chaplain, a woman was breathing her last. She was already preparing to die, yet she spoke with great sorrow of her husband, whose conversion by now she no longer hoped for. Then he came to the hospital. I tried to suggest appropriate reading to him, conversing with him on religious subjects, but his only response to me was: "I need clearer evidence." Yet he took no pains at all to read more serious books. When he came to salute me at the time of departure, I made one last attempt. I handed him the Miraculous Medal, and he accepted it. After that I asked him to go to confession: "I am unprepared, no! Absolutely not!" was his answer, yet... he seemed compelled to kneel down and made his confession in tears.

Given that the Immaculata herself urged the propagation of the Miraculous Medal, in the hands of the Knights of the Immaculata that medal acts like a bullet, with which souls, wounded with love for the Immaculata, surrender to her more easily.

The Immaculata is "Suppliant Omnipotence." Each conversion and each sanctification is the work of grace, and she is the Mediatrix of all graces. So she alone is enough to beseech and to distribute all the graces, whatever grace. During the manifestation of the Miraculous Medal, Blessed Catherine Labouré saw the rays that shone forth from the precious rings that the Immaculata wore on her fingers. Such rays symbolize the graces that the Immaculata generously bestows upon all those who want them.

(Quotes from various Kolbe Writings)

**CONSECRATE
YOUR FAMILY
TO MARY!**



MI Family Consecration to the Immaculata

O Immaculata, Queen of heaven and earth, our life, our sweetness, and our hope, on this day we the (Family Surname) family come before you to consecrate ourselves to you as your possession and property. We praise God because He has brought us together to give ourselves to you our Mother. We do this because Jesus said on the Cross, "Behold your Mother."

We need you, Mother Mary, to help us to be a truly Catholic family. Enter into our family life. Repeat to us the words you spoke at Cana, "Do whatever He tells you." Help us to overlook one another's faults, to forgive as Jesus has forgiven us, and to love one another as Our Lord has asked us to love.

Please use our family to crush the head of the serpent. Ask your Spouse, St. Joseph, Protector of the universal Church, to keep us one in mind and heart with your Son's Vicar, the Pope. Today you have become the Queen of our hearts and home. May our home be a "City of the Immaculata," where the Sacred Heart of Jesus reigns forever. Amen.

V. Allow me to praise you, O sacred Virgin.
R. Give me strength against your enemies.



A Mountaintop Experience

During the 8th annual St. Mary Men's retreat, 47 men studied the "7 Secrets of Confession," in which Vinny Flynn shares his approach to the Sacrament of Confession with emphasis on the seven truths that are needed to be realized to get the full grace of this Sacrament. Using this book, the Holy Spirit guided us as in the past to reflect upon this great gift and to come to a better understanding of how our Lord wants us to use this to become more like Him.

The retreat, which was held on August 10-12 at a site near Bloomington, Idaho, united men from parishes throughout the Diocese of Salt Lake City as well as from Malad, Idaho, and Edwards Air Force

Base in California. This annual retreat has become an enduring spiritual journey, allowing men to freely and openly confront their personal "demons," sometimes for the first time in their life.

Father Gustavo Vidal, pastor of St. Mary Parish in West Haven and leader of these annual retreats, said the retreat can lead to transformations in men's lives. The retreat, which started in 2011, has evolved beyond his expectations, he said. Fr. Marcos Sanchez, pastor of the Malad, Idaho Missions, attended the retreat for the first time this year and gave new perspectives to the teachings. This year's retreat had the highest number of fathers and sons in attendance. This allowed the Holy Spirit to

come upon us and shift the focus of the retreat from "forgiveness" into something more "healing," which is at the core of this great Sacrament.

In conjunction with the 77th anniversary of the martyrdom of St. Maximilian Kolbe, the men at the retreat including 17 new consecrants, and along with those back at St. Mary Church, collectively celebrated the Rite of Consecration to the Immaculata. Each received the Miraculous Medal ordained by Our Lady.

To allow the "mountaintop experience" of the retreat to translate into a lived reality, men must continue to meet for mutual support to apply the principles they discovered during a retreat. Therefore, St. Mary Parish hosts monthly gatherings under the banner "Flame Keepers" to allow the men to fan the spiritual flames ignited by the retreat. Those interested can become involved with Flame Keepers now to prepare for attending next year's retreat, which is scheduled for August 9-11, 2019. For information, contact mensretreat.stmarys@gmail.com. Pictures of the annual retreats and details about next year's retreat may be found at the St. Mary website, www.stmarysutah.org.

Adam Ringel

MI Formation: Aims and Goals by John W. Galten

We resume our considerations of the aims and goals of the MI in the light of the Catechism of the Catholic Church (1992). We have expounded on the themes of Catholic, Eucharistic, and Marian. We now turn our attention to the aim of "apostolic." Obviously, this theme refers mainly to the apostolic succession of St. Peter and the Apostles, in and through the popes and bishops, but I want to concentrate on the apostolate or the proclamation of the Good News.

We read in the CCC (para. 863) under the title "Apostolate," the following: "The whole Church is apostolic, in that she remains, through the successor of St. Peter and the other Apostles, in communion of faith and life with her origin; and in that

she is 'sent out' into the whole world. *All members* [my italics] of the Church share in this mission, though in various ways.' The Christian vocation of its nature, a vocation to the apostolate as well.' Indeed we call an apostolate 'every activity of the Mystical Body' that aims 'to spread the Kingdom of Christ over all the earth.'"

Could anything be clearer to us as her Knights that we are, through our Total Consecration and witness, doing the essential Catholic "things." Does not the very wording of our Total Consecration prayer and promise complement what is the mission of the Church!

Our charism or gift is singular only in the sense of our Marian Consecration approach but always in concert with the

aims, goals and nature of Mother Church. Our message, method and approach is not outdated, outmoded, or antiquated but in all its freshness is at the heart of the Church and her mission. I would say that what is unique about our work is the emphasis on the Immaculata and her own "Immaculate Conception." The MI is the answer to the meaning of Our Lady's confirmation that she is the Immaculate Conception. It is the answer, or at least a major answer, to St. Maximilian's question—"Who are you, O Immaculate Conception?" The MI is the practical implementation to call all men to Christ—the call to immaculateness and holiness.

Until next month,
John Galten

MI RESOURCES

Available from the MI National Center



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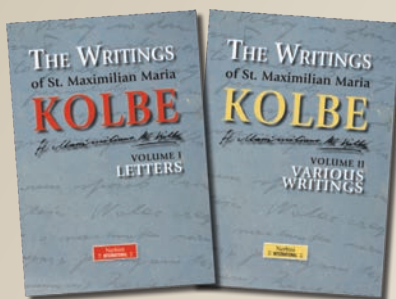
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Check regularly the MI website **MissionImmaculata.com** for updates, resources, special events and more!

"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