

THE KNIGHT OF THE *Immaculata*

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100th Anniversary of the First MI Magazine

We Shall Not Be Silent

By John W. Galten, MI National President

Dear Knights of the Immaculata,

Maria! As I write this column it is the middle of the Advent Season and the joy is building for the coming of our Savior! There is also, another momentous event involving children, millions of children, looming as I write. The U.S. Supreme Court is considering a case that could have the effect of rendering the abortion calamity called Roe v. Wade obsolete. Please God that this should happen!

This could mean that a large portion of the abortions performed in America would cease. However, the so-called unwanted pregnancies in this out-of-control culture will not cease. If this be so, what are we as Knights called to do?

First, among all worthy things to pray over, this court decision should be at the top of our list. Stand in solidarity with our unborn brothers and sisters.

Second, we all must look around our local area and find a pro-life organization that gives direct assistance to mothers who need help and support for their pregnancy. They will need baby supplies, emotional support and many other needs that we must answer.

Third, if the Court case goes well for the Respect Life side, the issue will probably devolve back to the States for action, an example being the Texas legislation that is being contested.

We must be ready and willing to write and call our state political representatives to eliminate or severely curtail abortion on demand. This has a political dimension, but it is even more fundamentally a human rights issue. It makes no difference what your personal party affiliation is, just write in support of unborn babies.



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“Through Mary Immaculate to Jesus: that is our watchword. The more you spread veneration and love for the Immaculata the more souls you win over to her, and, through her, to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, who loved us unto death on the Cross.”

– St. Maximilian Kolbe

Editorial

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During World War II, our patron saint, Maximilian, and his friars harbored and fed thousands of refugees. They are our social action Trail Blazers.

We must now not be found to turn a deaf ear to the “silent scream” of the millions of unborn who cry out to God and us for justice.

Pray and act locally. Pray, if you can, in front of an abortion clinic. It must not be said that we did not lift a finger to help mothers and children in their desperate need.

May the newborn Savior bless you and motivate you to act in the name of our brothers and sisters in need.

As always... “Arise, let us be on our way!”

John W. Galten
MI National President

We wish one and all a Blessed New Year!

May we grow in love and fidelity to the Lord through our total consecration to His and our Immaculate Mother.



Pray for the Unborn

Virgin of Guadalupe, Patroness of unborn children, we implore your intercession for every child at risk of abortion.

Help expectant parents to welcome from God the priceless gift of their child's life.

Console parents who have lost that gift through abortion, and lead them to forgiveness and healing through the Divine Mercy of your Son.

Teach us to cherish and to care for family and friends until God calls them home. Help us never to see others as burdens.

Guide our public officials to defend each and every human life through just laws. Inspire us all to bring our faith into public life, to speak for those who have no voice.

We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, who is Love and Mercy itself. Amen

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Daily Holy Mass

will be offered throughout 2022 for the MI-USA and all MI Members, living and deceased, at the City of the Immaculata established by St. Maximilian Kolbe near Warsaw, in Poland.

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

Invite Friends to Be Consecrated to Our Lady!



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

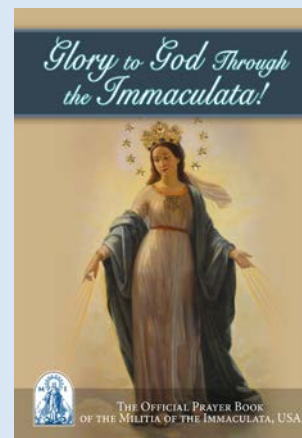
This beautiful 56-page booklet may be used individually or as a group activity (in a home or parish setting, for example), or as a series of classes led by a facilitator, or during a day of preparation for MI consecration to Our Lady. If you can offer a series of meetings, you can read each chapter with 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. **Behold Your Mother!** offers you an effective tool for making that possible!

Available also in audio book form.

Listen anytime, anywhere!

The suggested donation for multiple copies of the booklet is \$1.00/ea. plus shipping; for a single copy, the suggested donation is \$4.00 shipping included.



Order copies of both today from the MI National Office:

MINational@MissionImmaculata.com

Or call: 331-223-5564

This is Part One of the document The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church published by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. May it lead us to an ever-greater appreciation of this unfathomable Gift. We reprint it here for the ongoing formation of all MI members.

On March 27, 2020, at an early point in the global pandemic, Pope Francis walked alone in the rain across an empty St. Peter's Square to offer prayer for the world in a time of crisis.

"Faith", he said, "begins when we realize we are in need of salvation. We are not self-sufficient; by ourselves we founder: we need the Lord, like ancient navigators needed the stars." Recalling when Jesus was asleep in the boat as a tempest was raging (Mk 4:35-41), the Holy Father said, "The Lord awakens so as to reawaken and revive our Easter faith." On that day, Pope Francis presided over the rite of Eucharistic Exposition and Benediction in order to focus our attention on the presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. The Pope was reminding us that even in a time of turbulence and crisis, Jesus is present among us, as present as He was long ago in the boat on the Sea of Galilee.

In similar fashion, Pope Saint John Paul II reminded us of this ongoing presence when he repeated to us the words of Christ: I am with you always, to the end of the age (Mt 28:20). He proclaimed: "This promise of Christ never ceases to resound in the Church as the fertile secret of her life and the wellspring of her hope. As the day of Resurrection, Sunday is not only the remembrance of a past event: it is a celebration of the living presence of the Risen Lord in the midst of His own people."

We call on these inspiring words of the saintly Pope John Paul II as we offer these reflections on the importance of the Eucharist in the life of the Church. We do so mindful of how the pandemic has forced us to stay physically dis-



Our Greatest Treasure: The Most Holy Eucharist - Part I

tant from one another and, for a time, to view the celebration of the Mass on a television or computer screen. Many of the faithful appear to have had their faith and their desire for the Eucharist strengthened by such a long separation. At the same time, as pastors we sense that others, having lived without Mass for so long, may have become discouraged or accustomed to life without the Eucharist. In many ways the pandemic is still with us.

As Christians we know that we need Christ to be present in our lives. He is our very sustenance as He reminded us: unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you do not have life within you (Jn 6:53).

The Lord accompanies us in many ways, but none as profound as when we encounter Him in the Eucharist. On our journey toward eternal life, Christ nourishes us with His very self. Once, when told by someone that she no longer saw the point of going to daily Mass, the Servant of God Dorothy Day reflected: "We go eat of this fruit of the tree of life because Jesus told us to. ... He took upon Himself our humanity that we might share in His di-

vinity. We are nourished by His flesh that we may grow to be other Christs. I believe this literally, just as I believe the child is nourished by the milk from his mother's breast."

Yet, we also know that He is present to us in a way that binds us together as one body, which we proclaim by our "Amen" in responding to the invitation: The Body of Christ. Again, we call on the words of the beloved Polish pope: "For this presence to be properly proclaimed and lived, it is not enough that the disciples of Christ pray individually and commemorate the death and Resurrection of Christ inwardly, in the secrecy of their hearts. Those who have received the grace of Baptism are not saved as individuals alone, but as members of the Mystical Body, having-become part of the People of God."

As we continue to welcome people back to the communal celebration of the Mass, it must be acknowledged that no document can exhaust the mystery of the gift of the Eucharist.

Nevertheless, at various times, it is desirable to reflect on certain facets of the mystery that are relevant to con-

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temporary issues and challenges and that help us to appreciate more deeply the gift of grace that has been given to us. At this particular moment for the Church in the United States, with its many challenges, we would like to reflect on Christ's **gift** of Himself in the Eucharist and our **response** to that gift.

The Gift

At the Mass of the Lord's Supper celebrated on Holy Thursday, the priest prays these words:

For He is the true and eternal Priest, who instituted the pattern of an everlasting sacrifice and was the first to offer Himself as the saving Victim, commanding us to make this offering as His memorial. As we eat His flesh that was sacrificed for us, we are made strong, and, as we drink His Blood that was poured out for us, we are washed clean.

The words of the liturgy on the night the Church commemorates the institution of the Eucharist speak to us of the Mass as the re-presentation of Christ's unique sacrifice on the Cross, the reception of Christ truly present in the Sacrament of the Eucharist, and the marvelous effects of communion in those who receive this gift.

The mission of the Lord's entire life on earth was to glorify the Father by

bringing us salvation. In the Nicene Creed recited at Mass, we profess "For us men and for our salvation He came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man." The salvation offered in the Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ is nothing less than sharing in the very life of God, in the communion of love among the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

There is no greater gift that God could possibly give us. In Christ, we are *sharers in the divine nature* (2 Pt 1:4). The Church Fathers referred to this participation in the divine life as "divinization." The eternal Son of God made this possible by becoming man and uniting humanity to His divine Person. St. Augustine explained, "the maker of man was made man, so that man might be a receiver of God." In fact, Pope Francis reminds us that "in the bread of the Eucharist, 'creation is projected towards divinization, towards the holy wedding feast, towards unification with the Creator Himself'"

(to be continued)

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The document *The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church* was developed by the Committee on Doctrine of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). It was approved by the full body of the USCCB at its November 2021 General Meeting and has been authorized for publication by the undersigned.

Rev Michael J. K. Fuller
General Secretary, USCCB

Act of Total Consecration to the Immaculata

(Prayer 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.

As we start a new year, St. Maximilian invites us to keep our eyes focused on our ultimate goal and our mission.

The purpose of creation, the purpose of man is the love of God, Creator and Father; an ever greater love, divinization, return to God from whom he came, union with God, a fruitful love.

So that the love toward the Father could become even more perfect, infinitely more perfect, the love of the Son Jesus was manifested. He came down to earth, died on the Cross and has remained in the Eucharist, in order to awaken love toward Himself in our hearts.

Yet, for the love toward the Son to be heightened and the love to the Father to burn with even more ardent zeal, there comes to our aid the love of the Spirit, of the Immaculata, the one full of Mercy, the Mediatrix of all graces, an earthly creature like us, who strongly attracts hearts to herself by way of her Motherly heart.

And just as the love of God for creatures descends to earth from the Father through the Son and the Spirit, so through the Spirit and the Son there ascends up to the Father a response to such love, a reaction, the love of creation toward the Father. The love of the Father, of the Son and of the Spirit burns eternally. The love of the Father, of Jesus, of the Immaculata knows no imperfections. Only man (not always, not entirely) imperfectly reciprocates such love with love.

In other words to elicit such love toward the Immaculata by kindling it in one's heart and to communicate such fire to those who live around us; to kindle all souls, and each one indi-



At the Beginning of a New Year with the Immaculate Mother of God...

vidually, with such love: the souls who live now and shall live in the future. To set such flame of love within oneself ablaze ever more forcefully and without restrictions, all over the earth: that is our goal.

Everything else is merely a means.

An effect is similar to the cause. Consequently, each creature carries in itself a likeness to God; and the more perfect a creature is, the more such likeness is evident.

God is love, Most Holy Trinity. So also the mutual love of people who come together to form a family is a true echo of divine love. The mutual love between a father, a mother, and a son. In the realm of the spirit such love, which joins the intellect, the will and one's being, is even more strongly asserted. Any representation of such love, even the most spiritual, the most perfect, will always continue to be infinitely distant from the very Source of love, God.

Even if we were able to enumerate thousands upon thousands of degrees, more and more perfect, more and more

spiritually pure, there would still be an infinite distance between those higher degrees and the Source of love.

God lowers Himself toward His own creature and joins Himself to them with a love that absorbs all that infinite space: He takes them into His own family, makes them His own children. The soul is regenerated in the water of Holy Baptism and thus becomes a child of God.

Water, which purifies everything it washes over, is a symbol of the One who purifies every soul that approaches her; it is a symbol of the Immaculata, of the One

who is without blemish. Upon those who are washed by that water, there descends the grace of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit, the Divine Spouse of the Immaculata, acts solely in her and through her, communicates supernatural life, the life of grace, divine life, the partaking of the love of God, of divinity.

The child of God, a member of the divine family, has God the Father as a father, the Mother of God as a mother, the Son of God as a brother. He becomes coheir of God, joined to the Persons of the divine family through love.

Yet that is not enough. The Son of God chooses brides among the souls, binds Himself to them with a family-like love and they become for Him the mothers of many, many other souls.

Surrender, my soul, into the hand of your Father!

(This is a text that St. Maximilian drafted for a book on the Immaculata that he was not able to complete because of his final arrest, KW 1326)



MI 2022 Intentions

This year, the monthly reflections provided by the MI International Office on the 2022 MI Intentions include:

*A Scripture reading.

*A text from St. Maximilian Kolbe's Writings.

*A quote from the Pope's teachings.

*A brief commentary.

The goal is to offer MI leaders the possibility to adapt the material to the need of the group and/or the current reality.

January: O Immaculata, please intercede that during the centenary of The Knight of the Immaculata magazine we may cherish St. Maximilian's precious legacy, introducing it and sharing it with everyone.

Mt 7:21-27 – Not everyone who says to me, “Lord, Lord,” will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, “Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name? Did we not drive out demons in your name? Did we not do mighty deeds in your name?” Then I will declare to them solemnly, “I never knew you. Depart from me, you evildoers.” Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. But it did not collapse; it had

been set solidly on rock. And everyone who listens to these words of mine but does not act on them will be like a fool who built his house on sand. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. And it collapsed and was completely ruined.

KW 216 – Rycerz Niepokalanej is a Catholic magazine that does not deal with political issues or political parties, but it is uniquely committed to wresting the largest possible number of immortal souls from the bonds of sin, to protect them against the moral evil, to confirm them in good, and all this under the patronage of the Immaculate Virgin, Queen of our Nation. As soon as she begins really to reign everywhere, then peace, happiness, the joy of the children of God will be established throughout our country and abundant blessings will come down from heaven, of which we are in great need...

Message of Pope Francis for the 54th World Communications Day 2020.

Our own story becomes part of every great story. As we read the Scriptures, the stories of the saints, and also those texts that have shed light on the human heart and its beauty, the Holy Spirit is free to write in our hearts, reviving our memory of what we are in God's eyes. When we remember the love that created and saved us, when we make love a part of our daily stories, when we weave the tapestry of our

days with mercy, we are turning another page. We no longer remain tied to regrets and sadness, bound to an unhealthy memory that burdens our hearts; rather, by opening ourselves to others, we open ourselves to the same vision of the great storyteller. Telling God our story is never useless: even if the record of events remains the same, the meaning and perspective are always changing. To tell our story to the Lord is to enter into His gaze of compassionate love for us and for others. We can recount to Him the stories we live, bringing to Him the people and the situations that fill our lives. With Him we can re-weave the fabric of life, darning its rips and tears. How much we, all of us, need to do exactly this!

Commentary

Like St. Maximilian, we too are called to be authentic disciples of Jesus, by our words and actions. Fr. Kolbe understood that the media can be powerful tools for making the Immaculata known and for sharing the Gospel message. For this reason, he started *The Knight of the Immaculata* magazine. As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first MI publication, we are to value our U.S. *The Knight of the Immaculata* e-newsletter to deepen and spread the Kolbe legacy.

Prayer: Act of Total Consecration to the Immaculata

MI

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS




From MI Members Around the World...

I have been working here at Niepokalanow in Poland for over 20 years now, but I was born and raised in Waterbury, CT, the youngest of four in a Catholic Italian American family. Through the ups and downs of life (my parents' death), already at a young age, I often reflected on the big Why's. Why are there wars, hunger, injustice, terrible crimes, and the list goes on. How unfair everything is and I felt anger and such helplessness in the face of it. What can one person do to stop evil? Temptations to sin, *Everybody does it!* It's normal. *What, are you a fanatic?* If you love me then prove it. *Saturday Party and skip Sunday Mass, Jesus will understand...* and the big lie of *If I had enough money, the right clothes, the perfect body and career, etc. then I will be loved and live happily ever after.* It's just empty. It doesn't make sense.

So then I figured. The Saints were real people like me. They made a difference. So why not me too! Our Lord Jesus Christ won the world and with Him we are conquerors. This is incredibly Good News. It has to be shared. I mean sure it's not easy, but we have so much help with our Faith, the Sacraments, prayer life, etc.

Just like Jesus during the Stations of the Cross, each of us is there carrying our cross trying to follow Him. (Some willingly, some not too willingly). As baptized and confirmed Christians, we must witness Truth in front of the Pilates of the world. We stand accused, we carry the sign of victory. It's difficult, we suffer, we fall, but after we encounter Mary Immaculate we get help, we are comforted and are able to comfort others, we persevere to the end. It's more than winning the Olympic obstacle race. We get the everlasting crown of what the human race is all about. We win! Resurrection! Nothing can separate us from Christ's love. Our Blessed Mother has the graces ready for the asking.

She is there for us, rooting for us, cheering us on to the finish line.

We cannot fathom the love this Mother has for each of us. She is full of God's own love and mercy! When we consciously work with her in the mystical Body of Christ, then we have a most powerful help in becoming holy and helping others become holy even in the midst of something terrible, like St. Maximilian in the Auschwitz Nazi concentration camp. Where she enters there she crushes evil, there is conversion and sanctification. We have such a powerful Advocate and friend in her. She continually ministers the New Wine of the Holy Spirit like what she did at Cana.

Jesus said that new wine has to be put into new skins. Friends! You have a new skin if you live in sanctifying grace! So ask for that New Wine to be poured into you. At Pentecost, people thought the Apostles were drunk on new wine because they were speaking in tongues and preaching the Good News with joy! They were saying: *Where's the party? Why the celebration?*

Well, we got to keep pouring out the New Wine. People have to taste and see the goodness of the Lord in us! You, me, we have to be New Wine that just gladdens the hearts around us.

Annamaria OV, MI Adult, Poland





St. Maximilian Writes... *Celebrating the Centenary of the First MI Magazine*

In January 1922, St. Maximilian published the first issue of the humble MI magazine. In the first Editorial, he wrote: "The purpose of Rycerz Niepokalanej is not only to deepen and strengthen faith, to point out the true path to asceticism, and to acquaint the faithful with Christian mysticism. In keeping with the principles of the Militia of the Immaculata we also wish to undertake the task of converting non-Catholics. The tone of the magazine will always be friendly toward everyone... Its distinctive feature will be love, as taught by Christ. And with that love for souls that are lost, yet still in search of happiness, the magazine will do its best to denounce falsehood, unveil the truth, and show the true way to happiness." Not surprisingly, the first article was titled: Where Is Happiness? (KW 995). Enjoy it!

All men long for happiness and aspire to it, but few men find it, because they look for it where it does not exist.

Let us go out in the street. On the wide sidewalk, we see people of various ages and conditions rushing past. Each has a goal, which must be a small portion of his happiness. Coaches and cars move down the road, and people sitting in them dream of happiness. A wide range of items on display entices

passersby, with the aim of making sellers and buyers happy. Wherever you turn, you see people craving for happiness. But are they all sure that at the end of their struggles they will indeed be able to clasp the coveted treasure?

One of them has made it his goal to hoard material goods, money. He has not yet attained his desired goal, so he keeps slaving away. Will he get there though?...

The more wealth he hoards up, the more he gets worked up about it, and the more he craves it. And even if he possessed the whole world, he would still turn toward the moon with envy. He wants more, ever more. He wishes his gains were quicker and his posses-

sions more durable. How much effort, how much pain, how many sacrifices, how much health have all his possessions cost him! And how many hardships still await him! And if he happened to fall ill? If luck turned its back on him? If a thief were to rob him? And then eventually death will come as well. And then?... He will have to leave everything behind and set off toward eternity all alone... The mere thought of such facts poisons the brief moments of satisfaction that come from the benefits he has gained. As a result, he has failed to achieve happiness!

Let us go a step farther. A billboard has been posted on a door: "Dance party," and many will flock in. They want to exploit the world, as long as they have a chance!

Are these people happy though? Do not they, in fact, crave a chalice of delights that is far larger, fuller, sweeter? They always strive to find new pleasures, but eventually are overcome by nausea: they perceive their limits. Yet they would desire happiness with no limits and no end...

So they do not find it either!

Is man perhaps really only fulfilled by glory? Let us take a look at the ranks of famous people, who occupy high positions and enjoy great celebrity. Do they hold by any chance the talisman of happiness?

(Continues on pg. 9)



fr. Maximiliano M. Kolbe

See and Share the MI Film!



This important short film beautifully and eloquently captures the essence of the MI: total consecration to the Immaculata in the evangelical spirit of St. Maximilian Kolbe.

"Simply excellent!"
"Inspirational!"

Share the link
<http://militiaoftheimmaculata.com/mi-movie/>
with your family and friends and promote the new film by posting on your favorite social media platform!

*Let's reach
as many people
as possible
to win the world for Christ
through the Immaculata!*



St. Maximilian Writes...

(Continued from pg. 8)

Let us question them to find out whether they perhaps wish their glory to reach still farther and shine forth in other fields. No doubt each would gladly accept that chance. Perhaps at times each thinks about ways to shine even brighter. Meanwhile, though, others may well overshadow him; many may fail to appreciate his merits; and how many people, far less worthy than he, could be granted a higher place! Ultimately, even glory is a most fragile crystal: many who not long ago were very famous now lie in the shadow of oblivion.

And, after all, they too shall be visited by death... And after that...? What will human praise and monuments avail one, if eternity is unhappy...?

So happiness cannot be found there either.

In fact, wealth, glory, and the pleasures of life are rather the exceptions, even though everyone longs for happiness...

The heart of man is too great to be filled up by money, sensual pleasures, or the insubstantial show of glory, which is illusory, even if dazzling. He desires a far greater good, boundless and forever lasting. But such good is only God.

Fr. M. K.



*"Since the goal of *Rycerz Niepokalanej* is to work for the sake of conversion and sanctification, and therefore the happiness of souls, we would ask all those who share our aim to circulate this small magazine among relatives and acquaintances, Catholics and non-Catholics."*



Icon of St. Maximilian Kolbe Holy Card and Print

This beautiful icon of St. Maximilian Kolbe painted by an MI member is now available as a holy card and framable 8x10 print.

Order copies today from the
MI National Office:
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