

THE MISSION OF THE *Immaculata* E-PUBLICATION OF THE MILITIA OF THE IMMACULATA, USA

unite our NATION™

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Laser-Focus on Our Goal

By John W. Galten, MI National President

Dear Knights of the Immaculata,

Maria! I have concluded my series on the work of the Holy Spirit and His connection now in history with His Spouse, the Immaculata. I want to turn again to the missionary, evangelical foundation of the MI, especially as it springs out of our founder, St. Maximilian. To accomplish this, I want to look with you at the circumstances of his life and the influences that formed this exceptional missionary impulse. In some cases, I shall have to do some conjecturing which I hope you will excuse.

Why should we spend time going over his life to do this? The MI was founded to bring all souls to the Kingdom of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus through Marian consecration. This is our purpose, this is why we exist—missionary evangelizing. This must be constantly before our eye, so that we don't slip into lassitude and self absorption. To be authentically fulfilling our MI mission, we must evangelize by prayer and witness. Please note all of our pamphlets, booklets and 50,000 Miraculous medals. These are the tools that must be put into the hands of our brothers and sisters In the world.

The purpose of this series will be to recognize the importance of evangelizing in our founder, whence came this motive in the life of St. Maximilian. Practically speaking, although there are other religious denominations in Poland, the Catholic faith and Poland are almost synonymous. It is a country that suffered greatly in numerous wars, invasions, and religious persecutions. Its history is soaked in blood and suffering. It was a country so little ruled by itself at times that it elected the Immaculata as the perpetual Queen of Poland. She was recently re-elected by the parliament. She still reigns as the ultimate government.



(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

(continued from pg. 1)

Such a faith culture and its love for Christ and His Mother formed the essential confidence and steadfastness in St. Maximilian's soul. This pervasive Catholic culture, although severely persecuted, formed the spiritual crucible where the Saint was formed. He knew the cost of saying, "Be not afraid."

We in America do not have the blessing and consolation of a Catholic culture to inspire us with the confidence to evangelize. We find ourselves increasingly in a culture that is growing in many sectors hostile to the Faith, and an anti-Gospel is being espoused and taught in large areas. So, for us to gain the courage and confidence to be the Marian missionaries we are called to be, we must find in the Sacraments, our parishes and families the communion of Catholic persons who build small communities of vibrant faith. These are launch points for missionary efforts. Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI often mentions these small communities of faith. Our MI Villages are an outstanding example of this important initiative. This is the very reason why Jesus founded a Church from which the disciples were sent "two by two"—a cooperative effort.

So, dear Knights, just as St. Maximilian was nurtured by a strong Catholic culture (his native Poland) so we must bend every effort to cooperate with grace and build our own Catholic faith communities that we too may use them as "jumping off points" to evangelize our largely secular culture.

Now, for starters, get in touch with our National Center, order pamphlets and Miraculous Medals, and make up your mind to give them out. Don't let everyone else, including the Devil, out-advertise us. If you are so moved, form an MI Village of like-minded Catholics who will in the shortest

possible time make the Immaculata Queen of all hearts, that She and her Spouse, the Holy Spirit, will cause the Sacred Heart of Jesus to reign as King in all hearts.

Until next time, when we will continue meditating on the causes of St. Maximilian's missionary motivation, serving Her with all your heart, "Arise, let us be on our way."

John W. Galten
MI National President

Announcement about the MI National Elective Assembly

At the request of the MI International President, the MI National Elective Assembly, scheduled for 2020, has been postponed due to the travel ban and other restrictions. No date has been set yet. As soon as plans are made possible, the MI National Office will promptly announce the date. All contributions and suggestions previously submitted by MI members have been recorded and will be passed on for consideration.



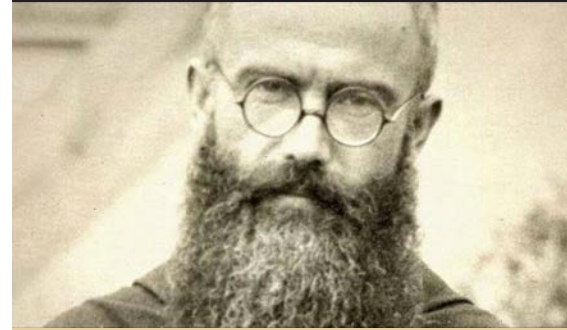
Daily Holy Mass

will be offered throughout 2020 for the MI-USA and all MI Members 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

See and Share the New MI Film!



This important new short film, released on the feast of St. Maximilian, Friday, August 14, beautifully and eloquently captures the essence of the MI: total consecration to the Immaculata in the evangelical spirit of St. Maximilian Kolbe.

Watch the Film!

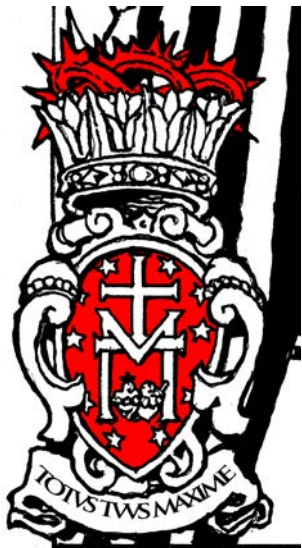
"Simply excellent!"

"Inspirational!"

Share the link
<http://militiaoftheimmaculata.com/mi-movie/>
to the MI Film with as many people as possible!

Forward the link to your family and friends or 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!*



The Chambers of the Heart

On a journey to living our total consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary

- Part Five

Totus Tuus Maxime
(Totally Yours to the Max)

“When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself” (Jn 12:32). By these words, before the Last Supper, Jesus indicated His death on the Cross, which He would endure for our salvation. By the ultimate gift of Himself, the Lord carried our sins and nailed them to the Cross. By dying, He destroyed our death and by His rising, He restored our life.

The progression of events on Calvary is of paramount importance. Let us prayerfully read St. John’s account (Jn 19:17-32).

“They took Jesus, and carrying the cross himself he went out to what is called the Place of the Skull, in Hebrew, Golgotha. There they crucified him, and with him two others, one on either side, with Jesus in the middle. Pilate also had an inscription written and put on the cross. It read, ‘Jesus the Nazorean, the King of the Jews.’ Now many of the Jews read this inscription, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek. So the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, ‘Do not write *The King of the Jews*, but that he said, I am the King of the Jews.’ Pilate answered, ‘What I have written, I have written.’ When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four shares, a share for each soldier. They also took his tunic, but the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece from the top down. So they said to one another, ‘Let’s not tear it, but cast lots for it to see whose it will be,’ in order that

the passage of scripture might be fulfilled [that says]: ‘They divided my garments among them, and for my vesture they cast lots.’ This is what the soldiers did. Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, ‘Woman, behold, your son.’ Then he said to the disciple, ‘Behold, your mother.’ And from that hour the disciple took her into his home. After this, aware that everything was now finished, in order that the scripture might be fulfilled, Jesus said, ‘I thirst.’ There was a vessel filled with common wine. So they put a sponge soaked in wine on a sprig of hyssop and put it up to his mouth. When Jesus had taken the wine, he said, ‘It is finished.’ And bowing his head, he handed over the spirit. Now since it was preparation day, in order that the bodies might not remain on the cross on the sabbath, for the sabbath day of that week was a solemn one, the Jews asked Pilate that their legs be broken and they be taken down. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and then of the other one who was crucified with Jesus. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs, but one soldier thrust his lance into his side, and immediately blood and water flowed out.”

Notice the sequence:

-Carrying the Cross Himself, Jesus went up to Calvary.

-There, the soldiers crucified Him with two others, one on either side, with Jesus in the middle.

-When He saw His Mother standing at the foot of the Cross, He said to her, “Behold your son” and to the beloved disciple, “Behold your mother.”

-After this, He said, “I thirst.”

-When Jesus had taken the wine, He said, “It is finished,” and He handed over His Spirit.

-Finally, one soldier thrust his lance into His side and immediately blood and water flowed out from His Heart, as beautifully depicted in the beloved image of Divine Mercy.

The Lord had said, “When I am lifted up from the earth, *I will draw everyone to myself.*”

As He was crucified with two criminals, Jesus gazed at His Mother and summoned her to be the Mother of the beloved disciple, who represented each of us, and granted him, and *each of us*, the incomparable gift and dignity of being her child. After this exchange, He cried, “I thirst.” Our Crucified God cried out for our response to His Love.

Our Lady received that cry and stood there as Blood and Water flowed out from His pierced Heart. That cry reverberates in and through her maternal Heart into our hearts: *Let my Son draw you to Himself! Let my Son draw every heart to Himself!*

Our whole life as disciples of Christ is a participation in the Church’s mission to make Christ known and loved. Our total consecration to the Immaculata is a sure path to fulfilling this evangelical call, which we received at our Baptism and Confirmation. *By its very nature*, our consecration is a call to partake in Our Lady’s maternal mission. If we have encountered Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life, He who is “my Lord and my God,” it is not so much our duty but our compelling joy to proclaim Him to others!

(continues on pg. 4)

Pray, Ponder, Propose

Take some time *every day* during this month to invoke the Holy Spirit and to reflect on the words of St. John Paul II from the homily he gave at Fatima on May 13, 1982:

“On the Cross, Christ said: ‘Woman, behold, your son!’ With these words he opened in a new way his Mother’s heart. A little later, the Roman soldier’s spear pierced the side of the Crucified One. That pierced heart became a sign of the redemption achieved through the death of the Lamb of God. *The Immaculate Heart of Mary, opened with the words ‘Woman, behold, your son!’ is spiritually united with the heart of her Son opened by the soldier’s spear. Mary’s Heart was opened by the same love for man and for the world with which Christ loved man and the world, offering himself for them on the Cross, until the soldier’s spear struck that blow.*

“*Consecrating the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary means drawing near, through the Mother’s intercession, to the very Fountain of life that sprang from Golgotha. This Fountain pours forth unceasingly redemption and grace. In it reparation is made continually for the sins of the world. It is a ceaseless source of new life and holiness. Consecrating the world to the Immaculate Heart of the Mother means returning beneath the Cross of the Son. It means consecrating this world to the pierced Heart of the Savior, bringing it back to the very source of its Redemption. Redemption is always greater than man’s sin and the ‘sin of the world.’ The power of the Redemption is infinitely superior to the whole range of evil in man and the world. The Heart of the Mother is aware of this, more than any other heart in the whole universe, visible and invisible. And so she calls us. She not only calls us to be converted: she*

calls us to accept her motherly help to return to the source of Redemption.

“Consecrating ourselves to Mary means accepting her help to offer ourselves and the whole of mankind to Him who is Holy, infinitely Holy. It means accepting her help by having recourse to her motherly Heart, which beneath the Cross was opened to love for every human being, for the whole world in order to offer the: world, the individual human being, mankind as a whole, and all the nations to Him who is infinitely Holy. God’s holiness showed itself in the redemption of man, of the world, of the whole of mankind, and of the nations: a redemption brought about through the Sacrifice of the Cross. ‘For their sake I consecrate myself,’ Jesus had said (Jn 17:19). By the power of the Redemption, the world and man have been consecrated. They have been consecrated to Him who is infinitely Holy. They have been offered and entrusted to Love itself, merciful Love. The Mother of Christ calls us, invites us to join with the Church of the living God in the consecration of the world, in this act of confiding by which the world, mankind as a whole, the nations, and each individual person are presented to the Eternal Father with the power of the Redemption won by Christ. They are offered in the Heart of the Redeemer, which was pierced on the Cross.” (St. John Paul II, May 13, 1982, *Homily at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary, Fatima, Portugal*)

- ✓ Take your journal and put down in writing what may be relevant for your journey at this time.
- ✓ Close with a prayer of gratitude and renew your total consecration to the Immaculata with the formula composed by St. Maximilian Kolbe.



by Matthew Alderman ©Militia Immaculatae, Inc

Totus Tuus Maxime

(continued from pg. 3)

Whether by *prayer, sacrifice, example*, the simple *handing out of the Miraculous Medal* or any *evangelical activity*, we are always on a mission. St. Paul puts it in plain words: “The love of Christ impels us.... we are ambassadors for Christ” (cf. 2 Cor 5:15-20). Until the end of time, Our Lady echoes that cry, “I thirst,” sets out in haste, reaching out to all her children and inviting us to be hers: her voice, her hands, her instruments and, with her, routes of encounter with Christ for our brothers and sisters.

Let us humbly, joyfully and wholeheartedly reciprocate! *Totus tuus maxime*. I am totally yours, O Mother, to the max...!

Antonella Di Piazza, FKMI



Church Teaching on Civil Unions

Homosexuality is a troubling moral and social phenomenon, even in those countries where it does not present significant legal issues. It gives rise to greater concern in those countries that have granted or intend to grant legal recognition to homosexual unions, which may include the possibility of adopting children. The present *Considerations* do not contain new doctrinal elements; they seek rather to reiterate the essential points on this question and provide arguments drawn from reason which could be used by Bishops in preparing more specific interventions, appropriate to the different situations throughout the world, aimed at protecting and promoting the dignity of marriage, the foundation of the family, and the stability of society, of which this institution is a constitutive element. The present *Considerations* are also intended to give direction to Catholic politicians by indicating the approaches to proposed legislation in this area which would be consistent with Christian conscience.

Since this question relates to the natural moral law, the arguments that follow are addressed not only to those who believe in Christ, but to all persons committed to promoting and defending the common good of society.

The Church's teaching on marriage and on the complementarity of the sexes reiterates a truth that is evident to right reason and recognized as such by all the major cultures of the world. Marriage is not just any relationship between human beings. It was established by the Creator with its own nature, essential properties and purpose. No ideology can erase from the human spirit the certainty that marriage exists solely between a man and a woman, who by mutual personal gift, proper and exclusive to themselves, tend

toward the communion of their persons. In this way, they mutually perfect each other, in order to cooperate with God in the procreation and upbringing of new human lives....

There are absolutely no grounds for considering homosexual unions to be in any way similar or even remotely analogous to God's plan for marriage and family. Marriage is holy, while homosexual acts go against the natural moral law. Homosexual acts "close the sexual act to the gift of life. They do not proceed from a genuine affective and sexual complementarity. Under no circumstances can they be approved."

Sacred Scripture condemns homosexual acts "as a serious depravity... (cf. Rom 1:24-27; 1 Cor 6:10; 1 Tim 1:10). This judgment of Scripture does not of course permit us to conclude that all those who suffer from this anomaly are personally responsible for it, but it does attest to the fact that homosexual acts are intrinsically disordered." This same moral judgment is found in many Christian writers of the first centuries and is unanimously accepted by Catholic Tradition.

Nonetheless, according to the teaching of the Church, men and women with homosexual tendencies "must be accepted with respect, compassion and sensitivity. Every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided." They are called, like other Christians, to live the virtue of chastity. The homosexual inclination is however "objectively disordered" and homosexual practices are "sins gravely contrary to chastity..."

If it is true that all Catholics are obliged to oppose the legal recognition of homosexual unions, Catholic politicians are obliged to do so in a particular way, in keeping with their responsibility as politicians. Faced with legislative proposals in favor of homosexual unions, Catholic politicians are to take account of the following ethical indications.

When legislation in favor of the recognition of homosexual unions is proposed for the first time in a legislative assembly, the Catholic lawmaker has a moral duty to express his opposition clearly and publicly and to vote against it. To vote in favor of a law so harmful to the common good is gravely immoral.

When legislation in favor of the recognition of homosexual unions is already in force, the Catholic politician must oppose it in the ways that are possible for him and make his opposition known; it is his duty to witness to the truth. If it is not possible to repeal such a law completely, the Catholic politician, recalling the indications contained in the Encyclical Letter *Evangelium vitae*, "could licitly support proposals aimed at limiting the harm done by such a law and at lessening its negative consequences at the level of general opinion and public morality;" on condition that his "absolute personal opposition" to such laws was clear and well known and that the danger of scandal was avoided. This does not mean that a more restrictive law in this area could be considered just or even acceptable; rather, it is a question of the legitimate and dutiful attempt to obtain at least the partial repeal of an unjust law when its total abrogation is not possible at the moment.

The Church teaches that respect for homosexual persons cannot lead in any way to approval of homosexual behavior or to legal recognition of homosexual unions. The common good requires that laws recognize, promote and protect marriage as the basis of the family, the primary unit of society. Legal recognition of homosexual unions or placing them on the same level as marriage would mean not only the approval of deviant behavior, with the consequence of making it a model in present-day society, but would also obscure basic values which belong to the common inheritance of humanity.

The Church cannot fail to defend these values, for the good of men and women and for the good of society itself.

The Sovereign Pontiff John Paul II, in the Audience of March 28, 2003, approved the present Considerations, adopted in the Ordinary Session of this Congregation, and ordered their publication. Rome, from the Offices of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, June 3, 2003, Memorial of Saint Charles Lwanga and his Companions, Martyrs.

Joseph Card. Ratzinger, Prefect
Angelo Amato, S.D.B. Tit. Arch. of Sila
Secretary

MI

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS




St. John Paul II to Youth

St. John Paul II devoted much reflection to the biblical theme of married love. Excerpts from his Letter to Youth (March 31, 1985) follow.

“God created human beings: male and female, thereby introducing into the history of the human race that special ‘duality’ together with complete equality, in the matter of human dignity; and with marvelous complementarity, in the matter of the division of the attributes, properties and tasks linked with the masculinity and femininity of the human being. Thus, this is a theme that is necessarily inscribed in the personal ‘I’ of each one of you. Youth is the period when this great theme affects in an experimental and creative way the soul and body of every young woman and young man, and manifests itself in the youthful conscience together with the fundamental discovery of the personal ‘I’ in all its manifold potentiality. Then also on the horizon of a young heart a new experience occurs: the experience of love, which from the beginning has to be included in that plan of life which youth spontaneously creates and forms. In each separate case all of this has its own unrepeatable subjective expression, its affective richness, indeed its metaphysical beauty. At the same time, in all of this there is contained a powerful exhortation not to distort this expression, not to destroy this treasure and not to disfigure this beauty.

Follow Christ in Married Love

Be convinced that this call comes from God Himself, who created man ‘in his own image and likeness’ precisely ‘as man and woman.’ This call flows from the Gospel and makes itself heard in the voice of young consciences, if they have preserved their simplicity and purity: *Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.* Yes, through that love which is born in you, you must see God who is Love. And so I ask you not to break off your conversation with Christ in this extremely important phase of your youth; I ask you rather to commit yourselves even more. When Christ says *Follow me*, His call can mean: *I call you to still another love*; but very often it means: *Follow me*, follow me who am the Bridegroom of the Church who is my bride; come, you too become bridegroom or bride of your spouse.

A Great Mystery Rooted in God

Both of you become sharers in that mystery, that Sacrament, which the Letter to the Ephesians says is something great: great ‘in reference to Christ and the Church.’ Much depends on the fact that you, on this path too, should follow Christ; that you should not flee from Him, when you are occupied with this matter which you rightly consider the great event of your heart, a matter that exists only in you and between you. I want you to believe and to be convinced that this great matter has its definitive dimension in God, who is love-in God, who in the absolute unity of His divinity is also a communion of persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Love in Truth

I want you to believe and to be convinced that your human ‘great mystery’ has its beginning in God who is the Creator, is rooted in Christ the Redeemer, who as the spouse ‘gave Himself,’ and who teaches all husbands and wives how to ‘give themselves’ in the full measure of each one’s personal dignity. Christ teaches us married love. To set out on the path of the married vocation means to learn married love day by day, year by year: love according to soul and body, love that ‘is patient, is kind, that does not insist on its own way... and does not rejoice at wrong’: love that ‘rejoices in the right,’ love that ‘endures all things.’ It is precisely this love that you young people need if your married future is to ‘pass the test’ of the whole of life. And precisely this test is part of the very essence of the vocation which, through marriage, you intend to include in the plan of your life. And so *I do not cease to pray to Christ and to the Mother of Fair Love for the love that is born in young hearts.*

I think that to a large extent *the future of humanity is decided along the paths of this love, initially youthful love, which you and she, you and he discover along the paths of your youth.* This can be called a great adventure, but it is also a great task. Today, the principles of Christian morality concerning marriage are in many circles being presented in a distorted way. Dear young friends! *Do not allow this treasure to be taken away from you!* Do not inscribe in the plan of your life a deformed, impoverished and falsified content: love rejoices in the truth”. Seek out this truth where it is really to be found! If necessary, be resolved to go against the current of popular opinion and propaganda slogans! Do not be afraid of the love that places clear demands on people. These demands-as you find them in the constant teaching of the Church-are precisely capable of making your love a true love.”



Reflection on November MI Intention

O Immaculata, please intercede that the example of the saints may motivate us to give our best in the spiritual journey.

“Finally, brothers, we earnestly ask and exhort you in the Lord Jesus that, as you received from us how you should conduct yourselves to please God—and as you are conducting yourselves—you do so even more.”
(1 Thess 4:1)

The Apostle Paul exhorts the Christian community of Thessalonica to make increasing progress in striving for holiness, as it pleases the Lord. In our own journey toward sanctity, we need to keep on growing. While from a physical point of view we reach maturity and old age follows, it is not so in the spiritual realm, where we may always achieve a deeper maturity in conformity to Christ. In his apostolic exhortation, *Gaudete et Exultate*, Pope Francis reminds us that the Saints encourage and accompany us along this path: “The Letter to the Hebrews presents a number of testimonies that encourage us to ‘run with perseverance the race that is set before us’ (12:1). It speaks of Abraham, Sarah, Moses, Gideon and others (cf. 11:1-12:3). Above all, it invites us to realize that ‘a great cloud of witnesses’ (12:1) impels us to advance constantly toward the goal. These witnesses may include our own mothers, grandmothers or other loved ones (cf. 2 Tim 1:5). Their lives may not always have been perfect, yet even amid their faults and failings they kept moving forward and proved pleasing to the Lord. The saints now in God’s presence preserve their bonds of love and communion with us.... Each of us can say: ‘...All the saints of God are there to protect me, to sustain me and to carry me’” (par. 3-4).

As MI members, totally consecrated to the Immaculata, we are certain to find in her a perfect model to imitate, for she reached the highest degree of holiness. Therefore, St. Maximilian Kolbe could

state: “The greater the perfection, the closer the union. As the Blessed Mother, with her perfection, surpassed all the angels and saints, so also her will is united and identified most closely with the Will of God. She lives and works solely in God and through God.” (KW 1232).

Mary Immaculate carried out her life in simplicity, in her family and community, in a little village. She opened herself entirely and generously to the Will of God and thus she is for us a sure and excellent exemplar. Fr. Kolbe reminds us that “One can speak neither of conversion nor of sanctification without the help of the Immaculata, the Mother of divine grace. Indeed, the closer one comes to this Dispenser of divine graces, the more graces one obtains, the more easily one is made holy and contributes to the sanctification of others” (KW 1226)

Saint Maximilian was indeed an extraordinary man. As he strove for holiness and the spiritual rebirth of all humanity, he endured many sufferings, hardships and humiliations. Through the Militia of the Immaculata, he exhorted everyone to be committed to the work of conversion and sanctification of souls under the protection and through the mediation of the Immaculata (cf. *ibid.*). He himself entrusted constantly his own spiritual journey to her, as we discover in his journal entries (cf. KW 988 G).

May our Saint help each of us to grow in love toward God and the Immaculata for, “If already on this small earth we were to have a great love for God and the Holy Mother Mary, then we would have heaven here on earth. We must become like a little flower, like St. Therese. This is our whole task” (KW 436).

(from the MI International Office)

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.



Poor Clares, Now MI Members!

“Receive this holy medal, wear it with faith and venerate it with love.” At the Poor Clare Monastery of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Roswell, New Mexico, this beautiful phrase was repeated twenty-four times by Fr. Pio Maria, CFR, as each sister in our community knelt to receive a blessed Miraculous Medal from his hands. We had just recited together St. Maximilian Kolbe’s Act of Consecration after Holy Mass, and Fr. Pio Maria was literally beaming with joy as we approached the communion doors to receive our medals.

He wasn’t the only one who was smiling! Joy is far more contagious than any virus could ever be, and we all tested “positive” on October 16 as we consecrated ourselves entirely to Our Lady and became the newest members of the Militia of the Immaculata. What a perfect day it was for our enrollment: the very date on which the Militia was founded by St. Maximilian Kolbe in 1917; the anniversary of the election of Pope St. John Paul II, much loved by our entire community; and the feast day of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, apostle of the Sacred Heart. St. Maximilian himself was very present for the ceremony of enrollment because Fr. Pio Maria had graciously allowed us to borrow his (very rare) first-class relic of St. Maximilian, which was placed reverently upon the altar for the occasion. Each sister held a candle, lit from the flame of this year’s Paschal candle, for the renewal of Baptismal promises and Official Act of Consecration.

Few of the joys of this world can compare to the joy we felt that day, springing

from the love of our Immaculate Mother and Queen, an overarching sense of communal unity and shared purpose, and deep gratitude for all the graces which led up to this memorable moment. Although 2020 has been a traumatic year for many people, all the negative news headlines faded into the background before the great heavenly realities which were brought into clear focus by the day’s events, and we will always remember 2020 as the year which brought us this exceptional grace.

A deep longing to join the MI had been growing steadily in our hearts over the past few weeks, fed by Fr. Pio Maria’s sharings on the life of St. Maximilian, his classes about St. Maximilian’s uniquely bold Mariology, and his personal experience with the mission of the MI itself. He also shared the new MI film with us a few nights before the consecration, and viewing it all together was profoundly moving. More than anything else, his own radiant love for the Immaculata stood out as convincing proof that joining the MI was not something that we should consider doing – rather, it was something that we all knew beyond doubt that we had to do. If all graces come to us through the hands of the Immaculata, how could we desire anything other than to “cast ourselves at her feet, humbly imploring her to take all that we are and have wholly to herself as her own possession and property”?

Every evening before Night Prayer, we have an hour of recreation, during which the day’s silence and prayer blossoms into joyous conversation, much laughter and

shared merriment. Our recreation that day was filled with deep joy and purpose, as we shared what we hoped to do to keep the consecration alive and active in own lives. The suggestions were as varied and diverse as are our states and countries of origin, and our enthusiasm was enkindled all the more by each one! We have already decided that October 16 will be kept henceforth as a festive day on which we will publicly renew our Act of Consecration together. We now recite together after our communal daily Rosary St. Maximilian’s version of the prayer, “O Mary, conceived without sin...” During our morning repast of coffee and homemade bread, a brief section of the Catechism is usually read aloud, but henceforth this reading will be replaced on Saturdays by a brief excerpt from the works of St. Maximilian. We have already obtained a supply of Miraculous Medals and pamphlets to distribute, and several friends of our community have already decided to join the MI through the information we have passed on to them.

Being able to share the joy of belonging totally to the Immaculata is one of the most rewarding fruits of our October 16 ceremony, one which will certainly contribute to “*extending as far as possible the blessed kingdom of the most Sacred Heart of Jesus.*”

Sr. Mary Immaculata, P.C.C., MI

ATTENTION
MI MEMBERS!

Would you share the MI Film
with your local TV station?



Please contact the MI National Office
to obtain permission and the MI
Film file for TV viewing. Thank you!

MINational@MissionImmaculata.com



Our War

Keenly aware of the spiritual warfare we face, in 1932, St. Maximilian wrote this heartfelt appeal to MI Members (KW 1160).

In looking around us and in seeing so much evil all over the place, we would sincerely like, especially as members of the Militia of the Immaculata, to put an end to this evil by leading humanity, through the Immaculata, to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. In so doing, we make eternally happy, from this life onward, our brothers who live in this world. War against evil, therefore: relentless and incessant and victorious war. But what is this war made of? Where is its most important, most worthwhile center? Where is the best place to strike?

Sometimes we feel that God governs the world “with too little vigor.” Yet with a single gesture of His omnipotent will He could crush and grind all persecutors into the dust, all the atheists of the Soviet Union, all the Spaniards who have burned churches, all immoral poisoners of youth, and all those like them. This is how our limited, restricted minds reason things out. While eternal Wisdom, on His part, judges otherwise. Persecutions purify souls as fire purifies gold, the executioners’ hands create the ranks of martyrs, and more than once, at the

end of it all, the persecutors experience the grace of conversion. Inscrutable, but always most wise are God’s ways. This does not mean that we have to sit back and leave the enemies of souls to amuse themselves without restraint. Not at all. However...

However... We do not pretend to correct infinite Wisdom, direct the Holy Spirit, but let ourselves be led by Him. Let us imagine we are a brush in the hands of an infinitely perfect painter. How must the brush behave so that the painting comes out the most beautiful one possible? It must allow itself to be directed in the most perfect way. A brush might claim to make improvements at the hands of an earthly painter, limited, fallible—but when God, the Eternal Wisdom, uses us as instruments, then we will do our best, most perfectly, when we let ourselves be guided in a most perfect and total way.

With the act of consecration to the Immaculata we offer ourselves to her as her absolute property. There is no doubt that she is the most perfect instrument in God’s hands, while we, on our part, must be instruments in her immaculate hands.

When, therefore, will we overcome evil in the most rapid and perfect way throughout the whole world? When we are going to let ourselves be guided by her in the most perfect manner. This is the most important and only issue.

I have said “only.” In fact, each and every one of us has to be concerned only with this: to harmonize, conform, merge our will completely with the will of the Immaculata, as much as her will is completely united with God’s, and her heart with the Heart of her Son Jesus.

It is the only thing to do. Whatever we do, whether it be an act that is more than heroic, one capable of upsetting the foundation of all the evil that exists on earth, it has value only if, in this

act, our will is in harmony with the will of the Immaculata and, through her, with the Will of God. Therefore, there is only one thing that has value, indeed, absolute value: the merging of our will with that of God. This is the essence of love (not the sentiment, notwithstanding that it is also beautiful), which has to transform us into God through the Immaculata. This is the essence of love that has to be kindled in us, and through us, inflame the world, and destroy, consume all evil in it. It is that fire of which the Savior said: “I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!” (Lk 12:49).

After being inflamed ourselves with this divine love (I repeat that it has nothing to do with sweet tears and sentiments, but is a question of the will, even in the midst of aversion and reluctance), we will set the whole world on fire. However, it is we who have to be inflamed, who should not be lukewarm, but be always ablaze. We have to be merged, to be one with God, through the Immaculata.

We have therefore to concentrate all our attention in this, and solely in this: to become one, merged solely with the hand of our Teacher and Guide, so that she can do whatever she likes with us. This is the essential condition of being part of the MI: “To be entirely consecrated to the Immaculata as instruments in her immaculate hands.”

It is only then that we win all over to the Immaculata and, through her, unite and merge the whole world and every soul with the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, through the fire of love.

Maximilian Kolbe





Concerning MI Villages Around the Country



MI Leaders at Franciscan University

Invite Friends to be consecrated to Our Lady!



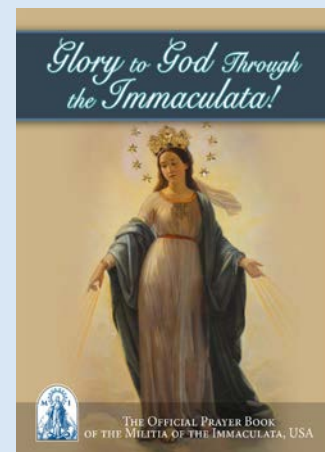
Behold Your Mother: The Path to Total Consecration to Our Lady in the Spirit of St. Maximilian Kolbe

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. **The Path to Total Consecration** offers you an effective tool for making that possible!

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 MINational@MissionImmaculata.com
 Or call: 331-223-5564

Why an MI Village? In his letter to Fr. Florian Koziura, written on December 2, 1931, St. Maximilian discusses the future of the MI and says:

“Being that we must conquer the entire world and every single soul and keep watch so that no one in the future can take the Immaculata’s banner from the souls that there are now and that will be in the future, it is clear that an organization will also be necessary. Therefore I imagine that eventually there will no longer be a soul anywhere that does not wear the Miraculous Medal around their neck and does not belong to the MI-1 (according to the registration card). Moreover, an MI-2 group [village] will spring up in every location.”

In a Village those who have consecrated themselves to Jesus through His mother Mary will come together, as the Apostles in the Upper Room did and, with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, continue to pray/praise, learn and give thanks to God. Not singularly but with others who wish to consecrate themselves whole-heartedly—a community of souls committed to a common effort. Also people who are discerning MI consecration may be invited to participate. An MI Village is both a prayer and apostolic group of the faithful inspired by, and meeting under the patronage of St. Maximilian Kolbe, whom St. John Paul II called “A sign and prophet of the new era, the civilization of love.”

If your prayerful discernment leads you to begin an MI Village and to serve as Moderator, please contact Julie Elkinton, the MI liaison for MI Villages, for assistance: jaelkinton@pm.me

During these unusual times, several MI Villages have been able to meet on a virtual platform while others have not been able to return to in-person gatherings but maintain their commitment to shared prayer.

MI Villages are meeting virtually in New Orleans, LA, Libertyville, IL, New Haven, UT, and Bremerton, WA.

Please visit the MI Website: **MI Groups in the U.S.A.** to find out if an MI Village is active in your area.

MI Village at Franciscan University

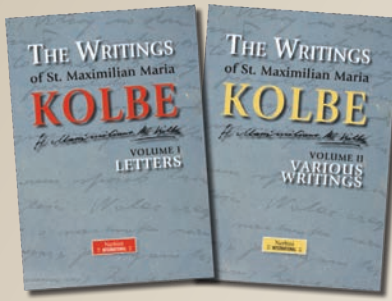
At Franciscan University of Steubenville in Steubenville, Ohio, the Militia of the Immaculata is continuing its mission to bring about the conversion of the enemies of the Church. We are having monthly holy hours and meetings to discuss the mission of the MI. We are working to educate people about the Immaculata and St. Maximilian Kolbe's vision for the MI. We are also hoping to have a Marian Consecration with any interested students later in the semester. Our goal is to get as many students as possible consecrated to the Immaculata and to continue and spread the mission of Our Mother Mary.
 William Sharp

The Writings of St. Maximilian Kolbe

VOLUME I: LETTERS • **VOLUME II: VARIOUS WRITINGS**

The Definitive English Edition!

Saint Maximilian Kolbe died at Auschwitz Concentration Camp as a "Martyr of Charity" in 1941. The Polish-born Franciscan Friar had spent the previous twenty-three years as a priest, evangelizer, media mogul, social commentator, missionary, and religious reformer. His life's work cut short at age 47, St. Kolbe nonetheless left behind an impressive body of writings. In the 1950s the English-speaking world first began reading bits and pieces of those writings translated from the original Polish, Italian, and Latin. Now, at long last, devotees and scholars alike can find the entire wide-ranging array those writings collected together in a two-volume compendium published by Nerbini International.



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— Fr. Peter D. Fehlner, OFM Conv.

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Available from the MI National Center



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

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



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

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Check the MI website MilitiaoftheImmaculata.com often for updates, resources, special events and more!