

# THE MISSION OF THE *Immaculata*

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## Our Freedom and Purpose

By John W. Galten, MI National President



Dear Knights of the Immaculata,

Maria! As I compose this message, we are all still mired in the quagmire of the pandemic. There is fear in the land, weariness of isolation, temptation to sadness or cynicism (Where is God in this?) and the gnawing need for relief. We spoke last time of the warning of Jesus that we would have to suffer. It is upon us. What shall we do with it? We must stand with the Great Mother of God at the foot of the Cross, endure it for love of Him, and, as Mother and Child did, offer it for sinners, and the New Evangelization. Here is freedom! Here is purpose!

In St. John's 16th chapter, Jesus describes the situation when He will no longer be present to our earthly eyes. When we are robbed of seeing His bodily presence, and knowing the consolation, He acknowledges that this is a cause for sadness. But, He goes on to say, that sorrow will be turned into joy at the coming of the Holy Spirit whom He and the Father will send. He promises that we shall see, with new "eyes" of faith, the Risen Jesus. This joy will not be taken from us if we trust in the Promise. This joy will be based on the presence in our souls of the Most Holy Trinity and the knowledge that this Trinitarian life is a fountain of "Living Water" welling up to eternal life. It is the Spirit Himself who will "dig that wellspring" and those "Living Waters" will flow through the hands of the Immaculata into the Church and finally coming to rest in our hearts and souls.

With this knowledge and presence we must not succumb to sadness and cynicism. Joy and hope must characterize what St. John calls our "witness." Just as the Holy Spirit witnesses to Jesus so we must witness to the triumph of Jesus over sin and death. Not only does our joy testify to Jesus through the Spirit,

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*"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)

but our peace also testifies to communion with Father, Son and Holy Spirit, in the arms of the Immaculata. Peace, joy and charity are hallmark signs that we have given ourselves to Christ through Mary. Of course, there is a whole host of witnessing “signs” or fruits of the Spirit in our lives that reveal to Whom we belong. St. Paul lists these fruits of the Spirit in our life: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control (Gal 5:22). These fruits in our lives testify that we are conformed to the likeness of Christ and His Mother.

So we see that holiness of life, seen as fruits of the Spirit, constitutes what we call holiness. Holiness testifies to Jesus because it is a faithful portrait of Him. So our evangelization work is testified by the image of Christ in ourselves being transformed along with the words of proclaiming Jesus. Other people see Him reflected in us.

What makes all this transformation possible? The Spirit, who brings us Trinitarian life, and the Immaculata who is the aqueduct for this sanctifying grace. All this is the cause of our joy and peace; let us rejoice and be glad. As we continue this year to prepare for the 80th anniversary (August 14, 2021) of St. Kolbe’s martyrdom, let us remind ourselves not only that his martyrdom was for another man (martyrdom of charity) but that it was the crown of St. Maximilian’s lifelong sacrifice of himself for the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculata, as a witness to love unto victimhood.

Much to meditate upon, much to rejoice over in this time of trial.

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

John W. Galten  
MI National President

## How to Use the New MI Film for MI Village Promotion

God’s peace to you all from here in the Evergreen State of Washington. I just want to share some encouragement of how the new short MI film could be used for MI Villages. Certainly, in established MI groups, it will be a lovely refresher for us as to why we made our consecration to Jesus through Mary and perhaps it will give us some motivation to speak to others about our mission, if we have become tepid in our zeal.

For those who are considering beginning an MI Village, the MI film will be the inspiration they need to reach out to others! Perhaps, consider setting up meetings (even via social platforms) for others to learn about total consecration to Our Lady, have a day of preparation for consecration and open the gathering by showing the film; or send the link to the film to interested persons so that they might hear and see what Militia of the Immaculata is all about. And most importantly, for pastors or spiritual directors who may be asked to support the start of an MI Village in their parish or community, this video will be a great tool to educate and illuminate.

Julie Elkinton

Star of the Sea MI Village Moderator,  
Bremerton, WA



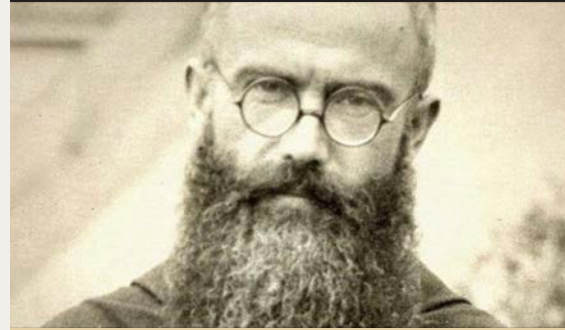
### Daily Holy Mass

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 Three

## Suffering out of Love

Suffering, in its numerous manifestations, is the hardest reality of our life on earth. It was never part of God's original plan for mankind. Scripture states it clearly, "God formed us to be imperishable; the image of his own nature he made us. But by the envy of the devil, death entered the world" (Wis 2:23-24). There would be no way out of it for us, except for God's intervention. He Himself devised the Plan to rescue us from sin, suffering and death, "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life" (Jn 3:16). St. Peter, who had experienced the merciful gaze of Jesus in a unique way, spoke of His redeeming suffering with words that pierced the hearts of his listeners, "He himself bore our sins in his body upon the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed" (1Pt 1:24).

Many pages have been written on this subject. In recent times, St. John Paul II dedicated a remarkable Apostolic Letter, *Salvifici Doloris*, precisely to the Christian meaning of human suffering. His words, flowing from personal experience and faith, might be one of the best sources of insight into this mystery.

Our Lord did embrace the path of suffering for our Redemption, from the moment of His coming into the world at the Incarnation—out of love for each of us, for me. He became like us in every way, that He might be a merciful and faithful high

priest before God to expiate the sins of the people (cf. Heb 2:17). The Son of God took upon Himself our sin and its consequences and thus destroyed sin and death. He walked right *through it* on Calvary and crushed it on Easter morning. During His public ministry, He prepared His disciples for the coming of the hour of His ultimate sacrifice. He repeatedly stated that He "must suffer" (cf. Lk 9:22) to bring about the Father's Plan for our Redemption. Simon Peter and the others refused to accept Him as the suffering Messiah, but Jesus kept reaffirming that He had come to do this. Jesus suffered willingly, innocently, and thus conquered suffering by love.

His *Pierced Heart* embodies the whole reality of His redemptive suffering out of love. Only after Pentecost, by the gift of the Holy Spirit, the Twelve began to grasp the mystery of the Suffering Christ and then proclaimed it boldly. St. Paul's extraordinary experience of God's Mercy caused him to say, "I have been crucified with Christ; yet I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me; insofar as I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God who *has loved me and given himself up for me*" (Gal 2:19-20).

Jesus made it clear that His disciples are to walk in His footsteps: "If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me" (Lk 9:23). We too will encounter rejection and persecution and become sharers in His suffering (cf. Lk 21:12-19). The way to newness of life is our "dying and

rising" through Him, with Him and in Him. Strengthened by the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and no longer fearful, the disciples came indeed to rejoice in their suffering for the sake of the Gospel (cf. Acts 5:41), ready to give their lives for Him.

The *Immaculata*, free as she was from original sin, was not spared her share in human suffering. In fact, precisely because of her pristine holiness, she united herself fully, willingly, to her Son's redemptive suffering. The unspeakable joy that filled her heart in being the Mother of the Lord was intertwined with sorrow. The uncertainties of the journey to Bethlehem, the words of Simeon during the presentation at the temple about the sword that would pierce her heart (cf. Lk 2:35), and the strenuous flight into Egypt (cf. Mt 2:13-23) prefigured the rejection He would suffer all throughout His earthly life. As she kept "treasuring all these things in her heart," she consented to be associated with the mystery of His Life, Passion and Death for our redemption. On Calvary, her suffering "reached an intensity which can hardly be imagined from a human point of view, but which was mysterious and supernaturally fruitful for the redemption of the world... a special sort of sharing in the redeeming death of her Son" (St. John Paul II, *Salvifici Doloris* 25). The Holy Father goes on to say that, "As a witness to her Son's Passion by her *presence*, and as a sharer in it by her *compassion*, Mary offered a unique contribution to the Gospel of suffering" (ibid.).

Our Lady embodied in advance St. Paul's expression, "In my flesh I complete what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the Church" (Col 1:24). "She truly has a special title to be able to claim that she 'completes in her flesh'—as already in her heart—'what is lacking in Christ's afflictions'" (ibid.).

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by Matthew Alderman ©Militia Immaculatae, Inc

## Suffering out of Love

(continued from pg. 3)

St. Maximilian Kolbe, like his Seraphic Father St. Francis, had a profound insight into the mystery of the Suffering Christ and His Mother's intimate sharing in it. From an early age, young Maximilian embraced the call to follow his Crucified Lord on the path of self-denial and sacrificial love. His total consecration to the Immaculata traced the course for his partaking in her Heart's compassion for the sake of the Church, for all her children.

While employing the most modern media for the apostolate, St. Maximilian was convinced that prayer,

sacrifice and suffering are *the most powerful means* that attract divine graces and ensure fruitfulness to evangelical efforts. Throughout his whole life, Maximilian experienced physical, moral, and spiritual sufferings and tribulations, which made him even more certain that "I can do all things in Him who strengthens me [Phil 4:13] through the Immaculata" (KW 987 F).

"Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit" (Jn 12:24). Again, the Word of God reveals how the "chambers of the heart" work in unison. The life in the Spirit, which expresses itself in loving obedience, matures through the purifying process of suffering—dying to self and allowing oneself "to be pruned" (cf. Jn 15:2).

*Our total consecration to the Immaculata* invites us to trust the Lord's ways for our "rebirth" and that of the whole world. Just as the grain of wheat grows underground and diamonds form under pressure, we become who we are called to be by allowing the transforming power of the Holy Spirit to mold us into another Christ, with Our Lady's maternal mediation.

The more we "let ourselves be led and formed," the more we become also effective instruments in her hands and come to appreciate that indeed we too "must suffer" and become a "living sacrifice" in Christ to collaborate in the salvation of souls, that is, in the building up of His Body, the Church. Moreover, practicing a sacrificial "offering-up" of our trials in a spirit of intercession and reparation for one's own sins and those of all mankind unites us with Our Lady in her standing by her Crucified Son and by every suffering heart.

Antonella Di Piazza, FKMI

(to be continued)

## Pray, Ponder, Propose

Take some time every day during this month to reflect on the third *Chamber of the Heart* – *Suffering out of Love*.

- ✓ Invoke the Holy Spirit.
- ✓ As you re-read the paragraphs about Jesus and Mary's redemptive suffering, consider the Gospel passages quoted. Feel free to recall other accounts that are implied. Look them up, ponder them in prayer, and let the Word of God speak to your heart.
- ✓ Read the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* nos. 571-628; 783-786; 1503-1513; 1521.
- ✓ Reflect on *The Writings of St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe* that illustrate his understanding and experience of redemptive suffering and how through total consecration we may grow in embracing it out of love for God and others: KW 402, 414, 503, 1075, 1218, 1248.
- ✓ Questions for reflection: How do I understand "redemptive suffering" in light of Scripture, the *Catechism* and the teachings and example of St. Maximilian? How have I experienced suffering out of love in my life? When have I come "to rejoice in my weakness for the sake of Christ" (cf. 1 Cor 12:1-12)? How have I reacted to setbacks and disappointments?
- ✓ Take your journal and put down in writing what may be relevant for your journey at this time.
- ✓ Close with a prayer.



## Virtual Consecration Experience during Covid19

*How an MI member prepared his grandchildren for consecration to Our Lady.*

Thanks to the MI, my grandchildren and I had the wonderful experience of them becoming members of the Militia of the Immaculata.

It all began a couple of weeks ago, on July 30, 2020, when my daughter Maritza said that she had dreamed of uncovering her great-grandmother Francisca's membership card to the Immaculata. This dream compelled her to request that I work toward the consecration of my oldest three grandchildren, Sofia, Teresa and Miguel, to Our Mother Mary. She believes that God nudges us toward action in many different ways, including dreams, just like St. Joseph was told that Mary was truly having God's Son, Jesus. She had briefly gone online and confirmed that preparation was needed. At her request, I would find myself being their teacher and guide.

Taking the lead, I went online and found the MI website ([MilitiaoftheImmaculata.com](http://MilitiaoftheImmaculata.com)), reviewed some of the information and then called the National Center. It was an extremely lucky call. Fr. Kolbe missionary Antonella Di Piazza answered the call. I asked if she could help me out. I shared my daughter's desire and the urgency to have the children complete their consecration before September.

Sister was very helpful and informative. She understood that some of the requirements (such as Confession and attending Mass) would be difficult because of the Covid-19 distancing re-

quirements, especially here in California. She said she would mail me all the necessary information and resources, including the Blessed Miraculous Medals.

A few days later, the package came in the mail and it just so happened that my wife, Maria, had made a large meal of Pozole (Mexican soup dish) and our daughters were coming over to pick up their share. I was able to distribute the Behold Your Mother! booklets and other information that sister Antonella had mailed. That was on Tuesday, August 4th, the first time that the grandchildren and I had spoken on the DUO app over the internet about how we were going to accomplish the preparation and rites so they could be consecrated.

We decided that every night before each session we would all read each of the six preparation chapters, so we could use the DUO app on the following day to take turns reading one chapter each day and completing the exercises together. Lucky for me, my grandchildren are more technically savvy and they helped me by switching over to the ZOOM app and taking over on how to make the app work for us so we could all read and hear each other. They also were able to make it work so we see and hear certain videos that were suggested for preparation.

Along the way we had some glitches but my youngest daughter, Emily, kept telling me not to worry about it. She said that the devil might have been responsible because he could put stumbling blocks along the way, but that I

should keep going forward. One night I experienced a terrible anxiety attack and could not sleep. The next day I was barely able to keep focused so that day I decided to read the preparation early and force myself to go to sleep earlier than usual. When reading the preparation tears kept flowing out of my eyes and I dared not stop. It ended up being a purifying experience and I was able to say the Rosary and go to sleep.

One week we did three sessions and then the next week we had to adjust our hourly schedule because one of us had a scheduling conflict. We took care of that and I told them that we only had one more session. As we were on our way to finishing, I had an accident. Somehow when eating I bit my tongue so badly that it kept bleeding and would not stop. After consulting with my wife, my youngest daughter and my brother who is a doctor, it was decided that with first aid I would be fine. Believe me when I tell you that I prayed like never before for help. After home treatment, the bleeding did stop but now what was I going to do about the preparation session?

To add to the confusion, my youngest granddaughter texted me to tell me that we would have to start an hour earlier for the last session because instead of the usual 3 pages the last session consisted of 7 pages. I explained my situation and how they were going to have to conduct and read the last session without me taking a turn reading. They all agreed. The next and final session they decided that they would take turns reading one page each. I thought I would not even be able to speak, but to my amazement I was able to speak in a limited fashion and participate.

We were done and now we had to complete the MI registration. I knew grandchildren had to register individually, which they could do online.

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# Virtual Consecration Experience during Covid19

(continued from pg. 5)

My four daughters were consecrated on August 13, 1994, and we thought that would be a good day, or Friday, St. Maximilian Kolbe's day, or Saturday Our Lady' Assumption. We decided that Friday would be the day.

In Los Angeles, because of the pandemic, the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels has virtual Mass everyday. On Fridays it's at 8:00 am, in English. So we participated in the Holy Mass. Immediately following the Mass, the grandchildren made their consecration and my two youngest daughters, cousins, my wife and I witnessed their consecration over the internet. The MI has three new and dedicated members. Sofia, Teresa and Miguel found out that their mission starts with them helping me to write this summary, which we hope to share with other members on how Our Lady makes it possible to bring her children to Jesus no matter the circumstances. All things are possible to those who believe in God.

Hugo Pacheco



## Sofia Lara's Testimonial

"When I was told that I would be consecrated, I was confused. I didn't understand the importance of it. If being consecrated was really important, why haven't I heard of it before? What was its purpose? However, while

I began to question, the answer was right in front of me. To help build my relationship with God. Before I was consecrated, I hardly read the Bible, and I rarely prayed the Rosary, but after my first class, I realized the importance of it. Mary is a mother who guides us spiritually and I've learned to rely on her. There are times when I feel so overwhelmed with all that I have to do, spiritually and academically, but then I remember that I cannot do anything without God. Everything that I have ever done has only been through the love of God. My family, my friends, my academic accomplishments, and even my happiness is only due to God's involvement in my life. If I want to succeed in life, building a long lasting relationship with God must be a priority. What better way to do that than using Mary as an example? What does it mean to be consecrated to Mary? It's using Mary as an example to solidify the relationship you have with God. It's standing up for your beliefs despite opposition. And most of all, it is following the mission that God has planned for you. I highly recommend getting consecrated to Mary regardless of how involved you are at the moment. This is a tool to help you grow further in Christ."



## Teresa Lara's Testimonial

"Like my sister, when I heard I was going to be consecrated I didn't know what being consecrated was. It wasn't

until the first day started when my wonderful teacher/Grandpa helped me understand what it is. He told me that to be consecrated is to devote your life to Mary just like St. Maximilian Kolbe. After that, we read all of the preparations for the MI Consecration which were found on the website. Along the way, there were some technical glitches and people being late but in the end it all worked out. During this time, I was able to understand what being consecrated was and become closer to God. If it wasn't for the help from my teacher and everyone I wouldn't be consecrated. With all that being said with the help of a wonderful teacher anyone can be consecrated even during a global pandemic.



## Miguel Hernandez's Testimonial

"At the start of my learning experience, I was unaware of what the Militia of the Immaculata was, however my Grandpa taught me and my cousins through virtual studies. It was a pleasant experience to learn about this subject and what I loved most was that I was able to learn with family. I learned that Maximilian Kolbe was a priest who was loaded onto a train and put into the Auschwitz concentration camp because he was Catholic. I found fascinating the fact that he remained faithful to God during beating and death by the Nazis. What this means to me is that I will be spreading the Word of God."

# MI

## YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS




## St. John Paul II to Youth

**St. John Paul II did not shy away from speaking about the mystery of suffering, which he experienced firsthand. In his Letter on human suffering, he stated:**

In suffering there is concealed a particular power that draws a person interiorly close to Christ, a special grace. To this grace many saints, such as Saint Francis of Assisi, Saint Ignatius of Loyola and others, owe their profound conversion. A result of such a conversion is not only that the individual discovers the salvific meaning of suffering but above all that he becomes a completely new person. He discovers a new dimension, as it were, of his entire life and vocation. This discovery is a particular confirmation of the spiritual greatness which in man surpasses the body in a way that is completely beyond compare. When this body is gravely ill, totally incapacitated, and the person is almost incapable of living and acting, all the more do interior maturity and spiritual greatness become evident, constituting a touching lesson to those who are healthy and normal. This interior maturity and spiritual greatness in suffering are certainly the result of a particular conversion and cooperation with the grace of the Crucified Redeemer.

### The Gospel of Suffering

It is He Himself who acts at the heart of human sufferings through His Spirit of truth, through the consoling Spirit. It is He who transforms, in a certain sense, the very substance of the spiritual life, indicating for the person who suffers a place close to Himself. It is He—as the interior Master and Guide—who reveals to the suffering brother and sister this wonderful interchange, situated at the very heart of the mystery of the Redemption. Suffering is, in itself, an experience of evil. But Christ has made suffering the firmest basis of the definitive good, namely the good of eternal salvation.

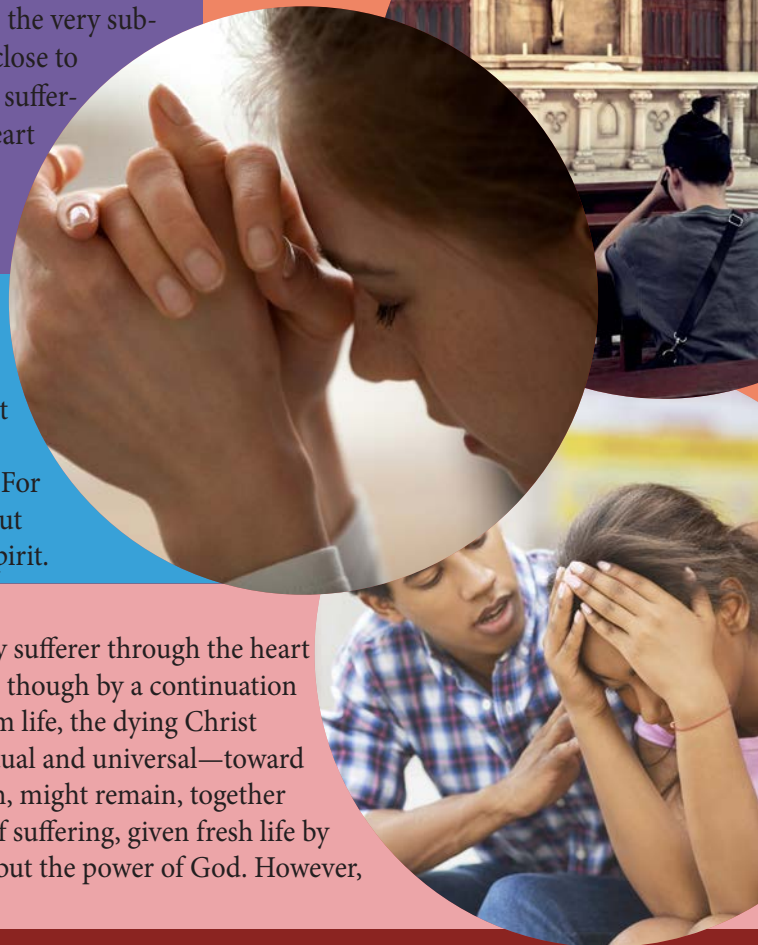
### Changed from Within

Christ discloses and gradually reveals the horizons of the Kingdom of God: the horizons of a world converted to the Creator, of a world free from sin, a world being built on the saving power of love. And slowly but effectively, Christ leads into this world, into this Kingdom of the Father, suffering man, in a certain sense through the very heart of his suffering. For suffering cannot be transformed and changed by a grace from outside, but from within. Christ acts from within... by the powers of His consoling Spirit.

### Through the Heart of the Mother

This is not all: the Divine Redeemer wishes to penetrate the soul of every sufferer through the heart of his holy Mother, the first and the most exalted of all the redeemed. As though by a continuation of that motherhood which by the power of the Holy Spirit had given Him life, the dying Christ conferred upon the ever Virgin Mary a new kind of motherhood—spiritual and universal—toward all human beings, so that every individual, during the pilgrimage of faith, might remain, together with her, closely united to Him unto the Cross, and so that every form of suffering, given fresh life by the power of this Cross, should become no longer the weakness of man but the power of God. However, this interior process does not always follow the same pattern.

Almost always the individual enters suffering with a typically human protest and with the question "why." Certainly he often puts this question to God, and to Christ. Furthermore, he cannot help noticing that the one to whom he puts the question is Himself suffering and wishes to answer him from the Cross, from the heart of His own suffering. Nevertheless, it often takes time, even a long time, for this answer to begin to be interiorly perceived. For Christ does not answer directly and he does not answer in the abstract this human questioning about the meaning of suffering. Man hears Christ's saving answer as he himself gradually becomes a sharer in the sufferings of Christ.



# Reflection on September MI Intention

O Immaculata, please intercede that our commitment in the spiritual life may make us ever more open to God's action.

*"I am the vine, you are the branches.  
Whoever remains in me and  
I in him will bear much fruit, because  
without me you can do nothing."  
(Jn 15:5)*

Becoming aware of being united with Christ as members of His Body is a result of prayer. The spiritual life consists in living our lives in union with the Father, through Christ, in the Holy Spirit, who constantly forms our identity as beloved sons and daughters of God. The spiritual life embraces our whole existence and every moment of it. Our eating and drinking, resting and working, loving and studying, praying and cultivating interpersonal relationships become a life animated by the Holy Spirit.

Our Lord tells us that if we remain in Him we will bear fruit, that is, we will become instruments in His Hands so that He may reach the hearts of the people we meet on our journey. We will thus become able to be bearers of life, His life. When our lives are united to Christ, the Holy Spirit finds room and docility to mold us into the work of art He wants us to be. Pope Francis in one of his messages urged to have great care for the spiritual life, which is the source of interior freedom. In fact, it is interior freedom makes us free from our selfishness so as to be instruments in the Hands of God.

The Immaculata is the human person most completely united with Christ. During her pilgrimage of faith, she learned to let Him act how and when He wished. In turn, she freely chose to be faithful to Him. Through our consecration, we too may learn from her the secret of authentic freedom, because she is our Teacher in the spiritual life, as St. Paul VI stated (cf. *Marialis Cultus* 21).

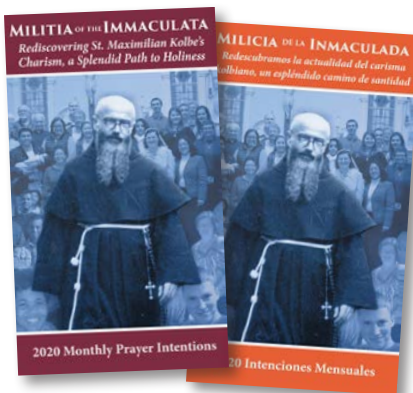
St. Maximilian Kolbe reminds us that *"The single desire of the Immaculata is to*

*raise the level of our spiritual life to the summits of holiness."* (KW 1220)

Let us allow Our Lady to instruct us! During wartime, in September 1940, St. Maximilian wrote to the friars in Japan who had sent a report about their activity. In his letter, he emphasized the importance of the spiritual life: *"Let us pray, let us pray well, pray much, both with our lips and in our thought, and we shall experience in ourselves how the Immaculata will take increasing possession of our souls, how our belonging to her will deepen more and more in every respect, how our sins will vanish, and our flaws will weaken, how gently and powerfully we will come ever closer to God. Outer activity is good, but, of course, is of secondary importance, and even less than that when compared to the inner life, to the life of recollection and prayer, to the life of our own personal love for God. ... To the extent in which we burn more and more with divine love, we will kindle a similar love even in others."* (KW 903)

Let us ask the Immaculata to share with us her docility and openness to the Holy Spirit and to teach us how to cooperate perfectly with God's will, thus becoming His instruments as she has been.

(from the MI International Office)



**2020 MI Intentions leaflets are available in English and Spanish**  
Request them from the MI National 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.





## On the Nativity of Our Mother

Young friar Maximilian urged MI Knights to celebrate and honor her (KW 1037).

September 8, the Feast of the Nativity of the Immaculata, our Queen, Lady, and most tender Mother, is at hand. As her knights, members of her guard, we cannot let this day pass without offering her our best wishes.

But what more could we possibly wish her who, exalted above all creatures in heaven and earth, became the Mother of God and now reigns eternally in heaven?

She is Queen of heaven and earth, Mediatrix of us all; through her hands all graces flow unto the earth.

What should we wish you, therefore, most noble and sweet Lady?

...Many still do not know you... either because they were born into paganism, or raised in Judaism, or imbued with the baleful notions of Protestantism! Many have come to know you, yet... they elude you, or... they have abandoned you altogether and are now sinking into the mire of immorality!

Well then, holy Queen, on this beloved day of your feast, with all our hearts and with all our souls we wish you to take full and swift possession of our hearts and the hearts of one and

all, without exception, be they Catholic, Protestant, Schismatic, Jew, pagan, good or bad.

Reign over us all and in us all, poor inhabitants of this earthly globe which glides across the heavens; reign not only during this our earthly pilgrimage, but also forever and ever, for all eternity!

For our part, we accompany our wishes with our work and by answering in person—at the cost of our labor, our property, our health, our reputation and our life. With your mighty aid (since we can do nothing alone), we will release to you the greatest possible number of souls from the bondage of the devil, of the world and of the flesh. And once they have been made happy, we shall offer them up for you to own, until we meet again, Loving Mother, in heaven...

Your MI men and MI women

### Prayer to the Immaculata

Under your protection,  
O most sweet Mother,  
and with the invocation  
of the mystery of your Immaculate  
Conception, I wish to carry out  
all my actions and endure  
all that shall befall me.

In addition, I solemnly propose  
to faithfully offer all that  
in order to give my contribution,  
with all the energy at my disposal,  
to giving due worship to God,  
through the spreading of devotion  
toward you. I beg you, therefore,  
most loving Mother, to extend your  
benevolent support for my efforts.  
For my part, I promise freely and  
devoutly, as it should, to recognize  
as obtained from God through  
your intercession any advantage  
from these my activities.

*Allow me to praise you, O Sacred Virgin.*

*Give me strength against your enemies.* (KW 1353)

Invite Friends to be consecrated to Our Lady!

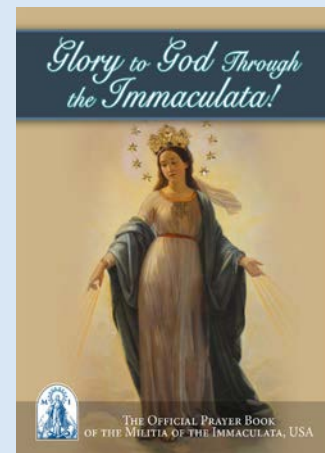


### Behold Your Mother: The Path to Total Consecration to Our Lady in the Spirit of St. Maximilian Kolbe

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!

The suggested donation for multiple copies of the booklet is \$1.00/ea. plus shipping; for a single copy, the suggested donation is \$3.75 shipping included.



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## And a sword will pierce your own soul, too. (Lk 2:35)

### *An Inspiring MI Testimony*

A number of years ago, I was blessed to hear a presentation on a branch of the MI known as the Knights at the Foot of the Cross and its focus on redemptive suffering. The presenter mentioned that, although often one can think of suffering as it presents itself in bodily ailments, there are additionally sufferings that one carries in one's heart that can, also, be consecrated to the Immaculata for her to use both for one's own sanctification, and for the conversion and sanctification of others. This became a call within a call as I began my journey of Total Consecration to the Immaculata in the Spirit of St. Maximilian Kolbe.

A few years earlier, my husband and I were blessed with our third child. After a non-eventful pregnancy, this precious soul was unexpectedly born with significant complications on Christmas Eve. Rushed immediately to the neonatal intensive care unit, we learned later that day that our child had most likely "special needs." Indeed, during the proceeding month in the NIC unit, this was confirmed. Before leaving the hospital with our child, we were given a two-inch binder to help us organize the multiple medical professionals, therapists, and special services that comprised of his new care team. Faithfully, we began our new journey together.

In addition to excellent care, the hospital staff provided us with encouraging poems and letters that opened our eyes to this formerly unknown world of special needs. One mentioned a family's highly anticipated trip to Italy. However, when they arrived, they ultimately found themselves in Holland!

In time, they began to appreciate the beauty of this strange land with its tulips, windmills, and clog shoes. This became a reality as the angel pin that I was given on Christmas Day became a plenitude of caring individuals throughout our child's now almost 26 years of life.

A friend advised that it would take a few years for things to settle down, and this was true. However, we settled not too long before another member of our family was diagnosed with a significant medical condition after a routine exam. Thus, more surgeries and a new medical support team entered our lives. The whisper of God, "My grace is enough for you; for when you are weak, I am strong" (2 Cor 12:9), continues.

I think often of Our Lady in her vocation as wife and mother. She did that which was expected of Her and embraced the reality that sometimes God has another plan. Before the Na-

tivity, She and St. Joseph did that which was expected of them by travelling to Bethlehem for the census. In doing so, they found themselves without immediate shelter and were ultimately given a stable. (Lk 2:1-20) At the Presentation, She and St. Joseph did that which was expected of them by fulfilling their religious custom. Ultimately, she heard not only the praise of Anna, but also the prophesy of Simeon, "and a sword will pierce your own soul, too..." (Lk 2:22-38) Thus, her initial fiat to the Angel Gabriel, "Let it be done unto me according to thy word..." (Lk 1:38) became a continuous surrender to the will of God.

Recently, we began a weekly online Knights at the Foot of the Cross Village of the Immaculata. Those that participate have embraced their crosses of physical, emotional, or spiritual sufferings. By consecrating them to the Immaculata, their challenges become a spiritual vanguard of prayer for those in the visibly active MI apostolates.

By uniting their sufferings to those of Christ, they obtain untold graces through Her powerful intercession. After renewing our KFC consecration prayer, our KFC Village contemplates the Chaplet of the Seven Sorrows of Mary, four of which occur during the Passion and Death of Her Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

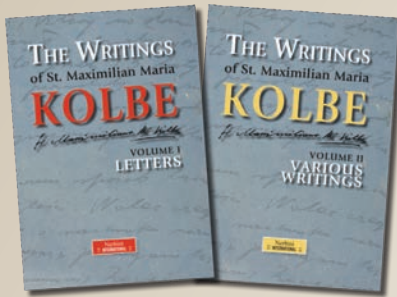
During this month of September in which we recognize both the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on September 14 followed by Our Lady of Sorrows on September 15th, let us go with Her in faith to the Foot of the Cross and pray "Jesus, I trust in You."

Donna Masek,  
Wife, Mother and  
Knight at the Foot of the Cross  
Ogden, Utah

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 — Fr. Peter D. Fehlner, OFM Conv.

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

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