

Becoming MI to the Max!

Novena in Preparation for the Militia of the Immaculata's Anniversary

The Novena starts on October 7, the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, also known as Our Lady of Victory, and ends on October 15.

For each day of the Novena, there is a quote from *The Writings of St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe* and a short prayer.

On October 16, the anniversary of the founding of the MI, MI members are encouraged to renew their consecration to the Immaculata, using the prayer composed by St. Maximilian.

Day One - October 7

Belonging to the Immaculata

From *The Writings of St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe*

The initials “MI” contain all the essence of the association of the Militia of the Immaculata. The association is in fact first and foremost “I,” which is to say “Immaculatae,” of the Immaculata. The ideal of each one of its members is to belong to the Immaculata, to be her servant, her child, her loving slave, her possession, her property, in other words to belong to her under any title that love toward her has contrived or will ever be capable of contriving; belonging to her in all ways throughout all one’s life, throughout death, and for all eternity. Being hers without any reserve, irrevocably, forever. Becoming ever more hers, in an ever more perfect way, growing in resemblance to her, being united with her, becoming in a certain way herself, so that she can ever more take possession of our soul, own it totally, that she herself may think, speak, love God and neighbor, and act in and through it. Here is the ideal: becoming hers, of the Immaculata, “Immaculatae,” “I.” (KW 1211)

Holy Spirit of Truth and Love, I thank You for having inspired St. Maximilian Kolbe to start the Militia of the Immaculata movement in our time to be an instrument of Our Lady’s maternal presence for the transformation of the world according to the Gospel. Lead me and all MI members to be firmly rooted in the Lord through prayer and the sacraments, to be totally consecrated to the Immaculata and to persevere in striving for holiness following her invitation, “Do whatever He tells you.”

With Your grace and her guidance, make us willing to witness to the Truth and sacrificial love, with the humble boldness of St. Maximilian. Give us courage to speak up for the sacredness of the life of every human being, for the family according to God’s plan, for religious freedom, and for all that can lead each person to eternal life in Heaven. Inspire us to make Our Lady known and loved that she may win each soul for her Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ who, with You and the Heavenly Father, is God for ever and ever. Amen.

Day Two - October 8

Becoming Her Property

From *The Writings of St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe*

Whoever becomes her property in an ever more perfect way will therefore exercise a greater influence on his surroundings and will lead others to know the Immaculata ever more perfectly, love her ever more ardently, come nearer to her, and give themselves to her until they also totally, without any limitation, become herself.

A soul of this kind, inasmuch as he is the property of the Immaculata, conquers an ever-larger number of other souls for her by any legitimate means, and becomes not only the property, but also a knight, a soldier of the Immaculata, “Miles,” “M.”

This is the meaning of the letters “M” and “I,” that is of the initials “MI.” (KW 1211)

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Day Three - October 9

Sharing in the Mission of the Immaculata

From *The Writings of St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe*

The aim of the Militia of the Immaculata is self-commitment to the endeavor for the conversion of sinners, heretics, schismatics, Jews..., but above all Freemasons, and to the work for the sanctification of all under the patronage and through the mediation of the Immaculata.

In these few words are contained the need for a spiritual life among those who have a hostile attitude to Christ, and also the urgency for apostolic activity among those who distance themselves from God by committing grave sin.

The Militia of the Immaculata, however, is not limited only to this sector of activity.

It leads the formation of man further beyond till it makes him reach complete self-fulfillment.

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. Strictly speaking, the aim of the Militia of the Immaculata is the goal

of the Immaculata herself. She, in fact, as Co-redemptrix, desires to extend to all humanity the fruits of the redemption brought about by her Son; she does all she can to win for Christ the heretics, schismatics, Freemasons, Jews, and so on. The single desire of the Immaculata is to raise the level of our spiritual life to the summits of holiness.
(KW 1220)

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Day Four - October 10

Offering Oneself as a Gift to the Immaculata

From *The Writings of St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe*

The Immaculata does not intend to realize these projects of apostolic action directly, personally. Rather, she seeks to involve us in this activity.

Consequently, the essential condition that every member of the MI must put in practice is this: *offering one's self as a possession of the Immaculata....* This activity of the Immaculata will be more effective the more we seek on our part to further deepen our spiritual formation. The gift of self to the Immaculata, therefore, carries with it the need of a commitment in view of perfecting our character.

Only then—when we shall be perfectly obedient to the Immaculata—shall we become an exemplary instrument in her apostolic hands. We shall be apostles by means of the example of our life, apostles by means of our action. In the activity that the MI outlines for us, we may make use of any good means.

In the membership card all means, provided they are legitimate, are recommended. Therefore, there is no limitation regarding the organizational fields. Nevertheless, the Militia of the Immaculata lays an emphasis on those means that the Immaculata herself recommends. One of these is the Miraculous Medal.

The Militia of the Immaculata, as we can see, is a global vision of Catholic life in a new form, consisting in the bond with the Immaculata, our universal Mediatrix before Jesus. (KW 1220)

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Day Five - October 11

Radiating the Immaculata

From *The Writings of St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe*

“Through the Immaculata to the Divine Heart of Jesus”: that is our watchword. “Through the Immaculata”: that is our essential feature, that is, as instruments in her hand. As a result, it is not enough that we care to be ever more of the Immaculata in every regard, within well-defined boundaries. We want to radiate the Immaculata to the point of being able to attract to her even the souls of others, indeed of all those who exist now, who will exist, and may exist in the future, without any limitation.

In a word, we wish to belong ever more to her and become her “knights,” willing to embrace total sacrifice for her till our last drop of blood in the conquest of the entire world and every single soul for her, and that as soon as possible, as soon as possible, as soon as possible: that is the *MI*. (KW 1231)

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Day Six - October 12

Becoming More Like Her

From *The Writings of St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe*

Each of us, then says: I wish first to translate into action, to achieve more and more, and ever more quickly, that ideal in *myself*. I must do everything myself in order to belong ever more to the Immaculata. I am the one who needs to offer myself ever more to her, to make myself like her, live by her, radiate her so that my environment may be more clearly enlightened by knowledge of her, warmed and inflamed ever more ardently with love for her; so that an ever-increasing number of other people become like me, as I am toward her; so that, through me they belong ever more to her and, like me, may have more and yet more influence on their neighbors and enlighten and inflame an increasing number of yet more people. That the whole world and every individual soul may become ever more like her, be turned almost into her herself: that is the “MI-me.”

What means do I use? Any, as long as they are lawful. A formidable means is the connection of energies of individual members, the link of individual souls with one another. That is why the Militia of the Immaculata is an “association.” (KW 1231)

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Day Seven - October 13

Permeating All Things

From *The Writings of St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe*

With the help of the Immaculata we have to tend to this: that the faithful Knights of the Immaculata be everywhere, but particularly in the most important places such as: (1) youth education (professors of scientific institutes, teachers, sports clubs); (2) the management of public opinion (magazines, newspapers, their drafting and dissemination, public libraries, circulating libraries, etc., conferences, movies, cinemas, etc.); (3) fine arts (sculpture, painting, music, theater); and finally (4) our Knights of the Immaculata in every field should become the pioneers and leaders in science (natural sciences, history, literature, medicine, law, exact

sciences, etc.). Under our influence and with the assistance of the MI, industrial complexes, businesses, banks, etc., should arise and develop. In a word, the Militia should permeate everything, and in a healthy spirit heal, strengthen, and develop all to the greater glory of God through the Immaculata and for the good of humanity. (KW 92)

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Day Eight - October 14

Opening the Eyes of Others

From *The Writings of St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe*

[The Militia] opens the eyes of those who have erroneous ideas of religion; teaches the beauty of heroic virtue to people who live in this world; becomes the guide of those who truly thirst for truth, so that they will not lose the way while tending for the ultimate end of life, which is the most important thing above all others; purifies souls, and like a friend, exhorts them to proceed in the way of virtue. These are the aims of the Militia of the Immaculata! People, without any distinction of nationality and race, have to tread the path of virtue.... The Militia of the Immaculata offers effective help to us so we may heed the voice of reason and to tread the path of virtue. (KW 1162)

The Militia of the Immaculata uses any lawful means for helping souls in the work of their salvation and sanctification through the Immaculata. Besides direct apostolate and the press, an effective means today is the radio. The Militia of the Immaculata, therefore, cannot possibly neglect it. (KW 1235)

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Day Nine - October 15

Becoming Great Saints through Her

From *The Writings of St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe*

Neither theoretically, nor much less practically do I know how we should serve the Immaculata, be an instrument to her, a servant, child, slave, possession and property, and... herself. She alone must instruct each of us at every moment, must lead us, transform us into herself, so that it is no longer we who live, but she in us, just as Jesus lives in her and the Father in the Son.

Let us allow her to operate in us and through us whatever she wishes. She will definitely work miracles of grace, and we ourselves shall become holy saints, great saints, for, as we become even like her, she will conquer, through us, the whole world and each individual soul. Let us hasten that time by deepening our consecration to her. (KW 556)

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October 16 – Anniversary of the Founding of the MI

Permitting Her to Act In and Through Us

From *The Writings of St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe*

The Immaculata: there is our ideal.

To approach her, become like her, permit her to take possession of our heart and all our self, that she may live and act in and through us, that she may love God with our heart, that we may belong to her without any restriction: this is our ideal.

To radiate in the surroundings, conquer souls for her in a way that, before her, the hearts of our neighbors may be opened so that she may extend her dominion in the hearts of all those who live in any corner of the earth, without regard for racial, national, linguistic differences, and similarly in the hearts of all those who will live in any moment of history till the end of the world: this is our ideal.

Besides, may her life be ever more rooted in us from day to day, from one hour to another, from one moment to another, and this without any limitation: this is our ideal.

Again, may her life develop in the same way in every soul that exists and will exist in any time: this is our cherished ideal. (KW 1210)

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Official Act of Consecration to Mary
(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.