

# THE KNIGHT OF THE Immaculata

E-PUBLICATION OF THE MILITIA OF THE IMMACULATA, USA



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## 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the First MI Magazine



### Remember Our Call

by Ronald L. Rodrigues, MI National President



Dear Knights of the Immaculata,

Maria! I would be remiss if I didn't begin this letter with a sincere and heartfelt thank you to the outgoing MI Council. The past 6 years they have advanced the MI to a new level. I cannot express my gratitude enough for the hard work they have done and the love they put into advancing the MI and setting the foundation for the future growth of our organization, or should I say our Lady's Army, the Militia of the Immaculata.

As I take the reins, I am both excited and nervous at the same time. I pray that I will be able to follow in their footsteps, under the guidance of Our Lady, and lead the MI in a way that Our Lady will be smiling. May we continue to love and bring others to her. As St. Jacinta Marto said, "If I could only put in the heart of everyone in the world the fire that is burning in me and makes me love so much the Heart of Mary...!"

The month of October should be one of remembrance for the Militia of the Immaculata. It was on October 16, 1917, that St. Maximilian Kolbe started the MI. As a seminarian studying in Rome, he witnessed demonstrations against Popes St. Pius X and Benedict XV and hatred toward the Catholic Church.

Seminarian Kolbe was walking through St Peter's Square when he noticed a large rally of Freemasons with banners that read "Satan must reign in the Vatican and the Pope will be his slave." He wrote that they placed the black standard of the 16th Century heretic, Giordano Bruno, under the windows of the Vatican. On the standard, the Archangel St. Michael was depicted lying under the feet of the triumphant Lucifer. At the same time, numerous pamphlets were distributed to the people in which the Pope was attacked shamefully.

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

- St. Maximilian Kolbe

# Editorial

(Continued from pg. 1)

Young Maximilian's world seemed to be turned upside down with what he saw. Everything he believed in, his Church, his religion, the core of his being, was under attack. He couldn't sit idly by, he had to do something. At one time the young Raymond Kolbe, then a junior seminarian, wanting to be consecrated to Mary, thought his role was to be a soldier for God. He believed he could use his talents as a military strategist. During his time at the Franciscan minor seminary, he excelled in school and was very interested in military strategy and plans. He was even planning on leaving the junior seminary after his third year to join the military. His mother's visit intervened. No one knows what was said, but he reversed his decision. He knew he could not fight the Devil alone and there was one person he knew he could ask for assistance: the Immaculate Mother of God, Our Lady. She was the one that was given the power to fight evil, "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall strike your head, while you bruise his heel" (Gen 3:15). "A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars" (Rev 12:1).

When St. Maximilian Kolbe returned home from Rome, he wrote that after witnessing the heartbreaking attacks by the enemies of the Church, he thought, "Are we to remain inactive? No, every one of us has a holy obligation to personally hurl back the assaults of this foe."

On the 16th of October 1917, the 200th Anniversary of the start of Freemasonry, St. Maximilian Kolbe with six companions founded the army of the Immaculata known as the Militia of the Immaculata.

This army had as one of its goals a spiritual battle and a movement of prayer and action especially against the evil of Freemasonry. His goal was to work for the conversion of sinners and enemies of the Church, specifically the Freemasons. He would do this with the intercession of Mary.

I have always had a fascination for the Marian apparitions. I have studied quite a few and taught about them in our MI Village. The one that stands out the most for me is Fatima, maybe because of my Portuguese heritage, but I want to believe it's because of Our Lady.

I am not too much on coincidences but the same year that St. Maximilian Kolbe was inspired to begin the MI, Our Lady appeared to three children in Fatima, once each month from May through October. The last appearance took place on October 13th, the same month and year St. Maximilian Kolbe was inspired to start the MI. The message Our Lady gave the children is a large part of living our Marian consecration.

Jacinta Marto, 9 years old, told her cousin Lucia before she died: "Soon I shall go to Heaven. You are to stay here to reveal that the Lord wants to establish throughout the world devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Tell everyone that Our Lord grants us all graces through the Immaculate Heart of Mary; that all must make their petitions to her; that the Sacred Heart of Jesus desires that the Immaculate Heart of Mary be venerated at the same time. Tell them that they should all ask for peace from the Immaculate Heart of Mary, as God has placed it in her hands. Oh, if I could only put in the heart of everyone in the world the fire that is burning in me and makes me love so much the Heart of Mary...!"

A quote from Lucia reads: "Our Lady said 'I will never leave you; my Immaculate Heart will be your refuge, and the way that will lead you to God.'"

I believe the Fatima message is in the heart of every MI member and something we should cherish.

Maximilian Kolbe said in a letter to Fr. Florian Koziura on December 2, 1931, that "we need to 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 will be in the future. It is clear that an organization will be necessary."

St. Maximilian Kolbe knew of the importance of MI members coming together in prayer and mission. He knew that by joining forces, we would be stronger and have a greater impact

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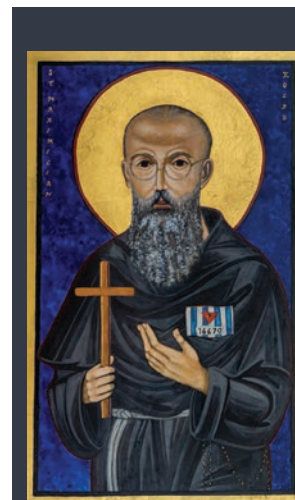


### Daily Holy Mass

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

Send your prayer intentions to be placed in the MI Book of Intentions at the feet of Our Lady and St. Maximilian Kolbe's first class relic:

[PrayerRequest@MissionImmaculata.com](mailto:PrayerRequest@MissionImmaculata.com)



### Icon of St. Maximilian Kolbe Holy Card and Print

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

Order copies today from the MI National Office:  
[MINational@MissionImmaculata.com](mailto:MINational@MissionImmaculata.com)  
Or call: 331-223-5564





## Editorial: Remember Our Call by Ronald L. Rodrigues, MI National President

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than by relying solely on our own individual initiatives. Praying together has more power as Our Lord told us, “For where two or three are gathered together in my Name, there am I in the midst of them” (Mt 18:20).

As we reflect on how the MI started, let’s join in prayer and unity as we try “to win the entire world for the Immaculate Heart of Mary.”

Please pray for the new MI Council, the new servants of all MI members, as we begin our journey, walking in the footsteps of such a great Saint, Maximilian Kolbe, to bring all humanity under the Mantle of Our Lady.

With the world in chaos and so many leaving the Church, no time is better than now to continue Our Lady’s mission. With the help of all the MI Knights, together we can bring the message of peace the world needs. The

message Our Lady gives to us, “Do whatever He tells you” (Jn 2:5).

May we continue to bring the message of Jesus through the Immaculate Heart of Mary! May no soul be left out. With the help of the Miraculous Medal, we can bring all to the love of Jesus through our Blessed Mother. Maximilian Kolbe said “To offer our hand to these souls and lead them all to God through our Immaculate Queen, is a beautiful mission for which it is worthwhile to live, suffer, work and even die.”

May God bless all of us. Mother Mary, pray for us.

As we begin our journey, let us go win the world for Mary.

Ronald L. Rodrigues  
MI National President

*“I see Mary everywhere and difficulties nowhere.” St. Maximilian Kolbe*

Invite Friends to Be  
Consecrated to Our Lady!



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

This beautiful 56-page booklet may be used individually or as a group activity (in a home or parish setting, for example), or as a series of classes led by a facilitator, or during a day of preparation for MI consecration to Our Lady. If you can offer a series of meetings, you can read each chapter with the group and invite the participants to reflect and comment on it. Alternatively, you can invite them to read each chapter beforehand and come together for discussion.

Many people have expressed the desire to promote total consecration to Mary in their parish and local area. **Behold Your Mother!** offers you an effective tool for making that possible!

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## **“You shall be my witnesses” (Acts 1:8)** Excerpts from the Pope's Message for Mission Sunday.

Let us reflect on the three key phrases that synthesize the three foundations of the life and mission of every disciple: “You shall be my witnesses”, “to the ends of the earth” and “you shall receive the power of the Holy Spirit.”

### **1. “You shall be my witnesses” – The call of every Christian to bear witness to Christ**

This is the central point, the heart of Jesus’ teaching to the disciples, in view of their being sent forth into the world. The disciples are to be witnesses of Jesus, thanks to the grace of the Holy Spirit that they will receive. Wherever they go and in whatever place they find themselves. Christ was the first to be sent, as a “missionary” of the Father (cf. Jn 20:21), and as such, He is the Father’s “faithful witness” (cf. Rev 1:5). In a similar way, every Christian is called to be a missionary and witness to Christ. And the Church, the community of Christ’s disciples, has no other mission than that of bringing the Gospel to the entire world by bearing witness to Christ. To evangelize is the very identity of the Church.

A deeper look at the words, “You shall be my witnesses,” can clarify a few ever timely aspects of the mission Christ entrusted to the disciples. The plural form of the verb emphasizes the communitarian and ecclesial nature of the disciples’ missionary vocation. Each baptized person

is called to mission, in the Church and by the mandate of the Church: consequently, mission is carried out together, not individually, in communion with the ecclesial community, and not on one’s own initiative. Even in cases where an individual in some very particular situation carries out the evangelizing mission alone, he must always do so in communion with the Church which commissioned him. As Saint Paul VI taught in the Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, a document dear to my heart: “Evangelization is for no one an individual and isolated act; it is one that is deeply ecclesial. When the most obscure preacher, catechist or pastor in the most distant land preaches the Gospel, gathers his little community together or administers a sacrament, even alone, he is carrying out an ecclesial act, and his action is certainly attached to the evangelizing activity of the whole Church by institutional relationships, but also by profound invisible links in the order of grace. This presupposes that he acts not in virtue of a mission which he attributes to himself or by a personal inspiration, but in union with the mission of the Church and in her name” (No. 60)... When it comes to Christian witness, the observation of Saint Paul VI remains ever valid: “Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses” (*Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 41). For this reason, the testimony of an authentic Christian life is fun-

damental for the transmission of the faith. On the other hand, the task of proclaiming Christ’s person and the message is equally necessary.... In evangelization, then, the example of a Christian life and the proclamation of Christ are inseparable. One is at the service of the other. They are the two lungs with which any community must breathe, if it is to be missionary. This kind of complete, consistent and joyful witness to Christ will surely be a force of attraction also for the growth of the Church in the third millennium. I exhort everyone to take up once again the courage, frankness and *parrhesia* of the first Christians, in order to bear witness to Christ in word and deed in every area of life.

### **2. “To the ends of the earth” – The perennial relevance of a mission of universal evangelization**

The words “to the ends of the earth” should challenge the disciples of Jesus in every age and impel them to press beyond familiar places in bearing witness to Him. For all the benefits of modern travel, there are still geographical areas in which missionary witnesses of Christ have not arrived to bring the Good News of His love. Then too no human reality is foreign to the concern of the disciples of Jesus in their mission. Christ’s Church will continue to “go forth” towards new geographical, social and existential horizons, toward

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## “You shall be my witnesses” (Acts 1:8)

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“borderline” places and human situations, in order to bear witness to Christ and His love to men and women of every people, culture and social status. In this sense, the mission will always be a *missio ad gentes*, as the Second Vatican Council taught. The Church must constantly keep pressing forward, beyond her own confines, in order to testify to all the love of Christ.

3. “You will receive power” from the Holy Spirit – Let us always be strengthened and guided by the Spirit.

When the risen Christ commissioned the disciples to be His witnesses, He also promised them the grace needed for this great responsibility.... Just as “no one can say ‘Jesus is Lord,’ except by the Holy Spirit” (1 Cor 12:3), so no Christian is able to bear full and genuine witness to Christ the Lord without the Spirit’s inspiration and assistance. All Christ’s missionary disciples are called to recognize the essential importance of the Spirit’s work, to dwell in His presence daily and to receive His un-failing strength and guidance. Indeed, it is precisely when we feel tired, unmotivated or confused that we should remember to have recourse to the Holy Spirit in prayer.

Let me emphasize once again that prayer plays a fundamental role in the missionary life, for it allows us to be refreshed and strengthened by the Spirit as the inexhaustible divine source of renewed energy and joy in sharing Christ’s life with others. “Receiving the joy of the Spirit is a grace. Moreover, it is the only force that enables us to preach the Gospel and to confess our faith in the Lord” (*Message to the Pontifical*

*Mission Societies*, 21 May 2020). The Spirit, then, is the true protagonist of mission. It is He who gives us the right word, at the right time, and in the right way.

In light of this action of the Holy Spirit, we also want to consider the missionary anniversaries to be celebrated in 2022. The establishment of the Sacred Congregation *De Propaganda Fide* in 1622 was motivated by the desire to promote the missionary mandate in new territories. A providential insight! The Congregation proved to be crucial for setting the Church’s evangelizing mission truly free from interference by worldly powers, in order to establish those local Churches which today display such great vigor.

The same Spirit who guides the universal Church also inspires ordinary men and women for extraordinary missions. Thus it was that a young French woman, Bl. Pauline Jaricot, founded the Society for the Propagation of the Faith exactly two hundred years ago. Albeit in poor health, she accepted God’s inspiration to establish a network of prayer and collection for missionaries, so that the faithful could actively participate in the mission “to the ends of the earth.” This brilliant idea gave rise to the annual celebration of World Mission Day, in which the funds collected in local communities are applied to the universal fund with which the Pope supports missionary activity. ... Dear brothers and sisters, ...would that all of us in the Church were what we already are by virtue of baptism: prophets, witnesses, missionaries of the Lord, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to the ends of the earth! Mary, Queen of the Missions, pray for us!

FRANCIS



## See and Share the MI Film!

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

**"Simply excellent!"**  
**"Inspirational!"**

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

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





It is late in the year 1273, in the priory of Naples, near to Aquino, where Brother Thomas was born. He has retired to his small cell to pray. Unbeknown to him, one of his younger fellows, Dominic, is watching, and the great Dominican theologian, a man of ample girth, is lifted from the ground while he holds a crucifix before his eyes.

“Thomas,” says a Voice from the crucifix, “you have written well of me. What do you desire for a reward?” “Thee alone,” says Thomas.

### The Hidden God

We know Thomas Aquinas for his immense learning and his mighty and clear-eyed intellect, sharpened by tools that most academic philosophers know little of: humility, piety, and the revelation of Christ. But he was also a mystic and poet who sang in praise of the Eucharist. His hymn *Adoro Te* ought to be cherished by every Catholic, as it says with all the power of intense concentration and the sweetness of poetry what we believe about the Bread we receive.

I would like to meditate upon four of the poem’s themes—four that we find also in that scene above. The first is that God is *not directly present to our senses*. Thomas did not see God in his cell just as he saw the crucifix in his hands. And Thomas always insisted that man derives his knowledge *first* through the senses. First; not both first and last, and not solely. Even our faith comes first by hearing—we hear the lessons of the preacher, we hear the words of Holy Scripture. The Creator is made manifest in His creatures, which all cry out, “We did not make ourselves!” But who He is and what He is—that is not so clear.

So Thomas calls upon the *latens Deitas*, the hidden God:

*Adoro Te devote, latens Deitas,  
Quae sub his figuris vere latitas;  
Tibi se cor meum totum subicit,  
Quia Te contemplans totum deficit.*

*Humbly I adore You, hidden God, who have concealed Yourself truly beneath these forms: my heart wholly surrenders itself to You, because in gazing upon You is wholly at a loss.*

Those are no words of embarrassment. How, after all, can the ineffable God ever be known by a creature as fully as He knows Himself? The more we see of God, the more profoundly are we struck by the mystery, and what can we say? Thomas himself, shortly after he heard the voice of God in his cell, was so struck by the glory of the Eucharist as he was celebrating Mass that he said to his secretary, Brother Reginald, that he would write no more, because all he had written seemed as straw compared to what he had now beheld. But why should we believe at all, if things are



# What Is This I Behold?

by Professor Anthony Esolen

hidden? The second stanza takes up the challenge:

*Visus, tactus, gustus, in Te fallitur;  
Sed auditu solo tuto creditur.*

*Credo quidquid dixit Dei Filius:  
Nihil hoc Verbo veritatis verius.*

*Sight, touch, and taste are deceived in You; hearing alone may safely be believed. I believe whatever the Son of God has said: nothing is truer than the very Word of truth.*

One of the common names the Church Fathers gave to Christ was simply *Truth*: not this truth or that truth, not just truth about how we should live, but Truth, absolutely, without qualification or reservation. Christ is the Way, the Life, and the Truth. He is present in the Eucharist, body, blood, soul, and divinity. We cannot see or taste or touch it, but we can hear: if the Truth has said it, we believe it. Why should we hesitate? If we believe in the resurrection of the flesh because Jesus has revealed it to us in His words and in His person, is not the miracle of the Eucharist an earnest of that wedding feast to come?

### Trust in the Wounds

But why should we trust Jesus? Think of the crucifix. The Man on that cross gave the ultimate witness to the truth: He suffered and died for it, for us. There too He was both hidden and manifest:

*In cruce latebat sola Deitas;  
At hic latet simul et humanitas.  
Ambo tamen credens atque confitens,  
Peto quod petivit latro poenitens.*

*Deity alone was hidden upon the cross; but here humanity is hidden too. Yet believing and confessing both, I seek what the thief in his repentance sought.*

That is an astonishing stanza. Here is no strutting. Thomas places himself at the foot of the cross, not as clean, but as guilty—as the thief who with his last repentant breath stole Paradise. When we receive the Lord, we receive Him as the sole Sacrifice wholly pleasing to the Father. If we should ever waver in our faith, that steadfast cross calls us: stand with the Man upon the cross and surrender to Him all the more readily as the world denies Him and mocks Him and will not hear the truth. But the same Christ who died rose from the grave, and now our saint considers his namesake, the Apostle who relied upon his senses:

*Plagas, sicut Thomas, non intueor;  
Deum tamen meum Te confiteor.  
Fac me Tibi semper magis credere,  
In Te spem habere, Te diligere.*

*I cannot behold the wounds as Thomas did, but still I confess You to be my God. Make me ever more fully believe in You, have hope in You, and love You.*

Will it not be glorious to behold the hands and the feet of Christ, for those who believe in Him? “Blessed are they who do not see,” said Jesus to Thomas, after he had fallen to his knees and adored Him, “and who yet believe.” They have those three things that Saint Paul says will remain, after all earthly things have passed away like shadows: faith confirmed,

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# What Is This I Behold?



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hope fulfilled, and love—the greatest of these.

## Love That Sees

How was Thomas raised from the ground, with all that weight of his? But it is as Saint Augustine says, “My love is my weight”—love is the force that draws us on. I think also of what Richard of Saint Victor says, that where there is love, there is an eye that sees. Christ died for love and rose again, and Thomas loves Him and begs Him to give lasting strength to that love, to give it increase:

*O memoriale mortis Domini,  
Panis vivus vitam praestans homini,  
Praesta meae menti de Te vivere,  
Et Te illi semper dulce sapere.*

*O memorial of the death of the Lord, living Bread that grants life to man, grant to my mind that it may live from You, and to taste Your sweetness ever.*

“Taste and see how sweet the Lord is,” says the Psalmist. Thomas is thinking of that experience of the Eucharist, and so he plays on the Latin *sapere*, meaning *to taste* (think of our word *savor*), but also *to know* (think of our word *sapience*).

How can we put the two together? Even in human matters, there are things that only the lover sees, and when it comes to the divine, how can we even begin to raise our minds from the things of earth, unless they are made open to love? God here is not an idea. Thomas does not want to be persuaded of some notion about God. He longs as a lover does. So should all men, for Christ died for all:

*Pie pellicane, Iesu Domine,  
Me immundum munda Tuo Sanguine,  
Cuius una stilla salvum facere  
Totum mundum quit ab omni scelere.  
Merciful Pelican, Lord Jesus, cleanse me the unclean by Your Blood, one drop of Which can save the whole world from every wickedness.*

Europeans in Thomas' time believed that the pelican fed its young from its own substance, stabbing itself in the breast. A single drop of the Blood of Christ would suffice to

heal the whole world. That is the miraculous work of His love, and Thomas calls upon all mankind to see it, to taste it, to be touched and permeated by that Blood, so that their minds may clear, and they may be made whole.

## Thee Alone

People who do not know our faith suppose that we long for an eternity of clouds and harps, or a garden with flowers and fruits and running streams; an Elysium or happy hunting grounds with a Christian coloring. They haven't read the New Testament. Saint John says that we do not know what glory awaits us, but we do know that we will be like God, because we will see Him as He is, and Saint Paul says that we will see Him not dimly, as in a glass, but face to face. “Seek My face,” says God to the Psalmist. We long to behold the Lord, the Source and End of all goodness and truth and beauty. Hence Thomas's final stanza:

*Iesu, Quem velatum nunc aspicio,  
Oro fiat illud quod tam sitio;  
Ut Te revelata cernens facie  
Visu sim beatus Tuae gloriae. Amen.*

*Jesus, now veiled as I look upon You, I pray that what I so desire should come to pass; that, discerning You with Your face unveiled, I may be blessed in beholding Your glory. Amen.*

It is as when the pilgrim Dante beholds, at the end of the *Paradise*, the mystery of the incarnate Christ, that central “Love that moves the sun and the other stars.” There is no more to say. Let it be so, O Lord, let it be so.

Anthony Esolen

This article is reprinted from the June 2022, Vol. 24, No. 4 issue of *Magnificat*, with permission from the Editor.

Anthony Esolen is professor and writer-in-residence at Magdalen College of Liberal Arts in N.H., translator and editor of Dante's *Divine Comedy* (Random House) and author of books and essays.

# 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.



# New MI Villages

## Munster, Indiana

The first day of Mary's Month, October 1st, a new MI Village will begin at the Carmelite Shrine, 1628 Ridge Rd, Munster, Indiana.

First Saturdays EVERY Month  
Beginning October 1, 2022  
8:00 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.

Holy Mass, Reconciliation, Holy Rosary, First Saturday/Fatima Devotions, Monthly Consecration Renewal, Kolbe Formation and Fellowship.

For more information, contact MI Moderator, Joseph Cascone: CasconeJoe@outlook.com

## NAS Sigonella, Italy

On September 18, the first gathering of the Immaculate Conception MI Village was held at the NAS Immaculate Conception Catholic Community, led by MI Moderator, Fr. Franklin Watts, and DRE Adam Fabbri. They will

be meeting every other month, on Sundays and First Saturdays. Fr. Frank wrote that, since his arrival there in June of 2013 as the full time Priest, he has promoted Marian consecration and has used the Consecration Prayer of St. Maximilian Kolbe. In addition, they have observed the First Saturday devotions and seek to pray the Rosary as a community on a regular basis. He added, "I pray that the establishment of an MI Village within our community will lead our adults, families, children and youth into a deeper relationship with our Blessed Mother, the Immaculate Conception."

## Pawling, New York

The MI Warriors Village has been meeting at St. John the Evangelist Church on 1st and 3rd Saturdays at 10:00 A.M. See also sjescb.org For information contact MI Moderator Thomas Gonzalez: TGrex123@yahoo.com

## Online MI Villages

Want to connect and pray with other MI members? Looking for support in deepening or preparing for your consecration? Join a virtual MI Village and live out your consecration with others. Email Moderators for information.

**\*\*Moderator: Scott Richard**

Email: Virtual.MI.Village@gmail.com  
Mtg Day: Friday (Last Friday of each month)  
Mtg Time: 8:00pm CST  
Weekly Consecration Renewal & Virtual Village Rosary Tuesdays @ 8:30pm CST

**\*\*Moderator: Douglas Eschbach**

Email: MI.village.marytown@gmail.com  
Mtg Day: Sunday (3rd Sunday of each month)  
Mtg Time: 5:00pm CST

**\*\*Moderator: Donna**

Knights at the Foot of the Cross (KFC)  
Village of the Immaculata  
E-mail: miutah.stmary@gmail.com  
Mtg Day: Every Friday evening  
Mtg Time: 8:00pm-9:00pm MST

**\*\*Moderator: Bill Bielawski**

Email: william.bielawski@gmail.com  
Mtg Day: Sunday (3rd Sunday of each month)  
Mtg Time: 7:00pm CST

**\*\* Moderator: Lisa Fulgenzi**

Email: drlisafmi@gmail.com  
Write to request Google Meet join info  
Mtg Day: Wednesdays  
Mtg Time: 8-00-9:00pm EST





## October Is the Month of the Rosary

by Ronald L. Rodrigues

I thought about writing something about the history of the Rosary but I believe most of us know its origin. As MI members, I am sure we all pray the Rosary regularly. Fr. Calloway has a very good book, *Champions of the Rosary*, which I found to be very interesting, covering the history and theological background of the Rosary. But then I read another article that startled me: an attack on the Rosary. I guess I shouldn't have been alarmed since there have always been attacks on the Catholic Church and the way we live our Faith.

This one isn't that much different, but just caught me off guard that it was an attack on our spiritual weapon, something we use for prayer. The attack is claiming we are part of the far-right extremists because we have a weapon, the rosary. It went as far as to put the rosary in the same category as a combat assault rifle. They based some of their comments on the fact that it is our spiritual weapon and certain organizations market the rosary as a combat weapon. They tend to leave out the fact that it is a spiritual weapon, with emphasis on spiritual.

Yes, we are in a fight between good and evil. We combat this, yes with the Rosary, through prayer, fasting and penitential acts. We do not engage in an act of violence but in peaceful prayers to help others. We invoke our heavenly Mother for assistance. We

all know that only our Mother has the power to defeat evil. "He shall strike your head, while you bruise his heel" (Gen 3:15). Our Lady gave the Marian Psalter (the Rosary) in 1208 to St. Dominic to assist in his preaching that had not born much fruit yet.

The Rosary has been used throughout the years to combat evil, especially the attacks from the Islamic religion. One of the most known is the battle of Lepanto in 1571. In another instance, if it were not for the Rosary and the help of our Blessed Mother, Europe would have fallen to the Ottoman Turks, but they were halted at the door to Vienna.

Yes, the Rosary is our spiritual weapon.

There are numerous recorded events of the power of the Rosary dating back to its origin in 1208, when Fr. Dominic received the Marian Psalter and used it to combat the heresy of the Albigensians.

In 1938, Fr. Patrick Peyton contracted tuberculosis, which was incurable at that time. His sister Nellie encouraged him to ask our Blessed Mother for help. Fr. Peyton soon after consecrated himself to Mary and began praying the Rosary daily. Within a short time, the doctors discovered that the patches on his lungs had disappeared with no scientific explanation. Fr. Peyton was one of the first to begin to use electronic media asking families to pray the Rosary. His most remembered quote,

"The family that prays together stays together," still echoes in our hearts.

In 1945 the atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, Japan, in the heart of the Urakami district of the city. This area was the center of Catholicism in Japan and where, in 1930, Maximilian Kolbe had established the Garden of the Immaculata, a place where they prayed the Rosary daily. Our Mother had guided him to purchase a property that would be hidden from the blast.

In 1955 Fr. Petrus launched a Rosary Campaign and 70,000 people pledged to say the Rosary daily for the intention to free Austria from Russian rule. On May 13, 1955, the anniversary of the first apparition of Our Lady at Fatima, the Russians signed an agreement to leave Austria.

The Rosary saved Brazil from Communism, in the years 1962-1964. President Joao Goulart was seeking to form a Communist government. Cardinal de Barros Camara used his weekly radio address to inform the people to follow the message of Our Lady at Fatima regarding prayer and penance. President Goulart continued to indoctrinate the people with his Communist agenda. He told the people that only Communist control, not the Rosary, would save the country from collapse.

Dona Amelia Bastos, after listening to a group of men called the Anti-Reds, which her husband was a part of, decided to assist in her own way. She started a group called Campaign of Women for Democracy (CAMDE). She began to ask the people to pray the Rosary to stop the Communist takeover. Dona Amelia's first success was when 20,000 women began praying the Rosary and broke up a pro-Communist rally. She continued to recruit women, and, together with the influence of Archbishop Camara, 600,000 women marched in San Paulo to pray the Rosary. With the noise of 3,000 Rosaries and the sound of their prayers, in

(Continues on pg.10)



## October Is the Month of the Rosary

(Continued from pg. 9)  
the government assembly hall, Leone Brizola, a Communist official, left furious when unable to deliver his speech. In an amazing peaceful anti-Communist demonstration, Communism was averted and not one life was lost. President Goulart and his officials fled the country in 1964.

In 2010, 19-year-old British soldier Glenn Hockton, was saved by his rosary after stepping on a land mine in Afghanistan. His rosary fell and when he bent down to pick it up he realized he had stepped on a land mine. His grandfather was saved the same way during WWII. He was walking across a field with others in his platoon, when he saw something and bent down to pick it up. A bomb went off, the blast killed everyone except him. He was the only one to survive. He had picked up a rosary.

Today we are still in a spiritual battle, not only with the Islamic nations but the push for Socialism, and hatred toward the Church. Lucifer is alive and well.

We live in evil times but in these dark days we shouldn't be afraid. We must pray, fast and live our Faith with confidence. There is no better way to do this than by praying the Rosary, calling on the Immaculata to come to our assistance and put our enemies to flight. Our Lady gave us the Rosary to

defend ourselves and as a way of bringing us closer to her. Yes, the Rosary is our spiritual weapon and protection against the evil of today.

As MI members, we know the importance of the Rosary and the part it plays in our everyday life. May we continue to defend and pray the Rosary and never forget that if we are interrupted or don't finish it, our Guardian Angel promised to finish our prayer. A wonderful thought, but truth be told, I was told that they are created spirits and are unaware of our thoughts, so, unless we intentionally reveal to them our intentions, they don't have knowledge of our thoughts. Only God does. We need to ask them before we start and they will be happy to help.

Here are some quotes of reassurance that Yes the Rosary is our weapon of choice.

*"A prayer both simple and sublime that the Immaculata herself indicated when she appeared in Lourdes is the Holy Rosary. May it become the sword of each knight of the Immaculata, just as the Miraculous Medal is the bullet that strikes down evil!"*  
-St. Maximilian Kolbe

"Give me an army saying the Rosary and I will conquer the world." –Bl. Pope Pius IX

"Some people are so foolish that they think they can go through life without the help of the Blessed Mother. Love the Madonna and pray the Rosary, for her Rosary is the weapon against the evils of the world today. All graces given by God pass through the Blessed Mother." –St. Padre Pio

"The holy Rosary is a powerful weapon. Use it with confidence and you'll be amazed at the results." –St. Josemaria Escriva

"When we pray the Rosary, we certainly give great pleasure to the Divine Mother, and draw great blessings from God upon ourselves and our families."  
St. Maximilian Kolbe

Many other saints and popes have called it "a glorious weapon against Satan."

St. John Paul II wrote a magnificent Letter about the Rosary and Pope Francis in 2022 said that "There is no path to holiness without spiritual combat," and he is only one of many Church shepherds who have endorsed the idea of the Rosary as an armament in that fight.

In 2016, the papal Swiss Guard accepted a donation of combat rosaries; during a ceremony at the Vatican, their commander described the gift as "the most powerful weapon that exists on the market."

Why do so many great people consider the rosary to be such a powerful prayer weapon? The Blessed Virgin Mary joined her will perfectly to God's will, "Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord" (Lk 1:38). At the annunciation Mary agreed to be the mother of His Son. When we pray the Rosary, we join our will with Mary's will and with the will of millions of others who also pray the Rosary. Together we establish a spiritual chain, with millions of warriors joined together in prayer, linking our wills with the will of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and all of us saying to God, "Thy Will be done."

The Rosary is very dear to our Blessed Mother and powerful in Heaven. The prayers of the Rosary come from God, from inspired Scripture, and from the Church.

Yes, it is a powerful weapon.

We should be proud that they recognize the Rosary as a powerful weapon. We are the Church on earth, the Church militant. We are fighting a daily spiritual battle and we know to ask Our Mother for assistance as St. Maximilian Kolbe did when he began the Militia of the Immaculata. She is the one that has been given the power to defeat the evil in our lives.

*Mother Mary, pray for us.*

Ronald L. Rodrigues





## St. Maximilian Writes...

A compelling article on the MI, penned in 1937 (KW 1220).

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.

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*.

We may consecrate ourselves to Mary using any formula, provided that we subordinate our will to ad-

here to her commands, which are presented to us in the commandments of God and the Church, in the duties of our state and in our interior inspirations.

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.

*Rycerz Niepokalanej*

*fr. Maximiliano M. Kolbe*



## MI Intentions - October

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

\*A Scripture reading.

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

\*A quote from the Pope's teachings.

\*A brief commentary.

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

*October: O Immaculata, please intercede that, faithfully praying the Rosary, we may defend and promote the Faith and Christian values in the world.*

**Lk 13:22-30** – He passed through towns and villages, teaching as he went and making his way to Jerusalem. Someone asked him, “Lord, will only a few people be saved?” He answered them, “Strive to enter through the narrow door, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough. After the master of the house has arisen and locked the door, then will you stand outside knocking and saying, ‘Lord, open the door for us.’ He will say to you in reply, ‘I do not know where you are from.’ And you will say, ‘We

ate and drank in your company and you taught in our streets.’ Then he will say to you, ‘I do not know where [you] are from. Depart from me, all you evildoers!’ And there will be wailing and grinding of teeth when you see Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God and you yourselves cast out. And people will come from the east and the west and from the north and the south and will recline at table in the kingdom of God. For behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.”

**KW 1267** – Each part of the Rosary, consisting of one Our Father and ten Hail Marys, is also linked to a reflection on one of the mysteries of faith... The Rosary is therefore an easy prayer, since it is far from difficult to repeat the prayers listed above. It is also a sublime prayer, though, because by reciting it we reflect on the mysteries of faith. Moreover, the more one is keen and competent in the matters of faith, the deeper one can reflect on these mysteries and be led to discover in them an ever growing number of practical tips for life. Can a pagan recite the Rosary? And why not? Indeed, in that case, he may delve

more easily into the truth of our faith. By praying, he may obtain the grace to know the truth in religious matters and the strength to accept such religion much more easily. He will acknowledge it as true, regardless of setbacks or judgments from others who are still unfamiliar with matters of faith.

**Pope Francis, October 7, 2020** – I invite everyone to rediscover the beauty of the prayer of the Rosary, which has nourished the faith of the Christian people through the centuries. I invite you to pray the Rosary, and to carry it in your hands or in your pockets. The recitation of the Rosary is the most beautiful prayer we can offer to the Virgin Mary; it is a contemplation on the life of Jesus the Savior with His Mother Mary and is a weapon that protects us from evils and temptations.

### Commentary

In the struggles of life, we are called to embrace always Christian values, to walk through the narrow gate and to choose the Lord as the King of our life.

**Prayer:** Act of Total Consecration to the Immaculata



# MI RESOURCES

Available from the MI National Center



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

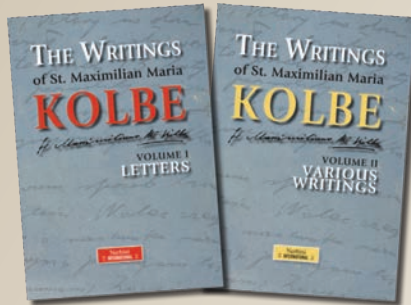
Miraculous medals and various MI brochures can be requested from the MI National Office at 331-223-5564 or via email: [MINational@MissionImmaculata.com](mailto:MINational@MissionImmaculata.com)

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The Martyr of Charity, St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe (1894-1941), before his death in the Auschwitz concentration camp, had a full and fruitful life. 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 of 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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*"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