



# God's Mother is Our Mother Too!

Total Consecration to the Immaculata  
for Young People in the Spirit of  
St. Maximilian Kolbe

By Michael D. Wick





**MILITIA** OF THE  
**IMMACULATA**  
MI NATIONAL CENTER - USA

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“ *The Immaculate Virgin intercedes for us in heaven as a good mother who watches over her children. May Mary teach us by her life what it means to be a missionary disciple.... She who received the most precious gift from God [at the Annunciation],*

# God's Mother is Our Mother Too!

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*as her immediate response sets off to be of service and to bring Jesus. Let us ask Our Lady to help us too to give Christ's joy to our families, our companions, our friends, to everyone.*

—Pope Francis at World Youth Day 2013



Total Consecration to the Immaculata means setting yourself aside for service to God. The Church has always advocated consecrating yourself to Jesus Christ through the Blessed Virgin Mary, the perfect model of discipleship. The Militia of the Immaculata (MI) is committed to providing young people with Catholic formation in the Franciscan spirit and mission of St. Maximilian Kolbe. By the Martyr of Charity's example, young lives are transformed into instruments of "youth evangelizing youth," with a mission to transform the world with authentic and heroic love.

Perhaps the best-known advocate of Marian consecration is St. Louis de Montfort. Modern-day promoters include St. Pope John Paul II, who recommended an "act of entrustment" to Mary (the Holy Father's papal motto was an enthusiastic *Totus Tuus*, "Totally Yours.") All methods are equally worthy; Kolbean consecration adds a clear apostolic dimension.

As a young person, when you make an Act of Total Consecration to the Immaculata, you are encouraged to:



- Proclaim the message of hope to other young people;
- Expose yourself to the richness of the Sacramental Life;
- Foster a deeper love for Jesus in the Eucharist;
- Seek formation in the teachings of the Catholic Church as revealed by God;
- Offer the gift of Consecration to Mary in the Franciscan spirit of St. Maximilian Kolbe; and
- Ignite the hearts of others to be instruments of evangelization.

May the short lessons contained in this booklet lead you to a better understanding of and appreciation for Our Lady's role in salvation history and in our lives as Marian Missionary Disciples.

# God's Mother is Our Mother Too



***And the angel [Gabriel] said to [Mary],... “Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.”***

**—Lk 1:30-32**

In his Letter to the Galatians, Saint Paul writes, “when the appointed time had come, God sent His Son, born of a woman.” This fulfilled God’s

promise after Adam and Eve’s disobedience to send a Redeemer (Gen 3:15). The Prophet Isaiah would later reveal that a young Jewish maiden would be chosen to become the mother of the Messiah (Is 7:14).

Mary of Nazareth was that chosen vessel who would become “the handmaiden of the Lord” and bring Christ to our fallen world. To prepare her in total freedom, God preserved her from the stain of Original Sin and made her “full of grace” (Lk 1:28) by her Immaculate Conception.

Through her obedience of faith, the Blessed Virgin became the New Eve. She would give birth to Jesus—the New Adam—who would save us from our sins. We celebrate the mystery of the Incarnation—the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity becoming like us in all things but sin—each and every Christmas.

At baptism, each of us becomes adopted sons and daughters of our Heavenly Father. When we become a member of God’s family—the Church—Jesus becomes our brother, and Mary becomes our spiritual mother. As such, the Blessed Mother desires only to draw us closer to her beloved Son, and to do the will of God as she always did.

Let us acknowledge the Blessed Virgin Mary as God’s mother, and our mother too!

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

*Think of several positive qualities of a mother and how you think that the Blessed Mother embodies these. Write some examples below.*

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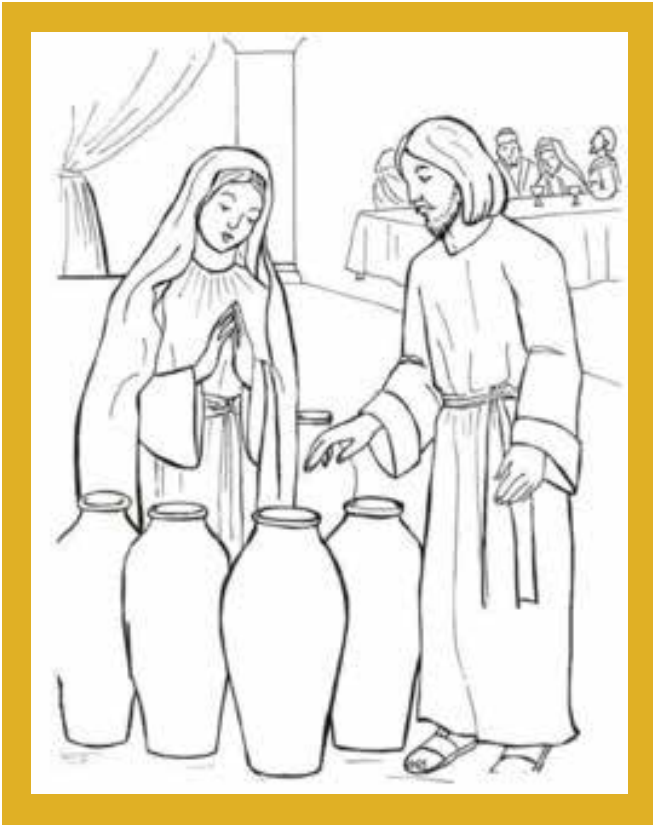
***“Never be afraid of loving the Blessed Virgin too much. You can never love her more than Jesus did.”***  
—St. Maximilian Kolbe

## PRAYER

**O** *Immaculata, thank you for being both Jesus’ mother and my spiritual mother too. Help me to draw closer to God so that I may always say “yes” to Him in all things. Amen.*

# God's Mother

## Intercedes for Us



***On the third day there was a wedding at Cana.... When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servers, "Do whatever He tells you."***  
—Jn 2:1; 3-5

**A**s our spiritual mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary is always attentive to our

needs—whether they be physical, emotional or spiritual. She only desires the best for us, and will intercede on our behalf so that we might know, love and serve God with all of our heart, mind and soul.

The Blessed Mother's maternal care and concern is revealed on the occasion of Jesus' first miracle. Attending a wedding with her Son and His Apostles, Mary becomes aware that the wine has run out during this special celebration. Mindful of this urgent need, she informs Jesus about the embarrassing situation.

At first, Our Lord seems to tell her that it is not the right time for Him to perform a miracle. Yet Jesus' mother simply tells the waiters at the wedding reception to "do whatever He tells you" (Jn 2:5). Jesus gives them special instructions and miraculously water is transformed into wine.

The Blessed Mother, mindful of all of our needs, wants us as her

spiritual children to seek her assistance whenever we are in need. By her powerful prayers, she will intercede for us according to God's will.

May we never fear to ask Mary for heavenly help because as our spiritual mother she truly knows best!

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

*Knowing that Our Lady wants to present our needs to her Son, write down some special intentions you have below.*

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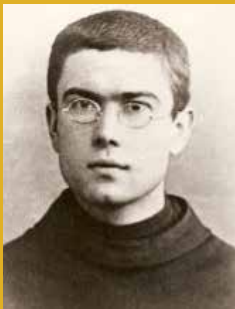
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***“Let ourselves be carried by [Mary]; she will think of everything and take care of all our needs, of the soul and of the body. Let us give her every difficulty, every sorrow, and have confidence that she will take care of it better than we could.”***

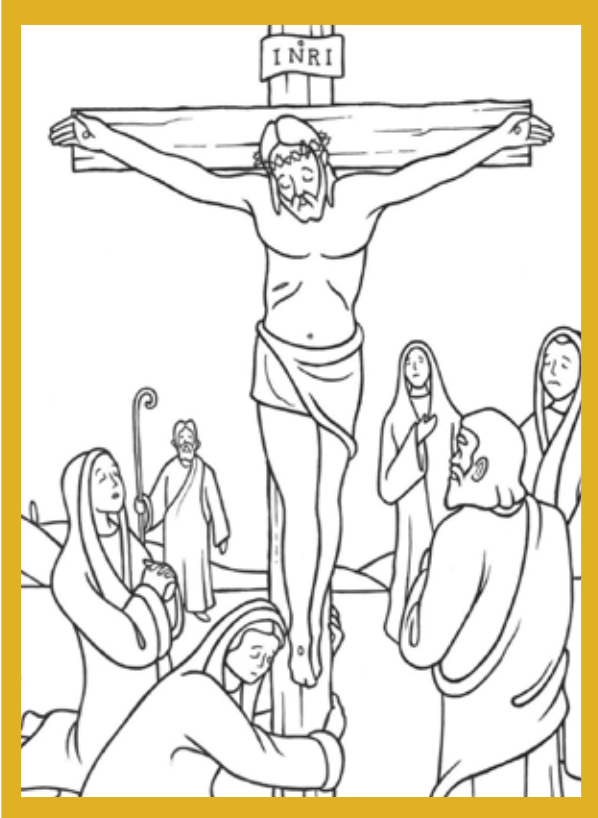
**–St. Maximilian Kolbe**

## PRAYER

**O** *Immaculata, I entrust to you my special needs, confident that you will always hear and answer them, according to God's will. Amen.*



# God's Mother is the Perfect Disciple of Jesus



*When Jesus saw His Mother, and the disciple there whom He loved, He said to His mother, “Woman, behold, your son.” Then He said to the disciple, “Behold your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.*  
—Jn 19:26-27

**T**he Blessed Virgin Mary was Jesus’ first and most perfect disciple. By her continual “yes,” she lived her entire life in perfect conformity to God’s will. Mary only wanted to do what the Lord asked of her.

We read in the Gospel about an incident when Our Lord was told that His mother and relatives came to see Him. Jesus used this opportunity to teach us a very important lesson. Christ asked, “Who is My mother? Who are my brothers?” (Mt 12:48). He then highlighted that a true disciple is “whoever does the will of My Heavenly Father” (Mt 12:50).

A faithful follower of Jesus is one who strives to follow God’s will in all things—whether big or small, important or insignificant. This is the secret of sanctity.

This is most clearly seen as Mary stood at the foot of the Cross. She—as the Sorrowful Mother—united her sufferings with those of her Cru-

cified Son. Her “yes,” first given at the Annunciation, was re-echoed, as she willingly offered her Son for the salvation of souls. Christ acknowledged Mary’s fidelity and entrusted all of us to her by instructing, “Behold thy mother” (Jn 19:27).

May we imitate God’s mother perfect discipleship and embrace His will in good times and bad as we strive to be faithful followers.

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

*Think of the difficulties you face in trying to be a faithful follower of Jesus. Write some examples below.*

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***“Do not forget that holiness consists not in extraordinary actions, but in performing your duties towards God, yourself, and others well.”***  
–St. Maximilian Kolbe

## PRAYER

**O** *Immaculata, may your example of perfect discipleship both instruct and inspire me to be a faithful follower of your Beloved Son. Amen.*

# God's Mother is the Mother of the Church



*[The Apostles] returned to Jerusalem.... They went to the upper room, where they were staying.... All these devoted themselves with one accord to prayer, together with some women, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, and His brothers.*

—Acts 1:12-14

**A**fter Christ's Ascension into heaven, His Apostles eagerly awaited the special gift He had promised—the Holy

Spirit. Together they gathered in the upper room with Mary, the mother of Jesus, and prayerfully prepared to receive this gift from above.

At the Annunciation, the Blessed Mother had been “overshadowed by the Holy Spirit,” and so she prepared Jesus' followers for the seven-fold gift that would empower them to boldly carry out Christ's saving mission.

As tongues of fire appeared on their foreheads, the Spirit gave birth to the Church—the Body of Christ here on earth. Immediately the Apostles proclaimed the Good News of God's saving plan and invited all to be baptized.

As Spouse of the Holy Spirit, the Immaculate Virgin wants us to receive the special graces we need to carry out the mission entrusted to the Church. As the Mother of the Church, she helps to form us into

the perfect image and likeness of her Son. Through her, the Holy Spirit will empower us to draw others closer to Christ and experience the fullness of life.

Let us ask the Blessed Mother to pray for us to have the courage that the Apostles had to witness to Jesus and His teaching.

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

*What are some opportunities in which you can witness to Jesus' love and mercy to others? Use the space below to list them.*

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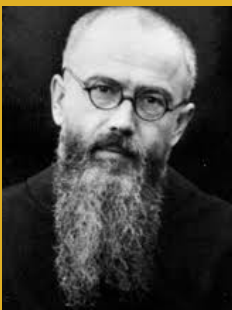
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***“If we want to truly become like Christ, we need to allow ourselves to be formed in the spiritual womb of Mary, by the grace and power of the Holy Spirit, into the image of the Son of God.”***

**–St. Maximilian Kolbe**

## PRAYER

**O** *Immaculata, may I always be open to the guidance and graces of the Holy Spirit to boldly witness to the Good News of Jesus. Amen.*

# God's Mother Invites Us to Be Her Instruments



*A great sign appeared  
in the sky, a woman,  
clothed with the sun,  
with the moon  
under her feet,  
and on her head  
a crown of twelve stars.*

—Rev 12:1

**W**hen the Blessed Mother's mission on earth was complete, God assumed her into heaven—body and soul. She was reunited with her beloved

Son and was crowned Queen of heaven and earth. As such, Mary continues to share in God's saving plan by helping to bring about the Kingdom of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Our Lady asks us to join this mission and become her instruments in the conversion and sanctification of souls. Yet, it is a spiritual battle and she is the “woman clothed with the sun” depicted in the Book of Revelation (Rev 12). Engaging in a spiritual battle against the dragon seeking to lead souls astray, Mary equips us with the graces needed to carry out our mission of leading others to happiness and holiness.

She also invites us to be part of her militia or army—Our Lady's special forces—to share the Good News of the Gospel and rescue souls

from sin and death. Through an Act of Total Consecration to the Immaculata, we unite our "yes" with hers and participate in the ultimate victory over Satan.

Let us accept Mary's invitation to be part of this saving work by becoming her instruments to bring others to her Son.

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

*What challenges or struggles have you experienced in trying to lead others to happiness and holiness? Use the space below to list them.*

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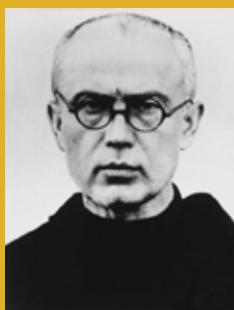
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***“The whole fruit of your work depends on your union with Mary, just as she is the instrument of God’s mercy.”***  
–St. Maximilian Kolbe

## PRAYER

**O** *Immaculata, use me as your instrument for the conversion and sanctification of others and the coming of Christ’s Kingdom. Amen.*

## YOUNG PERSON'S PRAYER OF TOTAL CONSECRATION

**O** *Immaculata, I wish to acknowledge you as my spiritual mother and offer myself to you—body, mind and soul. As my model of perfect discipleship, I seek your loving intercession for all my needs, hopes and dreams. May I always be open as you were to the guidance and graces of the Holy Spirit. Use me as your instrument for the coming of the Kingdom of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Amen.*



**T**he Militia of the Immaculata (MI) is a worldwide evangelization movement founded by St. Maximilian Kolbe in 1917 that encourages Total Consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary as a means of spiritual renewal for individuals and society.

The MI movement is open to all Catholics. It employs prayer as the main weapon in the spiritual battle with evil. MI members also immerse themselves in apostolic initiatives, either individually or in groups, to deepen the knowledge of the Gospel and our Catholic Faith in themselves and in others.

By consecrating themselves to Mary and joining the MI, members become her willing instrument, the woman foreshadowed in Genesis 3:15. She leads them to personal sanctification, the conversion of Church opponents and ultimately the universal reign of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Consecrating yourself to the Immaculata will be one of the most important days of your life. She will enlighten your mind, guide your will, empower your efforts and intercede for you in a special way before the throne of our Heavenly Father.

Consider making an Act of Total Consecration to Mary and enroll yourself into the MI. Please visit [MilitiaoftheImmaculata.com](http://MilitiaoftheImmaculata.com) for more information or look on the back of this booklet for instructions for MI enrollment.

# Become a Marian Missionary Disciple!

**T**otal consecration to the Immaculata means setting yourself aside for service to God. It means embracing your baptismal call to holiness and becoming a Marian Missionary Disciple.

The Militia of the Immaculata (MI) is committed to providing young people with Catholic formation in the Franciscan spirit and mission of St. Maximilian Kolbe. By the example of the Martyr of Charity, young lives are transformed into instruments of “youth evangelizing youth,” with a mission to transform their world with authentic and heroic love.

One may consecrate oneself to the Immaculata in various ways and this consecration may be formulated in different words; indeed, a simple interior act of the will is sufficient, since in this is included the essence of our consecration to the Immaculata.

Follow these simple steps:

- **SELECT** the date on which you want your name recorded in the official register of the MI, preferably a Marian feast day.
- **PREPARE** for your consecration by spiritual reading, reciting the Rosary and receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation on or shortly before the day of your enrollment.
- **GIVE YOURSELF WHOLEHEARTEDLY** to Our Lady so as to let the Holy Spirit guide you on the path to holiness with her!
- **IMPLORE** Our Lady and St. Maximilian to show you how you may serve the Lord as an instrument of love and mercy in your life and be ready to share with everyone the gift you have received.
- **VISIT** [MilitiaoftheImmaculata.com](http://MilitiaoftheImmaculata.com) to submit the online enrollment form.



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