

Bio for Emma Hegarty, candidate for the MI National Council

I can honestly say I was formed by the Militia Immaculata for the majority of my life. As a teenager, I attended the MI youth camps at Marytown in Libertyville, IL, and was consecrated in 2004. Consecration to Our Lady transformed my faith life from something I lived passively to an active daily pursuit. Passionate about the mission of the MI, I went on to volunteer as a small group leader for the teen camps as a young adult, and then to spend three summers as camp director for the camps in Washington, Oregon, and Illinois. I also spoke at and directed the young adult New Year's retreat at Marytown. When I served in the role of director, I helped form other MI leadership in the authentic Spirit of St. Maximilian Kolbe as well as trained them to effectively implement the official Child Protection Safety Policy composed by the National Director of MI Youth and Young Adults.

In college, I studied and received a Bachelor's Degree in Theology from Marquette University, and then later received a Masters Degree in Theology from the Augustine Institute. I have put my faith and studies into practice through volunteering as a catechist at numerous parishes, and through my professional work as Outreach Director at Pro-Life Wisconsin, as a high school Theology teacher, and as a curriculum writer for Sophia Institute for Teachers.

During my current season of life, my consecration to Our Lady is lived out by homeschooling and raising my four young children within our domestic Church. My formation in the MI continues to guide me, and my entire family took a pilgrimage to Poland in 2023 to walk in the footsteps of St. Maximilian Kolbe, St. John Paul II, and St. Faustina, and to attend the Beatification of the Ulma family.

I have been immeasurably blessed by the MI and its ministry throughout my life, and I see the opportunity to serve on the National Council as a way to show my gratitude for the many gifts I have received, and as a way to continue to live out my consecration by furthering the mission that St. Maximilian envisioned when he established the MI. I'd like to use my extensive experience with the MI, as well as my background in Theology and my passion for ministry, to serve in this new capacity and to bring more hearts to Jesus through Our Lady.