



*Let us keep in our prayers all MI members who
have entered Eternal Life during 2017.*

THE MISSION OF THE
Immaculata
E-PUBLICATION OF THE MILITIA OF THE IMMACULATA, USA

“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)

November 2017

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IN THIS ISSUE

“Go into My Vineyard!” The Time Is Now.

By John W. Galten, MI National President

Dear Knights of the Immaculata,

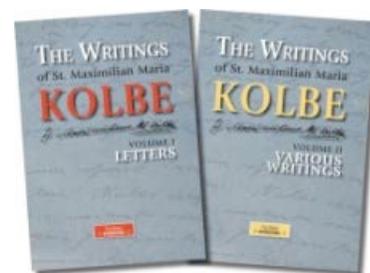
Maria!

Writing now at the end of the MI Pilgrimage, it is time to pause and consider the fruits of the year celebrating the centenary of the MI’s founding.

It was most inspiring, first off, to visit the tomb of St. Francis at Assisi, the Founder of the great Franciscan family and the one who consecrated the Order to the Immaculata. Moving to the many places where St. Maximilian visited, lived and worshiped, we discover the Saint who did not so much re-found the Order as to launch a new stage in the Marian consecration leading to the “rebuilding” of our contemporary Church. To be sure, the Church’s call to a New Evangelization is to be led by the Holy Spirit and His Spouse, the Immaculata. St. Kolbe anticipated this call by founding the MI in 1917. There is no question that the decisive call for our times is the missionary summons of each of us to hear and answer by living the consecration, by inviting as many as possible to make their total consecration and thereby lead them all to the Kingdom of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Are you ready? Is your lamp lit waiting for the call? Will He find us at work in the vineyard today? Do we not have Good News to announce in an acceptable time? Pray that each of us receives that call today, now. As St. John Paul II said, “Let no one remain idle but go into the vineyard for the harvest is ready.” Let us arise and be on our way!

John W. Galten

News from the MI International Office



*The Writings of St. Maximilian
M. Kolbe in e-book format*



Reflection on November
MI Intention

Holy Souls Month



November is dedicated in a special way to the Holy Souls in Purgatory and we are encouraged not only to remember the passing of relatives and friends, but most importantly to pray for the souls of the deceased.

Praying for the souls of those who have died is an ancient practice of the Church, one that is based on the Catholic teaching regarding Purgatory.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* offers a brief explanation regarding this state in the afterlife: “The Church gives the name Purgatory to this final purification of the elect... As for certain lesser faults, we must believe that, before the Final Judgment, there is a purifying fire. He who is Truth says that whoever utters blasphemy against the Holy Spirit will be pardoned neither in this age nor in the age to come. From this sentence we understand that certain offenses can be forgiven in this age, but certain others in the age to come” (CCC 1031).

Moreover, it is a Spiritual Work of Mercy to pray for the souls of the faithful departed, imploring God to purify the souls of the dead “by the fire of His charity” and to bring them at last to their Heavenly Home.

Let us keep in our prayers all MI members who have entered Eternal Life during 2017.

Let us pray for all the victims of violence and natural disasters.

*Eternal rest grant to them,
O Lord, and let perpetual light
shine upon them.*

*May the souls
of the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God,
rest in peace.*

Amen.

*For info about the MI
Youth & Young Adults
visit:*

MIYouth.org

**Check the MI official
Facebook page:
Mission of the Immaculata**



MI leaders around the country are still sponsoring Centennial Celebrations to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the Militia of the Immaculata movement by St. Maximilian Kolbe on October 16, 1917 - three days after the last Fatima apparition, authentic witness to it in the world.

* See dates and details on pg. 7
We are grateful to acknowledge

MI Centennial Celebrations Throughout the U.S.A.

that **OUR SUNDAY VISITOR
Institute**
helped to underwrite
the MI Centennial Celebrations.



Centennial Celebrations

MI members from around the country, accompanied by John Galten, the MI National President-USA, participated in the three-day

100th Anniversary MI International Celebrations organized by the MI International Center.

Our Pilgrimage Chaplain was Fr. Stephen Boyle, O. Praem.

Pictures and reports will be shared in the December newsletter.

As part of the pilgrimage, we visited many holy sites and the cell where the MI was founded on October 16, 1917.

All MI members and their prayer intentions have been entrusted to St. Maximilian at this special place.

MI Centennial Celebrations, Rome

By Agata Pinkosz,
MI International Staff

A brief report about the MI 100th Anniversary celebrations held in Rome. MI representatives from around the world gathered for a special time of gratitude and renewed responsibility in carrying out St. Maximilian's vision and mission in the 21st century. More will be shared in the December newsletter.

On October 16-18, 2017, the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Militia of the Immaculata (1917-2017) was celebrated in Rome. MI members from around the world gathered in the Eternal City to commemorate the event and to embrace the call to live and promote St. Maximilian's vision.

The focal point of the pilgrimage was the St. Maximilian friary, which is the home of the MI International Center. A team of about fifteen MI volunteers made themselves available to accompany visiting groups on a guided tour, which included the cell where the movement was founded, the chapel and the Kolbe Expo—a multimedia exhibition on the life and spirituality of St. Maximilian.



The first groups arrived at MI International Center in the afternoon of October 15 and continued arriving through October 17 in order to get to know St. Maximilian's "Roman" sites. MI groups came from various Italian regions, from Mexico, Bolivia, Poland, the Czech Republic, Austria, Brazil, Germany, and the United States.



One evening, a hundred years ago, on October 16, 1917, young friar Maximilian Kolbe and six of his confreres met in a room of the Seraphic College at Via San Teodoro 42 and started the Marian and missionary journey of the MI. On October 16, 2017, MI members gathered in the Basilica of Sant'Andrea delle Fratte, where the Martyr of Auschwitz celebrated his first Mass, to commemorate the 100th anniversary with the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

In this festive setting, Fr. Marco Tasca, the MI International Assistant and Minister General of Friars Minor Conventual, presided over the Holy Mass.



The evening was marked by an inspiring prayer vigil called "Steps of Gratitude," in thanksgiving for the gift of the Kolbean charism. On October 17, the participants met at Sant'Andrea della Valle Basilica (where Fr. Kolbe was ordained a priest) for a Kolbean concert with songs by Alessandro Pellicciaro and American singer and MI member Anna Nuzzo.

On October 18, the festivities included attendance in the papal audience in St. Peter's Square. The MI International President, Fr. Raffaele Di Muro, Fr. Marco Tasca, and the General Directress of the Father Kolbe Missionaries of the Immaculata, Giovanna Venturi, offered to Pope Francis a relic of St. Maximilian, the volume of St. Maximilian's Writings in Spanish and a copy of the magazine *Miles Immaculatae*, followed by a prolonged moment of dialogue and exchange with the Pontiff. In the afternoon, the centennial celebrations culminated in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at Sant'Andrea della Valle. MI members gave thanks to the Lord for the MI's one hundred years of mission and history and asked for every grace needed for its upcoming journey in the 21st century. Fr. Raffaele Di Muro concluded by urging those present to move forward in active communion, in the awareness of the missionary call entrusted to the movement by the founder. Happy journey to all, in joyful commitment to the Kingdom, under the tender gaze of the Immaculata!

Divine Grace and Gifts of Nature in the Saints

As we celebrate the Solemnity of All Saints, we may find inspiration in the words of our own St. Maximilian.

This article is clearly connected with KW1001 and 1004, published in the March and April 1922 issues of RN magazine. It is probably the text of a talk that Fr. Maximilian gave at a meeting of a group of MI lay people in Krakow (KW 1010).

God has assigned each person a specific mission in this world: as He created the universe, He arranged primal causes so that the uninterrupted chain of their effects would engender the conditions and circumstances most favorable to carrying out that mission. Every man, therefore, is born with skills proportionate to the mission entrusted to him and, throughout the course of his life, environment, circumstances, and everything else contribute to make it possible and easy for him to achieve his aim. In fact, man's perfection entirely consists in the attainment of that aim. The more accurately he manages to realize his task, the more scrupulously he fulfills its mission, the greater and holier he becomes in God's eyes.

In addition to natural gifts, from the cradle to the grave man is also accompanied by the grace of God, which is poured out upon each of us in such quantity and quality that our weak human forces can be properly reinforced and acquire the supernatural energy needed to cope with our own mission.

Many saints throughout the course of their lives have worked along tirelessly cooperating with God's gifts, both natural and supernatural. I am not thinking at this time only of the most pure Mother of God, who, by special privilege already immaculate in her conception, never stained her soul with even the smallest of sins. I am thinking of the ranks of those pure souls, such

as St. Aloysius [Gonzaga], or our countryman St. Stanislaw Kostka, who appeared before God's tribunal with the robe of innocence they had received in Holy Baptism. However, among the saints there are also those who, for a longer or shorter period of time, abused the gifts of God and were deaf to the silent call of grace. Some of them forgot their sublime destiny because they were too tied up with work and amusements, albeit not sinful, as in the case of the seraphic St. Francis, the jewel of the rich youth of Assisi. Others, having fallen down and wallowed in the mud of vice, had almost completely estranged themselves from God, as did St. Mary Magdalene and St. Margaret of Cortona. Others still did not even know the true path assigned to them, like St. Paul the Apostle, who openly confessed that out of ignorance he had persecuted the Church of God [cf. 1 Tm 1:13].

And now we see how God pursued them with His grace, how He knocked at the door of their hearts under favorable conditions, how He pointed out to them ever more clearly the path of their mission. Finally, as they began to collaborate with the gifts of God, they became saints. So for instance, St. Francis heard a voice calling him to go and fight, but while he was getting his horse and armor ready in obedience to that command, God made it clear to him that he was meant to take charge of a spiritual army, and with it, fight against the powers of Hell; and there began a new life.

St. Margaret of Cortona regarded her lover, by then... a fetid corpse, and, under the impression of that view, left her sinful life and converted. And when St. Paul, trembling with anger, was approaching the gates of Damascus to imprison Christians, he was thrown to the ground, and from stubborn enemy he was made ardent apostle of the doctrine of Christ. After their conversion all these saints no longer knew measure or limit in their service to God; they were no longer content with keeping a mediocre righteousness, but, climbing to the highest peaks of Christian perfection, strove to make up

for the time and graces they had previously dissipated.

When it comes to God's glory and the salvation of souls, no effort was heavy for them, no cross unpleasant; from that moment on, everything was a pleasure, everything to them was a treasure, for everything was in the service of God's love. Varied and countless are the ways in which God leads the saints to a sublime destiny. He often strengthens the inclinations of nature with supernatural gifts. In fact, He allows and commands men to use them. Yet at times, He demands that those inclinations of nature be sacrificed, whenever it is necessary for a higher formation of the soul. "If God," says Bossuet, "wishes to make them worthy of Himself, He must train them in various ways, in order to mold them according to His plan. As He does that, there is only one thing He respects: He will not do explicit violence to our innate disposition." That is why God led some into the desert and fully distanced them from other men; He called others to common life and to support each other in the progress toward perfection; He left others still in the whirl of the world, next to the plow, in the workshops of artisans, or on royal thrones. Some He made famous for their secular or religious knowledge, or for their social activity. Others He left in the shadows of oblivion during all their earthly life. Some in a way He pampered, feeding them with the milk of spiritual sweetness, while others He fed with the hard bread of suffering. All that depended on the needs of individual souls and on the type of mission to which a soul had been intended. Although faithfully following the inspiration of divine grace, the saints did not cease to be people like us, and usually their actions and their words carried within them the typical traces of their environment, their country, their homeland. Take for instance St. Catherine of Siena, who felt she had "Sienese blood" running through her veins, which meant, in the words of St. Bernadine, that it was a "sweet blood."

(continues on pg. 7)

International Kolbean Congress of the Friars Minor Conventual

The International Kolbean Congress on “*St. Maximilian Kolbe: the Manner of Life of a Friar Minor Conventual in the Light of the New Evangelization,*” was held on October 19-20, 2017, at the Seraphicum in Rome.



During the 100th anniversary of the MI the Immaculata, the friars wanted to approach their holy confrere in order to a more evangelical and missionary through their manner of life, also in view of the upcoming revision of their Constitutions. The participants, in addition to the MI General, friar Marco Tasca, the General Definitory and the MI International Council were provincials, formators, guardians and Franciscan scholars, invited specifically for this important congress.



On Thursday, October 19, friars Paulin Sotowski, James McCurry, Raffaele Di Muro and Gregorio Bartosik presented crucial topics for the Franciscan life, such as: fraternal life, “minoritas,” mission and the vows. In each of the above dimensions of consecrated life, St.

Maximilian offered his authentic witness and also prophetic innovations, which may constitute a powerful inspiration for the present of our religious family. Fr. Kolbe had an immense ability to listen and to surrender that allowed him to embrace God’s plans and to immerse himself in a journey of discipleship, always open to the newness of the Holy Spirit.

During the second part of the congress October 20, friars Gregory Owsianko, Nunes, Francois Bustillo and Fabrizio presented new Kolbean missionary experiences, while friar Tomasz Szym served as moderator: the school of evangelization for young people in Poland, the MI pastoral activities through the MI in Brazil, the work among the poor in Poland and the Expo Kolbe in France. Afterwards the participants met in discussion groups sharing precious suggestions for the future of the Order.



The congress offered theological and experiential contents and was characterized by a serene family atmosphere as we drew inspiration from St. Maximilian’s example in order to look to the future with confidence and availability.

Fr. Raffaele Di Muro, OFM Conv.

Attention MI Members!
Promote consecration to Our Lady in your parishes!
Call the National Office for support and material.

NEWS from the MI International Center, Rome

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Militia of the Immaculata (1917-2017), the MI International Council itself experienced renewal through new appointments in view of future projects. Angela Morais, from MI Brazil, is the new MI International Vice-President. Angela has been very active in the MI in Brazil and will assist especially the reality of MI Youth that is growing with great enthusiasm in every country. Following Fr. Patrick Greenough’s resignation from the MI International Council due to new pastoral assignments, MI member Miguel Bordas Prószyński, from Spain, has been designated Council member. Adele Cerreta, MI International Secretary, has been appointed Vice-Editor in Chief of the *Miles* magazine, the publication of Marian and Kolbean formation published by the MI International Center. Best wishes to everyone for a fruitful work according to the Immaculata’s plans and will.

Adele Cerreta



Reflection on the November MI Intention

O Immaculata please intercede that the MI journey may be an authentic school of holiness.

This month we will try to understand how we can live a journey of Christian perfection. Welcoming the prayerful testimony of St. Maximilian we will refer to an article on holiness written by him in *Rycerz* (MI magazine in Poland) in 1922 (n. 3, 44-45).

Here are his words: “Only Jesus, by coming into the world, showed humanity the way to true holiness by example and word. The essence of holiness consists in loving God to the point of heroism. Its hallmark is the fulfillment of God’s will, especially as expressed in the commandments of God and of the Church in the duties of one’s state of life. Its means are (1) continuous self-vigilance in order to know one’s flaws and uproot them, engraft the virtues, cultivate them, develop them to higher degrees; and (2) prayer, whereby the soul obtains God’s supernatural graces, indispensable to spiritual progress. In all saints, prayer takes a prominent place.” (*KW* 1001)

Jesus is the model of holiness *par excellence*. He is the point of reference for all who wish to fulfill a journey of continuous conversion. What He said and did is for the believer the way of perfection. In a particular way, the Polish martyr lingers on the importance of the fulfillment of the will of the Father. In his will, the Lord shows us the way. Holy is he who in everything entrusts himself to the Most High and depends on his will. The theme of conforming to Christ is fundamental for Saint Maximilian. As a good Franciscan, he welcomes and lives this precious pearl

of seraphic spirituality. Vigilance and penance reveal themselves precious allies for those who aspire to an authentic Christian life. They free the heart from obstacles that don’t allow it to live according to the divine plan. Prayer is, as always, the most important aspect for whomever wishes to realize a journey of faith.

“The most important stages of prayer are vocal prayer, meditation and contemplation. In contemplation, God may at times draw the soul very close to Himself, in which case the soul, dazzled by unearthly light and kindled with love, enters a state of ecstasy, which has nothing in common with natural enchantments. That is, however, neither indispensable nor necessary to achieve holiness.” (*Ibid.*)

Prayer has its stages and progression. Vocal prayer is certainly the simplest and most practical for everyone. There are certainly more intense moments, like meditation and contemplation. The mystical life represents, without a doubt, the apex of man’s prayer. The union with God is strong and total here, and is an indicator of holiness. Extraordinary phenomenon, such as ecstasy, may occur, but don’t represent the core of the communion between God and man. The maturity of prayer isn’t improvised, but is the fruit of a journey in which perseverance and progress have a decisive role.

“The rather widespread notion that the saints were not like us is simply false. They also were subject to temptation, also fell and got up again, felt oppressed by sadness, weakened, and paralyzed by discouragement. However, mindful of the words of the Savior ‘Apart from me you can do nothing.’ [Jn 15:5], and those of St. Paul: ‘I have strength for everything in him who strengthens me’ [Phil 4:13], they did not rely on themselves, but, putting all their trust in God, after every fall, they humbled themselves;

they sincerely repented, cleansed their souls in the sacrament of Penance, and then set down to work with even greater fervor. In this way their falls served them as steps toward an ever greater perfection and they became lighter and lighter.” (*Ibid.*) The saint isn’t a person who doesn’t know error. Even the best can fall. How many illustrious and exemplary persons in the Church have shown themselves to be fallible! What matters is the desire to get back up again, trust in divine mercy, and to obtain maximum profit from one’s falls. There is no infallibility for a believer. This must not discourage us because we are called to believe firmly in the work of grace.

“When St. Scholastica asked her brother St. Benedict what was needed to achieve holiness, she received this reply: ‘You must want to.’” Lastly, a basic requirement for holiness is represented by the will. Aspiring to a life of continuous conversion is a precious motivation to constantly guard and feed. It’s not a question of a sterile volunteering, but a desire to conform oneself to Christ and of an even deeper union with Him.

For Reflection

The journey of the MI has prayer as its basis, its fundamental point of strength. Every apostolic activity depends on prayer. The development of the life and the missionary work of our association will be stronger and more relevant if originated and sustained by the dialogue that each member has with God. Kolbe teaches that the pastoral life is upheld by the contemplative life. Furthermore, opening the heart to God’s will and asceticism makes us more available to God’s divine plan for us. Let us not renounce to become saints! May our personal striving for perfection be a light to all the MI movement. (*From the MI International Office - Translated by Maria Franceschini and Ann O’Donnell*)

Divine Grace and Gifts of Nature in the Saints

(Cont. from pg. 4)

She would at times cover children with kisses, and once, summoned to comfort a convict sentenced to death and to get him to go to confession, she kept his head close to her chest all night long, as a mother would to her son. In St. Teresa, on the other hand, we start to envision the spirit of chivalry. Born in Avila, the “city of knights”—where even the women once, during the absence of their husbands, were able to withstand a siege—she was deeply imbued with the spirit of her city and her nation. That is why in her writings we often find the expression: “God of battles,” “the banner of God,” “serve God with manly courage.” The same attitude is found in St. Teresa’s compatriot, St. Ignatius Loyola, who had been a soldier. Many saints were music lovers. At times, when St. Francis felt inspired, he took two pieces of wood in his hand and rubbed them on each other, as if he were playing a violin. On holidays, St. Teresa used to play a small flute and struck a tambourine, while St. Ignatius Loyola was so carried away by music that he no longer felt any pain. Usually, the saints behaved in a perfectly natural way, but for the sake of a higher virtue, and especially to escape the praise and approval of men, under the influence of grace they would at times do things that, to those around them, seemed utterly unreasonable and humiliating. A true master in this sense was St. Philip Neri. For example, one day some Polish delegates who had gone to visit the Pope, having been told that there was a “saint” in Rome, wanted to see him. When St. Philip was informed of that, he had a stool set up with a few books. He then sent for some children and once they were around him, instructed one of them to read out a book of humorous content and began to listen with great earnestness. The delegates went in with much reverence, yet the saint did not allow the boy to stop reading, but begged the guests to

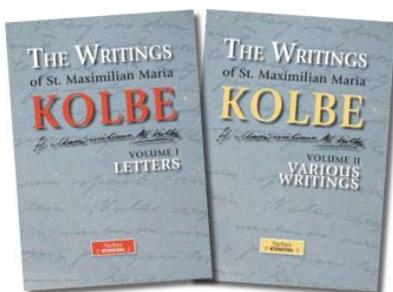
wait. Since, however, he had the child read one chapter after another and they could not possibly wait until reading would end, the delegates departed, outraged and shocked, while St. Philip thanked God for having avoided the praise of men.

We see, therefore, that the saints proceeded by different routes: they each had a different way of acting with regard to the gifts of nature. One thing they all had in common: the fact that they always subdued such gifts to grace, the very grace that so many times had raised them up from a state of prolonged listlessness or even from the slavery of sin. All, therefore, experienced a higher and supernatural life, regardless of the fact that they had been imposed upon by grace to walk along a path that was either in keeping with or in contrast to their nature. Their only purpose was God and His holy love, and everything else—facts either natural or supernatural, pleasant or unpleasant—were simply means to that end. In this way, nothing turned against them, but rather they drew endless benefit from everything, because their benefit was spiritual: as a matter of fact, “We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose” [Rom 8:28].

Maximilian Kolbe

The Writings of St. Maximilian Kolbe

now also
in e-book format
Kindle edition
on Amazon.com
and on Nook Store



LOCAL MI CENTENNIAL EVENTS

Malvern, PA

November 17-19, 2017

The Knights of the Immaculata will celebrate the 100th anniversary of our founding by St. Maximilian Kolbe with a Centennial Retreat directed by the renowned Fr. Paul Scalia, Episcopal Vicar for Clergy in the diocese of Arlington, Virginia. Father Scalia came to the world’s attention when he delivered a stunning eulogy for his father, Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, in 2016. Earlier this year, his profound reflections on Catholic teachings and devotions—That Nothing May Be Lost—generated praise from every corner of the Catholic world. Father is prepared to show how to become the “builders and battlers” we men are called to be. This promises to be a well-attended retreat. You will want to register early. Fr. Scalia is special and if his writings and interviews are any indication, he will bring key insights to us—both deeply spiritual and practical.

WHO: Mid Atlantic Knights of the Immaculata

WHAT: Men’s Weekend Retreat

WHEN: November 17-19, 2017 (6:00 pm Friday - 12:00 pm Sunday)

WHERE: Malvern Retreat House, Malvern, PA 19355

WHY: To prepare us to restore the family and build a culture of life

COST: \$245 suggested offering*

* 50% off for first timers at Malvern (applies only for those who have never attended a men-only retreat at Malvern).

REGISTER @ malvernretreat.com/register/

For more information, call Brian J. Gail:
(484) 318-8685.

Registration questions:
tmurnane44@gmail.com
or (267) 934-6127



MI Resources

The New MI Village Kit



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**MI Brochures, Rosary Leaflets,
Miraculous Medals and these new
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National Center.**

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Are you a member of the MI? Is Our Lady inspiring you to share the journey with other MI members and to start an MI Village in your area?

Contact the MI National Office to receive the new MI Village Kit.

**Check the MI website
MissionImmaculata.com
often for updates, resources, special
events and more!**

“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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by Helping the MI
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