



Grotto at St. Mary Springs Academy, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin

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)

October 2017

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IN THIS ISSUE

How the Gift of Confession Makes Us Ready for the Bridegroom

By John W. Galten, MI National President

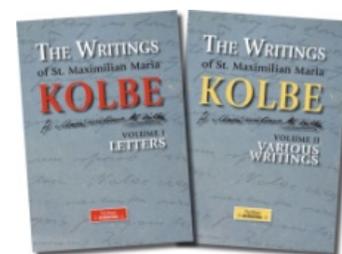
Dear Knights of the Immaculata, Maria! As we consider the points raised by Fr. Raffaele in his address at Fatima, sounding the beginning of the Centenaries of both Fatima and the MI, I want to comment on the Sacrament of Confession. Although Father did not explicitly mention Confession, it is implied in his comments on prayer, mission, holiness and the Eucharist.

If we are to consider the gift of Confession, I think it helpful if we consider who we are as Church. Pope St. John Paul II often described Vatican Council II as a question posed to the Church, “Who are you, O Church.” In the Council document *Lumen Gentium*, the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, this Church considers itself first as mystery. This mystery is best described as the document itself does, “The Church exists in Christ as a Sacrament or instrumental sign of unity with God and of unity for the whole human race,” (LG 1, par. 1). The same document provides various images of the Church which might shed light on the role of Confession in our lives. One of those images is the Church as “The unblemished bride of the unblemished lamb” (cf. Rev 19:7, 21:2 and 9, 22:17). An extended quote is helpful here: “She is the bride whom Christ loved and gave Himself up for that He might sanctify her” (cf. Eph 5:26). The covenant by which He has tied her to Himself is indissoluble. He does not fail to “nourish and cherish” her (Eph 5:29). He wanted her to be cleansed and close to Him, lovingly and loyally submissive (cf. Eph 5:24). He has loaded her forever with the good things of heaven, to enable us to know what surpasses knowledge, the love of God and Christ for us” (cf. 3:19), (LG 1, par. 6).

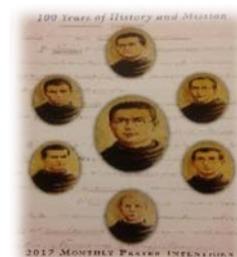
(continues on pg. 7)

Happy MI 100th Anniversary to All!

All Aboard... for Spreading the Gospel with the Immaculata

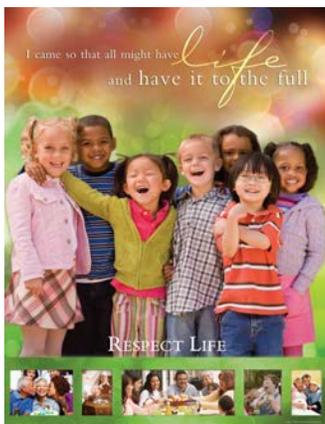


The Writings of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe in e-book format



Reflection on October MI Intention

Respect Life Month



Please *Be not Afraid* to pray and to speak up for the sacredness of life from conception to natural death.

Consider the *Spiritual Adoption of an unborn child*: pledge to pray for nine months so his or her mother will choose life!

PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF GUALDALUPE Patroness of Unborn Children

Virgin of Guadalupe,
Patroness of unborn children,
we implore your intercession
for every child
at risk of abortion.

Help expectant parents
to welcome from God
the priceless gift
of their child's life.

Console parents
who have lost that gift
through abortion,
and lead them
to forgiveness and healing
through the Divine Mercy
of your Son.

Teach us to cherish and to care
for family and friends
until God calls them home.
Help us never
to see others as burdens.

Guide our public officials
to defend
each and every human life
through just laws.
Inspire us all to bring our faith
into public life,
to speak for those
who have no voice.

We ask this in the Name of your
Son, Jesus Christ, Who is Love
and Mercy Itself. Amen.

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of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC.

*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 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

MI Centennial Celebrations throughout the U.S.A.

October 10-19, 2017

MI members from around the country, accompanied by the MI National President-USA, will be on pilgrimage to Italy and participate in the three-day 100th Anniversary MI International Celebrations organized by the MI International Center.

Our Pilgrimage Chaplain will be Fr. Stephen Boyle, O. Praem.

As part of the pilgrimage, we will visit the cell where the MI was founded on October 16, 1917. *Send your prayer intentions to be entrusted to St. Maximilian at this special place.*

*We are grateful to acknowledge
that **OUR SUNDAY VISITOR
Institute**
helped to underwrite
the MI Centennial Celebrations.*



All Aboard... for Spreading the Gospel with the Immaculata

By Antonella Di Piazza, FKMI
MI National Coordinator

As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the MI, we are all called to rekindle our passion for the ideal and mission entrusted to us.



One of St. Maximilian's genial qualities was his ability to share the MI ideal and mission with persons all ages, nationalities, backgrounds, and walks of life. From the beginning of his priestly ministry, as soon as he returned to Poland after his studies in Rome, he began to engage priests and lay persons, men and women, young people and adults, inviting them to embark in a spiritual journey of total dedication to the Immaculata.

In Krakow, a university town, he approached students and seminarians, as well as freelance professionals, workers and families. He started formation gatherings for various groups, but he soon realized that this was not enough in order to reach all people. As a result he launched a humble magazine, *The Knight of the Immaculata*, and called MI members to action everywhere: in their own families, at work, in the school and in every area of life...

Accordingly, during the past 100 years, the MI has continued to spread worldwide and to welcome new members from among the People of God, so much so that on October 16, 1997, the Church numbered it among the International Public Associations of the Faithful.

If the MI was born within the Franciscan community, from the very beginning St. Maximilian was convinced that Our Lady wanted to gather around herself a true ecclesial family, in which everyone, according to each one's vocation, would place his or her talents at the service of the Gospel, by living and working in communion so as to spread the Kingdom of God.

St. Maximilian Kolbe's vast correspondence shows how he was always in dialogue with the most diverse recipients: Franciscans from various countries, lay men and women, priests, women religious, young people... He shared his dreams and plans, encouraged in difficulties, and tirelessly passed on the ideal that the Immaculata entrusted to him. He built bridges, wove relationships, stirred up the spirit of initiative, inviting his interlocutors to contribute their gifts and talents according to their means and abilities. In other words, he elicited everyone's participation so that the message might penetrate everywhere and reach everyone "as soon as possible."

St. Maximilian was indeed a pioneer in this and offers a legacy of great importance today. In the Church and society, often marked

by sheer polarizations, the MI is called *to be a family* in which we strive for holiness in the footsteps of Mary while welcoming and harmonizing the variety of vocations and gifts in the unity of our Catholic Faith and of our common ideal. How could we ever forget how St. John Paul II emphasized the urgency of embracing a *spirituality of communion*? We are to be a family gathered around Mary so as to become witnesses and instruments of that plan for communion which is the crowning point of human history in God's design.

During this MI jubilee year, once again St. Maximilian entrusts to us his vision and invites us to give ourselves without reserve to the Immaculata and to be passionate messengers of the overflowing Life and Love of God, that come to us through Our Lady's Immaculate Heart.

Not a member yet?

Consider making your Marian consecration in the MI during this 100th anniversary of the Fatima apparitions and of the founding of the MI!

Visit MissionImmaculata.com for more information.

Why the MI?

As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of our movement, let's listen to St.

Maximilian's own words about the enduring purpose of the MI (KW 1277).

Why the MI?

The year was 1917. Freemasonry was very active in Italy. During the celebrations for the birthday of Giordano Bruno they even had the gall to flaunt a banner depicting St. Michael the Archangel crushed under the feet of a triumphant Lucifer. Masonic "rags" were hoisted up under the Vatican windows; pamphlets were handed out everywhere claiming that it was the duty of the Italian police to break into the Vatican. An evil hand had written: "The devil will rule in the Vatican and the Pope will be his Swiss Guard," etc., etc.

It was four hundred years after Luther's rebellion and two hundred since the beginning of Freemasonry.

At the International College in Rome, inside a poor little cell, locked, but with the Superior's permission, seven young clerics, wearing the habit and girded with the Franciscan cord, armed with spiritual sabers, that is, Franciscan rosaries, examine the points of the first statute of the Militia of the Immaculata. Above them, between two lighted candles, a little statue of the Immaculata had been placed. By summoning these young and inexperienced friars, the Immaculata already knew that within a year she would be holding two of them close to her immaculate and motherly heart in heaven; that shortly after, a third one would follow them; and that the others would be scattered around the world. She also knew that others, in ever increasing numbers, would join them... She knew that some would work with greater or lesser zeal, and that others would come together in a more structured way, in order to win over souls to her

more promptly, more efficiently, and in a concerted effort, in keeping with appropriate rules. She knew that others would break down all barriers in consecration to her,... to sacrifice their whole lives for her exclusively. In addition, her knights would not confine themselves to defending the faith, but would attack, launch an offensive, conquer enemy strongholds.

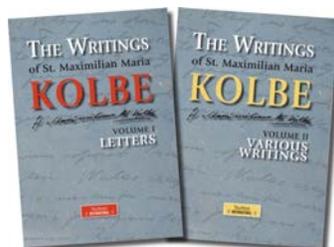
Yet they would advance always fostering in their hearts a love without limits toward their neighbors, the love of the Immaculata herself, even if their neighbors were not only foreigners, of a different race or different color, but even open enemies of religion, of the Immaculata, of God.

And they would march on with hatred, implacable hatred, the same hatred the Immaculata herself harbors against evil and against sin, even if minor.

Each conversion and every step on the way to sanctification are the work of grace, and the dispenser of all graces that flow from the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus is none other than His Mother, the Immaculata. Thus, the closer a soul gets to her, the more abundantly it can draw on these graces. As a result, our key mission is to bring souls closer to her, to lead her to the souls. It is not even a matter of having to be the only ones to do that. Rather, it is a matter of doing so as soon as possible.

Here is the purpose of the MI.

***The Writings of St.
Maximilian Maria Kolbe***
now also in e-book format
Kindle edition on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)



and on Nook Store and in other digital formats.

MI PRAYER OF TOTAL CONSECRATION TO THE IMMACULATA

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.

**Let us renew our
consecration daily,
especially on Our Lady's
feast days, to stir into flame
our devotion to Her.**

MI Centennial Celebration, Phoenix, Arizona September 16, 2017

In Celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the MI, John Galten, MI National President went to Phoenix, Arizona, for an evening gathering during which he spoke about Our Lady, St. Maximilian Kolbe and the MI.

Over the weekend John had also the opportunity to meet with local MI members and leaders about re-establishing the MI in the Valley of the Sun.

Thank you to the organizers, Julie Blackstock and Carolyn Burch, and all who attended.

Go Knights of the Immaculata!
Set Arizona on fire!



September 13, 2017 Plano, Illinois

MI member Lydia Krantz organized an evening on St. Maximilian, the MI and total consecration at St. Mary parish in Plano, Illinois.

MI member Faith Phillips and Antonella Di Piazza, MI National Coordinator, drove to Plano and enjoyed the warm welcome and the receptive audience. Fr. Matt Lamoureux, pastor at St. Patrick church and MI member since 1997, closed the evening with the solemn veneration of St. Maximilian's relic. Consecration ceremony will be held on October 13.

September 14, 2017 Fond du Lac, Wisconsin



Dedicated MI Village moderator, Ann Fontecchio, and MI members planned to share the gift of St. Maximilian, the MI and total consecration to Our Lady in Fond du Lac on this 100th anniversary.



Thanks to the hospitality of Blaine Hechimovich, campus minister at St. Mary Springs Academy, the MI national coordinator and MI member Susan Shingle spoke to an attentive group of 50 high school students. In the evening, adults gathered at Holy Family parish. The Associate Pastor, Fr. John Mitchell, participated in the meeting and closed it offering the solemn blessing with St. Maximilian's relic.



MI members are also visiting a nursing home and introducing the guests to Marian consecration in the MI as Knights at the Foot of the Cross. Consecration ceremony will be held on October 7, feast of Our Lady of the Rosary.

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 Kolbean Symposium in Zagreb, Croatia

On September 16-17, 2017, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Militia of the Immaculata, the province of the Friars Minor Conventual, the MI National Center and other institutions active in Croatia, organized a symposium on the pressing subject of Freemasonry. The delicate subject was treated from various perspectives (juridical, spiritual, social, historical and political), thanks to the contributions offered by many illustrious scholars. As we know, the founding of the MI in 1917 was triggered by the attacks of Masonic organizations against the Church at the time. St. Maximilian established the MI both to counteract the activities of the lodges and for the conversion of Freemasons.

The symposium addressed in a special way this missionary objective of the Marian-Kolbean movement, which continues to be very relevant today. St. Maximilian's pastoral impetus led him to extend his apostolic activity to the Freemasons who, therefore, are not excluded from the evangelical mission promoted by the Saint. Fr. Raffaele Di Muro, the MI International President, presented a conference on the new evangelization according to the principles suggested by St. Maximilian Kolbe. A large number of people, even from neighboring countries, attended the symposium, which was enriched by times of intense prayer. The tireless organizer of the symposium was the Croatian Provincial Minister, Fr. Josip Blažević, who also announced the publication of the Writings of St. Maximilian Kolbe in Croatian.

Reflection on the October MI Intention

O Immaculata please intercede that the MI may be faithful to the missionary spirit for which it was born.

In this month's reflection, we will consider a letter written by St. Maximilian from Nagasaki, on December 9, 1930, to Fr. Florian Koziura, resident of Niepokalanów. The saint speaks of the missionary spirit of the MI. Here are a few sentences: "Does it [Niepokalanów] not after all have a special purpose, which is its reason to exist, namely, the conquest of the entire world for the Immaculata, according to the ideal of the MI, that is, the concrete implementation of the goal of the MI? In addition, since that aim, 'the entire world,' includes 'missions' in the broadest and most rigorous sense of the word, so in accordance with chapter XII of the [Franciscan] Rule, not every friar, albeit a good friar, has a vocation to that. On the other hand, one to whom the Immaculata has deigned to grant such grace, cannot be content with what others are doing and of the usual way of acting." (KW 299)

The goal of Niepokalanów is inspired by the reason that the MI came to be: to conquer the whole world for the Immaculata. Every Kolbean work (the magazines and the Cities of the Immaculata) has this splendid objective. Our mission is certainly global. The apostolic impulse of those who undertake a journey with Kolbe can bring about great things. The Polish martyr makes a case in point of St. Francis. In fact, "our

Father St. Francis is the paragon of the missionary; his example and his rule are highly missionary and allow the greatest degree of direct apostolic zeal for the salvation and sanctification of souls. The key feature of this Rule, holy *poverty*, is the capital that allows us to measure ourselves against the greatest financial powers of the various Protestants, sectarians, atheists, etc., and of their leaders, the Freemasons, because holy poverty is the *bottomless treasure chest of Divine Providence*. We experience it forcefully here in Japan." (Ibid.)

The man from Assisi and his Rule are an unquestionable point of reference for Fr. Kolbe. He sees in the Poverello [Poor One] and in his manner, an extraordinary model of a missionary life without limits. Even in this perspective, he enters fully into the Franciscan tradition, which he develops with genial contribution. His apostolate is highly motivated: the desire to proclaim the love of God and of the Immaculata to all of humanity in the Franciscan spirit. The Polish saint is animated by the will to convey to everyone the depth of divine love, manifested also through the Virgin Mary's maternal presence. His zeal brings him to dream an apostolate without borders. The Franciscan martyr, furthermore, feels himself challenged by the Church and the Holy Father who, during his life, invited with determination various ecclesial realities to generously open themselves to the missionary dimension. Furthermore, he senses as very important the example of the Poverello, who places the mission among the pivotal elements of Franciscan life through the Rule, which St. Kolbe lives

with a profound and unceasing missionary tension. "The *Immaculata* as our *goal*, and *poverty* as our *capital*: here are the two features that Niepokalanów cannot renounce in *any respect whatsoever*. Without such *goal* it would cease to be 'Niepokalanów'; it would *betray* its mission. And without poverty and without relying on Divine Providence, we could not possibly speak of *impetus*, of an offensive." (Ibid.) The Immaculata is the mission's point of reference: entrusting ourselves to her care means to be sure of the success of the activity. Who undertakes an MI journey must be aware of living as an apostle in the hands of the Virgin Mary. Every apostolic action in our movement must come about in the name of communion. St. Maximilian bestows an enormous value on working in communion, unity of intent, for a more efficacious pastoral life. "In a word, it seems to me that the action of the MI and of Niepokalanów's present and future worldwide should be closely connected, because it is one spirit and one body. Otherwise there will be no vigor." (Ibid.)

For Reflection

St. Maximilian reminds us of the universal magnitude of the MI mission. Our association follows an important end: that every heart be led to the Immaculata and introduced to a journey of sanctity and eternal life. Kolbe reminds us that this apostolic spirit is in line with the evangelical ardor demonstrated and taught by St. Francis of Assisi. The MI journey expresses a universal evangelical action, for which it is important to give our all. The centennial of its founding reminds us of this particular vocation of the MI. (from the MI International Office - Translated by Maria Franceschini and Ann O'Donnell)

Editorial

(Cont. from pg. 1)

This one image of Christ, you and me, as bride, has been part of the great theological and spiritual heritage of the Church's memory. The saints and the mystics wrote of this image particularly in the light of the Old Testament's Song of Songs which speaks of the love of the bride for the beloved bridegroom. Listen to the desire of the bride for the beloved:

“Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth!/More delightful is your love than wine! Your name is spoken as a spreading perfume.

That is why the maidens love you, Draw me! / We will follow you eagerly! / Bring me, O King, to your chambers. With you we will rejoice and exult. / We extol your love; it is beyond wine: / How rightly you are loved!” /(Song of Songs 1:1-4)

We are indeed the bride spoken of in Ephesians and the Song of Songs. And who is the Bridegroom? God Himself in the Person of Christ. This God is thrice holy, holy to an infinite degree. How are we to approach Him in that intimate union spoken of above—if we are redeemed yet sinful creatures?

This is why God first justified us in Baptism, made us holy and then gave us Confession to make us holy, worthy to receive Him in that most intimate of gifts—Himself in Holy Communion.

Does not the bride of the Song of Songs prepare herself by bathing (Confession), adorning herself with the most beautiful gowns (grace), and scent herself (the Holy Spirit) to prepare herself for him? So we must see Confession as our “wedding garment” at the marriage

feast of the King. Confession is a gift from Christ to make us worthy (holy) of receiving Him in the intimate union of Communion.

Many Catholics have not taken seriously Christ's admonition in the Sermon on the Mount, “So be perfect (holy) as your heavenly Father is perfect” (Mt 5:48). The good news is that Christ has given us a way to be restored to our baptismal innocence—Confession. It is Christ in the form of merciful forgiveness who adorns His Bride, you and me, to come to Him in the bridal chamber of Holy Communion.

Praised be Jesus Christ!

In the Immaculata,

John W. Galten
MI National President

P.S. St. Maximilian spoke of the importance of regular examination of conscience and Confession.

A good rule of spiritual rule of thumb for lay people: Confession once a month, more frequently when under great temptations. Examination of conscience daily with night prayers and at noon if so moved. This will keep us honest with regard to our interior life.

LOCAL MI CENTENNIAL EVENTS

Kansas City, Missouri

Saturday, October 7, 2017

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the MI

Holy Rosary followed by Holy Mass
with Archbishop Joseph Naumann.

“Tour of Poland, home of St.
Maximilian”

with Mike Scherschligt, lunch,
afternoon presentation and Divine
Mercy chaplet.

Where:

Redemptorist Church
3333 Broadway, Kansas City, MO

For more information:

Christine Rossi, 913-268-0208
Immaculata8@att.net

Houston, Texas

Sunday, October 15, 2017

@ 2:20 p.m.

Join us for a special day of
celebration of the 100 years of
History & Mission

of the Militia of the Immaculata

with our guest and national
speaker Rich May

Presentation "Foundations of
Marian Consecration
in the teachings of St. Maximilian
Kolbe" begins at 2:35 p.m.

3:30 p.m. Confessions

4:00 p.m. Holy Mass

Celebrated by MI Member Priest
Fr. Alvaro Interiano

Consecration and Enrollment
in the MI following Sermon

Where:

Our Lady of Czestochowa Parish
1731 Blalock Rd, Houston

RSVP:

www.midomusmariae.wordpress.
com/current-events/



MI News

News from Bremerton, Washington



MI members doing dishes after a community meal our parish host once a week. We serve about 200 meals to those in need. (Left to right; David DeRego (honorary MI member, Danette DeRego MI, Carol Kennedy MI, and Julie Elkinton MI.)

On Saturday October 7, 2017, our Village will host an afternoon of preparation for consecration. Here are the details:

Please join us on **Saturday, October 7** (Our Lady of the Rosary) at **1pm** in the Parish Center of **Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish, Bremerton, WA**. There we will pray the Rosary, learn how to make a “devil’s whip,” hear the teachings of St. Maximilian on total consecration and the Miraculous Medal, which he called a “silver bullet” of prayer, and be with Jesus in Eucharistic adoration, listening to Him about becoming an “instrument.” Our time together will end at 4pm with the opportunity to consecrate ourselves to Jesus through Mary.



The Miraculous Medal Prayer
O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you, and for all those who do not have recourse to you, especially the enemies of Holy Church and all those recommended to you.
Would you like more information about the blessed Virgin Mary and total consecration to her?
MILITIA OF THE IMMACULATA
MI NATIONAL CENTER - USA
P.O. Box 7645, Libertyville, IL 60048
MINational@MissionImmaculata.com
MissionImmaculata.com - MIYouth.org

Disseminate the Miraculous Medal and introduce Our Lady to others!

Miraculous Medals and these new cards can be requested from the MI National Center.

**MINational@MissionImmaculata.com
331-223-5564**

Check regularly the MI website
MissionImmaculata.com
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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