

## Our Only Motive

*“Love toward the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus is the only motive that spurs us to bind as many as possible, as closely as possible, to Him through the Immaculata.”* (KW 1094). Since the beginning of the journey of the MI, the young Fr. Maximilian emphasized that the love of God, of which the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus is the symbol *par excellence*, is the ultimate goal of the life and activity of the new Marian association.

The fundamental dimension of the MI spirituality is indeed total consecration to the Immaculata, but Fr. Maximilian highlighted always that Mary is wholly relative to God, to Christ, and her maternal action is completely directed toward leading hearts to Jesus. Love for Him and the pursuit of His Kingdom, therefore, represent the drive and the ultimate purpose of every MI member’s commitment.

Fr. Kolbe constantly pondered and explained how devotion and consecration to Our Lady are the means for reaching the end of all: “As she is the most perfect instrument in the hand of God, in the hand of divine mercy, the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, so we are instruments in her hand. Thus through her we are the instruments of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, that is, of God’s mercy. Thus our watchword is ‘Through the Immaculata to the Heart of Jesus’” (cf. KW 339).

In order to expel every doubt he states: “Precisely because we have consecrated ourselves to the Immaculata without limits, with much greater courage, despite our wickedness, we come closer to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. In reality, therefore, we are fully, completely and exclusively consecrated to the Immaculata with all of our actions, and in her and through her, we are again fully, completely and exclusively consecrated to Jesus Christ” (KW 643). Therefore, he stresses the need to draw closer to Our Lady through total consecration: “To be more and more of the Immaculata, to belong to her more profoundly, and so let fly more and more the wings of love, especially toward the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and the manifestations of His love” (KW 1284).

With similar expressions St. Maximilian elucidates how authentic devotion to Mary leads to a deeper love for Jesus, in fact to love Him with the Immaculata’s Heart, while making us participate in her maternal mission: “Thus the divine life, the life of the Most Holy Trinity flows from the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, into our wretched hearts, but often also through other created hearts” (KW 503).

St. Maximilian introduces us to a marvelous stance: We are members of the Mystical Body of Christ and members one of another (Cf. Eph 4:25), called to be “neighbors” to one another (cf. Lk 10:25-37), to become instruments of good, channels of grace, of divine life for one another. Like Mary! This is the crucial mission of the MI: to sow Mary into all hearts so that she, the Mother, may lead them to the knowledge of her Son and kindle in them the fire of love toward His Sacred Heart. May this life-giving fire spread everywhere...!

ADP