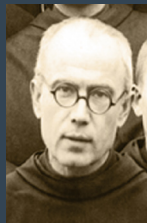


Deepen Your Total Consecration to the Immaculata as You Deepen Your Life of Prayer!



“Prayer is a means that people do not know about, and yet it is the most effective way to restore peace in the soul, to give them happiness, because it serves to bring them closer to God’s love. Prayer revives the world. Prayer is the indispensable condition for the regeneration and the life of every soul.”

—St. Maximilian Kolbe

This booklet, *Glory to God Through the Immaculata!*, is a collection of prayers and meditations inspired by the great Marian missionary. It is intended to assist those who are totally consecrated to the Immaculate Virgin and who are members of the Militia of the Immaculata to deepen their commitment to prayer as the basis of all apostolic activity. For St. Maximilian Kolbe reminds: “Outer activity is good but, of course, is of secondary importance, and even less than that when compared to the inner life, to the life of recollection and prayer, to the life of our personal love for God.... To the extent we burn more and more with divine love, we will kindle a similar love even in others.” (KW 903)



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Glory to God Through the Immaculata!



THE OFFICIAL PRAYER BOOK
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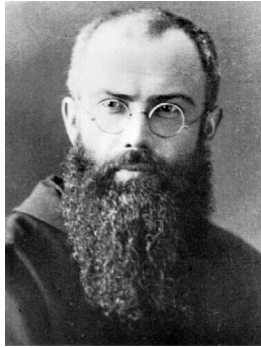


MILITIA OF THE
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MI NATIONAL CENTER - USA

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Cover Image: *Madonna of the Miracle* by Domenico Bartolini. The painting, located above an altar in the Basilica of *Sant'Andrea delle Fratte* in Rome, commemorates the apparition of the Blessed Virgin to Marie-Alphonse Ratisbonne (1814-84) in that church in January 1842. Ratisbonne, a Jew who was engaged to be married, converted to Catholicism, became a Jesuit priest, and founded the Congregation of Our Lady of Sion. After St. Maximilian Kolbe was ordained a priest in Rome, he offered his first Mass at this altar on April 29, 1918.



St. Maximilian Kolbe's life of total consecration to the Immaculata bore fruit in his mystical union with God, deeply rooted in his filial relationship with the Blessed Virgin Mary. She, who was his Queen and Mother, nurtured his life as a Franciscan friar and his work as a priest while he heroically labored for the conversion and sanctification of souls. Saint Maximilian truly believed that "Prayer revives the world. Prayer is the indispensable condition for the regeneration and the life of every soul." (KW 903)

This collection of prayers and meditations, *Glory to God Through the Immaculata!*, is inspired by the great Marian missionary and evangelist. It is intended to assist members of the Militia of the Immaculata to deepen their own commitment to prayer as the basis of all apostolic activity. For St. Maximilian Kolbe reminds us: "Outer activity is good but, of course, is of secondary importance, and even less than that when compared to the inner life, to the life of recollection and prayer, to the life of our personal love for God.... To the extent we burn more and more with divine love, we will kindle a similar love even in others." (*Ibid.*)

Glory to God Through the Immaculata!

THE OFFICIAL PRAYER BOOK
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MI PRAYERS

Official Act of Consecration

(Composed by St. Maximilian Kolbe)

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 whole 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.

Daily Renewal of MI Consecration

Immaculata, Queen and Mother of the Church, I renew my consecration to you this day and for always, so that you may use me for the coming of the Kingdom of Jesus in the whole world. To this end I offer you all my prayers, actions and sacrifices of this day. Amen.

Contact MI National Center to obtain the MI monthly intentions leaflet.

MI 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. Amen.

Knights at the Foot of the Cross Consecration Prayer

O Immaculata, Queen of Heaven and earth, health of the sick, and our most loving Mother, God has willed to entrust the entire order of mercy to you. You stood at the foot of the Cross, uniting yourself with the sufferings of Jesus, and so you became for all the Church a model of compassion.

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 daily sufferings and crosses, 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 whole world.” Through my prayers and sufferings, 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 to 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.

Daily Renewal of KFC Consecration

Immaculata, Mother of the Church, I renew my self-consecration to you as a Knight at the Foot of the Cross. I desire to magnify the Lord with you this day in a special way by offering you my sufferings. Joined with you in faith at the foot of Christ's Cross, may I ever be an unselfish instrument for the spread of the Militia of the Immaculata movement and the growth of the Church. Amen.

MI Family Consecration to the Immaculata

O Immaculata, Queen of Heaven and earth, our life, our sweetness, and our hope, on this day we the (*family surname*) family come before you to consecrate ourselves to you as your possession and property. We praise God because He has brought us together to give ourselves to you our Mother. We do this because Jesus said on the Cross, "Behold your Mother."

We need you, Mother Mary, to help us to be a truly Catholic family. Enter into our family life. Repeat to us the words you spoke at Cana, "Do whatever He tells you." Help us to overlook one another's faults, to forgive as Jesus has forgiven us, and to love one another as Our Lord has asked us to love.

Please use our family to crush the head of the serpent. Ask your Spouse, St. Joseph, Protector of the universal Church, to keep us one in mind and heart with your Son's Vicar, the Pope. Today you have become the Queen of our hearts and home. May our home be a "City of the Immaculata," where the Sacred Heart of Jesus reigns forever. Amen.

Kolbean Prayer to Mary, Mother of the Church

Mary, Mother of the Church, I come before you in the spirit of St. Maximilian Kolbe, who consecrated his Franciscan life and apostolic work to you without reserve. You accepted Maximilian's self-offering; accept me. You led Maximilian to Christ; lead me. You formed Maximilian into a mirror of Christ; form me. Your union with Maximilian provided the backdrop for his works of evangelization and heroic acts of charity.

Please grant, through the intercession of St. Maximilian, that I might fully collaborate with you and the Holy Spirit as an instrument for the upbuilding of Christ's Church. Amen.



PRAYERS IN HONOR OF ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE

For the Grace to Be an Instrument

Almighty and Eternal God, you gave us in the person of St. Maximilian an example of true devotion to the Immaculate Mother of Our Savior and of unselfish love for our neighbor. Grant, we beseech You, through his intercession, that we may grow in our understanding of love of the Immaculata; that we may recognize her presence, her voice, her love and her power with us and be filled with an ardent desire and will to fulfill her will in every detail, and thus become sharers and true instruments of her most perfect response to You, in the Holy Spirit through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer for Ardent Love

St. Maximilian Kolbe, faithful follower of St. Francis of Assisi, inflamed by the love of God you dedicated your life to the practice of virtue and to works of the apostolate. Look down with favor upon us who devoutly confide in your intercession.

Having consecrated yourself to the Immaculate Virgin Mary, you inspired countless souls to holy life and to various forms of the apostolate in order to do good to others and to spread the Kingdom of God. Obtain for us the grace by our lives and labors to draw many souls to Christ.

In your close conformity to our Divine Savior, you reached such an intense degree of love that you offered your life to save a fellow prisoner. Implore God that we, inflamed by such ardent charity, may through our living faith and our apostolic works witness Christ to our neighbor, and thus merit to join you in the blessed vision of God. Amen.

Love Alone Creates Prayer

St. Maximilian, amidst the hate and lonely misery of Auschwitz, you brought love into the lives of fellow captives, and sowed the seeds of hope amidst despair. You bore witness to the world, by word and deed, that “Love alone creates.”

Help me to become more like you. With you and Mary and the Church, may I proclaim that “Love alone creates.” To the hungry and oppressed, the naked and homeless, the scorned and hated, the lonely and despairing, may I proclaim the power of Christ’s love, which endures forever and ever. Amen.

Novena Prayer in Honor of St. Maximilian Kolbe

O Lord Jesus Christ, who said, “greater love than this no man has that a man lay down his life for his friends,” through the intercession of St. Maximilian Kolbe whose life illustrated such love, we beseech you to grant us our petitions (*state your intentions here*).

Through the Militia of the Immaculata movement, which Maximilian founded, he spread a fervent devotion to Our Lady throughout the world. He gave up his life for a total stranger and loved his persecutors, giving us an example of unselfish love for all men—a love that was inspired by true devotion to Mary. Grant, O Lord Jesus, that we too may give ourselves entirely without reserve to the love and service of our Heavenly Queen in order to better love and serve our neighbor in imitation of Your humble servant, Maximilian. Amen.

Recite Three Hail Marys and a Glory Be.

Prayer in Honor of St. Maximilian Kolbe, Model Marian Evangelist

Merciful God, You made St. Maximilian Kolbe one of the foremost Catholic evangelists of the difficult twentieth century.

Through the Militia of the Immaculata movement which he founded, he implanted the truths of the Immaculate Conception and Your merciful plan for us all in countless hearts, thus moving them to full conversion in faith and hope, to perfect obedience and union with the Heart of Jesus, and to complete observance of the New Covenant.

You made him fruitful through carrying the cross of suffering with dignity and hope, loving his persecutors, and giving up his life for a total stranger. Through his intercession grant us our petitions . . . (*here mention the requests you have*). Give us a like dignity and hope in our sufferings and sacrifices and, if it will glorify You, heal us of all our infirmities, both physical and spiritual.

Finally, enable us to follow his example of effective Catholic evangelism with Mary for the return to You of all the masses of mankind, and of every individual person, family, society and culture of our time and of all time to come. Amen.

Responsory in Honor of St. Maximilian Kolbe

Lord, have mercy on us. *Lord, have mercy on us.*

Christ, have mercy on us. *Christ, have mercy on us.*

Lord, have mercy on us. *Lord, have mercy on us.*

God our Father in Heaven, *receive our humble prayers.*

God the Son, Redeemer of the world, *save us.*

God the Holy Spirit, *fill our hearts with Your love.*

Holy Trinity, one God, *grant us Your salvation.*
Holy Mary, Mother of Our Savior, *intercede for us.*
St. Maximilian Kolbe, great hearted lover of God and man,
pray for us.
Faithful follower of St. Francis of Assisi,
teach us your total dedication to the Gospel life.
Man of living faith,
lead us to believe as you did.
Brave Knight of the Immaculata,
help us to be instruments of Mary.
Apostle of the Miraculous Medal,
give us confidence in Mary, the Mother of Jesus.
Model of religious life, *assist us to be poor, chaste and obedient, according to our state in life.*
You encouraged the union of all Christians,
teach us to respect all true believers in God.
You practiced poverty and simplicity,
encourage us to live a modest life.
Example of angelic innocence,
elevate us to keep our hearts and minds pure.
Apostle of Christian example,
teach us to remember what Jesus said and did.
Angel of peace and reconciliation,
inspire us to be living examples of God's peace.
You were loyal to the teachings of Christ,
teach us the same fidelity.
Apostle of the communications media,
help our journalists to be promoters of truth and goodness.
Educator of youth,
uplift our young people to find true meaning in their lives.
Defender of morals and Christian values,
protect us from the immorality in our midst.

Zealous apostle of Nagasaki in Japan,
defend us from nuclear destruction.

Great missionary of our times,
help us participate in the evangelization of the world.

You prayed for your oppressors,
teach us how to forgive and forget.

You had respect for every person,
help us to see in each other the image of God.

You saw God's will in your sufferings,
intercede for the sick and those with terminal illness.

Victim of violence and hatred,
teach us how to love our enemies.

You volunteered to die for another,
lead many persons to offer their talents in service.

You shared a meager piece of bread with fellow prisoners,
intercede for the hungry and starving of the world.

Victim of planned extermination,
inspire our doctors and nurses to protect human life.

You died for the father of a family,
restore the Christian dimension of family life.

You assisted the dying prisoners,
stand by us also in the hour of our death.

Patron of the dying,
intercede for those who are in agony of mind and body.

You were united with Christ in suffering,
help us to understand that we do not suffer alone.

You died by a poisonous injection,
aid those who are addicted to drugs and alcohol.

Martyr of Auschwitz,
help us endure our sufferings patiently.

St. Maximilian Kolbe,
teach us that without sacrifice there is no proof of love.

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world,
hear our prayers.

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world,
receive the intercession of Your saints.

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world,
to You be glory in Heaven and on earth.

Prayer to St. Maximilian Kolbe, Faithful Son of St. Francis

St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe, most faithful son of St. Francis, the beggar of Assisi, inflamed with love for God you journeyed through life practicing heroic virtues and performing true apostolic deeds.

Turn your gaze on us who honor you and have recourse to you.

Radiating with the light of the Immaculate Virgin, you brought countless souls to holiness and introduced them to various apostolic endeavors for the victory of good over evil and thereby to extend the Kingdom of God throughout the whole world.

Obtain for us the light and the strength we need to do good and to bring many souls to Christ.

Perfectly conformed and united with Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, you achieved such a high degree of love of neighbor that you were able freely to offer your life in exchange for a fellow prisoner in witness of true evangelical charity.

Beg the Lord on our behalf that, filled with the same fire of love, our faith and good example might also bring others to Christ and secure for us the reward of everlasting life, where we shall praise Him together with you in eternal glory. Amen.

Prayer for Families

St. Maximilian Kolbe, you gave your life so that a family might not be deprived of a husband and father. By your heroic martyrdom of charity, teach us that the value of family life is worth our sacrifices also. Just as you found in Mary the channel of those graces that strengthened you to be faithful to her Son, help us to rejoice also in her who was given to us as a mother by Jesus from the Cross. Be with us, St. Maximilian, as we pray for the special needs of our family (*say petitions here*). Amen.

Prayer for Priests

Loving Father, we pray for our priests. Filled with Your compassion and love, may they minister to Your Church, mindful of Your Son's example and the example of all Your saints, especially St. Maximilian Kolbe.

May they, like Maximilian, preach Your Gospel with courage and boldness to the world hungry to hear Your Word. May they, like Your Son, be willing to be "signs of contradiction" realizing that this will require much discipline and sacrifice, and possibly even their lives.

When asked who they are and what they do, may they respond simply, "I am a Catholic priest," and realize the greatness of their vocation.

Most of all, Heavenly Father, may they be examples always of Your love and teach their people, as St. Maximilian Kolbe did, that indeed "love alone creates." We ask that You bestow the necessary graces upon those who struggle with their calling or who may have abandoned their vocation (*especially N.*). Help them to carry their crosses and to seek Your mercy and forgiveness so that they may become true instruments of reconciliation and peace.

May Your Son's Mother, Mary Immaculate, always be with Your priests to comfort and guide them with her motherly embrace.

We ask this through Your beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Family and Friends Prayer for the Addicted

St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe, your life of love and labor for souls was sacrificed amid the horrors of a concentration camp and hastened to its end by an injection of a deadly drug.

Look with compassion upon (*specify person[s] here*) who is now entrapped in addiction to drugs and whom we now recommend to your powerful intercession.

Having offered your own life to preserve that of a family man, we turn to you with trust, confident that you will understand and help.

Obtain for us the grace never to withhold our love and understanding, nor to fail in persevering prayer that the enslaving bonds of addiction may be broken and that full health and freedom may be restored to him/her/them whom we love.

We will never cease to be grateful to God who has helped us and heard your prayer for us. Amen.

A Prisoner's Prayer

O Prisoner-Saint of Auschwitz, help me in my plight. Introduce me to Mary, the Immaculata, Mother of God. She prayed for Jesus in a Jerusalem jail. She prayed for you in a Nazi prison camp. Ask her to comfort me in my confinement. May she teach me always to be good. If I am lonely, may she say, "God is here." If I feel hate, may she

say, "God is love." If I am tempted, may she say, "God is pure."

If I sin, may she say, "God is mercy." If I am in darkness, may she say, "God is light." If I am unjustly condemned, may she say, "God is truth." If I have pain in soul or body, may she say, "God is peace." If I lose hope, may she say: "God is with you all days, and so am I." Amen.

Prayer to End Abortion

St. Maximilian Kolbe, patron of the pro-life movement, hear this prayer of supplication that I address to you with confidence.

St. Maximilian, I honor your life that was guided by unshakable faith in the mystery of the Incarnation. I admire your public witness for the sanctity of life and your ultimate sacrifice for the life of another when you offered yourself to save a fellow prisoner.

I pray, please move the consciences of those contemplating abortion. Please move to repentance, and healing, the women and men who have chosen abortion over the gift of life.

Please intercede for all unborn children. Pray that their mothers will see, hear and know that what they carry in their womb is a person, a special and unique gift from God our Creator.

Please comfort the women who suffer from post-abortion trauma and inspire them to seek spiritual and psychological help.

Please sustain the courage and wisdom of the pro-life movement, so that they may be peaceful witnesses to the sanctity of life. Intercede for our young people who march and witness for life today that God may bless and protect them.

Please move the hearts of our lawmakers, judges and fellow citizens so the scourge of abortion will no longer be the law of the land.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS BY ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE
(From The Writings of St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe)

**Prayer to the
 Most Holy Trinity**

Allow me to praise you, O Virgin Most Holy.

I adore You, our Father in Heaven, because You placed in her most pure womb Your only-begotten Son.

I adore You, O Son of God, for You have deigned to enter her womb and became real, true Son of her.

I adore You, O Holy Spirit, for You deigned to shape in her immaculate womb the body of the Son of God.

I adore You, O Most Holy Trinity, one God in the Holy Trinity, for having raised up the Immaculata in such a divine way.

And I shall never cease, every day, as I wake up from sleep, to most humbly adore You, O Triune God, with my face to the ground, repeating three times: "Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen." (KW 1305)

Marian Prayer of Abandonment

May you be blessed forever, Lady and Queen, my Most Loving Mama, for you yet deign to think of me, so full of pride and self-love. At the Last Judgment everyone will know that it was you who gave me everything, while I am nothing.

May you be blessed forever, O Immaculata; therefore, I am all and totally yours, both soul and body; my whole life, my death, my eternity belong to you forever; deign to do with me anything you please. I am fully satisfied. If it pleases you, deign to take me even this very instant. If you prefer later, then take me later. I am yours, my Loving Mother. (KW 988 F)

Marian Prayer for Assistance

Loving Mother, I really do not know which direction this whole matter will take. You deign to do with me and with us all you please, to the greatest possible glory of God. I am yours, my Immaculate Loving Mama. You see that I am very wretched. I walk on the brink of a precipice, because I am full of self-love. If you let me slip from your immaculate hands even for an instant, I will be the first to fall into even graver sins and later to the very bottom of hell. However (though I do not deserve it) if you will not let me go and will be my guide, I most certainly shall not fall and I will become a saint, a great saint. Loving Mother, deign to turn your eyes so that my writing may be to your greatest possible glory. (KW 988 G)

Allow Me to Praise You

Allow me to praise you, O Virgin Most Holy.

Allow me to praise you with my commitment and personal sacrifice.

Allow me to live, work, suffer, be consumed and die for you, only for you.

Allow me to bring the whole world to you.

Allow me to contribute to an ever-greater exaltation of you, to the greatest possible exaltation of you.

Allow me to render such glory unto you as no one has ever rendered unto you so far.

Allow others to pass me in zeal for your exaltation, and grant that I may surpass them, so that in noble emulation your glory may grow deeper and deeper, faster and faster, more and more intensely, as the One wishes who raised you up so ineffably above all created beings.

In you alone was God worshiped incomparably more than in all His saints.

For you God created the world. For you God called even me into existence. Where does this fortune of mine come from?

I pray you, grant that I may praise you, O Most Holy Virgin! (KW 1305)

Prayer to the Immaculata

Under your protection, O most sweet Mother, and with the invocation of the mystery of your Immaculate Conception, I wish to carry out all my actions and endure all that shall befall me. In addition, I solemnly propose to faithfully offer all that in order to give my contribution, with all the energy at my disposal, to giving due worship to God, through the spreading of devotion toward you. I beg you, therefore, most loving Mother, to extend your benevolent support for my efforts. For my part, I promise freely and devoutly, to recognize as obtained from God through your intercession any advantage from these activities.

*Allow me to praise you, O Sacred Virgin.
Give me strength against your enemies. (KW 1353)*

Who Would Dare to Imagine?

Who would dare to imagine that You, O infinite and eternal God, have loved me for ages, and more than that, from before the ages? In fact, Your love for me exists, as long as You exist as God, so it follows that You have loved me and will always continue to love me!... even before I existed, You already loved me, and precisely because You loved me, O good God, You brought me to existence from nothingness!...

For me You created the heavens adorned with constellations of stars, for me the earth, the seas, the mountains, the rivers and the many, many beautiful things here on earth...

As if this was not enough, to show me that You really love me tenderly, You descended from the pure delights of heaven to this degraded world full of tears. You led a hard life in poverty and suffering; finally, despised and derided, You chose to be hung up on a base scaffold in terrible pain between two thieves... O God of love, You have redeemed me in this terrible but generous way!...

Who would dare to imagine?...

Alas, You were not content with this, knowing that I would appear here on earth hundreds of years after this moment of the effusion of Your revelations of love, You have provided even for this! Your heart did not consent that I would be nourished only by the memory of Your immeasurable love. You remain upon this miserable world in the Most Holy and exceedingly admirable Sacrament of the altar, and now You come to me and unite Yourself intimately to me as nourishment... Now, Your Blood already flows into mine, Your Soul, O incarnate God, penetrates my soul, strengthening and nourishing it...

What miracles! Who would dare to imagine?...

What could You have given me more, O God, after having offered Yourself to me to become mine?...

Your Heart, inflamed with love for me, suggested to You another gift, yes, yet one more gift!...

You asked us to become children, if we wish to enter the heavenly Kingdom [cf. Mt 18:3]. You well know that a child needs a mother: You Yourself established this law of love. Your goodness, Your mercy, therefore, created for us a Mother, the personification of Your goodness and infinite love. From the Cross, on Golgotha, You offered her to us and us to her... Furthermore, You, O God of love, arranged to make her the omnipotent Dispenser and Mediatrix of all Your graces: You refuse nothing to her, but neither is she capable of refusing anything to anyone... (KW 1145)



TRADITIONAL MARIAN PRAYERS

Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Hail Holy Queen

Hail Holy Queen, Mother of mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, Most Gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy towards us. And after this, our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary.

V. Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my mother; to thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

Angelus

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.

R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, etc.

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

R. Be it done unto me according to Thy word.

Hail Mary, etc.

V. And the Word was made Flesh.

R. And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary, etc.

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray:

Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts, that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ Thy Son was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. Through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Regina Coeli

Queen of Heaven, rejoice, *alleluia*,

For He whom you were worthy to bear, *alleluia*,

Has risen, as He foretold, *alleluia*.

Pray for us to God, *alleluia*.

V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, *alleluia*,

R. For the Lord has indeed risen, *alleluia*.

Let us pray:

O God, who by the Resurrection of Thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ didst deign to give joy to the world: grant we beseech Thee, that through His Mother, the Virgin Mary, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Sub Tuum Praesidium

We fly to thy patronage, O Holy Mother of God; despise not our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from all dangers, O Glorious and Blessed Virgin. Amen.

Magnificat

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
My spirit rejoices in God my Savior
For He has looked with favor on His lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed:
The Almighty has done great things for me,
And holy is His Name.
He has mercy on those who fear Him
In every generation.
He has shown the strength of His arm,
He has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
And has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things,
And the rich He has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of His servant Israel
 For He has remembered His promise of mercy,
 The promise He made to our fathers,
 To Abraham and his children for ever.

MEDITATIONS ON THE HOLY ROSARY *(From The Writings of St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe)*

The Joyful Mysteries

The Annunciation—Lk 1:26-38

[Our Lady is] “Full of grace” because she could not possibly have been deprived of any grace. How beautiful is such fullness of grace, whose abundance flows back unto us in profusion! Or rather, that fullness is a source of grace for us.

“The Lord is with you!” It is true: God is always with her and in such a close, perfect manner! Is she not in some way a part of the Holy Trinity Itself?... And where she goes, she takes along the whole Holy Trinity. How true are the words whereby in the universe everything happens “in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit through the Immaculata!” (KW 991)

The Visitation—Lk 1:39-56

Nearly two thousand years have passed since the day when the Immaculate Virgin paid her visit to Elizabeth, her relative. Actually, the Holy Mother’s visits have continued up to this very day and occur for every soul, much more often than the soul may imagine. Each grace, without exception, is the coming of the Mediatrix of all graces.

Do you want her to come often to visit you? Do you want her to dwell permanently in your soul? Do you desire that she, she alone, may direct your thoughts, take possession of all your heart? Do you wish to live entirely for her? If you really desire all this, open your heart completely before her and give yourself to her without reserve and forever, even if only with the yearning of your soul. (KW 1216)

The Nativity—Lk 2:6-20

What did you think, O Immaculata, when for the first time you laid the Divine Child onto that little bed of hay? What feelings flooded your heart while you wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, held Him to your heart, and fed Him from your breasts? You knew exactly who that Child was, for the Prophets had spoken of Him. In addition, how many mysteries regarding Jesus must that Divine Spirit have revealed only and exclusively to your immaculate soul!

He is before you now, in the form of a weak newborn child.

What feelings of humility, love and gratitude must have filled your heart at that time as you marveled at the humility, love and gratitude that God incarnate had toward you. I beg you, fill my heart too with your humility, your love, your gratitude! (KW 1236)

The Presentation—Lk 2:22-39

How short life is, is it not? How quickly time flies!... Let us give it up, offer it dearly, at the highest price possible. The greater the suffering, the better, because after death one can no longer suffer. The time in which one can manifest love is brief. And then we live once only! How many of you

desire to consecrate themselves without limits to the Immaculata?... Let us offer ourselves to her every day, all the time, in practice, fulfilling her will and conforming to her will in all things. This means being her instrument. And the more it costs us, the better, since it is the demonstration of greater love. (KW 499)

The Finding in the Temple—Lk 2:41-51

On earth, we see so many unhappy, misguided souls who do not even know the purpose of their life, who love many short-lived goods instead of the only good, God. The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus is the love of God toward mankind. His Kingdom is the domain of this love in the hearts of men, the love that Jesus manifested in the manger, throughout His life, on the Cross, in the Eucharist, and in giving us His own Mother as our Mother; and He wants to kindle this love in the hearts of all men. To conquer souls over to Our Lady, means to win souls over to the Mother of Jesus, who introduces the Kingdom of Jesus into them. (KW 1331)

The Luminous Mysteries

The Baptism of Our Lord—Mt 3:11-17

Life on this earth is not long. It is only a matter of preparing well for eternity. Even this speck of dust in the middle of the universe, which is called the earth, will come to its end together with all its problems, including the most important ones. Let us be led by the Immaculata and help souls know her and love her, so that an ever increasing number of hearts may be joined, through love, more and more closely to her and, through her, to the Most Sacred Divine Heart. (KW 936)

The Wedding Feast at Cana—Jn 2:1-12

Prayer is a means that people do not know about, and yet it is the most effective way to restore peace in the soul, to give them happiness, because it serves to bring them closer to God's love. Prayer revives the world. Prayer is the indispensable condition for the regeneration and the life of every soul. (KW 903)

The Proclamation of the Kingdom—Mk 1:14-15

The conversion and the sanctification of the soul has been, is, and always will be the work of divine grace. Without the grace of God, nothing may be achieved in this field, neither through the living word, nor through the press, nor by any other outer means. Grace for ourselves and for others, instead, is obtained through humble prayer, mortification, and loyalty in the fulfillment of one's ordinary duties, including the most simple. The closer the soul itself is to God, the more pleasing it is to God. (KW 925)

The Transfiguration—Lk 9:28-36

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: continuous self-vigilance and prayer, whereby the soul obtains God's supernatural graces, indispensable to spiritual progress. 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 is dazzled by unearthly light and kindled with love. (*KW* 1001)

The Institution of the Eucharist—Jn 6:33-59

We must constantly strengthen the love for the Immaculata in souls, so that they may become one with her—become her herself; so that she herself may live and love (act) in them and through them. Just as she is of Jesus and of God, so each soul will become of Jesus and of God through her and in her.

Then souls will love the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus as they have never loved Him before, because, like her, and in ways they have never experienced before, they will plunge into the mysteries of Love: the Cross and the Eucharist. Through her, God’s love shall kindle the world, set it on fire. (*KW* 991)

The Sorrowful Mysteries

The Agony in the Garden—Mt 26:36-46

Let us trust in God, trust Him without limits. Let us be confident that, if we are concerned only with doing His will, no real harm will ever come to us, even if we were to live in times a thousandfold harsher than the ones we live in now. In all things let us not forget to repeat with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane: “Not My will but Thine be done” (Lk 22:42). And if, as happened in the Gethsemane, God were to see fit not to grant our requests and send a cup to drink to the last drop, let us not forget that Jesus not only suffered, but then was also gloriously risen, and that we long for resurrection even through suffering. (*KW* 1264)

The Scourging at the Pillar—Mt 27:26

When we encounter difficulties that we are unable to overcome, or are beleaguered by temptation, let us not lose heart, but always turn to Mary in full confidence, as children toward their mother. She will infuse us with the light and the strength we need, will hold us close to her heart and sweeten the most bitter sorrows. No place on earth will ever be completely free of crosses: if we had no crosses, we would not have the chance to gain Heaven. Therefore, let us not try to avoid the cross too much, and if we need to take it on our shoulders, let us carry it willingly out of love for the Immaculata. (KW 751)

The Crowning with Thorns—Mt 27:29-30

I also fear suffering and especially humiliations, but I brighten up thinking that not even Jesus in the Garden wanted to feel otherwise. Graces come to us when we most need them. (KW 373)

The Carrying of the Cross—Lk 23:26-32

It is beautiful, that way; the true royal way, that is, the way of the Cross, which leads directly to Heaven. Love is burning behind these thorns. Pray that I do not remain behind. (KW 42)

The Crucifixion—Jn 19:18-28

God descended on earth, became man: the Man-God, Jesus Christ, offered the example of His own life, and taught with the Word. The souls who loved God came forward in great numbers to emulate that basic model, to make themselves like Him, to unite themselves to Him, to change themselves into Him. To attract the souls and turn them into Himself through love, Christ showed His own boundless

love, His own heart inflamed with love for the souls, a love that drove Him to ascend the Cross, to stay with us in the Eucharist, to enter our souls, and to bequeath to us His own Mother as our Mother. The more a soul imitates Him, the more it makes itself like Him; and the more it makes itself like Him, the holier it becomes. (KW 1296)

The Glorious Mysteries

The Resurrection—Mt 28:1-10

Dearest children, in difficulties, in darkness, in weaknesses, in dejection remember that *paradise... paradise...* is approaching. Every day that passes is a whole day less to wait. Courage, then! She awaits us there to clasp us to her heart. Also, pay no heed to the devil, if he ever wants to make you believe that Heaven exists, but not for you, because, even if you had committed all possible sins, one single act of perfect love washes everything clean, to the point that not even a shadow remains. (KW 509)

The Ascension—Mk 16:19-20

This life shall pass and then our true reward will begin. Nothing, not even the smallest effort, even the smallest suffering embraced for the glory of God will escape a lavish reward, and that for all eternity... As we can see from history, God will reward not only what we have done, but also what *we would have desired to do*, even though we did not have enough strength to put it into effect. We should desire, then, but desire without limits! (KW 1248)

The Descent of the Holy Spirit—Acts 2:1-41

Even after Christ's death the Holy Spirit works all things

in us through Mary. In fact, what the Creator said to the serpent in reference to the Immaculata, “She will crush your head” [cf. Gn 3:15], is, according to the teaching of theologians, to be understood to have no limitations of time.

It is the task of the Holy Spirit to form the new members of those predestined to the Mystical Body of Christ until the end of the world. But, as [St.] Louis Grignion de Montfort demonstrates, this work is brought to fruition with Mary, in Mary, and through Mary. (KW 1229)

The Assumption—Is 61:10

The Immaculata is the ultimate limit between God and creation. She is a faithful image of God’s perfection, of His sanctity.

One’s degree of perfection depends on the union of one’s will to the will of God. The greater the perfection, the closer the union. As the Blessed Mother, with her perfection, surpassed all the angels and saints, so also her will is united and identified most closely with the will of God. She lives and works solely in God and through God. Therefore, by fulfilling the will of the Immaculata we fulfill by that very reason the will of God. (KW 1232)

The Coronation—Rev 12:1-6

What could we possibly wish her who, exalted above all creatures in Heaven and earth, became the Mother of God and now reigns eternally in Heaven? She is Queen of Heaven and earth, Mediatrix of us all; through her hands all graces flow unto the earth. What should we wish you, therefore, most noble and sweet Lady? Many still do not know you... Well then, Holy Queen, on this beloved day of your feast, with all our hearts and with all our souls we

wish you to take full and swift possession of our hearts and the hearts of one and all, without exception, be they Catholic, Protestant, Schismatic, Jew, pagan, good or bad. Reign over us all and in us all, poor inhabitants of this earthly globe which glides across the heavens; reign not only during this our earthly pilgrimage, but also forever and ever, for all eternity! (KW 1037)

A MARIAN METHOD OF *LECTIO DIVINA*

(*Pondering All Things in One's Heart*)

The Blessed Virgin Mary is the perfect example of a *pray-er*. She, who “treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart” (Lk 2:19), provides us an example of contemplating the mysteries of God and connecting them to everyday life.

Listening to God’s word in Scripture and other inspiring writings is traditionally called *lectio divina*, an ancient practice by which prayerful listening to the text leads to a transforming encounter with God.

This ancient practice of *lectio divina* is experiencing a revival today throughout the Church. Pope Benedict XVI has said: “If it is effectively promoted, this practice will bring to the Church—I am convinced of it—a new spiritual springtime.... The ancient tradition of *lectio divina* should be encouraged through the use of new methods, attentively pondered, adapted to the time.”

The following is a suggested Marian method that members of the Militia of the Immaculata can utilize and link

to their total consecration to the Immaculata. It can be used while meditating upon Sacred Scripture or other inspiring texts such as the writings of St. Maximilian Kolbe.

Step 1—Request—*invite the Holy Spirit to accompany you during this time of prayer and meditation.*

O Holy Spirit, You who overshadowed Mary at the Annunciation and again at Pentecost, be present to me during this time of prayer and reflection while meditating upon this passage of Scripture/the words of your servant St. Maximilian Kolbe. Fill me with the graces I need to surrender myself totally to the Immaculata, Your spouse, and become her instrument for the conversion and sanctification of souls, and so as to help bring about the Kingdom of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Amen.

Step 2—Read—*select a short passage from the Scriptures or from the writings of St. Maximilian Kolbe.*

Step 3—Reflect—*spend time pondering the passage and allowing certain words or phrases to emerge.*

Step 4—Re-read—*slowly read the selected passage again.*

Step 5—Reflect—*spend more time in silent reflection.*

Step 6—Respond—*invoke Our Lady's intercession to grant you the insight to apply this teaching in your personal, spiritual and apostolic life: "Who are you, O Immaculata, and what do you want me to do?"*

Step 7—Renew—*recite a prayer of total consecration to the Immaculata (see page 6).*

**COMMENTARY ON THE
ACT OF TOTAL CONSECRATION
TO THE IMMACULATA** [SEE PAGE 6]
(From The Writings of St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe)

This act of consecration consists of three parts:

- 1. An invocation;**
- 2. A petition that she deign to accept us as property;**
- 3. An entreaty that she may want to use us in order to win other souls over to herself.**

1. An Invocation

In the invocation, we say first of all:

“O Immaculata.”

We address her with this title, because she herself in Lourdes chose to state her name thus: “Immaculate Conception.” God and each of the Three Divine Persons are immaculate, yet God is not conceived. The angels are immaculate, but even in them there is not conception. Our first parents were immaculate before their sin, yet even they were not conceived. Jesus was immaculate and conceived, but He was not a conception, because, being God, He existed before time, and the words that revealed to Moses the name of God referred to Him: “I am Who am” [Ex 3:14], that is, the One who always exists and has no beginning. All other people are a conception; yet, a conception stained by sin. Only she is not merely conceived, but Conception, and, what is more, Immaculate Conception. That name contains many other

mysteries that will be revealed in time. For it marks the fact that Immaculate Conception belongs in some way to the very essence of the Immaculata. That name must be dear to her, for it indicates the first grace she received in the first instant of her existence, and the first gift is always the most welcome. This name, then, was fulfilled throughout her life, because she was always without sin. So she was also full of grace and God was with her (cf. Lk 1:28) always and with her to the point that she became the Mother of the Son of God.

“Queen of Heaven and earth.”

In a family, the parents who love their children strive, to the best of their ability, to fulfill the wishes of their children, as long as such desires are not to their detriment. All the more so God, the Creator and Prototype of earthly parents, wants to fulfill the will of His creatures, as long as that does not cause them harm; that is, provided that this will is in accordance with His Will.

Never and in anything did the Immaculata move away from God’s will. In everything she loved God’s Will, she loved God, so she is aptly named “Suppliant Omnipotence”; she exerts her influence on God Himself, on the whole universe: she is the Queen of Heaven and earth. In Heaven, all recognize the sovereignty of her love. Instead, that part of the first angels who would not recognize her queenship, lost their place in Heaven.

She is also the Queen of the earth, for the fact that she is the Mother of God. Yet she desires—and is entitled to such desire—to be recognized spontaneously by every heart, to

be loved as Queen of all hearts, so that such heart may be purified ever more through her, become immaculate, like her Heart and ever more worthy of union with God, with the love of God, with the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

“Refuge of sinners.”

God is merciful, infinitely merciful, but He is also just, infinitely just, so that He cannot tolerate even the smallest sin and must demand its complete reparation. The Dispenser of the Most Precious Blood of Jesus, which has infinite value and that washes away such sins, is God’s mercy embodied in the Immaculata. With good reason, therefore, we invoke her as “Refuge of sinners,” of all sinners; even if their sins were most serious and most numerous, even if those sinners had the impression they no longer deserved any mercy. Indeed, any purification of the soul is for her a new confirmation of her title of “Immaculate Conception,” and the more a soul is plunged in sin, the more the power of her immaculateness, which makes a soul as pure as snow, is made manifest.

“Our most loving Mother.”

The Immaculata is the Mother of all our supernatural life, for she is the Mediatrix of all graces, indeed the Mother of divine grace, so she is our Mother in the sphere of grace, in the supernatural sphere. Also, she is a most loving Mother, for there is no such loving, such affectionate, such God-filled Mother as the Immaculata, who is all divine.

“God has willed to entrust the entire order of mercy to you.”

At times, in a family, the father rejoices when the mother, by her own intervention, holds his hand, which would punish the child, because in that case justice is met and mercy manifested. It is not without reason, in fact, that justice is suspended. In the same way God, not to punish us, gives us a spiritual mother, to whose intercession He is never opposed. That is why the saints have said that Jesus reserved the order of justice to Himself, entrusting the entire order of mercy to the Immaculata.

2. A Petition

In the second part of the act of consecration, we say:

“I, an unworthy sinner.”

At that point, we recognize that we are not immaculate as she is, but sinners. Especially since none of us could possibly claim to have lived up to the present day without committing a sin, but feels guilty of many infidelities. We also say “unworthy” because, in truth, between an unsullied Being and one disfigured by sin there is, in a certain way, an unfathomable difference. Therefore, in all truth we recognize ourselves unworthy to turn to her, to appeal to her, to fall at her feet and entreat her not to let us become similar to proud Lucifer.

For that reason, we also say:

“I 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.”

With these words we pray, implore the Immaculata that she deign to welcome us, and we give ourselves up to her completely and in all respects as her children, her slaves of love, her servants, her instruments, in every respect, under any name that any person at any time could possibly still devise. And all that as a possession and property at her full disposal, that she may make use of us and exploit us until we are fully consumed.

“Make of me, of all my powers of soul and of my body, of my whole life, death and eternity, whatever most pleases you.”

With these words, we surrender to her our whole being, all the faculties of the soul, namely the intellect, memory and will, all the faculties of the body, all the senses, and each individually, our strengths, health or infirmity. We give to her our entire life with all its features, be they pleasant, sad, or indifferent. To her we offer our death, at any time, in any place, and in any way it shall befall us. We even surrender to her all of our eternity. Indeed, we have the firm hope that only in Heaven shall we belong to her in an incomparably more perfect fashion. Thus, we voice the wish and prayer that she grant that we will become more and more perfectly hers in every aspect.

3. An Entreaty

In the third part of the act of consecration,
we beseech her:

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” [Gen 3:15], and, “You alone have destroyed all heresies in the whole world” [Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary].

In statues and paintings of the Immaculata, we always see at her feet a serpent that wraps the globe between its coils and whose head she, with her foot, is about to crush.

He, Satan, stained with sin, strives to sully all the souls on earth with it. He hates her, who has always been unsullied. He lies in wait for her children at her heel, but in the fight with her, she always crushes his head in every soul that has recourse to her. We implore her to deign to use us, if she wills, as an instrument to crush the proud head of the serpent inside unhappy souls.

Continuing the verse already cited, the Scriptures add: “And thou shalt lie in wait for her heel,” and in fact the spirit of evil undermines in a special way those who are consecrated to the Immaculata, because he wants to offend her at least through them. However, his attempts against souls faithfully consecrated always end up in even more ignominious defeat. Therefore, his impotent rage becomes even more violent.

The words “You alone have destroyed all heresies in the whole world” are taken from the Divine Office which the Church requires priests to recite with regard to her. The Church speaks of “heresies,” not “heretics,” because she, Mary, loves them and on account of this love wants to free them from the error of heresy. It also reads: “all,” without exception. “You alone,” because she suffices. God, in fact,

belongs to her, with all the treasures of grace, graces of conversion, and of sanctification of souls. “In the whole world”: no corner of the earth here is excluded. In this section of the act of consecration, we implore her to make use of us to destroy the whole body of the serpent, that is to say the most diverse heresies that hold the world captive.

“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.”

On earth, we see so many unhappy, misguided souls who do not even know the purpose of their life, who love many short-lived goods instead of the only good, God. Many of them are even indifferent to the most sublime love. We want to introduce and increase to the maximum the glory of the Immaculata in these souls and we beseech her to make us useful tools in her immaculate and merciful hands, not to let us hamper her; to drive us even by force in case we were to refuse to obey her.

“Extend as far as possible the blessed Kingdom of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.”

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus is the love of God toward mankind. His Kingdom is the domain of this love in the hearts of men, the love that Jesus manifested in the manger, throughout His life, on the Cross, in the Eucharist, and in giving us His own Mother as our Mother; and He wants to kindle this love in the hearts of men. To infuse and to enhance the glory of the Immaculata, to conquer

souls over to her, means to win souls over to the Mother of Jesus, who introduces the Kingdom of Jesus into them.

“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.”

The Immaculata is “Suppliant Omnipotence.” Each conversion and each sanctification is the work of grace, and she is the Mediatrix of all graces. So she alone is enough to beseech and to distribute all the graces, whatever grace. During the manifestation of the Miraculous Medal, [St.] Catherine Labouré saw the rays that shone forth from the precious rings that the Immaculata wore on her fingers. Such rays symbolize the graces that the Immaculata generously bestows upon all those who want them. Even [Alphonse] Ratisbonne, in the vision he had, speaks of the rays of graces.

“Allow me to praise you, O Sacred Virgin. Give me strength against your enemies.”

Tradition has it that the Franciscan Duns Scotus, while on his way to the debate during which he was expected to defend, at the University of the Sorbonne, in Paris, the privilege of the Immaculate Conception, passed a statue of the Blessed Mother and addressed to her the aforementioned invocation. The Most Holy Mother bowed her head in approval.

In the first part of that prayer, Duns Scotus addresses the Mother of God humbly and asks for the grace to be

able to praise her, for he acknowledges that he is greatly unworthy of so noble a task as the glorification of the Most Holy Mother. He also recognizes that such grace depends on her and that she needs just to grant it to him for his efforts to be successful.

The second part is strong, resolute and courageous. He asks the strength to defeat the serpent, to be an instrument in her hands.

But who is her enemy? All that is sullied by sin, which does not lead to God, which is not love; it is all that comes from the infernal serpent, who is a lie, and from him alone: all our faults, then, all our sins. We beseech her to give us strength against them. In fact, all devotions exist only for that; that is why there is prayer; for that there are the holy Sacraments: namely, to obtain the strength to overcome all obstacles in our path to God, in ever more ardent love, in becoming like God, uniting with God Himself.

Just as we came from God through creation, so too we return to God; all nature speaks to us of that, and wherever we turn our gaze, we see that an action has an equal and opposite reaction, as an echo of God's activity, even of His activity in creation. On this return path of reaction, a creature endowed with free will runs into difficulties and adversities, which God allows in order to increase even more the impetus with which such creature tends toward Him. To obtain sufficient strength to achieve that goal, however, this creature must pray, implore such strength from the One who is the source of all energy and who looks to the efforts of His own creatures lovingly, wishing that they sincerely want to come to Him, sparing no assistance toward them. And even

if such creatures, such dear children of His, happened to stumble along the way, to fall, to be sullied, to become dirty, this loving Father cannot possibly sit back before their misfortune. He sends His only begotten Son, who with His life and His teaching shows them a clear and safe way. With His Most Holy Blood, which has infinite value, He washes away the dirt and heals the wounds. And lest the soul lose hope because of fear, for violating divine justice, God sends the One who is the personification of His love, the Bride of the Spirit of motherly love, the Immaculata, all beautiful, without stain (even though she is the daughter of a human being), sister of human beings, and appoints her to distribute generously His mercy toward souls. He appoints her Mediatrix of the grace merited by His Son, Mother of grace, Mother of the souls that are reborn through grace, that are regenerated and unceasingly regenerate themselves in ever more perfect divinization. (*KW* 1331)

What is the Militia of the Immaculata?

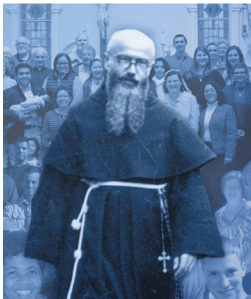
The Militia of the Immaculata (MI) is a worldwide evangelization movement founded by St. Maximilian Kolbe in 1917. It encourages a total consecration to Mary Immaculate as a means of spiritual renewal for individuals and society.

The MI movement is open to all Catholics over 7 years of age. It employs prayer as the main tool in the spiritual battle with evil. Members of the MI also immerse themselves in apostolic initiatives throughout society, either individually or in groups, to deepen and spread the knowledge of the Gospel and our Catholic Faith in themselves and in others.

By joining the MI, members become willing instruments of Our Lady, sharing in her maternal mission for the conversion and sanctification of all souls. The goals of the MI are personal sanctification, the conversion of the world and ultimately the universal reign of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Those interested in enrolling should:

- Select the date on which they want their name recorded in the official register of the MI, preferably a Marian feast day;
- Prepare for their consecration and enrollment by spiritual reading, the Rosary and the reception of the Sacrament of Reconciliation on or shortly before the day of their enrollment;
- On the day of their MI enrollment, attend Mass, if possible, and recite the Official MI Act of Consecration, composed by St. Maximilian Kolbe. Subject to the usual conditions, a plenary indulgence is granted by the Church for enrollment in the MI.



**For more information
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MilitiaoftheImmaculata.com**