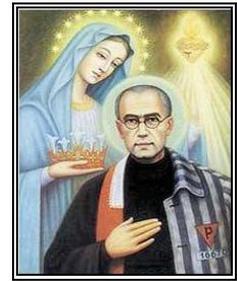




Witnessing to the Resurrection And Divine Mercy



Dear MI Members and Friends,

Saint Maximilian's evangelical testimony was a fundamental force behind his apostolate. He always sought to be a living witness to everyone. His example and his decisive work habits became "contagious" for his brothers and the faithful. Three things characterized the Polish saint's missionary style: 1) his exemplary behavior preceding his spoken word; 2) his poverty and sacrifice and; 3) his dedication.

Like St. Francis, he believed that he would have more effect on the friars and faithful by example than by words. To look to Christ, to the Immaculata, and to Francis was to be translated into life, a life that inspired others and encouraged them delicately to love Our Risen Lord with greater conviction and filled with faith in his merciful love. Saint Maximilian believed work, poverty, and dedication to the apostolic activity made the friar, the militant, or the faithful in general, able to give himself generously, to the Omnipotents project entrusted to them. These three dimensions show how much Maximilian himself lived and transmitted, the missionary life.

He was convinced that witnessing to the faith, begins with one's personal spiritual experience. This key opens men's hearts, from which point the missionary could "sow" belief in Christ's Resurrection and man's call to eternal life. Also, love for one's vocation, kindness, hospitality, and sobriety speak to the listener before the spoken word. The saint points out that looking at the mystery of the Resurrection and Divine Mercy, the apostolic activity; for example, the spread of the Knight of the Immaculata (magazine), or the production increase in the City of the Immaculata, may be realized most credibly in the name of faith and the example given to the brothers.

Saint Maximilian was a protagonist of a Christ-centered proclamation. He desired to transmit Christ's love for humanity, that, thanks to Christ's death and resurrection, was redeemed. Saint Maximilian wanted joyfully live this truth and also share it with those he would reach through the spoken and printed word. This evangelization movement began with his evangelical example that he

MI Monthly Intention

*Immaculata,
please intercede...*

that our life
constantly testify
to the truth of the
Resurrection and
Divine Mercy.

Monthly intentions can be
found at:
[http://www.mi-
international.org/NEWS/publi
c/ENG_Intentions2016.pdf](http://www.mi-international.org/NEWS/public/ENG_Intentions2016.pdf)

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Prayer in Preparation for
the MI National Elective
Assembly

*O Immaculata, Spouse of
the Holy Spirit, we gather
around you in prayer as did
the disciples in the Upper
Room. Intercede for us
that we might be aflame
with the gifts of the Spirit
as we prepare for our
National Assembly and
elections so that we might
be your true instruments,
consecrated to your
Immaculate Heart. Amen.*

-composed by MI
National Assistant, Fr.
Stephen McKinley,
OFM Conv.

shared, first and foremost, with the brothers sharing his same mission. Fr. Kolbe also wanted men to understand the importance, of the Immaculata's presence in their life - how beautiful to rejoice for a mother, ready to intercede and protect them.

Sanctifying oneself is the first form of evangelization. Only when this is fully taken on can one help others convert and gravitate toward eternal life. The believer's overflowing love for the Lord attracts others to walk in God's ways. Transmitting the desire of communion with the Living One begins with one's own itinerary of perfection.

The saint, by his testimony and apostolic action, desired to cause religious and moral unrest in his listeners' hearts, to help them to open their hearts to God's love, the joy of his presence, of life in communion with Him. Saint Maximilian didn't like to use authority nor influential people, but to evangelize by his life and his personal testimony as a religious, who experienced and shared the joy of union with the Risen and Merciful Christ, through the Immaculata. His preaching, in fact, invites his listeners to know the joy of the ascetic life, and a communion with God, a foretaste of the eternal beatitude. High motivations enriched Kolbe's testimony, and led him to the mission: the desire to announce

God's merciful love for all humanity, obedience to the Church, and following Christ in the way of Francis. St. Maximilian desired that all men should know the profundity of the divine, merciful love, manifest also through the Virgin Mary's maternal presence. His immense zeal brought him to dream of and realize an apostolate, without limits and barriers.

Reflect on the following expressions of Saint Maximilian:

"Your personal sanctification is your first occupation. Commitment toward the sanctification of others must be the overabundance of your love toward Jesus. In each thing, endeavor to cause the greatest possible pleasure to Jesus and trust in Him through the Immaculata" (KW 987F).

"Prayer is the expression of a beautiful soul. The human body originated from dust and after death will return to dust. Our human activities are also directed to Mother Earth. It is only in prayer that man lifts his heart toward paradise and engages in conversation with the Creator of the universe, with the prime Cause of everything, with God" (KW 1208).

-Fr. Raffaele Di Muro,
MI International Assistant
*Translated by Antonia Velasco &
Ann O'Donnell*

Daily Renewal of Total 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.

Daily Miraculous Medal Prayer of St. Maximilian

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 and all those recommended to you.



Divine Mercy Sunday, April 3

"The Lord's mercy endures forever!" In order to understand thoroughly the truth of these let us be led by the liturgy to the heart of the event of salvation, which unites Christ's Death and Resurrection with our lives and with the world's history. This miracle of mercy has radically changed humanity's destiny. It is a miracle in which is unfolded the fullness of the love of the Father who, for our redemption, does not even draw back before the sacrifice of His Only-begotten Son. In the humiliated and suffering Christ, believers and non-believers can admire a surprising solidarity, which binds Him to our human condition beyond all imaginable measure. The Cross, even after the Resurrection of the Son of God, "speaks and never ceases to speak of God the Father, who is absolutely faithful to His eternal love for man. ... Believing in this love means believing in mercy" (Rich in Mercy, 7).

Let us thank the Lord for His love, which is stronger than death and sin. It is revealed and put into practice as mercy in our daily lives, and prompts every person in turn to have "mercy" towards the Crucified One. Is not loving God and loving one's neighbor and even one's "enemies," after Jesus' example, the program of life of every baptized person and of the whole Church?

-St John Paul II (On the first universal celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday, 2001).



MI MI National News

FIRST ELECTIVE ASSEMBLY for the MI to be held for the United States! June 3–5, 2016—Marytown. Please pray! See prayer composed by Fr. Stephen McKinley, OFM Conv on page 2.