



Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus And Memorial of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
June 3 & 4 - page 3
(art by Mike Conger)

MI Monthly Intention

Immaculata, please intercede...

that contemplating the merciful love of Christ, we may open our hearts to the needs of our brethren.

Monthly intentions can be found at:
http://www.mi-international.org/NEWS/public/ENG_Intentions2016.pdf

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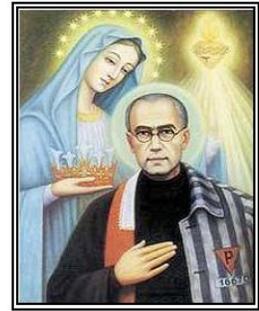
A Journey with The Immaculata

Dear MI Members and Friends,

Man receives the Lord's merciful love as a gift, while he in turn is called to "extend" mercy to others. By overcoming the difficulties of prejudice, incomprehension and hatred we should accept wholeheartedly one another. Open mindedness to other's background and needs helps us to be able to love like the Lord asked. Maximilian helps us to see that even behind a seemingly good devotion, there can be masked antipathy, the desire to dominate and inability to accept one another.

Here are the Auschwitz martyr's enlightening expressions, "But the most awful thing is that such a soul *fails to realize* the seriousness of its predicament. It carries out all the good works with the others. It may even be deeply moved in prayer, because the devil is able to lure souls even this way. It may truly believe that it is not behind the others, and indeed be convinced that it precedes them: for one of the features of that soul is a clear *lack of humility*. Haughtily trusting in its own intelligence, it does not even accept the reproach of superiors, but writes it off as dislike and prejudice on the part of the superiors.

"Thus blinded it plunges deeper into the mire and will not be shaken from



its slumber even when it crosses the threshold of mortal sin!... I do not want to keep writing about this. May God preserve us, may the Immaculata protect us, from the shadows of such a thing" (KW 329).

The Polish saint demonstrated an interior openness, even toward his opponents. He prayed for his enemies: he wasn't indifferent to their journey, but tried to transmit much love and mercy to them. Here are his enlightening words: "...we extend our warmest thanks and a friendly "May God reward you" to all those who, with their advice, their writing, their money, or by other activities, have helped Rycerz at any time in its struggle to defend the highest spiritual ideals. However, we are not going to wish well to these people only. In the same charitable spirit, we turn to those who were enemies of Rycerz and to those who made every effort to prevent the magazine from coming out! All these people we forgive wholeheartedly, wishing that, if they have not gone to Confession for a while, they might do so as soon as possible. And in case they are not familiar with Christ's sweet teaching or do not belong to His fold, we wish their souls may as soon as possible be washed with the water of Holy Baptism" (WK 1021).

Maximilian's missionary testimony also consisted of profound respect for



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.

MI National President and MI National Board Members election June 4, Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. ELECTION RESULTS will be sent out from the MI National Office

different cultures. Dialogue facilitated the optimal process of enculturation. He delicately and sensitively proclaimed the evangelical message. According to his way and thought he believed the proclamation of the Gospel must be sealed with charity and with a welcome to other’s thoughts and lifestyles.

He left us a radiant testimony, through his capacity to insert himself and to quickly and profoundly be involved in his surroundings. He knew the people, he listened and was able to establish a serene dialogue with everyone. This enabled him to make concrete proposals to problems, and give relevant suggestion about the apostolate. Noteworthy is the saint’s great capacity to listen to others and his sensitivity and efficaciousness in meeting their needs. This welcome is crucial for the credibility of an apostolate that is respectful of the desires and demands of the people. Kolbe especially stressed the Franciscan Rule exactly because it foresees the possibility to proclaim the Good News “to everyone”,

especially those who don’t share his religious beliefs. In fact he believed, “St. Francis is a 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” (WK 299).

Francis and his Rule are an indisputable point of reference for Maximilian, that in the *Poor One*, and his way, sees an extraordinary model of missionary life without limits. Also in this perspective, the martyr of Auschwitz enters fully in the Franciscan tradition that develops with his brilliant contribution. The martyr of Auschwitz embraces this optic fully, the Franciscan tradition which he developed with his genial contribution.

God bless.

Fr. Raffaele Di Muro,
MI International President
Translated by Antonia Velasco & Ann O’Donnell



For Reflection

- ☼ Do I think of the vertical dimension of mercy?
- ☼ How willing am I to accept another person who lives differently from me?
- ☼ Has my missionary journey brought me to accept others unconditionally?
- ☼ Do I try to overcome my reasons for resentment and hatred?
- ☼ Is my heart always open to others?
- ☼ What are my obstacles and how can I overcome them?
- ☼ What can I learn from Kolbe?



Memorial of the Immaculate Heart of Mary - June 4

"Humanly speaking the Divine Heart is like the heart of a good father. If a child is guilty of something, the father must punish him. Justice, or rather the father's love for the child, calls for that, lest the child underestimate his own mistake. Nevertheless, the father would not really want to cause pain to his child, even though the child deserves it, and would like to find any legitimate reason not to inflict punishment. Forgiveness without an adequate reason would be tantamount to encouraging impudence in his guilty child. Yet the father would need someone to intercede in favor of his child and thereby mete out justice as well as affectionate love.

"Well, the Divine Heart of Jesus, burning with love for us, who are guilty, has found to this end a means most worthy of divine wisdom. He gives to us his own dear and beloved Mother as mother and protectress, the holiest creature among saints and angels, to whom nothing can be denied, because she is the worthiest and the most beloved of all mothers. In addition, He has given her a most magnanimous heart, so much so that she could never fail to spot even the smallest teardrop on earth or neglect to worry about the salvation and sanctification of every man" (KW 1094).



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