

Hello May

5 Ascension
8 Mother's Day
15 Pentecost
22 Trinity Sunday
26 or 29 Corpus Christi
(check with diocese)

MI Monthly Intention

Immaculata, please intercede...

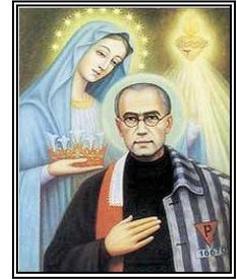
that free from any prejudice we may welcome our brothers and sisters in their uniqueness.

A Journey with The Immaculata

Dear MI Members and Friends,

It has been 20 years since I became the National President of the MI. It has taken me to the most amazing places from EWTN to sleeping under the stars in a pup tent in Tehachapi CA. I have met the most amazing and faithful people from all over the United States as well. And while all this might sound exciting and it was, the greatest journey was the interior journey with Our Lady. A journey of trust; a journey of patience; a journey sometimes in the dark and on unmarked roads. One should never worry however, "are we there yet?" or "where are we going?" Because on the interior, spiritual journey of Consecration, one never arrives. It is a never ending journey! One can always go deeper into union with Mary's Immaculate Heart. For just as She always contemplated the mysteries of God in Her Heart so there are always new and endless mysteries for us to contemplate in our own heart. In the end it does not matter where the journey takes us, as long as we hold Her hand and are united to Her Immaculate Heart.

My hope is that each person in the MI holds on tightly to Our Lady's hand



and opens their own heart to Her Immaculate Heart even more. Because it is not what we do that matters but what Our Lady does in us. It is our TOTAL Consecration to her that enables Her to do and accomplish God's Will in the world through us. And every day is an opportunity to unite our hearts ever more closely, ever more perfectly, ever more faithfully, ever more lovingly, ever more Totally to Her Immaculate Heart. And that is what Total Consecration is all about.

God bless.

Fr. Patrick Greenough, OFM Conv

"The giving of oneself completely to the Immaculata in the spirit of the MI is a conscious and dynamic commitment to live the following of Christ after the example of Mary, to grow in faith, hope and charity in such a way as to put oneself at the service of His salvific mission." The General Statutes Militia Immaculatae, Art. 3.

May Reflection

Let us welcome one another



Unconditional acceptance of others characterizes Saint Maximilian's spirituality. He let himself be led, by Christ and the Immaculata's maternal presence, to an ever greater ability to love, which culminated in Auschwitz. Here's a noteworthy quote, by the saint, "Hatred divides, separates and destroys, while, to the contrary love unites, brings about peace and is constructive. It is not strange then that only love manages always to render men perfect and, therefore, that only the religions that teaches love of God and neighbor can perfect men." (KW 1205)

The Polish martyr loved his enemies, even those who threatened his and his brothers' lives. Writing to a German official, investigating the City of the Immaculata's activity, just before his arrest, he expressed, "I want to emphasize that I do not feel hatred for anyone on this earth. The substance of my ideal is found in the enclosed printed material. What is there is mine: I want to work for that ideal always, to suffer and possibly give up my own life in sacrifice. What instead is against that ideal is not mine, but comes from outside and therefore, according to my ability, I have fought it, I am fighting it, and will fight it forever." (KW 884)

The inhuman conditions of the concentration camp, the barbarity that took place in it, were illuminated by the unusual and heroic proposal of giving his life for a family man by the Polish martyr. His choice for love indicates the same light believers today are called to bear into the world, a world, in which all too often, prevails the desire to dominate. Saint Maximilian teaches that love is the real essence of the human person, what makes it noble, precious and more dignified. Charity, for him and ourselves, is the most important thing in life. By his act Kolbe affirms the beauty of the prisoner's humanity and the love of God against the hatred and destruction of the camp.

Saint Maximilian confirms to Christians and people today that it is vital to witness to love, to the point of giving up one's life for another. In this sense, we are all called to be "Kolbean", convinced and determined witnesses of

The saint nourished a universal love in his heart, free of prejudice and any trace of resentment. This meaningful address to his brothers shows this, "And now we continue and we will continue to fulfill the mission of love to our neighbor, whoever he is, to soften the fate of those who suffer and, through that, to kindle their hearts with a grateful love for the Immaculata, the Mother who loves all the souls on the entire globe." (KW 914)

The act of offering his life, in place of a father of a family in the concentration camp, didn't just happen in an impulsive, generous moment. It resulted from a spiritual journey imbued with oblation, which climaxed at Auschwitz. Saint Maximilian's death was born of a life marvelously spent, in love and service of God, under the Immaculata's protection.

(Picture: Franciszek Gajowniczek, man for whom St. Maximilian offered his life.)

In our opinion, the man of today, especially the one who believes in Christ, has an absolute need to draw on the example of Father Kolbe to rebuild or strengthen their capacity to love.

charity, which prevails over evil and intolerance. Humanity finds full realization when it reflects the love of God. This is what the martyr of Auschwitz cries to the people of this century.



For Reflection

Meditate on these words of St. Maximilian, taken from an article from 1939, regarding the M.I. activity and the love it proposes its members to live.

“These poor people, therefore need light, a great deal of supernatural light, of supernatural energy. They are unhappy and discontented, because they take as their ultimate goal what is only a means and therefore, after reaching the happiness to which they aspire, cannot find what they are looking for. And they continue to search with a dejected heart, with bitterness in their souls.

How can we fail to reach out to them? How can we not help them placate their hearts, lift their minds above all the passes toward the one ultimate purpose, God? Love for one’s neighbor pushes those souls who have already found the true ideal of life not to forget their brothers and sisters around them.

One of the many associations that practice this love of one’s neighbor is the Militia of the Immaculata. It is called 'of the Immaculata' because its members have given themselves without restrictions to the Most blessed Virgin Mary Immaculate, that she herself may work in them and, through them, shower other souls with the graces of supernatural light, strength and happiness, Moreover, it is called 'Militia' because it cannot afford to rest, but rather intends to conquer hearts for the Immaculata by way of love, and through her, for the Divine Heart of Jesus and, ultimately, for the heavenly Father.

Are you already a member of the hosts of this Militia? Would you like to give a helping hand to your neighbors?

Offer yourself up the Immaculata as well! Let her work through you and you shall disseminate much happiness on earth even during this our time. To many a restless soul, you will give peace and serenity in God.” (KW 1237).

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

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 Holy Church and all those recommended to you.

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