



MI Monthly Intention

Immaculata, please intercede...

that the faith of the Saints illumines our lives as believers and makes us spiritually stronger.

INSIDE:

Newly Elected MI International Council

Loving With Mary

Dear MI Members and Friends,

“Mary is the one who first ‘believed,’ and precisely with her faith as Spouse and Mother she wishes to act upon all those who entrust themselves to her as her children. And it is well known that the more her children persevere and progress in this attitude, the nearer Mary leads them to the ‘unsearchable riches of Christ’ (Eph 3:8)” RM 46. In response to this and in search of a life more pleasing to God, we have consecrated our lives to the Immaculata in the MI. Yet, it would be terribly egotistical for us to only be concerned about our personal sanctification. Rather, the consecration to Mary instills within us a desire for the salvation and sanctification of all souls. Mary shares her desire for the salvation of all her children. In the Original Program of the MI, penned by St. Maximilian, is The Object of the MI: “*To work for the conversion to God of all mankind, be they sinners, or non-Catholics or unbelievers, in particular the Masons; and that all become saints, under the patronage and through the mediation of the Immaculate Virgin.*”

Fr. Kolbe acknowledged **Mary as the gift given us by Christ, a gift for all mankind.** Mary, by way of her maternal attention, enters into the life of each individual and makes possible the path of salvation and of holiness. We heard Pope



Francis on October 13 say, “*Today we consider one of the marvelous things which the Lord has done: Mary! A lowly and weak creature like ourselves, she was chosen to be the Mother of God, the Mother of her Creator.*” Each MI member, convinced of Mary’s role in the life of grace, seeks to spread love and devotion, and ultimately the living of the total consecration to Her.

Enmity between Mary and Satan

In Mary’s work of ‘restoring supernatural life to souls’ there is the clear enmity between Her and Satan. St. Maximilian frequently refers to **Genesis 3:15, “She will crush your head,”** in his writings. He explained the significance of these words, “*Satan, soiled by sin, endeavors to soil all souls on earth. He hates her who was always unspotted. He waits for her heel in the persons of her children; she crushes his head in the fight in the person of everyone who has recourse to her.*” (Aim Higher, gathered by ELFI, Mission Press, Ndola, India, p. 142)

Writing again about this he wrote, “*So until the end of the world the serpent will continue to tempt, obstruct, exert himself and fight but only as much as the Immaculata allows, in other words, as much as will be needed for us to grow in merit. We will always be sure of victory if we remain under her*

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November 24, Solemnity of Christ the King and the Closing of the Year of Faith.

I believe that the most important thing, especially on such a significant occasion as this, is to revive in the whole Church that positive tension, that yearning to announce Christ again to contemporary man. But, so that this interior thrust towards the new evangelization neither remain just an idea nor be lost in confusion, it needs to be built on a concrete and precise basis, and this basis is the documents of the [Second Vatican Council](#), the place where it found expression.

Pope Benedict XVI on the Opening of the Year of Faith



banner and work with her, through her, for her and in her.

(Immaculata Reprints Library, Nov 1977, Book B-K-1 Tab 4 Sec 10, #117-35)

Blessed John Paul II links Mary, as the Mother of Christ to the Church. *“For Mary, present in the Church as the Mother of the Redeemer, takes part, as a mother, in that ‘monumental struggle against the powers of darkness’ which continues throughout human history.”* MR n.47

Is the apostolate important?

Many MI members, especially new consecrants, ask, “How important is the apostolate” or “Is it something we can choose to do or not according to our time and judgment?” Is it something we do or is it our being, or a symbiosis of the two? Pope Francis during his homily on October 13 reflected with us, *“Let us all ask ourselves whether we are afraid of what God might ask, or of what he does ask. Do I let myself be surprised by God, as Mary was, or do I remain caught up in my own safety zone: in forms of material, intellectual or ideological security, taking refuge in my own projects and plans? Do I truly let God into my life? How do I answer him?”*

In a letter dated November 4, 1919, Fr. Kolbe wrote to Friar Paolo Moratti, who, being so sick, desired to die. In his response to Friar Moratti Fr. Maximilian answers our question.

“You write that you don’t know why the good Lord and our heavenly Mother are still keeping you on this earth. It seems that because of your

illness you wanted to fly away to Paradise. But, patience! There are many souls groping, deceived, duped, miserable slaves of the evil spirit, who pine away and are not even in the condition to be able to perceive their misery and foolishness. If, then, Jesus and our Immaculate Mother have spared you, it is evident that they wanted you to extend your hand to these unfortunate persons and having become a guide for so many, many souls, to lead them all to God through our Immaculate Queen. That is a beautiful mission for which it is worthwhile living, suffering, working and also dying (hopefully as a martyr). Living thus we will also sanctify ourselves; we will become a sacrifice consumed by the fire of every-active love, love for the good God and consequently for all the souls and for each one individually who does and will exist; an all-embracing love which reaches God through creation and longs for that blessed union of all souls with God through the love of God.

Dearest Brother, let us work and suffer together, and thus we will be rejoicing near, very near our blessed Mother ...in Paradise.” (Immaculata Reprint Library, 12/27/78, Book B-K1-1, Tab 4 Sec 10 No 12, Franciscans of Marytown, Libertyville, IL, p.5)

Only when we become instruments in the hands of Mary will we be true apostles. She is the one thought of and created by God precisely for this end, the salvation of souls. And only by way of the total consecration to her, will we become docile instruments in her hands. In this way we will be powerful means of salvation for our world which is in such dire need of holy zeal

evangelizers. *“Those who give themselves entirely to the Immaculata wish to burn with a love so powerful that it will set fire to everything in their milieu, and cause as many souls as possible to burn with the same flame... They would wish to conquer the whole world and every soul in particular for the Immaculata, and do this as soon as possible.”* (Sketch, St. Maximilian, 1940)

St. Maximilian does not hide from us the trials that will come with the work of evangelization: humiliations, times of no seeming success, discouragement, difficulties, contradictions... The evil one does not sleep, does not have to stop for food, is not distracted. He continues to strike at the heel of the Woman. But we have the assurance of the prophecy in Revelations 12:1. *“Mary, Mother of the incarnate Word, is placed at the very center of that enmity, that struggle which accompanies the history of humanity on earth and the history of salvation itself.”* (MR n.11)

With Mary and For Mary

If we continue our fight, working with Mary, the victory will be ours. It is worth it to embrace Kolbe’s message which exhorts us to never stop growing, and to **continue our work of evangelization with an ever increasing ardor and enthusiasm**, as seen in his life, the true disciple of Mary.

In his last will and testament Fr. Kolbe wrote: *“...you are my heirs. Until now we have all worked for the Immaculate One; when I shall have died, then you continue to do so without limit, even to the outpouring of blood, if necessary, and work so that the Militia of Mary Immaculate be propagated to the ends of the earth: it is a holy affair, it is the will of the Mother of God...”* (May 1933) *“Help me, dear children, to win the entire world for the Immaculate. She is worthy of this.”* (Maria Was His Middle Name, p. 150-51)

Pope Francis teaches us how to begin, *“Let us not be afraid to go out and look upon our brothers and sisters with the gaze of Our Lady.”*

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POINT TO PONDER AND REFLECTION

The communion of Saints goes beyond earthly life; it goes beyond death and lasts forever. This union among us, goes beyond and continues in the afterlife; it is a spiritual union that stems from Baptism is not severed by death but, thanks to the Resurrection of Christ, is destined to find its fullness in eternal life. There is a profound and indissoluble bond among all those who are still pilgrims in this world - among us - and those who have crossed the threshold of death to enter into eternity. All the baptized down here on earth, the souls in Purgatory and all the Blessed who are already in Paradise make up one great family. This communion between earth and Heaven is brought about especially through the intercessory prayer. *Pope Francis, October 30, 2013*



Blessed Theophane Venard

In 1861 — just a century ago — a young French missionary was imprisoned like a bird in a cage in Indo-China, scene of so much trouble today. For two long months he was actually chained in this cage, daily expecting and hoping for martyrdom. Some of his companions had been tortured and killed in a brutal manner. Finally, he too was martyred by beheading.

Today we honor this young priest as Blessed Theophane Venard. Blessed Theophane had a tender devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the day before he died he consecrated himself to her according to the formula of St. Grignon De Montfort, using his own blood to sign the consecration. Joseph F. Wagner, Inc.

SAYING THANK YOU!

Pope Francis

Everything is his gift. If we can realize that everything is God's gift, how happy will our hearts be! Everything is his gift. He is our strength! Saying "thank you" is such an easy thing, and yet so hard! How often do we say "thank you" to one another in our families? ... How often do we say "thank you" to those who help us, those close to us, those at our side throughout life? All too often we take everything for granted! This happens with God too. It is easy to approach the Lord to ask for something, but to go and thank him: "Well, I don't need to". Let us invoke Mary's intercession. May she help us to be open to God's surprises, to be faithful to him each and every day, and to praise and thank him, for he is our strength. Amen.

MI FAMILY NEWS



Election of MI International Council in Rome - October 18

Raffaella Aguzzoni, Fr. Kolbe Missionary of the Immaculata, was reelected as International President of the Militia Immaculate. The Council Members are: Vice President, Fr. Patrick Greenough ofmconv (USA); International Secretary, Adele Cerreta (Italy); Treasurer, Fr. Sebastiano Benito Quaglio ofmconv (Brazil); Councilors, Fr. Mirek Bartos ofmconv (Poland); Angela Morais (Brazil).

For more photos of the International Assembly <http://www.mi-international.org/news.asp>

From the International President

Raffaella Aguzzoni quoted from St. Maximilian Kolbe: "Our gaze must always be turned to new horizons." She underlined that the MI is also a missionary movement and wishes the Association "to make a step forward in order to understand where the Immaculata wants to bring us, letting her guide us along ways that we do not know, but She knows."

MI Members

Fr. Pio, CFR traveled to China this summer where he experienced in a very profound way the faith of the people without priests and the thirst of these people for Christ. Please write fkmissionaries@gmail.com if you would like to read about his missionary experience. Texas

Rebecca Cisneros professed as a Norbertine Third Order Member on October 20 at St. Michael's Abbey in Silverado, CA

Tim & Julie Blackstock ask prayers for a series of health issues. They were protagonist in bringing and promoting the MI to Arizona.

Christine Rossi reports on the First Mid-West MI Conference

The Mid-West conference, held in Kansas City, KS from September 6-7, was a great success with 125 people attending. I received a request for me to go to two more locations to open Villages. It was a perfect weekend.

I almost felt like I was attending some else's conference... that is how smooth it was. We started with a concert by a wonderful Catholic man, while a performing artist was painting an amazing picture of Mary...but you did not know that it was Mary until he turned over the canvas. We auctioned off the painting and gave the money to a family from church whose son has cerebral palsy and insurance

did not cover his last surgery. We also took an extra collection for them. As we finished the bidding, the

doors to the room opened and the boy and his Dad came in. He rode his wheel chair to the altar with a standing ovation...the best ever.

We allowed three home school Moms' to bring in their handmade religious dolls, rosaries, and rosary bracelets to sell and earn some extra money for their families. It was just so wonderful to see their joy from such a small gesture.



Dale Ahlquist, from the Chester Society was fun and brilliant. He has spoken in the Parliament in England and is starting the Chesterton Academy, a school that teaches young people to think. He was a riot. *Fr Steve*

McKinley, OFM Conv, MI Spiritual Assistant, also spoke. We always love having him with us.

We raised every rosary, chaplet, Mass and Benediction for the intentions of Pope Francis, for the victims of Syria and Peace throughout the world.



CALENDAR Fr. Kolbe Missionaries

NOVEMBER

- Nov 1 All Saints Day**
8:30AM Mass St. Christopher for the soul of Theresa Brown Clark.
- Nov 2 All Souls Day**
Nov 1-3 Archdiocesan retreat for young adults, Montebello
- Nov 6 MI Spanish Meeting 9AM-1PM
- Nov 7 Thursday Adoration 2-9PM
- Nov 8 MI Young Adults 7PM

Nov 9 Fundraiser Spaghetti Dinner 4:30-8PM

Nov 10 Families to the MAX Team meeting

Nov 11 Communications Meeting 7PM

Nov 15 Vocation Fair - Mary Star, San Pedro

Nov 16 Our Lady of Guadalupe Confirmation II Retreat 10AM

Nov 19 Community Retreat

Nov 20 Spanish Core Team Meeting 10AM

Nov 23 Yard Sale 8-3PM

DECEMBER

Dec 2&3 Preparation for Total Consecration en Español, 7-8:30PM

Dec 4 MI Spanish Meeting 9AM-1PM, Mass with Rite of Total Consecration

Dec 7 Preparation for Total Consecration, 1-5PM San Lorenzo Ruiz Parish, Walnut

Dec 9 Immaculate Conception, 7PM Mass and Rite of Total Consecration



November 29-December 7

Novena for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

<http://www.consecration.com/UserFiles/File/pfdlmmacConcNovena.pdf>



MI Adult Retreat Poor in Spirit, Hands United Prince of Peace Abbey Oceanside, CA

March 21-23, 2014

A weekend of prayer and reflection in the beautiful coastal surroundings of this Benedictine Abbey. Open to all MI Members.

ACT OF ENTRUSTMENT TO MARY

Prayed by Pope Francis on October 13 in Rome

Blessed Virgin Mary of Fatima,
 with renewed gratitude for your motherly presence
 we join in the voice of all generations that call you blessed.
 We celebrate in you the great works of God,
 who never tires of lowering himself in mercy over humanity,
 afflicted by evil and wounded by sin,
 to heal and to save it.



Accept with the benevolence of a Mother
 this act of entrustment that we make today with confidence,
 before this your image, beloved to us.
 We are certain that each one of us is precious in your eyes
 and that nothing in our hearts has estranged you.
 We are touched by the gaze of your sweet eyes and
 welcome the comforting caress of your smile.
 Guard our life with your embrace:
 bless and strengthen every desire for good;
 give new life and nourish our faith;
 sustain and enlighten hope;
 awaken and animate charity;
 guide us all on the path to holiness.
 Teach us your own special love for the little and the poor,
 for the marginalized and the suffering,
 for sinners and the wounded of heart:
 gather all people under your protection
 and bring us all to your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus. Amen.

@Madonna by MI Member, Maria Kobylecki, for the memorial card of Theresa Clark.