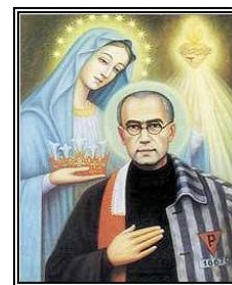




Interior Poverty! -Humility



Dear MI Members and Friends,

Mary authoritatively teaches believers to adopt an attitude of humility and acceptance with respect to the divine will. For the sanctification of man it is essential that he ask himself what God is asking and which way he is indicating for his journey. The Virgin Mary manifests this attention to God and is a wonderful witness to humanity, making herself available, totally and generously, to the fulfillment of the divine will.

Let us not forget that she is *blessed* because she believed in the fulfillment of the Word of the Most High. Mary trusts God. She abandons herself to his word, trusting in his omnipotence. Her "yes", to take care of Jesus and Elizabeth, are the fruit of her trust in him. Listening to the word of the Most High allows Mary to be moved in charity toward Jesus, toward Elizabeth. There is a significant link between the ability to listen humbly and to work with love for one's brother and sister. This is the teaching of Mary: to love her means to imitate her way of welcoming and giving.

Maximilian Kolbe in his article that appeared in *The Echo of the Immaculate Conception* December 24, 1938, was able to write: "Already at the moment of the Annunciation the Holy Trinity, by means of an angel, had clearly presented his plan of redemption to you and awaited an answer from you. At that moment, you became aware to what and to who you were giving your consent, to

whom you were about to become a mother! Behold, here he is now before you, in the form of a fragile newborn. What feelings of humility, of love and gratitude filled your heart at that moment ... while you admired the humility, love and gratitude that the incarnate God had for you. I beg you to fill my heart also with your humility, your love, your gratitude!" (SK 1236).

The attention Mary gives to understanding the will of the Most High is born from her attitude of humility, her total dependence on God, her only good. It is important to understand the counsels of the Almighty so as to carry out his plan with total commitment. This implies an attitude of considerable inner poverty: one that the Mother of God displays in every circumstance.

In fact, "The poverty of Mary, which is humility, a hidden life, an ordinary existence, belonging to the common people, in an unknown town, is, in its entirety, a call of grace and reflection of the glory of the Lord's greatness. God chooses the weak of this world to magnify his power. Every human power is a veil before the unique power of God. If God predestined Mary to become his mother, in his incarnation, he wants her to be poor, humble and hidden to better manifest the glory of his grace (M. THURIAN, *Maria Madre del Signore immagine della Chiesa*, Brescia 1965, 72).

MI Monthly Intention

Immaculata, please intercede...

that from you we may learn to cultivate the interior poverty that allows us to receive every divine grace and manifestation.

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The Fr. Kolbe Missionaries, present and working in the shadows of Auschwitz, each 14th of the month will take your petitions to the cell of St. Maximilian Kolbe where they pray the chaplet of St. Maximilian.

<http://www.kolbemission.org/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/EN/IDPagina/6956>

Conference:

February 8, **Mission Today 2014**, 9:30am-4:00pm
Dialogue and Enculturation: a symbiosis of culture and charism

St. Christopher Church
West Covina, CA 91790
Sponsored by
Fr. Kolbe Missionaries

The Virgin Mary's search for God and his will is not only in the time of the Annunciation. She renews this listening attitude in other important events in the Lord's earthly life, such as the poor birth, the flight into Egypt, the finding of the child Jesus among the doctors in the temple, his death on Calvary. In all circumstances the Immaculate appears as a luminous model for those who wish to turn to the Lord with the greatest availability of the heart.

The Immaculate manifests her humility even in associating perfectly to the *kenosis* of the Son. She teaches us to transform our moments when we experience the cross to times of union with the Crucified, whose person we want to be deeply bound. Here are the prophetic and significant words of Pope Paul VI: "Mary is, finally, the Virgin presenting offerings. In the episode of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple (cf. Lk. 2:22-35), the Church, guided by the Spirit, has detected, over and above the fulfillment of the laws regarding the offering of the firstborn (cf. Ex. 13:11-16) and the purification of the mother (cf. Lv. 12:6-8), a mystery of salvation related to the history of salvation. That is, she has noted the continuity of the fundamental offering that the Incarnate Word made to the Father when He entered the world (cf. Heb. 15:5-7). The Church has seen the universal nature of salvation proclaimed, for Simeon, greeting in the Child the light to enlighten the peoples and the glory of the people Israel (cf. Lk. 2:32), recognized in Him the Messiah, the Savior of all. The Church has understood the prophetic reference to the Passion of Christ: the fact that Simeon's words, which linked in one prophecy the Son as "the sign of contradiction" (Lk. 2:34) and the Mother, whose soul

would be pierced by a sword (cf Lk. 2:35), came true on Calvary" (Paul VI, *Marialis Cultus*, 20).

-Fr. Raffaele Di Muro,
MI International Assistant

Translated by Ann O'Donnell



Points to Ponder

- † *Reflect on your capacity to welcome the will of God in your life. Is it based on humility and listening as Mary teaches us?*
- † *Does the humility of Mary move you to depend on everything from God, in an attitude of silence, listening and adoration?*
- † *Do I have enough humility to transform those moments of trial into times of grace and blessing?*
- † *Am I able to welcome those moments of difficulty and humiliation with the certitude that they are an integral part of my sanctification? Do I look to Mary in my times of suffering?*



Retreats/Retiros



February 1 Marian Retreat
Modesto, CA

Poor in heart, hands united

March 8 Lenten Retreat

9am-5:30pm

March 21-23,

Adults -
Prince of
Peace Abbey,
Oceanside,
CA

29 Marzo

Cuaresma,
en Español,
9am-4pm



April 6 **Lenten Retreat** –
West Haven, UT

MI Teen Program – Escondido, CA
July 6-11: Teen Girls’
July 13-18: Teen Boys’

Preparation for Total Consecration
March 13 & 20 7-8:30 pm

Preparación para la consagración total
2 & 3 Junio, en Español 7-8:30pm

MI Village News

Modesto, CA
Three MI Villages of St. Joseph Parish are uniting for the 8th annual Marian Retreat, Feb 1.

Stamford, CT
Mary Full of Grace MI Village The spirit of joy characterizes this MI group. The January meeting was no exception. Although they come from 8 or more towns or cities, you would think they grew up together!

After recitation of the rosary and renewal of the Act of Consecration before the Most Blessed Sacrament, the meeting began with an excerpt from *Mary Knights* by Claude Foster (pp. 250-260) about

St. Maximilian’s devotion to St. Theresa of Lisieux. A lively discussion of St. Theresa’s generosity in answering prayers with her promised roses followed.

Marianna Hutvagner’s husband, Frank, had terminal cancer. The students of St. Theresa School, where Marianna taught first grade, prayed to the Little Flower, and Frank recovered to live for 3 ½ more years. In thanksgiving, he planted a rose garden at St. Theresa School, Trumbull. People sent offerings for rose plants in honor of, or in memory of, members or friends of their families. Today, the rose plants are as tall as the students and the roses bloom for months--- a living and fragrant reminder of St. Theresa’s promise.

Kansas and Missouri

We are having a guest speaker from California. He lives in L A and talks on Our Lady of Good Success. We have put together a web site for the mid west - www.consecration-midwest.org



When NARAL Pro-Choice America and its supporters meet in Washington, D.C., on Feb. 4 to "celebrate" 41 years of legal abortion, the women of the Silent No More Awareness Campaign will be there to remind them that women regret having abortions.

For the ninth consecutive year, Nancy Tanner, regional coordinator for Northern Virginia, and other women from the campaign will hold their iconic signs that say, "I Regret My Abortion," both before and after the dinner at the Washington Hilton. "The NARAL attendees – who in the past have included former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and many of the nation’s top pro-choice lawmakers – have to pass through this silent gauntlet before they can ‘celebrate’ the fact that millions of American women have been hurt by this procedure," said Tanner. "We don’t speak a word, but we know they hear our message."

