

## MI Monthly Intention

*Immaculata,  
please intercede...*

*that the Holy Spirit  
may make our  
lives witness the  
fruits that come  
from Him: love,  
joy, meekness,  
and kindness.*

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## The Missionary Style Of Maximilian

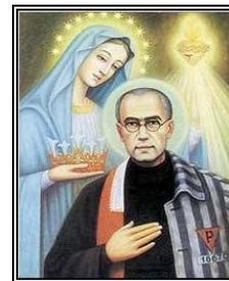
Dear MI Members and Friends,

The strength of St. Maximilian's apostolate is seen by the evangelical testimony which, in every circumstance and in every stage of his life, he sought to offer to others. His decisive and skillful example in his work was "contagious" to the brothers and faithful. **The missionary style of the Polish saint is characterized by three movements:** *example* in his work that comes before speaking, *poverty*, and *sacrifice accompanied by dedication*.

Like St. Francis, he holds that the friars and the faithful are more stimulated by the *true witness* to the Gospel than by words. Christ, the Immaculate and Francis teach that the Gospel must be translated into a way of life that will enlighten others, and induce them gently to love more and more the Almighty.

*Poverty* embellishes his example of the evangelical life and becomes an expression of humility and trust in the providential love of the Lord.

Finally, the *sacrifice and dedication to the apostolate* puts the friar, the soldier, or the faithful generally in a position to give of themselves generously to the



project that the Almighty entrusts them.

These three dimensions represent how Kolbe lived. He assumes them to be a prerequisite to the missionary life. He is convinced that to bear witness to the faith is the message of the Gospel. The key that allows the missionary to enter the hearts of men is found in the significance of his own spiritual experience. The love for his vocation, benevolence, hospitality, sobriety all allow those who evangelize to speak above all by their example and then the word. The saint reveals that only with the practice of poverty the other apostolic activities, such as the spread of the Knights of the Immaculata or the operational growth of the City of the Immaculate, can be realized without obstacles and with the greatest credibility.

Already in 1919 he was able to write the following words, excerpted from his meditation, which we define as a project for the future of the apostolate: "*Your personal sanctification is your first occupation. The commitment for the sanctification of others must be an overflowing of your love for Jesus. In all things seek to bring the greatest pleasure to Jesus and*



St. Maximilian Kolbe (left) above the Great West Door of Westminster Abbey.

## Kolbe Quote

—*St. Maximilian Kolbe*

*“No one in the world can change Truth. What we can do and should do is to seek truth and to serve it when we have found it. The real conflict is the inner conflict. Beyond armies of occupation and the hecatombs of extermination camps, there are two irreconcilable enemies in the depth of every soul: good and evil, sin and love. And what use are the victories on the battlefield if we are ourselves are defeated in our innermost personal selves?”*

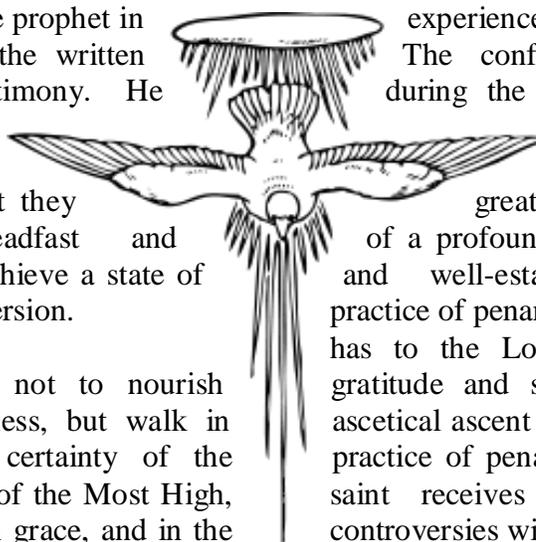
*trust in Him through the Immaculate*” (SK 987 F). Personal holiness is the first form of evangelization. This involves a continual process of overcoming our weaknesses and temptations, in order to build an ever deepening relationship of love with God and be a bearer of inner peace and spiritual strength in the way of eternal beatitude. St. Maximilian is revealed as a true prophet in this area; with the written word and testimony. He instills courage in his brother companions, that they may be steadfast and determined to achieve a state of continuous conversion.

It is important not to nourish feelings of sadness, but walk in faith with the certainty of the loving presence of the Most High, who fills us with grace, and in the knowledge of the caring and constant intercession of the Immaculata, who takes care of the heart and journey of perfection of man. Even falls and uncertainties may become a source of interior growth if you have unlimited confidence in the sanctifying action of God, through the mediation of the Virgin Mary. From this certainty is born the courage of Father Kolbe and the advice that he paternally gives to his brothers.

The ascetical/penitential dimension, according to Maximilian, is characterized by the small and large daily crosses, by the

acceptance of the trials that, day after day, are part of our journey. Maximilian lives fully this welcome of each suffering. Every painful situation makes him increasingly prepared to adhere to the divine will. All this prepares him for the ascetical ascent that he lives in the concentration camp of Auschwitz and, in general, in all situations of pain and fatigue experienced during the war.

The confreres testify that during the difficult times of the war, they saw in him a great inner peace, fruit of a profound union with God and well-established in the practice of penance. He gives all he has to the Lord in a spirit of gratitude and sincere trust. This ascetical ascent stems from a daily practice of penance, in which the saint receives the labors and controversies with serenity and as a source for inner growth. There is a preparation and prelude in his daily life to the bloody martyrdom and height of asceticism to which he arrived. The greatest testimony is not the fruit of a moment of fervor but the consequence of a life given over with constancy to God.



**PENTECOST SUNDAY**

June 8

-Fr. Raffaele Di Muro,  
MI International Assistant

*Translated by Ann O'Donnell*

### *For Reflection*

- † *Do I open myself with joy and availability to the actions of the Holy Spirit?*
- † *What are the fruits of his action in me?*
- † *Do I invoke the Holy Spirit so that he may continuously convert me?*
- † *Does my being a missionary in the world begin with my testimony of faith and love for others?*



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

### **MI Teen Summer Programs**

California, Marytown/Illinois, North Dakota, Oregon, Washington for teenagers 13-17 years old.  
<http://www.miyouth.org/>

#### Escondido, CA

July 6-11: Teen Girls

July 13-18: Teen Boys



### **Pope Francis**

Pope Francis set out from Rome, May 24, on his first visit to the Middle East as pontiff, specifically to the lands designated as "Holy" not only by the world's Christians, but also by members of the two other major monotheistic faiths. On May 23 he privately visited the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome to pray and entrust to the Virgin Mary his pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

He toured three countries - namely Jordan, the Palestinian territories, and Israel. Pope Francis was in fact the fourth leader of the Roman Catholic Church to visit Jerusalem, after Popes Paul VI, John Paul II and Benedict XVI, who went there in 2009.

The official reason for the Pope's journey is in fact to mark the 50th anniversary of the historic meeting in Jerusalem between Pope Paul VI and the head of the Orthodox Church, Patriarch Athenagoras. The meeting ended 900 years of separation and enduring antagonism between the Eastern and Western branches of Christianity. The two leaders lifted mutual decrees of excommunication.



Pope Francis had four separate meetings in Jerusalem with Patriarch Bartholomew I

## MI Family News

On the last day of April 2014, the Conventual Franciscan Friars' St. Bonaventure Province (of which Marytown partakes) held its Ordinary Chapter in Chicago, Illinois and elected ***Friar Michael Zielke as the jurisdiction's new Minister Provincial***. Friar Michael was born in Baltimore, Maryland. He has been a solemnly professed friar since 1985 and an ordained priest since 1989.

***David Previtali***, ordained a Permanent Deacon on May 31, for the archdiocese of San Francisco, by Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone at the Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Assumption. Dave and Marian's son is Fr. Joseph Previtali for the Archdiocese of San Francisco.

***Kiah Claire Riggio*** will marry Phillip Edouard on June 7 at Immaculate Conception Church in Monrovia, CA.

### *Souls of the departed:*

***Julio Montemayor, father of Raquel***, passed in Baldwin Park, CA.

***Elvira Martinez***, was one of those women who more or less lived at the church. The church was her life. Her home parish was Our Lady of Guadalupe. She was the grandmother of Marcos. Irwindale, CA.

***Margaret Mary Volpe***, passed on May 4, after a long battle with varying health issues. She was buried on May 23rd, what was to be her 93rd birthday. She was active in Catholic radio, lector for Mass, editing for the MI on the west coast (was editor in chief of a travel magazine in her career) and was a Fr. Kolbe Volunteer of the Immaculata. She was dearly loved and will be greatly missed. West Covina, CA.

Young ***David Victor Reinaga*** attended the JR MI and later as he struggled in life he returned to the Spes Nostra MI Center and said, "I need to make that total consecration again." He died in his 20's struggling and deeply aware of the need of Mary's help, leaving behind him a family of great faith. He was born on the Assumption of Mary and passed on, May 13, the feast of Our Lady of Fatima. West Covina, CA.

***Rhondalyn Norris Mroczek*** was one of fourteen Norris children. Learning about the MI from her sisters it was only a few years ago that she consecrated herself, along with her son Roger, to Mary Immaculate. April 23. Redlands, CA.



June 27 The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus  
June 28 The Immaculate Heart of Mary



*Let me be a fit instrument in your Immaculate and merciful hands for introducing and increasing your glory to the maximum in all the many strayed and indifferent souls, and thus help extend as far as possible the blessed kingdom of the most Sacred Heart of Jesus. For wherever you enter you obtain the grace of conversion and growth in holiness, since it is through your hands that all graces come to us from the most Sacred Heart of Jesus.*

(Excerpt from prayer of total consecration)

**Marytown's Calendar**

<http://www.marytown.com>