



MI Monthly Intention

*Immaculata,
please intercede...*

*that from you,
O Immaculata, we
may learn to
adhere to the
Lord's plan in
humility and
eagerness of heart.*

MI NATIONAL CENTER
MARYTOWN
1600 W PARK AVE
LIBERTYVILLE, IL
60048

WEB:
WWW.CONSECRATION.COM

MI NATIONAL PRESIDENT
FR. PATRICK
GREENOUGH, OFM CONV

The Divine Will And Mary

Dear MI Members and Friends,

Mary shows us that to be able to follow the will of God there is a need for a journey of discernment. When we have an intuition that seems to have come from God it is important to seek to understand its origin, and to see also how to realize it. At the Annunciation, Mary questioned the angel, not for incredulity, but to understand better the plan of God. The questions of the Virgin Mary are legitimate and show us how important the adherence to the divine will is and that we are to involve our mind and heart. Christians are called to live in a constant attitude of discernment, and to be attentive to understand and fulfill the divine plan in one's own experience of life.

Mary teaches us this constant attentiveness. She appears in the Gospels always ready to live in accord with what the Almighty reveals to her. Discernment belongs, therefore, to the experience of Mary, who in turn teaches us to fulfill the will of God, even if there come questions or doubts. It is always important to be conscious of what you are doing, with a complete openness to fulfill the plan God has designed for you.



It is by no mistake that Paul VI defined the Madonna as the Virgin who listens. "Mary is the attentive Virgin, who welcomes the word of God with faith; and this was for her the premise and way for her divine maternity" (Paolo VI, *Marialis Cultus* 17). With authority Mary teaches us to put ourselves in an attitude of respectful welcome to the divine will. It is fundamental for the sanctity of each person, to ask what is the will of God for him/her and what way is he pointing out for his/her journey. The Virgin, who put herself in total and generous availability for the divine will, makes herself the splendid witness for all humanity.

Mary shows us the ability to achieve a continual discernment, linked to all the events involving her son. Certainly it happened in the moment of the Annunciation, and recurred during other particularly sensitive trials such as, in the painful Flight into Egypt

"...the Immaculate Virgin, the most perfect of all creatures, has been raised above all others, and shares in the divinity in an unspeakable manner."

St. Maximilian Kolbe

Fr. Patrick Greenough's homily for Divine Mercy Sunday

<http://www.marytown.com/content/father-patricks-homily-for-second-sunday-of-easter-divine-mercy-sunday>

Get great ideas for celebrating the month of Mary with your MI Villages or in your parish at

<http://campus.udayton.edu/mary/meditations/crownmed.html>

All MI members should find some way of expressing our love for the Blessed Mother during her month of May. Parish, Work, School, Home...

"In heaven, close to the Immaculata, we shall achieve the final purpose of the Militia Immaculatae, i.e. the greatest glory of God through the Immaculata."
St. Maximilian Kolbe

(cf. Mt 2, 13-15), and the finding of Jesus in the Temple (cf. Lk 2, 48-50). These are situations in which, the Immaculate, preserving all in her heart proves also to be able to stay fully united to the divine plan. The same happens when she goes to seek the Lord, worried about what they are saying about him (cf. Mt 12, 46-47). Even in this situation she continues her path respecting the supernatural will. The same dynamic is accomplished on Calvary. (Cf. Jn 19:25-27). According to St. Maximilian prayer and love for the Virgin allow us an ever growing knowledge of her and make us available to learn to live her virtues. In fact, "Every thought, word, action and suffering of the Immaculate were the most perfect acts of love for God, love for Jesus. It would be necessary, therefore, to say to souls, to all and to each one individually, to those who live now and will be until the end of the world, by example, with the living word, written, printed, disseminated through the radio, with the help of painting, sculpture, etc., etc., what and how the Immaculate would think, say, act in the concrete circumstances of daily life in the various social environments, so that a perfect love, even the love of the Immaculate to the divine Heart, can inflame the earth " (SK 647).

As Mary entrusted herself totally to the project and power of the Almighty, also all believers are called to do the same. The spiritual experience of Father Kolbe gives witness that even in the social context in which we move it is possible to live closely united to God and to seek continually the help of others. Reading his story we realize that we are facing a true miracle of God's love. When we surrender our lives to God's omnipotence our life is

transformed into a miracle of love. The Lord can accomplish great things in us, as he did for the saints and the Virgin Mary. Let us not limit ourselves by our selfishness and our narrow views of the powerful action of God. The total entrustment to the will of God, to whom everything is possible, allows us to become instruments and witnesses of his omnipotence, according to the project well designed for us. Kolbe teaches that the Immaculate Conception can be a teacher in this spiritual dynamic.

-Fr. Raffaele Di Muro,
MI International Assistant

Translated by Ann O'Donnell



For Reflection

- † *Do I have the conviction that my holiness is the fruit of my fulfillment of the will of God for me?*
- † *Does the docility of Mary speak to my heart, teaching me to be always available to God's divine plan?*
- † *Is my heart ready to welcome what Our Lord daily communicates to me?*
- † *Mary was an example to St. Maximilian. Am I inspired by the beautiful witness of the Immaculata, especially regarding entrustment and availability? A what point is my journey in imitating Mary?*
- † *At what point is my ability to listen to the voice of God and the docility to realize his will?*

Pope Francis 21 January 2014 for 29th World Youth Day

If you are really open to the deepest aspirations of your hearts, you will realize that you possess an unquenchable thirst for happiness, and this will allow you to expose and reject the “low cost” offers and approaches all around you. When we look only for success, pleasure and possessions, and we turn these into idols, we may well have moments of exhilaration, an illusory sense of satisfaction, but ultimately we become enslaved, never satisfied, always looking for more. It is a tragic thing to see a young person who “has everything”, but is weary and weak.

Saint John, writing to young people, told them: “You are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one” (1 Jn 2:14). Young people who choose Christ *are* strong: they are fed by his word and they do not need to ‘stuff themselves’ with other things! Have the courage to swim against the tide. Have the courage to be truly happy! Say no to an ephemeral, superficial and throwaway culture, a culture that assumes that you are incapable of taking on responsibility and facing the great challenges of life!



Photograph: Emilio Morenatti/AP

Canonization of Popes John XIII and John Paul II

-Pope Francis

In these two men, who looked upon the wounds of Christ and bore witness to his mercy, there dwelt *a living hope* and an *indescribable and glorious joy* (1 Pet 1:3,8) - the hope and the joy which the risen Christ bestows on his disciples, the hope and the joy which nothing and no one can take from them. The *hope and joy of Easter*, forged in the crucible of self-denial, self-emptying, utter identification with sinners, even to the point of disgust at the bitterness of that chalice. Such were the hope and the joy which

these two holy popes had received as a gift from the risen Lord and which they in turn bestowed in abundance upon the People of God, meriting our eternal gratitude.



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'



MI Family News

Utah Lenten Retreat www.stmarysutah.org/Immaculata.asp

MI Leaders, John and Donna Masek, along with the Fr. Kolbe Missionaries – Jillian and Ann, presented the third annual Lenten Retreat at St. Mary's Parish in West Haven. Over sixty people participated and many made their act of total consecration at the end. Pastor, Fr. Gustavo Vidal (picture), was happy to see his parishioners and others from local areas growing in Marian spirituality. Speakers, Tom Devereux and Jillian Cooke, spoke on Marian spirituality from the point of view of their lives, the teachings of the Church and St. Maximilian. Jillian said, "When our hands are united and we work together, we're able to make the Kingdom of Heaven present in the world."



Families to the MAX...is an initiative of the Fr. Kolbe Missionaries to share the MI spirituality with the Family. Each encounter treats a theme pertinent to the family and is presented at the various age levels, followed by a family, discussion, prayer and activity.

May 18 – *The Family That Cares*, June 8 – *The Family that Sacrifices*.



MI Family Picnic Team – John, Larry, Ines & Gustavo, Stephanie, Robyn -has been meeting and working to make the 28th Annual MI Family Picnic a fun event for all the Family.

May 26th, Memorial Day, California.

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

Modesto, CA

St. Joseph Parish

"MAY CROWNING" OF OUR QUEEN AND MOTHER, MARY!

Sunday, May 4, Crowning Ceremony after 10:30 AM HOLY MASS

Potluck reception hosted by MI Family Village

Kansas Midwest Report

Christine Rossi

I am meeting with all my village leaders in May and we will form a board from them for the Midwest region, and also to re-introduce the Knights At The Foot Of The Cross. Our prison ministry is great around here so I do not have to reinvent the wheel, just have them add the Knights at the Foot of the Cross to their program. I will soon meet with the main man who really is instrumental with the prison ministry.



Totus Tuus Village took 50 some villagers to the Mound City Shrine for St Rose Philippine Duchesne for a day. Fr Reggi, had a special Mass for them at the church where St Rose stayed, and then they went to the park where she prayed constantly.

I took several members of the **Ave Maria Village** to St Louis for an overnight pilgrimage, and we attended the Shrine of St Joseph's Mass and had an amazing tour. This shrine should be in everybody's schedule especially around His Feast. We also went to Our Lady of Snows and toured the grounds.

So we have been on the move.

The other villages have been meeting and are now doing their Divine Mercy novena and getting ready for the Canonization Day, Divine Mercy Sunday.

In May we are having a party for the two new Saints with lots of Vatican flags, cakes and prayers of joy.

That is it from Kansas...



MEMORARE **Saint Bernard**

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence, I fly to you, O Virgin of virgins, my mother, to you I come, before you I kneel, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy hear and answer me.

Amen.

Marytown's Calendar

<http://www.marytown.com>