

Reflection on February MI Intention

2020
MI Missionary Year

O Immaculata, please intercede that we may learn to be disciples who make attentiveness and docility their way of life.

“Give your servant a listening heart.”
(1Kings 3:9)

At the beginning of King Solomon's reign, around 970 bc, this young king had a dream during which God told him to ask whatever he wanted. It was a difficult decision to make, but Solomon's response was rooted on a certainty: the kingdom is God's gift. The young sovereign did not let himself be blinded by power. He was aware of his own lack of experience and need to learn the art of governing. He knew himself and to some degree knew God. A good starting point! Therefore, wisely he asked for himself a listening heart, a docile heart. Only a heart open to listening knows how to govern, because governing requires discernment, which in turn requires attentiveness, that is, an openness of heart, mind and will toward God, people and the events of life. Attentiveness is the result of an attitude of humility and docility.

The life of Our Lady was marked by this fundamental disposition in her relationship with the Lord, who made His plan known to her ever more deeply, day after day. Though young, Mary was familiar with the Word of God, the promises He had made to His people. At the Annunciation, she was thus able to discern that the time had come for the fulfillment of the prophet Isaiah's words: “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign; the virgin will conceive and bear a son, shall name him Emmanuel” (Is 7:14).

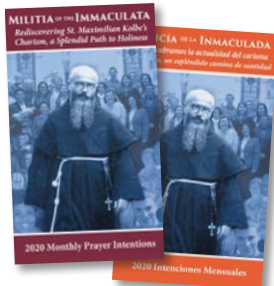
Following her example, St. Maximilian Kolbe lived in an attitude of complete openness and docility to embrace God's will in everything. Young friar Maximilian learned to discern the will of God not only in the events of life, but especially in the will of his superiors: “Obedience and only holy obedience shows us with certainty the will of God” (KW 25). To be docile, however, does not mean to be weak or

unable to take responsibility for one's actions. On the contrary, docility teaches us to be attentive and to allow the will of God to manifest Itself in our lives, and makes us receptive to His graces. Thanks to this disposition of attentiveness, the light of God penetrates our souls and gives us the strength and courage to journey through life, to welcome our personal vocation and persevere in it.

We can always count on the Immaculata! She knows our weaknesses and needs. She intercedes for us and assists us on our journey as we strive to follow the loving will of the Lord.

During this month, we commemorate the appearances of Our Lady in Lourdes and St. Maximilian reminds us of the beautiful mission that the Immaculata continues to carry out in favor of her children. He wrote, “She lovingly attracts those who are sick in the soul, that is, unbelievers and sinners with an obstinate heart, and instills supernatural life in their hearts, to convince them of the power that she has to give us supernatural life. In addition, we must above all consider the fact that Christ works miracles precisely in a location (Lourdes) chosen by His Mother.... Therefore, the Immaculate Virgin confirms with facts what St. Bernard asserts in words: ‘Such is the will of Him who wanted us to obtain all things through Mary’” (KW 1229).

(from the MI International Office)



2020
**MI Intentions
leaflets are
available in
English and
Spanish**

**Request them from the
MI National Office**



The MI International President, Angela Morais, declared 2020 to be the *MI Missionary Year* as we commemorate the 90th anniversary of St. Maximilian's embarking on the Japanese mission with a group of fellow MI Franciscan friars. It was February 26, 1930.

She wrote: "We want to invite everyone to a beautiful pilgrimage to Lourdes-France from September 25th to 27th this year. As we know, Saint Maximilian Kolbe visited Lourdes before going to Japan on mission. We want, as a consecrated MI family, go to Lourdes to thank for the MI and for all the gifts in many people's lives."

Details about the complete pilgrimage itinerary, registration and cost will be made known as soon as they become available.

Let us make 2020 a truly Missionary Year by deepening our whole-hearted dedication to Our Lady and her mission of winning every heart for the Sacred Heart!