

Reflection on February MI Intention

O Immaculata, please intercede that Father Kolbe may inspire us to imitate his compassionate attitude in welcoming the sick and encouraging the afflicted, by proclaiming Jesus, the Source of life and hope.

"I have neither silver nor gold, but what I do have I give you: in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazorean, [rise and] walk." (Acts 3:6)

The Gospel challenges us to love as Jesus has loved us. Our love for Jesus is manifested by the way we look at every one of our brethren in whom He is present. In each person, we can see Jesus who wishes to be welcomed, loved and supported.

During the Nazi occupation of Poland, St. Maximilian's City of the Immaculata underwent major transformations. The friars could not continue their publishing apostolate because, in addition to the Nazi's prohibition, the best machinery had been confiscated or destroyed. When he returned after the first arrest, precisely on December 8, 1940, Father Kolbe, though weak and malnourished, was not deterred by the devastation he saw. Instead of complaining, he began immediately to work with the brothers to restore the community life and activity of Niepokalanow and to help their neighbors.

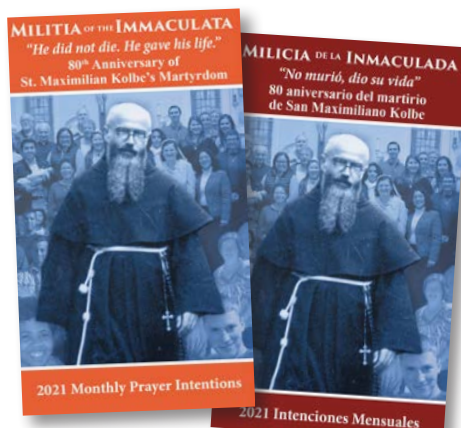
Echoing St. Peter's words, "what I do have I give you," St. Maximilian opened the doors of the friary to the sick and injured, to refugees and prisoners of war, who were cared for in the Niepokalanow little hospital. The Nazis themselves were taking refugees, including Jews, to Niepokalanow, and leaving them at the doorstep of the friary. Niepokalanow offered about 3,000 meals a day. Father Kolbe personally cared for the people, prayed for them and offered spiritual assistance.

Through the care given them by the Franciscans, these suffering people did experience God's presence and love. Thus, His paternal embrace helped them to restore hope.

During this month, together with St. Maximilian, let us be more attentive to the people we encounter, so as to perceive their needs and to discern how we may be able to love them effectively.

The Immaculata is the Mother of all, the Mother whom Jesus gave us from the Cross, at the most painful hour of His life. Let us ask Mary to share with us her love, to teach us to see in every person the very presence of Jesus. When we encounter a person in need, may our hands be instruments of charity and blessing. May our whole being become a vehicle of God's unconditional love.

Fr. Sebastiano B. Quaglio, OFM Conv.



**2021 MI Intentions leaflets
are available in English and Spanish
Request them from
the MI National Office**

Act of Total Consecration to the Immaculata

(Prayer composed by St. Maximilian Kolbe)

O Immaculata, Queen of Heaven and earth, refuge of sinners and our most loving Mother, God has willed to entrust the entire order of mercy to you. I, (name), a repentant sinner, cast myself at your feet humbly imploring you to take me with all that I am and have, wholly to yourself as your possession and property. Please make of me, of all my powers of soul and body, of my whole life, death and eternity, whatever most pleases you.

If it pleases you, use all that I am and have without reserve, wholly to accomplish what was said of you: "She will crush your head," and, "You alone have destroyed all heresies in the world."

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.

V. Allow me to praise you, O sacred Virgin.
R. Give me strength against your enemies.