

Reflection on July MI Intention

O Immaculata, please intercede that our Christian life may be a luminous witness of faith, hope and charity.

“Let love be sincere; hate what is evil, hold on to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; anticipate one another in showing honor. Do not grow slack in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the holy ones, exercise hospitality.” (Rm 12:9-13)

The Apostle Paul, after having spoken about the relationship with God and within the community, highlights the main characteristic of the disciples of Christ: fraternal and universal charity. In very direct terms, he points out the three theological virtues of faith, hope and charity we are called to practice in our lives.

St. Paul invites us to rejoice in hope. Many times we experience that evil tries to rob us of hope. The Apostle exhorts us to be grounded in God, in whom our hope find its true foundation. He reminds us to endure tribulations, reminding us that our strength comes not from ourselves but from God. The strength we receive from Him enables us to stand strong precisely when we surrender ourselves to Him. Finally, St. Paul urges us to attend to the needs of our brothers and sisters.

In his famous hymn of charity (cf. 1 Cor 13:1-13), which St. Paul writes to the community of Corinth, he states that of all virtues charity is the greatest. Reciprocity and fraternity are the hallmarks of Christian love. True charity brings forth joy, responsibility and freedom. Authentic love manifests itself in prompt service to others, carried out with perseverance, tenacity and joy. In other words, the life of a Christian is marked by peacefulness, fortitude, patience and joyful trust in God.

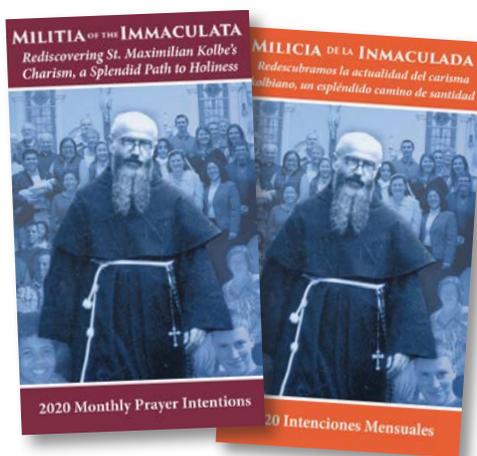
St. Maximilian Kolbe spoke often of the virtue of charity. One good reference is found in an article about “The Religion of Love,” which he wrote in 1936. He stated, *“It is evident... that Jesus deeply desired that a sincere love reign among men. The Apostles understood Jesus’ desire well. This is why St. Peter writes in one of his letters: ‘Above all, let your love for one another be intense, for love covers a multitude of sins’ (1 Pt 4:8)”* (KW 1205).

Who could teach charity better than the

most perfect creature, the Immaculata, whom God chose to be the Mother of Love Incarnate? St. Maximilian was aware that because of our fallen human condition we do not act always according to virtue. The best path to follow, therefore, is to turn to Our Lady, to be totally consecrated to her and let her form and lead us to become authentic witnesses of Christian living. He encourages us to keep our goal ever in mind: *“We can assert without any fear, therefore, that our sole and highest desire is to fulfill the will of the Immaculata in the strictest manner possible. To becoming every day more her property. To allow the Immaculata to take possession of our whole being. Then we shall become her worthy knights. And it will not be us, but she who acts in and through us and exerts an influence on the surrounding environment. Under the loving breath of grace, the icy barriers placed in front of the hearts of our neighbors will melt away. Whole multitudes shall follow the voice of the Immaculata and become instruments in her hand. Through them the Immaculata shall influence other souls, and so more and more forward, until the conquest of the whole world, of all souls and of each individually”* (KW 1232).

May we continue to deepen our love for the Immaculata every day. She will certainly guide us to grow in faith, to be steadfast in hope and to become channels of love.

(from the MI International Office)



2020 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.