

# Reflection on January MI Intention

O Immaculata, please intercede that by accepting the message of the Martyr of Auschwitz, we also strive to be a light in the darkness of our world in need of hope.

*"You are the salt of the earth."  
(Mt 5:13)*

People look everywhere for novelties in our tech world, but nothing can fulfill man's desire for happiness. Only Jesus can give meaning to one's life. Only Jesus can bring light, warmth and flavor to our lives as children of God. In this Gospel account, Jesus uses the present tense: "You are." The Lord Jesus is the Light, but He states, "You are the light of the world" (Mt 5:17). Light is life and nothing can replace it. Therefore, we, enlightened by Jesus, ought to become bearers of light and bring comfort to others by pointing out the path that leads to Him.

St. Maximilian Kolbe is widely known for offering to die in the concentration camp of Auschwitz in place of another prisoner who wept for his family. That heroic gesture was the consequence of an entire life offered to Christ, the Church and his brethren, and illumined the darkness that pervaded the camp, bringing hope to the hearts of many. St. Maximilian Kolbe's entire life was marked by generosity and self-giving. Many factors contributed to prepare him for the final offering of his life: his Franciscan formation, his love for the Immaculata, inherited from his family, his mission work and, without a doubt, his life of prayer. His life was driven by love for God, Our Lady and mankind and showed that only Jesus has the power to redeem our lives and give us joy and hope.

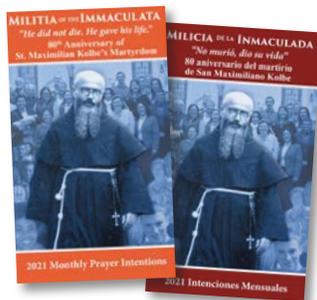
Shortly before the canonization of St. Maximilian, on August 26, 1982, Pope John Paul II said that Kolbe "is a gift of the Mother of mankind to the people and nations of our time." Later during the canonization of Edith Stein, October 1998, he added: "I have always been convinced that these two Martyrs of Auschwitz lead us toward the future. Their message remains alive to illumine the future." The Polish

Pope, during the 100th anniversary of St. Maximilian's birth, received representatives of the Franciscan Conventual Friars and told them, "From the blood of martyrs, of your Father Kolbe, a new springtime is born in the Church. The whole mankind needs this springtime of hope."

In the darkness of Auschwitz, Kolbe revealed that only love overcomes hatred and that *"the good God is in every place and with great love He thinks about everyone and everything,"* as he wrote in his last letter addressed to his mother (cf. KW 961). He brought light into the camp by means of the only enduring realities: Jesus, our Savior, and the Immaculata, Mother of all. Today humanity needs light because life is constantly threatened and attacked. Jesus is the Light, but this Light is to be lit in the hearts of all through our apostolate.

Knights of the Immaculata, take courage! We ought to make the Militia of the Immaculata be the dawn that enlightens the world with the Truth of Christ. We are to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, here and now. No one can replace the mission entrusted to each of us in history. May we be instruments of light as St. Maximilian Kolbe was in the concentration camp. May Our Lady inspire all her Knights to give Divine flavor to our lives and the lives of others.

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.