

# Reflection on June MI Intention

O Immaculata, please intercede that our life may be a splendid gift for God and our brothers and sisters.

*“No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”  
(Jn 15:13)*

By His life, Jesus has revealed the secret for giving life its true meaning: making of it a gift. If we look at His life, we not only see that He gave His life for us on the Cross, but also that He gave Himself every day to every person He met, with no discrimination. Let us recall some people whom we encounter in the Gospel: the Samaritan woman, Zacchaeus, the Apostles and many others. Each of them encounters true Life as they encounter Jesus and His gaze of love and mercy. Jesus teaches us that to make of our life a gift means to go out from our ego and to give the love we have in our hearts. A Christ-like love is marked by humility and freedom of heart that brings peace and joy to others. To give one’s life means to enter into Jesus’ logic of sacrificial love.

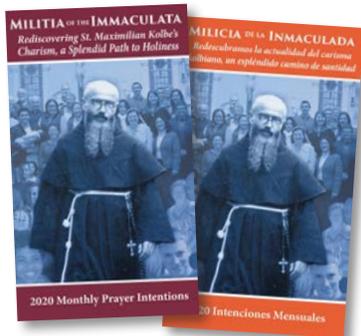
Turning to St. Maximilian Kolbe, we can say that his whole life was spent as a gift for the spiritual life and happiness of his brethren. His deepest desire was to consume himself in work for the conversion and sanctification of all, without distinction, as he wrote in one of his articles addressed to MI members, in December 1937. *“Let us sacrifice ourselves, offering to the Immaculata our humiliations, sufferings, failures. Let us sacrifice our belongings, offering a portion of our goods.... Let us reawaken within us all, without any exception, a wise concern for the salvation and the sanctification of our neighbor, whether he is nearby or far away, including even those who are complete strangers to our nationality and race, and let us carry out all this through the Immaculata, Mediatrix of all graces, of any grace of conversion and sanctification. We are actually all brothers and sisters, since we have one common heavenly Mother, the Immacula-*

*ta, one common Father who is in heaven, and one common elder Brother, Jesus, Man and God” (KW 1218).*

The greatest good Fr. Maximilian offered while in the Auschwitz concentration camp was his very life. In the midst of the abuse and dehumanizing treatment imposed by the Nazis on their victims, he continued his mission, proclaiming the Love of Jesus Crucified and the sure hope that the Immaculata’s maternal care inspires. *“If each person turns to the Immaculata as a child turns to his own mother, and reflects on what he could do in his own situation, in the conditions and circumstance in which he lives, she will suggest the most appropriate ideas with the aim of winning over the greatest number of souls possible for her and for her Militia” (Ib.).*

Fr. Kolbe could not spare the millions of prisoners from physical death but, with “maternal” dedication, he sustained and revived spiritually countless fellow prisoners. By laying down his life for the young sergeant Francis Gajowniczek, *“Father Maximilian... in a particular way made himself like Christ”* (Pope St. John Paul II, October 10, 1982). He became a sign of victory over the system of hatred that reigned in Auschwitz. Francis survived the war and died at the age of 95. Love alone overcomes hatred!

(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.