

Reflection on March MI Intention

O Immaculata, please intercede that Lent may be a favorable time for our transformation according to the logic of love and solidarity, as St. Maximilian teaches us.

“Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.” (Rm 12:2)

Lent is a privileged season in the liturgical year. We are called to review our life as disciples of Christ, by means of a more intense prayer life and penance. True penance is to follow Jesus along the way of the Cross, always mindful that there is no resurrection without Calvary, nor true life without Jesus.

Prayer is to become an authentic filial dialogue with God our Father.

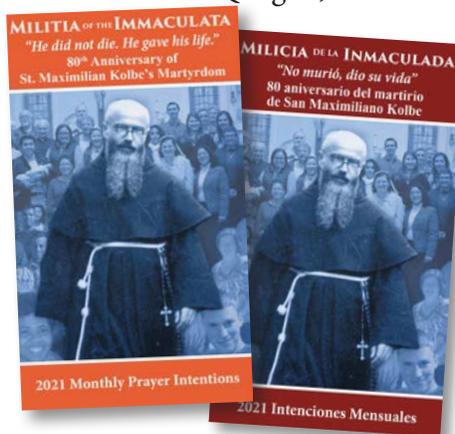
Alms-giving, which characterized our Lenten practice, should in fact be a permanent dimension of our Christian life of charity and solidarity with our brethren. As members of His Mystical Body, we should discern constantly in our brothers and sisters His Presence calling forth for our response of generous love and service. Lent, therefore, invites us, in Christ, to strive for that holiness of life which is our ultimate vocation.

How are we to practice *fasting and penance*? St. Maximilian replies simply: *“One’s health and the obligations of one’s life do not allow everyone to undertake the rigors of penance. Still, everyone acknowledges that the path of one’s life is strewn with minor trials. Acceptance of these in a spirit of penance: that is a vast field for the practice of penance. Also, the performance of one’s duties, the fulfillment of God’s will at every moment of life, perfect fulfillment in*

actions, words, and thoughts: all these call for many sacrifices of those things that may look more pleasing in a given time: that is another plentiful source of penance.” (KW 1303).

This is also the appropriate time for receiving and giving forgiveness, as Jesus teaches us in the *Our Father* (cf. Mt 6:12). St. Maximilian reminds us that, in His boundless Mercy, God assures us that “complete forgiveness of the sins others committed against us suffices for us to be entitled to forgiveness for the sins that we commit against God” (KW 925). We are to learn to love without limits as Jesus did to the end, forgiving even His persecutors. As Knights of the Immaculata, let us allow ourselves to be filled with His love. When we fall, let us quickly turn to His Mercy, that cannot stop forgiving. Let us echo Our Lady’s song and trust in Him: His Mercy endures forever!

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.