

Reflection on October MI Intention

O Immaculata, please intercede that we may proclaim and give witness to the Gospel with all our resources and complete dedication.

“Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature.”
(Mk 16:15)

During the month of October, we celebrate Mission Sunday. On this occasion, popes have offered special messages to help us understand the implications of our Christian identity as baptized and confirmed members of the Mystical Body of Christ. In his 2020 Message the Pope reminded us that “the missionary journey of the whole Church continues in light of the words found in the account of the calling of the prophet Isaiah: *Here am I, send me* (6:8). This is the ever new response to the Lord’s question: *Whom shall I send?* (ibid.). In this context, the call to mission, the invitation to step out of ourselves for love of God and neighbor presents itself as an opportunity for sharing, service and intercessory prayer. The mission that God entrusts to each one of us leads us to a renewed realization that we find ourselves precisely when we give ourselves to others. In the sacrifice of the cross, where the mission of Jesus is fully accomplished (cf. Jn 19:28-30), God shows us that His love is for each and every one of us (cf. Jn 19:26-27). He asks us to be personally willing to be sent, because He Himself is Love, love that is always *on mission*, always reaching out in order to give life. Out of His love for us, God the Father sent His Son Jesus (cf. Jn 3:16). Jesus is the Father’s Missionary: His life and ministry reveal His total obedience to the Father’s will (cf. Jn 4:34; 6:38; 8:12-30; Heb 10:5-10). Jesus, crucified and risen for us, draws us in turn into His mission of love, and with His Spirit which enlivens the Church, He makes us

His disciples and sends us on a mission to the world and to its peoples.”

St. Maximilian Kolbe providentially started the Militia of the Immaculata precisely in the month of October. Our Founder points out the secure path that we must follow, that is, to draw closer to Our Lady, who was the first missionary as she set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah (cf. Lk 1:39). He stated that the purpose of the MI is *“commitment for the conversion of sinners and of non-Catholics, and for the sanctification of all. In other words, love toward all people, regardless of differences of faith and nationality, with a view to drawing them closer to the happiness that only closeness to God, the source of all happiness, and concrete love for God, that is, sanctification, can afford. And all that under the protection and through the mediation of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary Immaculate, who was established by God Mediatrix of all graces. In fact, no one converts or is sanctified without the grace of God, for it is the grace of God that brings about conversion and sanctification, provided that the soul wishes to collaborate with such grace. For this reason, therefore, one can speak neither of conversion nor of sanctification without the help of the Immaculata, the Mother of divine grace. Indeed, the closer one comes to this Dispenser of divine graces, the more graces one obtains, the more easily one is made holy and contributes to the sanctification of others. It is logical, then, that we should be committed to the work of conversion and sanctification of souls under the protection and through the mediation of the Immaculata.”* (cf. KW 1226).

(from the MI International 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.