



Mission of the Immaculata - CA NEWSLETTER December, 2020

“Rejoice in hope, be patient in trial, persevere in prayer.” *Romans 12:12*

For over nine months now, we've been experiencing the scourge of the pandemic due to COVID-19. Many of us are afraid of being infected by this virus for according to media reports, it is serious and can cause death. Indeed, for some, this may sound terrifying and it may even cause anxiety.

In the midst of all these uncertainties around us where does our hope reside? Or better yet...who is our hope? We are again in the season of waiting, advent, for the coming of our Lord, calling us to be vigilant and watchful and yet brimming with Christian hope. Regarding this great virtue of hope, we Christians receive some solid counsel from sacred scriptures as St. Peter tells us in his letter 1Pt 3:15: “Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope.”

One may argue however and may sincerely ask: is this advice realistic and practical in our contemporary and most of all our present situation and context? Now more than ever, we see a world that seems devoid of genuine hope. We can easily enumerate a number of depressing and difficult realities around us: brokenness in our families, growing poverty both of the necessities of life and spiritual truths, disenchanted youth, the endemic government corruption, random violence, illegal drugs and substances and now, the pandemic, not just its threat to health and wellbeing but also its negative economic effect to societies and nations.

In the midst of all these harsh realities, are we Christians simply naive or dangerously out of touch with the real world when we speak of hope? St. Paul reminds us very well of the source and object of our Christian hope. St. Paul affirms to us in his letter to the Romans 5:1-5 that through our Lord Jesus, we gained access to this grace in which we stand and we boast in hope of the glory of God. St. Paul even went on further to say that we boast of our afflictions, knowing that afflictions produce endurance and endurance, proven character and proven character, hope, and hope does not disappoint because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts...

What proof do we as followers of Christ give as basis of our hope? Simply speaking; it is God's unfathomable love that has been manifested in the gift of Jesus, the incarnate Son, the Emmanuel, God who is with us.

As Christians, during this season of waiting even in this great moment of uncertainty, we should remain as people of hope. With St. Paul we can say “We are afflicted in every way, but not constrained; perplexed but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed” 2 Cor 4:8-9. Rejoice in Hope, be patient in trial, persevere in prayer. These will be our weapons as we face the challenges of each day. My brothers and sisters in Christ, let us therefore hope in the Lord forever.

-Fr. Cerlouie F. Jimenez



Dear MI Members & Friends,

This has truly been a year that will stand out in history due to the many changes that has affected the whole world. Many have suffered in countless ways and others have deepened their faith and looked beyond for hope and consolation and found strength amidst the challenges we all faced. The churches have not been immune from the trials and difficulties from the global lockdown, but have been especially challenged in a universal way in finding creative ways to serve their parishioners.

We may be tempted to ask, “Has God abandoned us? Is He still in control of the world? To the first question, the answer is “NO!” He is always with us. To the second one, “YES!” He is still in control and allows this painful time in our history to bring about a greater good for both humanity and for the “Church.” This can only point to the “Resurrection” of the glorious presence of God in the world, but the passion of Christ precedes His risen life. In faith and hope, we look forward to the ultimate triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, as she promised at Fatima in 1917.

Through the Immaculata, the reign of Christ's love will grow in our hearts and in the world. St. John Paul II proclaimed, St. Maximilian as “a prophet and sign” ... “of the civilization of love.” St. Maximilian had a tremendous devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus before he became consecrated to Mary. He wondered how the love for the Sacred Heart of Jesus could be spread to the world. He received his answer in prayer and he heard the word “the Immaculata.” (taken from *Kolbe Saint of the Immaculata*).

Since the National M.I. Canada Centre has moved to BC this summer (due to the sudden death of the secretary-treasurer on April 20, 2020), I have noticed a tremendous increase in the number of requests for enrollment to the M.I. Canada association as a result of COVID-19 lockdowns. This is due to the Immaculata's countless invitations to many people right across the country and has nothing to do with any effort on our part. Mary is truly at the helm of the MI association and we are only her instruments as we consecrate ourselves to her.

I have been deeply touched by the depth of Marian devotion of many beautiful new members that I have contacted by phone who have requested info on consecration to Mary and M.I. Canada. There are many potential leaders across the country that she is raising up to carry on her work and many others as well who want to grow in personal holiness through the Immaculata.

I humbly ask your ongoing prayerful support so that I may be fully obedient to the will of the Immaculata to fulfill God's plan for M.I. Canada. The spirit of the Immaculata in “doing the Will of God” is what the MI association is all about.

Annette Leib (M.I. Canada President)



PRAYER WORKS!

MY TESTIMONIAL TO ANYONE WHO IS SUFFERING "PRAYER WORKS"!

My Name is William H.

I woke up one morning a year ago with excruciating pain in my lower back and down my legs. As time went on, the pain got much worse. My doctor prescribed Extra Strength Tylenol 3, Morphine and Nerve Pills. Nothing worked. I tried Chiropractic, Physio, Acupuncture.... Again, nothing helped!

So my doctor sent me for an MRI. The results: T11-T12 and T12- L1 showed degenerative disc disease. On L1-2, it showed retrosthesis. On L3-4 – facet osteoarthritis and ligamentum flavum hypertrophy with severe spinal stenosis and bilateral foraminal stenosis. L4–5 Anterolithesis of L4 on L5 Facet osteoarthrosis and ligamentum flavum hypertrophy with severe spinal stenosis.

In other words, the MRI showed severe spinal disease all the way down to my sacrum. I was told by my doctor only surgery would help. BUT, due to my kidney disease surgery was ruled out.

I was referred to a pain clinic at Women's College Hospital in Toronto for a possible Epidural Steroid Injection. The doctor at the clinic, after reviewing my MRI results, informed me that the injection in my case would not be helpful.

NOW WHAT TO DO?

A little voice told me maybe I need to talk to the "Master Physician"... Our Heavenly Father!

In faith I asked my church brothers and sisters, my family and others to pray for me. I stopped all medication, except my Blood Pressure pills and Apaxaban (a blood thinner). **Wow**, within 2 weeks, I was able to take a shower without help. I discarded my walking stick and am now walking without any aid. The other day I was raking leaves and bagging them.

I pray and thank my Heavenly Father every day for this miracle!! All faith believing Christians and my MI brothers and Sisters.

Have Faith and Trust in Our Lord.

When our earthly doctors are unable, our Heavenly Father is always able; we just have to have Faith and Trust Him.

Vivat Jesus

William

Info for medical clarity

We have a backbone called Vertebral Column. It is made up of 33 individual vertebrae. Each vertebrae is cushioned by an I.V.D. or intravertebral disc.

In our neck we have:

- 7 cervical spine (C1-C7).
- Below the neck we have 12 thoracic spines (T1-T12)
- Below that, we have 5 lumbar spines (L1-L5).
- 5 Sacral Spines (S1-S5) and,
- Below that, we have coccygeal made up of 4 parts.

Out of each vertebrae we have nerves exiting to various organs in our body. When an I.V.D. becomes worn down, you get pinching of that particular nerve, causing severe pain.

That is my condition from T1 all the way down to the sacrum. In this condition you need to fuse the vertebrae so that it does not rub on a nerve. However, in my case this is not possible because of my kidney problem.

OUR WAR

Keenly aware of the spiritual warfare we face, in 1932, St. Maximilian wrote this heartfelt appeal to MI Members (KW 1160).

In looking around and seeing so much evil all over the place, we would sincerely like, especially as members of the Militia of the Immaculata, to put an end to this evil by leading humanity, through the Immaculata, to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. In so doing, we make eternally happy, from this life onward, our brothers who live in this world. War against evil, therefore: relentless and incessant and victorious war. But what is this war made of? Where is its most important, most worthwhile center? Where is the best place to strike?

Sometimes we feel that God governs the world "with too little vigor." Yet with a single gesture of His omnipotent will He could crush and grind all persecutors into the dust, all the atheists of the Soviet Union, all the Spaniards who have burned churches, all immoral poisoners of youth, and all those like them. This is how our limited, restricted minds reason things out. While eternal Wisdom, on His part, judges otherwise. Persecutions purify souls as fire purifies gold, the executioners' hands create the ranks of martyrs, and more than once, at the end of it all, the persecutors experience the grace of conversion. Inscrutable, but always most wise are God's ways. This does not mean that we have to sit back and leave the enemies of souls to amuse themselves without restraint. Not at all. However...

However... We do not pretend to correct infinite Wisdom, direct the Holy Spirit, but let ourselves be led by Him...

With the act of consecration to the Immaculata we offer ourselves to her as her absolute property. There is no doubt that she is the most perfect instrument in God's hands, while we, on our part, must be instruments in her immaculate hands.

When, therefore, will we overcome evil in the most rapid and perfect way throughout the whole world? When we are going to let ourselves be guided by her in the most perfect manner. This is the most important and only issue.

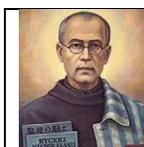
It is the only thing to do. Whatever we do, whether it be an act that is more than heroic, one capable of upsetting the foundation of all the evil that exists on earth, it has value only if, in this act, our will is in harmony with the will of the Immaculata and, through her, with the Will of God. Therefore, there is only one thing that has value, indeed, absolute value: the merging of our will with that of God. This is the essence of love (not the sentiment, notwithstanding that it is also beautiful), which has to transform us into God through the Immaculata. This is the essence of love that has to be kindled in us, and through us, inflame the world, and destroy, consume all evil in it. It is that fire of which the Savior said: "I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!" (Lk 12:49).

After being inflamed ourselves with this divine love (I repeat that it has nothing to do with sweet tears and sentiments, but is a question of the will, even in the midst of aversion and reluctance), we will set the whole world on fire. However, it is we who have to be inflamed, who should not be lukewarm, but be always ablaze. We have to be merged, to be one with God, through the Immaculata.

We have therefore to concentrate all our attention in this, and solely in this: to become one, merged solely with the hand of our Teacher and Guide, so that she can do whatever she likes with us. This is the essential condition of being part of the MI: "To be entirely consecrated to the Immaculata as instruments in her immaculate hands."

It is only then that we win all over to the Immaculata and, through her, unite and merge the whole world and every soul with the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, through the fire of love.

Maximilian Kolbe



Maximilian Kolbe
Founded MI in 1917

