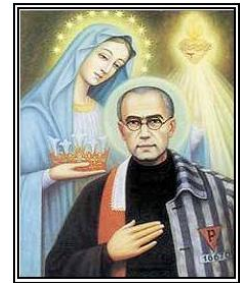




Trust Her Without Limit



Dear MI Members and Friends,

"Love crosses. The cross is a source of true happiness" (KW 968). Saint Maximilian encourages us to love crosses. They are a fount of happiness, in as much as in sorrow we are able to experience the Lord's faithful and consoling presence; He is near to those who invoke Him in suffering and trial. This is a marvelous and tangible expression of his infinite mercy.

The Immaculata is a sign of God's benevolence for those in physical and spiritual pain. Entrusting ourselves to her without limits, allows us to experience her maternal love, full of affection and care, for those carrying the cross. Maximilian Kolbe's words, written in a letter in 1932, are emblematic: "I beg you, don't worry when contradictions come, but turn everything over to the Immaculata and peacefully do what you can, trusting in her without limit. I know there will be no lack of contradictions or crosses, perhaps even heavier ones, but She can do everything. I write this from personal experience. Crosses teach us, give us further merit, crush us, but at the same time, they exalt us spiritually, and teach us not to trust our own skills and strength, but only the Immaculata." (KW 429)

The Polish Franciscan was an expert in suffering for love of Christ, a dimension of love which characterized his life, and which was crowned by the final heroic act in Auschwitz. He offered to carry the cross prepared for a father of a family.

Some time before his death he wrote: "Crosses are necessary everywhere. Even the Immaculata lived on this earth with crosses, and Jesus did not choose another way. They shouldn't discourage us at all, but on the contrary, the more an instrument is miserable, the more fit to show the Immaculata's goodness and power. Saint Paul doesn't hesitate affirming he glories in his weaknesses, so Christ may manifest His power through them." (KW 609)

Divine charity is particularly enjoyed in fatigue. It sustains and accompanies those in suffering. Kolbe knew this well. He lived times of great physical and spiritual exhaustion, because of his lung disease in two phases of his life (from August 11, 1920 until November 3, 1921 and from September 18, 1926 to April 13, 1927). These were hard times. He lived with the thought of his possible death or inactivity for a prolonged time. He entrusted this dramatic condition to the Immaculata and Divine Benevolence. It's also at that time that he came to

MI Monthly Intention

*Immaculata,
please intercede...*

... that all people
suffering in body
and spirit may find
solace in the
certainty of God's
merciful love.

Monthly intentions can be
found at :

<http://consecration.com/>

National Center of the
Mission of the Immaculata
1600 West Park Avenue
Libertyville, IL 60048
847-367-7800, ext. 246
MI@consecration.com
MissionImmaculata.com/
Consecration.com
MI National President –
Fr. Patrick Greenough,
OFM Conv.

Prayer in Preparation for
the MI National Elective
Assembly
June 3-5, 2016



fatherdavidbirdosb.blogspot.com

O Immaculata, Spouse of the Holy Spirit, we gather around you in prayer as did the disciples in the Upper Room. Intercede for us that we might be aflame with the gifts of the Spirit as we prepare for our National Assembly and elections so that we might be your true instruments, consecrated to your Immaculate Heart. Amen.
-composed by MI National Assistant, Fr. Stephen McKinley, OFM Conv.

know the Lord's love and fidelity: he experienced great consolation and realized how fundamental the Immaculata's maternal love is, a real anchor of salvation, in the saddest times. Again, in Auschwitz, he felt physical and spiritual exhaustion. Maximilian did forced labor, which weakened his physical strength and permanently ruined his health.

Corporal and spiritual suffering didn't impede him from consoling and spiritually accompanying those imprisoned with him. Although in precarious conditions, and notwithstanding the risk of punishment, St. Maximilian spoke words of comfort to his brother prisoners. This was an expression of Christ and the Immaculata's love that he always sensed deeply in his heart. Invoking the Immaculata, for Kolbe, was a fount of consolation and peace. He voluntarily entrusted his suffering to Her, certain of the Mother of God's nearness and help. This poem in the Madonna's honor, offered now for reflection, is truly significant.

*May those suffering in body
and soul take heart,
sure of the merciful love of God.*



Daily Renewal of Total Consecration

Immaculata, Queen and Mother of the Church, I renew my consecration to you this day and for always, so that you may use me for the coming of the Kingdom of Jesus in the whole world. To this end I offer you all my prayers, actions and sacrifices of this day.

*I love thee, I love thee, Immaculata,
every day I raise prayers to thee:
indeed you are my beloved Mother,
dearer to me than all earthly delights.*

*You know how I yearn for thee,
know how fondly I love thee:
When shall I join thee in heaven
and kiss, O Mother, thy hand?
Though I long and yearn for thee,
I would wait here patiently,
until the Lord has set the hour of my
death
and plucked my anxious soul from my
body.*

*Bur for as long as I have to live in
the world,
Oh my Mother, I beg thee:
in the short period of my temporal
life
let me bear it all for thee, serenely.
Help me to bear, beloved Mother
all the crosses, the humiliations,
so that through this suffering I may,
one day
glorify thee in Heaven, Oh
Immaculata!" (ef. KW 999)*

-Fr. Raffaele Di Muro,
MI International Assistant
Translated by Antonia Velasco &
Ann O'Donnell

Daily Miraculous Medal Prayer of St. Maximilian

O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you, and for all those who do not have recourse to you, especially the enemies of the Holy Church and all those recommended to you.



LENT - "A time for Conversion"

Pope Francis

"After receiving the Good News told to her by the Archangel Gabriel, Mary, in her Magnificat, prophetically sings of the mercy whereby God chose her. The Virgin of Nazareth, betrothed to Joseph, thus becomes the perfect icon of the Church which evangelizes, for she was, and continues to be, evangelized by the Holy Spirit, who made her virginal womb fruitful. In the prophetic tradition, mercy is strictly related – even on the etymological level – to the maternal womb (rahamim) and to a generous, faithful and compassionate goodness (hesed) shown within marriage and family relationships.

For all of us, then, the season of Lent in this Jubilee Year is a favorable time to overcome our existential alienation by listening to God's word and by practicing the works of mercy. In the corporal works of mercy we touch the flesh of Christ in our brothers and sisters who need to be fed, clothed, sheltered, visited; in the spiritual works of mercy – counsel, instruction, forgiveness, admonishment and prayer – we touch more directly our own sinfulness. The corporal and spiritual works of mercy must never be separate. By touching the flesh of the crucified Jesus in the suffering, sinners can receive the gift of realizing that they too are poor and in need. By taking this path, the "proud", the "powerful" and the "wealthy" spoken of in the Magnificat can also be embraced and undeservedly loved by the crucified Lord who died and rose for them. This love alone is the answer to that yearning for infinite happiness and love that we think we can satisfy with the idols of knowledge, power and riches. Yet the danger always remains that by a constant refusal to open the doors of their hearts to Christ who knocks on them in the poor, the proud, rich and powerful will end up condemning themselves and plunging into the eternal abyss of solitude which is Hell. The pointed words of Abraham apply to them and to all of us: "They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them" (Lk 16:29). Such attentive listening will best prepare us to celebrate the final victory over sin and death of the Bridegroom, now risen, who desires to purify his Betrothed in expectation of his coming.

Let us not waste this season of Lent, so favorable a time for conversion! We ask this through the maternal intercession of the Virgin Mary, who, encountering the greatness of God's mercy freely bestowed upon her, was the first to acknowledge her lowliness (cf. Lk 1:48) and to call herself the Lord's humble servant (cf. Lk 1:38).

MI International News

February 5-7 MI International Assembly

At the Franciscan Seraphicum College in Rome the MI International Assembly will gather to vote for a new International President, after the unexpected death of past President, Raffaella Aguzzoni, in November. The delegates present will also help with the programming of future MI activity in the world.

All MI members are greatly encouraged to pray for this Assembly.

MI National News

First Elective Assembly for the MI to be held for the United States! June 3–5, 2016—Marytown. Please pray! See prayer composed by Fr. Steve McKinley, OFM Conv on page 2.

Marytown, MI National Center

Young Adult New Year's Eve Retreat

From December 29th, 2015 to January 1st, 2016 the annual Young Adult New Year's Eve Retreat was held at Marytown, the National Shrine of St. Maximilian Kolbe, with about 50 young people converging from various states. Taking their theme from that of the upcoming World Youth Day in Krakow, "*Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy,*" the talks were centered on the Jubilee Year of Mercy. At the midnight vigil Mass for the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God, 10 of the participants consecrated themselves to Mary in the M.I.. A fun and spiritual time was had by all. *Br. Bernard Mary Fonkalsrud, OFM Conv.*



MI Pilgrimage to Poland *Call soon! Space is limited!*

In the Footsteps of St. Maximilian Kolbe

The MI National Office is planning this event during the Jubilee Year of Mercy with Mater Dei Tours. September 6-17, 2016 Contact: www.materdeitours.com Tel: 800-515-2632

Knights at the Foot of the Cross

Thursday, February 11, Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and World Day of Prayer for the Sick, prayers will be offered for all Knights at the Foot of the Cross at the National Shrine of St. Maximilian.

Please, encourage family and friends who are sick and suffering to join this powerful vanguard of the MI.

MI Monthly Gathering for Adults

February 20, Third Saturday of the month, 10:00-11:45 AM followed by noon Mass.

Meet other MI members and join in prayer, reflection on the MI monthly intention, dialogue and apostolate update and planning.

Preparation for Consecration to Mary

Saturday, March 12, from 9:00 am to 4:30 PM.

Program includes talks, video presentations, testimonies of MI members, Mass and buffet lunch.

Consecration Ceremony will be held during the 12 Noon Mass on March 19, the Solemnity of St. Joseph.

MI Weekend Retreat for Men, Women and Married Couples

April 22-24, 2016. Retreat Master: Fr. Anthony M. Lajato, OFM Conv.

Call MI National Office for information and registration (847) 367-7800 ext. 246

The Writings of St. Maximilian Kolbe
Book Presentation and Celebration

Saturday, March 5, 2016
1:00—4:00 PM
Marytown Conference Center

Join us for this historic event celebrating the publication of the first English critical edition of *The Writings of St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe*.

The afternoon will include:

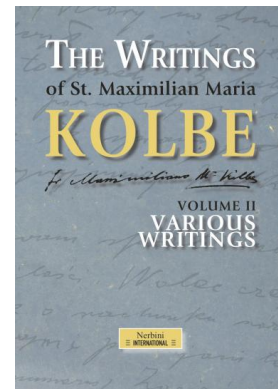
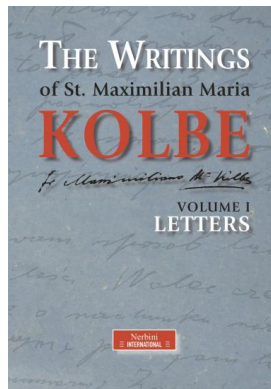
- Keynote address by **Fr. James McCurry, OFM Conv.**, the Recipient of the 2015 St. Maximilian Kolbe Award
- Additional background and compilation explained by the General Editor, **Antonella Di Piazza**, Father Kolbe Missionary of the Immaculata
- Audience Q&A
- Short concert in the Shrine of St. Maximilian Kolbe given by Marytown's own Music Director **Steve Shebenik**
- Prayers for the indulgence of the Jubilee Year of Mercy and Prayer to St. Maximilian Kolbe
- Closing blessing by **Fr. John Grigus, OFM Conv.**, Rector of the Shrine of St. Maximilian Kolbe

The Writings of St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe will be presented and available for purchase. Refreshments will be served.

This event is FREE—Space is limited.
Please R.S.V.P. by calling Marytown Press (847) 367-7800 (x222) or by email: mpress@marytown.com

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MI Midwest

Consecration-Midwest

Kansas City, MO

<http://www.consecration-midwest.org>

MI News

Modesto, CA

St Joseph Church <http://www.stjmod.com/outreach-ministries.html>

MI Adult Prayer Village

MI Family Village

Inmaculada Español

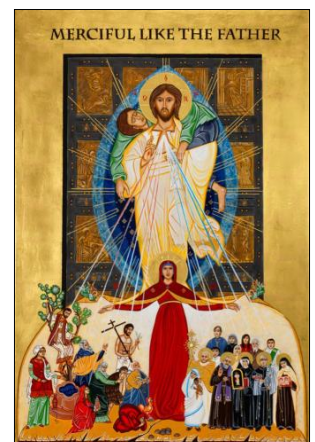
February 6 - 10th Annual Marian Retreat

English Speakers: Iconographer-Vivian Imbruglia, Fr. Thomas Czeck, OFM Conv.,

Pastor in Castro Valley, CA FKM Jillian Cooke

Spanish Speakers: Fr. Kolbe Volunteers-Gustavo & Ines Corona, Fr. Mark Wagner,

Pastor of St. Joseph Parish.



Icon of Mercy by Vivian Imbruglia

West Haven, UT**MI Families of the Immaculata Village****St Mary's Catholic Church www.stmary.org**

In recognition of this Jubilee Year of Mercy, our MI Village will begin incorporating sections of Father Barron's DVD entitled "**Conversion**" into our regular monthly meetings. In January, we studied the conversion of the blind beggar, Bartimaeus.

Thirty people participated in our beautiful multi-lingual **Living Rosary for Life**, lighting a candle after reciting their respective prayer. Additionally, we assisted with the English portion of the **Diocesan Bi-Lingual Rosary for Life**. We are SUPER EXCITED about our **annual silent Marian Lenten Retreat** March 12 entitled *In Your Place: Kolbe, A Man of Charity and a Sign of God's Mercy*, with guest MI speaker John W. Galten.

Fr. Kolbe Missionaries**West Covina, CA****www.kolbemission.org/en****fkmissionaries@gmail.com 626/917-0040****February**

2&9 Catholic Conversation 7PM

Setting Boundaries

6 MI Modesto Marian Retreat

12 Teens to the MAX 6-9PM

13 Spanish Lenten Retreat

17 & 24 MI Women 7-8:30 PM

Sharing Scripture together

March**5 Mission Today 2016****Conference****Merciful Like the Father;
Created in His Image**

St. Christopher Parish in West Covina, CA

9:30AM-4PM Pre-registration \$45 At the Door \$75

Speakers: Kathleen Buckley Domingo, MTh (Associate Director Office of Life, Justice, and Peace Archdiocese of Los Angeles) Human Life: Honoring the Image of God

FKM Jillian Cooke, MTh, MAPM Forming the Conscience: Orienting our Moral Compass towards the Image of God and Making a Good Confession: Healing and Strengthening between the Image and God

Souls of the Departed

January 16 **Margaret Fry** (from Covina, CA) passed away peacefully in Nevada, surrounded by her children and grandchildren who were praying the rosary. She was 95 years old. Margaret taught Marian spirituality and womanly virtue to the first group of YMI full-time Volunteers in southern California. She was a Third Order Carmelite.

Fr. Provincial Joseph Gallardo, OAR (from Cypress, CA) passed away at the age of 56 at the Province of St. Augustine House in West Orange, New Jersey on January 25. Fr. Joseph was the first young man full time YMI Volunteer in southern California in the late 1970's. When elected Provincial for the Augustinian Recollects he said he received this calling due to his formation in the YMI. The first things he asked his Order to do was to



Teens to the MAX playing charades

increase Eucharistic Adoration and to re-consecrate themselves to Mother Mary. He died on the sixth anniversary of his mother's death. He was buried at his Order's cemetery in Oxnard, CA.

From a letter he wrote June 2014: "How glorious is that kingdom where all the saints rejoice with Christ; clothed in white robes, they follow the lamb wherever he goes." The Church prays this antiphon for the canticle of Mary on the Solemnity of All Saints. The saints behold God, and from their place in heaven they spur us on to victory and faithfulness and remind us that we are called to holiness."



Links

MI International Calendar <http://www.mi-international.org/calendario.asp?month 12&year-2015>

US Catholic Conference of Bishops www.usccb.org

Zenit News Service info@zenit.org



Amor y misericordia en el corazón

ESPAÑOL Tema de la MI para febrero del 2016

Kolbe, mártir de la caridad y signo de la misericordia de Dios

Retiro en silencio para la Cuaresma

Misericordiosos Como El Padre

13 Febrero 9-4PM

626-931-9277

Oficina Nacional Hispana de la Milicia de la Inmaculada

Fr. Kolbe Missionaries

531 E Merced Ave – West Covina, CA 91790

626-917-0040

FKMissionaries@gmail.com

<http://www.kolbemission.org/es/home>

Intención mensual de la MI

Inmaculada, por favor intercede...

para que los que sufren en el cuerpo y en el espíritu sean consolados por la certeza del amor misericordioso de Dios.