

*Rejoice in the
Lord Always.*
Phil 4:4-5

MI Monthly Intention

*Immaculata,
please intercede...*

*that the dignity of
each human being
be valued and
loved even in
sorrow and
suffering.*

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Find under tab - MI news,
the current months
formation, whereas the
archive of past formations
is under the tab - After
Consecration.

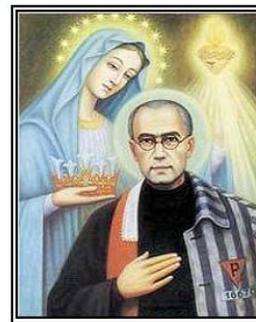
The Joy of... Hope

Dear MI Members and Friends,

Through Faith we see the invisible God and the realities of the unseen world. Through Hope we begin to embrace God and the things of God. Faith brings satisfaction to our mind and Hope to our hearts. Last week a friend was showing me her blossomed orchids. On several plants there were also full formed buds, soon to bloom into beautiful orchids. Hope is to Faith as the orchid is to the bud. We care for our plants and often look for buds exciting us at the prospect of a beautiful garden of blooming flowers.

Hope is a **supernatural theological virtue** which inclines us to expect with firm confidence eternal life and the means to reach it. "The theological virtues are the foundation of Christian moral activity. They inform and give life to all the moral virtues. They are infused by God into the souls of the faithful to make them capable of acting as his children and meriting eternal life." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, #1813)

My mom has an MI Village for a small group of women. When I visit them and talk on the theme they often say, "Just say it simply." The Church teaches us regarding the theological virtues that they are a gift from God bestowed upon us at Baptism. They are, in a sense, a power. With them we can be transformed into saints, do things we think we can't do; believe and hope and love when all may seem impossible. The good news is that we don't have to do it alone. If we cooperate with the Holy Spirit's working in our soul He will give us the power to act as a child of God, no matter what age we may be. The Catholic Catechism says,



"...relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit." (#1817)

Hope in its fullness **becomes Trust**. St. Thomas says, "Trust means primarily that hope which a man conceives when he relies on the word of someone whose help has been promised him." This trust is most commonly **given to our friends**. Jesus called his disciples his friends (Jn 15:15) at the Last Supper.

The ultimate One to **Trust is God**. "Christian hope takes up and fulfills the hope of the chosen people which has its origin and model in the hope of **Abraham**, who was blessed abundantly by the promises of God fulfilled in Isaac, and who was purified by the test of the sacrifice." (Gen 17:4-8; 22:1-18) (CCC #1819) **Abraham, Moses and Job** all lived out this ultimate trust in Him.

"*Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness, and he was called 'the friend of God'.*" (James 2:23) The book of Exodus reads, in some older translations, that "*the Lord spoke with Moses, face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.*" (33:11) And Job who suffered so much gave what might be called the most powerful expression of trust in God. "*Although he should kill me, I will trust in him.*" (Job 13:15)

The words of Elizabeth to Mary in Pope John Paul II's encyclical, *Mother of the Redeemer*, are the title for chapter two, "**Blessed is she who believed.**" The visitation was an explosion of joy and hope between two women who believed in the promises of the Lord through the ages. They bore the fruit of his promises in their wombs. The trust we have just spoken about leads to a **total**

Issues touching our lives

The federal government left to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to decide which institutions would be exempted from having to pay for contraceptives under their health plans. January 20 the HHS announced that while churches would not have to pay for contraceptives other associations linked to churches, such as schools, hospitals and charitable agencies would not have any exemption. Just prior Pope Benedict had addressed a group of American bishops on visit, "It is imperative that the entire Catholic community in the United States comes to realize the grave threats to the Church's public moral witness presented by a radical secularism which finds increasing expression in the political and cultural spheres." "Of particular concern are certain attempts being made to limit that most cherished of American freedoms, the freedom of religion," he insisted.

abandonment in the one trusted. "To believe means to abandon oneself to the truth of the word of the living God, knowing and humbly recognizing 'how unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways' (Rom 11:33). (Mother of the Redeemer, Pope John Paul II, 14) Blessed John Paul, as does St. Maximilian Kolbe, clearly point out Mary as the one who trusted beyond all others, who believed without wavering in the ways of the Lord. Our new Blessed said, "Mary's faith can also be compared to that of Abraham... In the salvific economy of God's revelations, Abraham's faith constitutes the beginning of the Old Covenant; Mary's faith at the Annunciation inaugurates the New Covenant. Just as Abraham 'in hope believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations' (Cf Rom 4:18), so Mary at the Annunciation, having professed her virginity believed that through the power of the Most High, by the power of the Holy Spirit, she would become the Mother of God's Son." (MR 14) Mary did not rely on her own power but the power of God Most High.

Mary shows us the road of hope, believing in the Almighty Power and Mercy of God and recognizing our littleness. St. Paul was brought to beg the Lord to remove his weakness, *thorn in the flesh* (Cf 2Cor12:7-10), but Our Lord wanted him to remain humble and depend totally on Him. St. Therese of Lisieux left to the world her testament of the little way, her doctrine of abandonment. "Yes, all my hopes will be fulfilled. Truly the Lord will do wonders for me, infinitely surpassing my boundless desires." St. Maximilian wrote, "Let us have no confidence in ourselves but also let us not place any bounds to our confidence in Her." (Aim Higher, pg. 22)

The fullness of the joy that we expect is only experienced when the vision of God

floods upon us. Therefore, St Paul explains, we need patience in this life. "...we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that sees for itself is not hope. For who hopes for what one sees? But, if we hope for what we do not see, we wait with endurance." (Rom 8:23-25) Hope purifies our actions and works so that they are worthy of an eternal reward. (Cf. CCC 1818) We are being prepared for our eternal reward. We are working towards that which is not yet ours. How important then to remember this when things seem to be spiraling down: our relationships, our finances, our health... For this reason we need to keep before us and in our hearts the promises of Christ: daily biblical readings, the lives of the saints, Mass and reception of the Eucharist, Adoration, friends, our daily renewal of our total consecration to Mary.

In closing I leave you to rejoice in the words of St. Maximilian and the Holy Scriptures:

"Entrust Her with the work of your whole salvation, your whole life, death and eternity. You will perceive what peace and happiness is, a foretaste of heaven, and you will sigh for heaven." (Aim Higher, pg. 21).

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Rms. 15:13

Ann O'Donnell
Fr. Kolbe Missionary of the Immaculata
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Reflections:

- * Reflect on the following scriptural quotes regarding hope in your lives: Heb 10:23; Titus 3:6-7; Rom 4:18; Mt 10:22; 1Tim2:4; 2Cor12:7-10.
- *Reflect together on the Beatitudes Mt 5:1-12 as messages of hope - CCC 1820.
- *How has your total consecration been a source of hope for your life?

MI VILLAGES

MI FAMILY NEWS: let us pray...

Sick

Nickie Miranda's father passed away suddenly and was buried Jan 26. Modesto, CA.



Our Lady of Lourdes
February 11

GLENDALE, AZ

MI Women's Village

We meet once a month on Thursday to pray the rosary and share.
Mary Barr 623-842-3676

BALDWIN PARK, CA

MI Family Village (English/Spanish)

St. John the Baptist Parish Hall
Will begin October 4th Sunday
10:00AM-12PM
Rik & Judith Hernandez 626-967-0440
or Joe & Edith Venegas 909-627-0327

We have a unique situation. We are two couples (each with six kids) who lead this bi-lingual Village. The person responsible for faith formation of older children to be Baptized or receive their sacraments in our parish requires the kids and their parents to attend our Village for 4-5 months. In this way we share the faith and Kolbean spirituality to people who would never, otherwise, come to a Village. It is a challenge because many are in unblessed marriages and often not practicing the faith. Our Lady sends us these families to reach out to them with her welcome, love and mercy.

ESCONDIDO, CA

MI Family Village

2nd Sunday, Kit Carson Park,
2:00PM
Joe & Sue O'Donnell 760-745-0935

HESPERIA, CA

MI Adult Village

Last Friday 10-11:30 AM
Don & Joanne Panicko 760-244-7048

MODESTO, CA

modestomi@aol.com

St. Joseph's Catholic Church

MI Adult Prayer Village and

MI Spanish Village

1st Sat after 8:00 AM Mass
Suzanne Flint 209-521-8299 (Eng)
Maria Braun (Spanish)

MI Family Village

1st Sunday
Nickie Miranda
nicolemiranda123@yahoo.com

February 5: Annual Marian Retreat

John & Sarah Bacay are spearheading the preparations and conducting of this annual retreat along with volunteers from all three Villages. The retreat will have an English & Spanish track. "Rejoice in the Lord Always" Discover with Mary the great joy of Christians. 8am Mass – 4pm. Speakers: Fr. Benny Kottarathil, MI Chaplain and Fr. Kolbe Missionaries: Ann O'Donnell, Jillian Cooke, M.Th. and Anna Brizzi (in Spanish). Everyone is invited. Registrations: www.MIModesto.com

RIVERSIDE, CA

Holy Family MI Village 2nd Friday, 8:33 PM
Thomas & Mari Avalos 951-313-3980

Holy Cross MI Village

2nd Friday of the Month, Gather at St. Francis de Sales 4268 Lime & 13th Streets, Riverside CA 92501, before the MI Village 4:13 pm Confession - 5:13 pm Holy Mass - 5:44 pm Holy Hour then... The Coffee Bean at 7:03 PM, 3712 Mission Inn Ave., Riverside, CA 92501
Fred Solorio sonoffppio@yahoo.com

SANTA CLARITA, CA

Women's Rosary 2nd Wed 7PM
Janet Cooke 661-296-5834
Mother's praying for their families

WALNUT, CA

MI Adult Village

1st Saturday 10-11:30 AM
Carmen Denning 909-595-1366
We have a Pilgrim Virgin we bring into homes.

WEST COVINA, CA

FKM Center

MI and the Fr. Kolbe Missionaries:

3rd Sunday 2-4PM
Fr. Kolbe Volunteers of the Immaculata are leading this Village.
January 7th Jillian and leaders had a beautiful group of MI Teens from Escondido, Santa Clarita, the high desert and our locals. The teens love to gather.
Fr. Patrick Faust, OPraem heard

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confessions and celebrated the Mass. Ann spoke to 35 Catholic Daughters of America in Hesperia on the life and spirituality of St. Maximilian Kolbe. Many of the women did not know his story.

An annual fundraiser is an Italian cooking classes. Eight women spent the day learning to make homemade pizza, pasta, chicken filets in mushroom sauce, and a fantastic cream filled dessert. Their husbands joined them for the meal, sharing and getting to know the Missionaries.

Ten MI Young Adults participated in the San Francisco, Walk 4 Life. They came home excited to participate in this pro-life march.

The Spanish speaking are studying enthusiastically the life of St. Maximilian in the book, *A Man for Others*.

January 29 Ann joined other consecrated men and women of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles for a special Mass honoring those who are celebrating special anniversaries of vows. Ann celebrates 25 years of vows this April.

MI Adult Village

2nd Thursday 10:30-12 PM
Alice O'Donnell 626-338-1724

MT. PROSPECT, IL

Our Lady of All Nations 2nd Thursday
Matt Bradley mattalan@sbcglobal.net
February 11th we will be meeting at Marytown for noon Mass, luncheon, and Consecration talk by Fr. Patrick Greenough, MI National President.

WICHITA,KS

The Upper Room MI Prayer Village
TheUpperRoom.homestead.com
Third Wednesday/month 6:30pm
Upper Room, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
Mary Rubeck 316-778-1939
mrubeck@aol.com

KANSAS CITY, MO

Ave Maria Village 1st Saturday
Christine Rossi mmaculata8@kc.rr.com
We started in January to be committed to pray in front of an abortion clinic every

3rd Saturday of the month. Six of us weathered the very very cold hour. Al Rossi carried our banner and turned Mary's face towards the windows of the clinic.

February: MI villager, Helen Bose, will give a talk about the Rosa Mystica statue from Rome followed by the rosary and prayer intentions. Our village continues to grow and is attracting three young couples with babies... what a blessing they are! The two villages in the Kansas side will visit the nursing home to pray the rosary and have a meeting.

They have a statue of Mary that travels to homes where there is illness or sadness. Mary being there gives the families peace

TROOPER, PA

MI Totus Tuus Village of the Visitation, BVM Church

Joe Valovage jrvjmj@verizon.net
Ash Wednesday - Holy Hour with Missionary of Charity Sisters (MOC) in Norristown, PA

WEST HAVEN, UTAH

MI Families of the Immaculata Village
St. Mary's Catholic Church

www.stmarysutah.org
1st Sunday 12:30-2:00 PM
The Masek Family 801-898-3821
livinglife4u@gmail.com

January: As the Immaculata forms each village as She sees fit, January was a big month for our Immaculata/Pro-life Village. We celebrated the Feast of Mary the Mother of God, January 1st, with our usual prayers, asking her intercession for the New Year, and then caravanned to a member's home for refreshments. We, also, organized our parish's second annual "Respect Life Weekend" which included a Living Rosary for Life. 50 parishioners made a circle around the sanctuary, each praying their respective bead prayer and lighting their hand-held candle upon its completion.

February: we will be organizing our parish's first MI Lenten retreat, which will include a Vocation Awareness Night followed by an afternoon retreat with guest speaker Ann O'Donnell, FKMI.

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MI Formation compiled by
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FOR THE 46th WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY

[Sunday, 20 May 2012]

Silence is an integral element of communication; in its absence, words rich in content cannot exist. In silence, we are better able to listen to and understand ourselves; ideas come to birth and acquire depth; we understand with greater clarity what it is we want to say and what we expect from others; and we choose how to express ourselves. By remaining silent we allow the other person to speak, to express him or herself; and we avoid being tied simply to our own words and ideas without them being adequately tested. In this way, space is created for mutual listening, and deeper human relationships become possible. It is often in silence, for example, that we observe the most authentic communication taking place between people who are in love: gestures, facial expressions and body language are signs by which they reveal themselves to each other. Joy, anxiety, and suffering can all be communicated in silence – indeed it provides them with a particularly powerful mode of expression. Silence, then, gives rise to even more active communication, requiring sensitivity and a capacity to listen that often makes manifest the true measure and nature of the relationships involved. When messages and information are plentiful, silence becomes essential if we are to distinguish what is important from what is insignificant or secondary. Deeper reflection helps us to discover the links between events that at first sight seem unconnected, to make evaluations, to analyze messages; this makes it possible to share thoughtful and relevant opinions, giving rise to an authentic body of shared knowledge. For this to happen, it is necessary to develop an appropriate environment, a kind of ‘eco-system’ that maintains a just equilibrium between silence, words, images and sounds.

Fr. Kolbe Missionaries Calendar for February

- 1 **MI Spanish Village** 9am-1:00pm or 7-8:30pm
- 2 Spanish speaking **A Man for Others Book Study**, 7-8:30pm
- 3 **MI Young Adults** 7-10:00pm
- 4 **MI Marian Retreat**, St Joseph Parish Modesto, CA
- 9 Spanish speaking **A Man for Others Book Study**, 7-8:30pm
- 11 **Mission Today 2012** : 3 conferences on Today's issues
- 14-15 **MI National Board Meeting** at Marytown
- 19 **MI Village**, 2-4:00pm
- 24-25 **MI Lenten Retreat** in Utah
- 25 **Lenten Retreat**, 1:30-5pm, Fr. Thomas Nelson, OPraem.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

Mission Today 2012

St Christopher Parish – 9:30-4:00pm

Dr. Ross Porter, Ph.D. executive director of Stillpoint Resources, for Catholic/Christian counseling, will speak on Evangelizing the Family and on the Face of Addictions.

Fr. Kolbe Missionary, Jillian Cooke, M.Th. will speak on Union with God in daily life...according to the spirituality of St. Maximilian Kolbe

Registration by February 1 - \$35 after and until February 9 - \$40.

MI Adult Weekend Retreat

Prince of Peace Abbey, Oceanside, CA

All Catholics should attend annually a weekend retreat for your relationship with Our Lord, which affects all other relationships.

March 15-16, 2012, Cost \$200

Retreat Master: Ann O'Donnell (Fr. Kolbe Missionary)

Theme: Rejoice in the Lord Always!

\$50 deposit due by February 11

Click onto www.kolbemiission.org/en for flyers on these events