



Mission of the Immaculata - CA

NEWSLETTER

June, 2020

TAKE COURAGE, I HAVE CONQUERED THE WORLD

So much uncertainty, so much confusion, so much pain and suffering. We have witnessed and are continuing to witness an unprecedented crisis in the history of humanity. Many lives lost, financial and economic opportunities gone because of the COVID-19 Pandemic. No one was untouched by this crisis; everyone of us is in one way or another affected by this crisis. Certainly, I have never expected that this will happen in my own ministry as a priest. I write this short article on the eve of the Solemnity of Pentecost, consequently the eve of my anniversary of ordination to the Priesthood. These past few months of being isolated and doing very minimum social contact with people, brought me to deeper realization of our need of one another.

As a people and members of our faith community, we certainly need to express ourselves in faith and trust that nothing happens to us without God's approval. It may sound insensitive for some but yes, even the pandemic is part of God's permitting will. I believe that God is calling us to truly consider only the things that matter in life. A lot of us have been distracted by so many things and now, we are limited in doing what we are used to do in a normal way, hopefully we realize that indeed there are things more important in life.

Jesus tells us: **TAKE COURAGE, I HAVE CONQUERED THE WORLD.**

The hour of our Lord's passion and death is already considered a triumph over sin; yet the disciples do not fully understand. With the eventual death of our Lord, Jesus anticipates the perplexity of his disciples. They will experience loss and being lost like sheep without a shepherd. With the words TAKE COURAGE, our Lord inspires the disciples that in spite of the inevitable struggle, another hour of glory will eliminate all doubts and fears. By our Lord's resurrection, the ultimate victory is won. Jesus conquered death, the by-product of sin. After the resurrection, the disciples will boldly face those who are opposed to Jesus and with the power of the Holy Spirit, they will witness to Jesus Christ as Lord.

In our present struggle and difficult situation, let us not lose faith. Let us not allow discouragement to rule over us. Jesus has conquered the world and he will never leave us alone. Let us consider the present situation as God's wakeup call that we must face with humble and contrite hearts. Of course, we know as faithful that we do have the necessary assistance to guide us through this journey in this valley of

tears. The Blessed Virgin Mary is with us in our sufferings and difficulties just like her constant presence during the suffering of the Lord. Jesus left us the sacraments as well, as an outward sign of his presence to always restore us in the state of sanctifying grace. Let us therefore receive our Lord's offer.

Fr. Carlouie Fermin Jimenez

WHAT IS MARY'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE CHURCH?

Mary is intimately united to the Church that lives in history: in prayer, in communion and mission. We cannot separate Mary from the Church. The Second Vatican council gave a particular emphasis to the relationship between Mary and the Church, particularly to her virginal motherhood. (Chapter VIII – "Mary in the mystery of the Church").

What does this mean for MI members consecrated to her?

The mystery that joins Mary to the Church makes our consecration to her, ultimately, a consecration to Jesus in the Church. She is the model, the image, the anticipation of the Church. She cooperates in the rebirth of the faithful in the Church and continues to play a maternal role within the Church. To consecrate oneself to Mary means to be committed to be an active member within the Church... through prayer, communion and mission in docility to the Holy Spirit. In St. Maximilian's vision, authentic consecration to Mary does not exist if it is not referenced to the Church, especially in reference to the mission of the Church. (info taken from a document from the International MI office in preparation for consecration to the Immaculata).

Recently during the COVID pandemic, the bishops in Canada and the USA consecrated their country to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. What does this mean for our nation? In St. John Paul II's homily at Fatima, May 13, 1982, he said, "Consecrating the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary means drawing near, through the Mother's intercession, to the very fountain of life that sprang from Golgotha..." "It means consecrating this world to the pierced heart of the Savior, bringing it back to the very source of its redemption." This is the Divine Mercy that Jesus revealed to St. Faustina in the image where blood and water flowed from His pierced Heart. Mary takes us and the consecrated nations to the merciful love of Jesus as our source of healing and redemption.

*Annette Leib
President of MI Canada*

Dear MI Members and Friends,

I wish to pay tribute to a long time hard-working executive member of MI Canada. He was the secretary-treasurer for MI Canada for many long years and took it upon himself to do all the business, secretarial and financial transactions for the association. His name is Richard Geofroy from Ajax, Ontario who passed away suddenly on Monday, April 20th, the day after Divine Mercy Sunday. Please, pray for his wife and children and for the peaceful repose of Richard's soul.

His passing necessitates the relocation of MI Canada to Western Canada in Kelowna B.C. where there is presently a very active MI organization. The transfer is an ongoing process, which could take several months to be finalized, but I do believe this is all part of our Blessed Mother's guidance for MI Canada. I have been very active with the local MI association for ten years as well as the President of MI Canada for five years. Business with MI Canada will continue as usual, but from a different location and new address.

Please pray for the new MI Canada Council as we continue to serve the Immaculata with her and through her in the western part of Canada.

*In Jesus and Mary,
Annette Leib (MI Canada President)*

LACK OF CONFIDENCE #1264

(Writings of Maximilian Vol.II)

At times life is so hard! You feel there is no longer a way out. You cannot bore through a wall with your head. The situation is grim, harsh, at times awful, and hopeless.

But why? Is it really that awful to live in the world? Does God not know everything? Is He not almighty? Does He not have in His hands all the laws of nature, and even all the hearts of men? Could anything possibly happen in the universe without His permission? And if He does permit it, could He possibly permit something that is not for our own good, for a greater good, for the greatest good possible?...

Even if we are endowed with infinite intelligence for a brief moment and were able to fathom all causes and effects, we would not choose for ourselves anything other than what God allows, because, being infinitely wise, He knows exactly what is best for our souls. Moreover, being infinitely good, He wants and permits only what we need for our greatest happiness in heaven.

Why, then, do we grow dejected at times? Because we are unable to see the link that exists between our happiness and the trials that afflict us. In fact, due to the limitations of our head (it fits only ... a cap or a hat), we are unable to know everything. What shall we do then?

Trust in God. By the way of such trust, without understanding things directly, we give great glory to God for we acknowledge His wisdom, His goodness and His power.

Let us trust in God, then, but trust Him without limits. **Let us be confident that, if we are concerned only with doing His will, no real harm will ever come to us**, even if we were to live in times a thousandfold harsher than the ones we live in now.

So, should we not strive to prevent and remove difficulties? Of course, we can and should. For what depends on us, we must do all we can to get rid of the difficulties on the path of our lives, but without restlessness, without anxiety, and especially without hopelessness. Because such states of mind not only prevent us from solving our difficulties, but make us unable to keep up with wise, cautious and swift work.

Also, in all things let us not forget to repeat with Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane: **“Not my will but Thine be done”** (Lk22:42). And if, as happened in Gethsemane, God were to see fit not to grant our requests and send a cup to drink to the last drop, let us not forget that Jesus not only suffered, but then was also gloriously risen, and that we long for resurrection even through suffering. In fact, we cling to this wretched earth far too much: what would happen to us if we were not occasionally pricked by some thorns? We might then be tempted to build our own paradise on this earth of dust and mud.

Let us trust, therefore, trust boundlessly in God through the Immaculata. Let us strive, according to the means of our mind and our strength, to put things right, but calmly, setting our trust in the Immaculata and always placing the will of God above our own. Our crosses will then become for us (as indeed they should) steps toward the happiness of our resurrection in heaven.

M.K. (Maximilian Kolbe)

Daily Renewal

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.

MODEL FOR DIVINE TRUST, ST. THERESE OF LISIEUX

On Divine Mercy Sunday several people from Kelowna and Penticton consecrated themselves to the Merciful Love of Jesus. This was a very special consecration that Fr. Chris Alar, MIC, promoted four years ago after receiving a special request by Our Lord when he was the celebrant of a Mass. Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC, wrote a book to promote consecration to the Merciful Love of Jesus based on the spirituality of St. Therese of Lisieux. Why base it on the spirituality of St. Therese of the Little Flower?

PATRONESS OF ALL MISSIONS #1263

This is the title the Church has given to St. Therese of the Child Jesus, who died recently. In fact, it is not merely a title. In the course of my journey to Japan to India and back, I am becoming personally convinced that there is no place where she is not venerated in a special way. There is no church where one may fail to find very prominently before one's eyes, either a small image of that "little saint," or a painting, a statue or, very frequently an altar dedicated to her. There are also several magnificent new churches built in her name and, we ought to say through her intercession. Since by raining down from heaven as she herself had promised, a true and abundant shower of roses, that is, a wide range of graces, St. Therese appeals to the generosity of the faithful for the construction of new churches.

Should I also mention my "business dealings" with her? For even before her beatification and canonization of her, I told her: "I undertake, to make a "memento" (a remembrance in prayer) for your beatification and canonization in each Holy Mass and you shall look after my mission." Therese of Lisieux was later canonized, but Maximilian wondered 'what about his mission?'

Even recently, in India, where I had been given the task to see if a new Niepokalanow could be set up, so many problems had piled up that I had lost all hope of a positive outcome to the mission entrusted to me. So, there I was, standing in front of a statuette of St. Therese placed on a small shelf adorned with many large flowers that looked like roses. I began to pray with a certain "resentment" and concluded: "Let us see if you remember." At that moment, one of the flowers fell on the table below the statuette. I was strangely impressed with that event, but thought to myself: "We will see if this has a meaning." Now from that moment, in a most unhoped-for way, all the troubles vanished, without any action on my part, and our issue was solved well beyond my expectations. For once, there I was granted use of the Niepokalanow right away, land for future expansion, a large enough chapel, and a building more than large enough to start the publication of the Knight in the Indian language.

In the course of her life, she had never worked miracles, **but had become a great saint through the ordinary and drab everyday life. What matters is not, in fact, what we do, but the way, the intention, and the love with which we do it. And what was her intention? To please Jesus, the Child Jesus. That is pure love.** To bear daily crosses with love, to work with love, to live for love, to be like a child who, with caresses of love, wins the benevolence of his or her father's and mother's heart. Everyone can and should be a missionary of that kind. But how are we to achieve that goal? St. Therese called herself "little flower of the Immaculata" and acknowledged that she was raised by the Immaculata. We also are **"little flowers of the Immaculata"** and she will teach us unlimited trust in the merciful love of God, of which she is the embodiment. (taken from #1263 M.K.)

M.K. (Maximilian Kolbe)