

Reflection on August MI Intention

O Immaculata, please intercede that our ability to love may extend generously toward every person.

“Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give.”
(Mt 10:8)

Jesus spoke these words to the disciples as He was preparing them for their mission. It’s a beautiful statement, revealing the deepest meaning of our lives: self-giving love. Each of us was born of the mutual love of our parents and, even before that, of the infinite Love of God, Who willed us into existence from all eternity and Who gratuitously sustains us constantly in existence by His merciful Love. The fact that we have been loved eternally by God, that we exist in His Heart is a certainty that makes us able to love in response, to give to others the love we have freely received. Every human being can find authentic and complete fulfillment only through self-giving love. Jesus taught us that we must take the risk of loving. His Incarnation, His coming to dwell among us, was a sheer act of love. He shared in our human condition in everything, except sin (cf. Heb 4:15). He entered our homes, ate at our tables, walked on our dusty roads, played with children, enjoyed friendships, and grieved over the dead. He loved every human being without distinction. We, His disciples, are called to do the same, to follow His example and to love as He does.

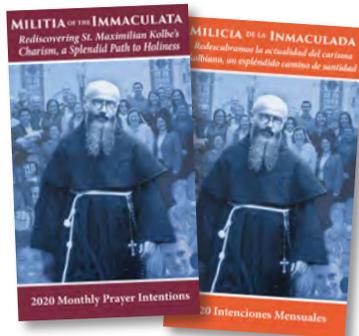
Many a time we have pondered St. Maximilian Kolbe’s heroic act of love in the concentration camp of Auschwitz, when he offered to take the place of a condemned prisoner selected to die in the starvation bunker. His heart, “trained” to love, could not but empathize with the grief of the young fellow prisoner as he cried at the thought of his wife and children. St. Maximilian desired to love without limits, with no exceptions, in response to Jesus’ infinite love: *“Hatred divides, separates and destroys, while, to the contrary, love unites, brings about peace, and is con-*

structive” (KW 1205). Eyewitnesses testified that this amazing act of love affected the life of all in the camp, where he had continued to be Our Lady’s instrument of peace and comfort. The Militia of the Immaculata was founded precisely for the purpose of drawing all hearts to the Sacred Heart through the Immaculata.

Our Association, he wrote, *“it is called ‘Militia’ because it cannot afford to rest, but rather intends to conquer hearts for the Immaculata by way of love, and through her, for the Divine Heart of Jesus and, ultimately, for the heavenly Father”* (KW 1237).

Convinced that charity transforms everything, he urged MIs to win for the Immaculata people whose hearts are restless and dejected: *“These poor people, therefore, need light, a great deal of supernatural light... How can we fail to reach out to them? How can we not help them placate their hearts, lift their minds above all that passes toward the one ultimate purpose, God?”* (KW 1237). Every MI member cannot but strive to put his total consecration into action in the service of others: *“Love for one’s neighbor pushes those souls who have already found the true ideal of life not to forget their brothers and sisters around them”* (ibid.). St. Maximilian lived what he preached. Let’s do the same.

(from the MI International Office)



2020 MI Intentions leaflets are available in English and Spanish
Request them from the MI National 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.