

Reflection on September MI Intention

O Immaculata, please intercede that our commitment in the spiritual life may make us ever more open to God's action.

*"I am the vine, you are the branches.
Whoever remains in me and
I in him will bear much fruit, because
without me you can do nothing."
(Jn 15:5)*

Becoming aware of being united with Christ as members of His Body is a result of prayer. The spiritual life consists in living our lives in union with the Father, through Christ, in the Holy Spirit, who constantly forms our identity as beloved sons and daughters of God. The spiritual life embraces our whole existence and every moment of it. Our eating and drinking, resting and working, loving and studying, praying and cultivating interpersonal relationships become a life animated by the Holy Spirit.

Our Lord tells us that if we remain in Him we will bear fruit, that is, we will become instruments in His Hands so that He may reach the hearts of the people we meet on our journey. We will thus become able to be bearers of life, His life. When our lives are united to Christ, the Holy Spirit finds room and docility to mold us into the work of art He wants us to be. Pope Francis in one of his messages urged to have great care for the spiritual life, which is the source of interior freedom. In fact, it is interior freedom makes us free from our selfishness so as to be instruments in the Hands of God.

The Immaculata is the human person most completely united with Christ. During her pilgrimage of faith, she learned to let Him act how and when He wished. In turn, she freely chose to be faithful to Him. Through our consecration, we too may learn from her the secret of authentic freedom, because she is our Teacher in the spiritual life, as St. Paul VI stated (cf. *Marialis Cultus* 21).

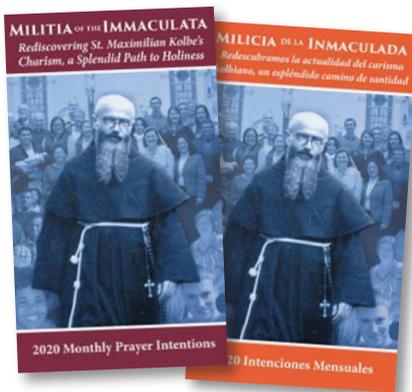
St. Maximilian Kolbe reminds us that *"The single desire of the Immaculata is to*

raise the level of our spiritual life to the summits of holiness." (KW 1220)

Let us allow Our Lady to instruct us! During wartime, in September 1940, St. Maximilian wrote to the friars in Japan who had sent a report about their activity. In his letter, he emphasized the importance of the spiritual life: *"Let us pray, let us pray well, pray much, both with our lips and in our thought, and we shall experience in ourselves how the Immaculata will take increasing possession of our souls, how our belonging to her will deepen more and more in every respect, how our sins will vanish, and our flaws will weaken, how gently and powerfully we will come ever closer to God. Outer activity is good, but, of course, is of secondary importance, and even less than that when compared to the inner life, to the life of recollection and prayer, to the life of our own personal love for God. ... To the extent in which we burn more and more with divine love, we will kindle a similar love even in others."* (KW 903)

Let us ask the Immaculata to share with us her docility and openness to the Holy Spirit and to teach us how to cooperate perfectly with God's will, thus becoming His instruments as she has been.

(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.