



By Ourselves, We Can Do Nothing



Dear MI Members and Friends,

Holiness is not only the fruit of the acceptance of divine grace and of the motions that come from God. The person is called to collaborate, and the more one does the more one realizes this wonderful synergy. St. Maximilian is of the same idea. He expressed, *"Only Jesus coming into this world, has shown mankind, by example and word, the road to true holiness. The core of it is to love God until heroism. The hallmark is the fulfillment of the Divine Will, contained mainly in the commandments of God and the Church and the duties of our state of life. The means is the constant vigilance of oneself in order to know one's flaws and to eradicate them, engage the virtues, to cultivate them, develop them to the highest degree; then the prayer with which the soul obtains supernatural divine graces, which are essential to spiritual progress. In all, prayer occupies a prominent place. The most important types are: vocal prayer, meditation and contemplation. In contemplation God sometimes can draw the soul very close to himself and, if so, it is dazzled by an unearthly light and fire of love, and is drawn into an ecstasy that has nothing in common with natural charms"* (SK 1001).

The Polish martyr makes us realize that in order to attain holiness, it is essential to cultivate a relationship of intense and deep communion with the Almighty, allowing one to build, step

by step, a process of continual conversion. The Immaculate Conception, on the other hand, is the Mother and a Disciple of Jesus, whom she received in the womb, assisted during his earthly life and followed him to Golgotha. Our Lady teaches us to be with Christ, to guide and decidedly orient our life to Him.

Here is emphasized the humility of Mary, who always shows full cooperation with the grace that God gives and her full availability. In the Immaculata the virtues of humility and gratitude stand out. They enable her to maintain an attitude of an inner smallness so deep as to enable the best use of the aid deriving from the love and merciful providence of the Almighty. In all this, she reveals herself as a wonderful teacher for all believers. Holiness is an expression of the synergy between grace and merit. Mary helps us to understand how best to use the divine support, with the best of our commitment and determination.

Illuminating are the following expressions of Maximilian: *"Therefore, by ourselves, we can do nothing, except evil, which is in fact a lack of good, of order, of power. If we acknowledged this truth and turned our eyes to God, from whom we receive all we are at every instant of our lives, we would see at once that he, God, can give us even more, and that he, as the best of Fathers, wants to give us everything we need."*

MI Monthly Intention

*Immaculata,
please intercede...*

*that walking toward
Christ who comes we
may remember that
holiness consists in
receiving Him in the
poverty of heart that
He Himself teaches us.*

MI National Center
Marytown
1600 W Park Ave
Libertyville, IL
60048

MI National President
Fr. Patrick
Greenough, OFM Conv



THANKSGIVING TABLE PRAYER

O Gracious God, we give you thanks for your overflowing generosity to us. Thank you for the blessings of the food we eat and especially for this feast today. Thank you for our home and family and friends, especially for the presence of those gathered here. Thank you for our health, our work and our play. Please send help to those who are hungry, alone, sick and suffering, war and violence. Open our hearts to your love. We ask your blessing through Christ your son. Amen.

From *Celebrating Faith: Year-round Activities For Catholic Families*

by Mary Cronk Farrell

But could God fill with graces a soul who attributes to itself something that is a divine gift? If he did, he would be approving of its false and arrogant opinion. God allows some souls to abound in his gifts because he is merciful. He even allows them to fall, so that they finally learn what they really are. This teaches them not to rely on themselves but to turn to him with full confidence. That is why for the saints every fall meant a small step toward perfection.

But alas, to the soul that does not accept this extreme medicine and that, by dwelling in its own pride says: 'I am incapable of correcting myself,' since God is also just and demands that we give a strict account of every grace we are granted"(SK 1100).

-Fr. Raffaele Di Muro,
MI International Assistant

Translated by Ann O'Donnell



For Reflection

- How do I welcome the promptings of the Spirit in my life?
- Holiness is welcoming the Lord. Contemplate the example of the Immaculate Conception?
- Do I welcome the presence of Christ with the humility that the Immaculata teaches me?
- Do I welcome the presence of the Lord even when I experience difficulties?
- Is the acceptance of Christ's presence in me unconditional and without hypocrisy?



Reflection on the reading for Thursday.

24th Week of Ordinary Time

-Fr. Patirick Greenough, OFM Conv
MI National President

Prostitutes

How many of you have had dinner with a prostitute?
How many of you have spoken with a prostitute?
How many of you have been embraced by a prostitute?
I would wager a large number have not.

And why is that?

Because we do not want to be seen with a prostitute and we do not want to be associated with one.

Partly because of what others would think of us and partly because we do not agree with their line of work.

How many of us would be shocked and embarrassed if a prostitute walked into our house during dinner and started associating with one of our guests?

So now you know exactly how the Pharisee felt when a prostitute walked into his house and started caressing the feet of his most important guest.

So often we are critical of the Pharisees when we have the exact same feelings they do and think the same as they do.

Sometimes we have more in common with the Pharisees than we do with Jesus!

The difference between the Pharisee and the Prostitute was not sin but Love!

The Pharisee and the Prostitute were both sinners to one degree or another.

The Prostitute however loved more.

Love was the great difference between the two.

We are all sinners to one degree or another.

Love is the difference.

The difference between remaining in our sin or being forgiven.

Therefore Love!

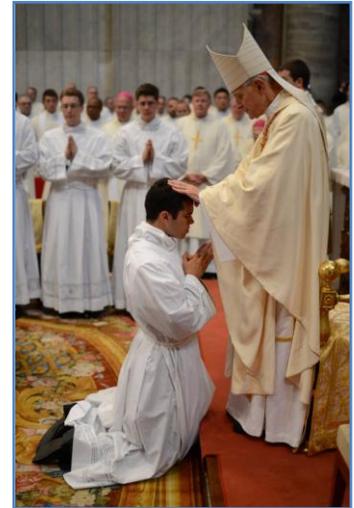
Love much!

Love with abandon!

For Love overcomes sin and even death itself.

MI Family News

Fernando Camou of Phoenix, AZ was ordained as a transitional deacon for the Diocese of Phoenix in Rome this October. Deacon Fernando's family were all active in the MI, especially in their youth. (picture on right)



WELCOME! *John Paul Harker* Oct 22, 2014, 9 lbs. Born at Home, Modesto, CA

The first Fr. Kolbe Missionary of the Immaculata man from the US, **Ryan Holke**, was ordained October 4 in Sao Paulo, Brazil with two companions, **Frs. Alex, and Eduardo** (photo 1-r). On October 25, Fr. Ryan celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving in his home parish of St. Edwards, Dana Point, CA, surrounded by family and a crowd of friends. Fr. Ryan had been accepted to the Coast Guard Academy when he decided to do some missionary work in a foreign country. Now, ten years later, he is an ordained Catholic priest. He will continue to serve in Brazil where his Institute animates the MI, with a special emphasis on the radio. Fr. Ryan along with Frs. Eduardo and Alex and the Institute's Vicar, Fr. Masimiliano, visited the Fr. Kolbe Missionaries women (photo 2) in West Covina, CA for the first time.





Great Lakes, the largest military installation in Illinois and the largest training station in the Navy, hosts the Navy's only Recruit Training Command. "Immediately after the graduation from the Naval Center we went with our son **Francisco Gonzalez**, to visit Marytown. **Brother Donald** gave us a nice tour of the Auschwitz Museum and talked to us about Father Kolbe's life, and experiences in the concentration camp. Visiting Marytown was a wonderful experience. It is so beautiful and peaceful. Francisco spoke about how important his faith had been during his training...Please keep Francisco, and all of our recently graduated military service members, in your prayers, they need it more than we think." **America Ornelas** West Covina, CA

Let us pray for the soul of **Donna Szabo**'s father who passed away (mid-west) unexpectedly on August 2nd. "I was able to go home for a week. On a happier note, I finally was hired by West Covina School District as a special Ed teacher."

The O'Donnell Family of West Covina, CA extends their gratitude to all who pray for our mom's recovery. **Alice O'Donnell** had a pacemaker put in in an emergency situation, contracted pneumonia, etc. At this time she is doing well and her body recuperating from the various complications.



"Let us ask for the gift of faith, so that we can understand how, despite our smallness and our poverty, the Lord has really made us means of grace and a visible sign of His love for all mankind. Yes, we can become a source of scandal but we can also be a source of hope through our lives, our witness, just as Jesus wants!"

Pope Francis (10/29/14)



Links for MI in the US

www.marytown.com/
www.miyouth.org
www.consecration-midwest.org
www.kolbemission.org/en

International WEB

www.mi-international.org

Others

<http://www.usccb.org/>
www.vatican.va
www.zenit.org

November 2
All Souls Day

God our Father,
Your power brings us to birth,
Your providence guides our lives,
and by Your command we return to dust.

Lord, those who die still live in Your presence,
their lives change but do not end.
I pray in hope for my family,
relatives and friends,
and for all the dead known to You alone.

In company with Christ,
Who died and now lives,
may they rejoice in Your kingdom,
where all our tears are wiped away.
Unite us together again in one family,
to sing Your praise forever and ever.

Amen.

