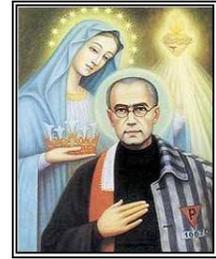


The Joy of... the Cross and the Resurrection



MI Monthly Intention

*Immaculata,
please
intercede...*

that the
Resurrection of
Christ make us
aware of our call
to live as risen
people.

The Good Friday liturgy echoes with the proclamation, **“Behold! By the wood of the Cross joy came into the whole world!”** What powerful words. They may seem contradictory but yet not. From the Cross flows the grace of our salvation, our Easter joy!

In this reflection remember that we 1) suffer from sin and its effects; 2) Christ redeemed us through his perfect union with the will of the Father (which included his passion, death and resurrection); 3) we, too, participate in the redemption of souls; and 4) Mary knows both the suffering and the joy of the Cross.

Sin

“Suffering stems partly from our finitude and partly from the mass of sin which has accumulated over the course of history, and continues to grow unabated today” (Pope Benedict XVI). The Catholic Catechism teaches us that unrepented grave sin deprives us of our communion (eternal) with God. Every other sin has to be purified (here or in the state called Purgatory) before we can enter his presence. The Catechism continues saying, “While patiently bearing sufferings and trials of all kinds and, when the day comes, serenely facing death; the Christian must strive to accept this temporal punishment of

sin as a grace.” St Maximilian teaches us that penances are a bountiful source of grace in reparation of our sins: “Health and obligations do not permit the austerities of penance to all. Nevertheless, all admit that their road of life is covered with crosses and the acceptance of these crosses in the spirit of penance is a wide field for the practice of penance.

“Beyond the fulfillment of obligations, fulfillment of God’s will in every moment of life, and fulfilling it perfectly in deed and word and thought, demands much denial of what appears more pleasant at the given moment.”

Christ’s union with the will of the Father

Christ redeemed us through perfect adherence/union with the will of his Father and this included his passion and death on the Cross. Christ sealed his love for us on the Cross. Through knowledge of Christ’s love, hope is born and we can be redeemed. The African young woman, Josephine Bakhita, was kidnapped at the age of 9, sold to 5 different slave owners and bore 144 scars from floggings. Only when she was bought by an Italian merchant did she encounter the true Master who knew her, had created her and loved her. She discovered that he, too, had

Pope Benedict XVI to youth

Christ needs you at His side to extend and build His Kingdom of charity. No one is superfluous to such an undertaking. Therefore, never cease to ask yourselves what the Lord is calling you to do, and how you can help Him. Each of you has a personal vocation which He has given you for your own joy and sanctity. When a person is conquered by the fire of His gaze, no sacrifice seems too great to follow Him and give Him the best of ourselves. This is what the saints have always done, spreading the light of the Lord ... and transforming the world into a welcoming home for everyone.

been flogged. For the first time she had hope. She wrote, "I am definitely loved and whatever happens to me – I am awaited by this Love. And so my life is good." Pope Benedict wrote about her in his encyclical, *Saved in Hope*. He said, "Through the knowledge of this hope she was 'redeemed,' no longer a slave, but a free child of God."

All our joy in believing, hoping and loving proceeds from the Cross. All of the saints, just as Josephine Bakhita, teach us this, because they have found in the Cross a manifestation of the will of God. St Maximilian told the friars arrested with him during the war, "Let us thank the Immaculata for sending us here, for if we appealed to the Gestapo to send us here that we might evangelize in the concentration camp, we would have been refused, but the Immaculata in all her Wisdom had us arrested that we may be her presence to the prisoners."

These are the saints, whom we are to imitate. Although our nature rebels against suffering, our faith teaches us otherwise. In our personal crosses the mystery of our salvation is being offered to us.

Our participation in the salvation of others

Out of love we are called to share in the suffering of Christ for the purification of our sins and the sins of others. St Maximilian during his first arrest told the brothers, "When suffering is remote, we're willing to do anything. Now that it's here, let's accept it and bear it willingly to gain

as many souls as possible..." Pope Benedict made reference to the old practice of "offering it up" in *Saved in Hope* (40). "What does it mean to offer it up? Those who did so were convinced that they could insert these little annoyances into Christ's great 'com-compassion' so that they somehow became a part of the treasury of compassion so greatly needed by the human race." Knight at the Foot of the Cross member, Nickie Miranda, daily faces physical challenges. She wrote, "The honor of being with Christ on the Cross is a gloriously difficult one, yet, if we remain poised beneath our Lord on the Cross we can catch that Holy Dew. In so doing, as St. Therese says, we may satiate the thirst of Christ for souls."

Mary knows the sorrow and the joy of the Cross

For Mary and the Lord's disciples, the Cross, embraced by Christ in his passion and death, must have become the most venerated relic of his love. Mary held the fruit of the Cross, the dead body of her beloved Son and Redeemer and she continued on in faith. She knew her salvation came from her Son's passion, death and resurrection. His redemptive act is the fount of her extra-ordinary privilege, her Immaculate Conception. And it was from the Cross that Christ entrusted Mary with all of humanity, and humanity to Mary, "Behold your son. Behold your Mother." (John 19)

Mary never cursed the Cross but accepted its mystery in blind faith and trust in the promises of the

Points for Reflection:

* Follow the homilies and reflections of Pope Benedict at <http://benedictumxvi.va> .

* In your Villages reflect on the four points from the monthly formation and see where your strengths and weaknesses are.

* Pray that Our Lady may share with all MI members her extraordinary faith.

Lord. We who are consecrated to her know that she is with us as we carry our crosses in this life. As she followed her Son with compassion and faith, she, too, accompanies us. St Maximilian teaches, "Do not ever be troubled, do not ever be afraid, you have nothing to fear. Isn't the Immaculate perhaps aware of everything? If this were not true, we would be in great trouble indeed. No one can hurt us without God's permission, or even without the Immaculate's permission. Therefore, everything is in her maternal hands. Consequently, let us just allow her to lead us ahead every day, every minute a little more." Mary can give birth in us to the same trust and abandonment she lived.

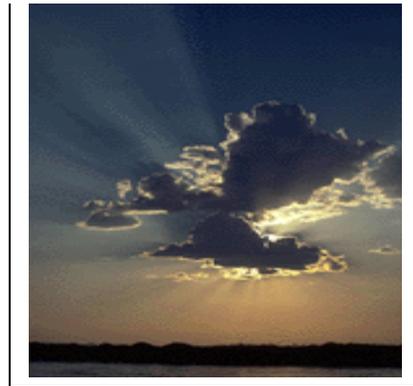
Let us then confound the world, the unbelievers, the skeptical, the lukewarm, those steeped in sin and darkness with our embrace of the Cross, taking our inspiration from the saints and the Immaculata who stood at the foot of the Cross.

"Behold! By the wood of the Cross joy came into the whole world."

A most Blessed Easter Season!

Ann O'Donnell

Fr. Kolbe Missionary of the Immaculata
fkmissionaries@gmail.com

**Easter Greeting of Hope**

Fr. Patrick Greenough, OFM Conv
-MI National President

The last month has appeared to be one long day of darkness for the Church as the government seeks to take away our freedom of religion and conscience. If successful, the government will be emboldened to go further. Yet no matter what, we are not people of darkness or despair, for Christ is Risen and is and will be victorious in the end. As a Church and as Catholics we may face our Good Fridays in the near future, but Our Lady stands by us as she stood by Jesus as He hung dying on the cross. Good Friday and the Cross are not the end. They are the key to open the door to New Life and Resurrection; to a brighter and more glorious dawn. May the power of the Risen Lord fill each of you, so that you may be a light in the darkness, hope in despair and joy in persecution. Always and at all times no matter what you face or what suffering you may endure, remember, the Tomb is empty!!!

Christ is Risen!

MI VILLAGES

MI FAMILY NEWS: let us pray...

Sick and Suffering:
Loida Laroiza,
Walnut, CA.

Soul of the departed: Marie Cosato, West Covina, CA. **Fr Paul Caporali, SDB**, Rosemead – great Marian priest and friend of the MI movement in southern California.

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
Begin October to April 4th Sunday
10:00AM-12PM
Rik & Judith Hernandez 626-967-0440
or Joe & Edith Venegas 909-627-0327
April is our last village gathering for the year. In May we attend the MI Family Picnic.

ESCONDIDO, CA

MI Family Village

2nd Sunday, Kit Carson Park,
2:00PM
Joe & Sue O'Donnell 760-745-0935
[Militia Immaculata 25th Anniversary San Diego](#) Sunday, Apr 15, 2012
10:30 am Mass followed by reception.
St. Mary's, Escondido, 1160 S Broadway
Escondido CA 92025
No MI Village until August.

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 (English) 209-521-8299
Maria Braun (Spanish)

MI Family Village

1st Sunday
Bob & Judy Shannon
pacesetter1@mac.com
March 3rd the Adult Village sponsored a **Lenten Mass & Anointing of the Sick**, assisted by the English Family & Spanish Family Villages, attended by approximately 250-300 people.

March 17th Adult Prayer Village and the Family Village held a **preparation for total consecration**. Fr. Benny/English and Beatriz taught in Spanish on the

Prayer of Consecration. Father showed a portion of the film of Blessed Johannes Duns Scotus, OFM defending the privilege of the Immaculate Conception at the University of Sorbonne. We will be adding the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary to our meditation on the Rosary because of his enthusiastic presentation.

March 25 -bi-lingual rite of

Consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary. There were approximately 54 Spanish speaking and 30 or so English speaking. It was beautiful!!!

April 14th & 15th Villages – Adult and Family will listen to Fr. Benny. Our 3 Villages had our first MI Parish Council. We are blessed to have a pastor who is deeply in love with our Heavenly Mother and supports us fully - not to mention the FKM. We are also developing a newsletter and online page in unison with our parish website.

MI Spanish Village April 14th film on St. Kolbe's life and begin to read his biography. End of April—Plans for leadership training.

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 sonofppio@yahoo.com
at www.facebook.com/MIYA.SoCal

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.

Visit our website and blog today!

www.kolbemission.org/en

BLOG:

www.kolbemissionusa.blogs.pot.com

WHAT'S NEW?

Listen to our Podcasts on great Kolbe Conferences at <http://fkminusa.podbean.com>

WEST COVINA, CA

FKM Center

MI and the Fr. Kolbe Missionaries:

3rd Sunday 2-4PM
Larry & Victoria Jensen 626-222-4456
MI and the Fr. Kolbe Missionaries: March held three Lenten Retreats: Spanish MI Village members were deeply moved by meditations for the Stations of the Cross given by Anna Brizzi. Young Adults watched the documentary on the sketch work of Auschwitz, ex-prisoner Marion Kolodziej which led into profound reflection and discussion on the meaning of life. Ann O'Donnell spoke on the Joy of Repentance, the Cross, Truth and of Mary at the MI Young Adult/Adult weekend retreat. A mother and daughter, unaware of the retreat but staying at the abbey for the weekend joined the retreat and made their total consecration at the conclusion.

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

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

Our Village **collaborates with LIFEFRONT** organization and have committed to the 3rd Sat. of the month to pray the rosary in front of an abortion clinic. I am very pleased with our members who have been able to join us for the hour of prayer. We have read the stations as well as prayed rosary and Divine Mercy chaplet. The evil one always has surprises for us with the weather, either very very cold or very very windy.

April 21, - one day retreat with the Marians of the Immaculate Conception at

the Redemptorist Church. Fr. Dan Cambra, Br Michael Baker and Br David Blasland, will be with us. We have asked the Divine Mercy prayer group and our 4 Villages in our area to join us. We ask prayers for this Retreat. Most of our members have **renewed their consecrations** on the Solemnity of the Annunciation. I am going about 2 hrs from here, to present a **consecration talk** to 15 men and women who want to make their consecration and form a village.

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

St. Joseph Novena and St. Joseph Table around his solemnity. All proceeds (food & money) are donated to the MOC sisters in Norristown.

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

Sunday, March 25th after the 11:30 Mass **6 people consecrated themselves** to the Immaculata since they were not able to last month during the Lenten Retreat.

March 30 Diocesan Day of Prayer and Fasting for Religious Freedom and Conscience.

Sunday, April 15th: 1:00-2:00 "A Holy Hour for Mercy"/Divine Mercy Sunday will take the place of our usual First Sunday Village.

One of the fruits of our recent Lenten retreat was the request to incorporate **nocturnal Holy Hours** at St. Mary's once a month on the First Friday in May, culminating with the re-institution of our parish's First Saturday 8:00 Mass.

MI CANADA NEWS:

Ajax MI Village
Moderator – Teresa Viechweg
905-428-0952
2nd & 4th Thursdays, 6:30pm

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

April Fr. Kolbe Missionaries Calendar

- 4 **MI Village for Spanish speaking**, 9am-1pm or 7-8:30pm
Blood and Ink, Documentary film on art work of Marion Kolodziej, ex-prisoner of Auschwitz, Santa Monica Library, CA, 7pm
- 5 Eucharistic Adoration, will be in the parish for Holy Thursday
- 6 **Way of the Cross** through the streets of LA
- 14 **Silver Jubilee of vows** Ann O'Donnell, 3pm Mass and celebration, St Christopher Church, West Covina, CA. RSVP for reception.
- 15 **25 year anniversary of MI Family Village in Escondido, CA.**
- 21 **Legion of Mary retreat**, FKM Center

Save the Date

25th Annual MI Family Picnic

May 28th Schabarum Park, Rowland Heights, CA

MI Summer Programs

At Kamp Kuper Retreat Center, Escondido, CA

Teen Girls July 15-20

Teen Guys July 22-26