



## Experiencing the Resurrection in Prayer



Dear MI Members and Friends,

To hear Jesus is a wonder that is accomplished by constant prayer. Addressing the Lord with the informal “you” is possible if you nourish communion and intimacy with him. According to St. Maximilian M. Kolbe, in fact, “prayer is the expression of a beautiful soul. The human body has originated from dust and after death will turn to dust. All human activities are directed at mother-earth. Only in prayer does man elevate the heart to Heaven and enters into conversation with the Creator of the universe, with the First Cause of all, with God ” (SK 1208). To pray, according to the Franciscan martyr, means to raise one’s thoughts up to the Creator, to turn to God above all earthly attraction, above all obstacles in the world, beyond any intervening barrier between man and his Lord. Prayer is to converse with God, who is the Creator of the universe. It is a genuine dialogue in which the Almighty speaks to man and he responds.

Prayer is talking to God in a direct, habitual, persevering way. For St. Maximilian prayer is the continuous flow of dialogue between man and the Triune God, a loving and unceasing encounter in which the creature can worship, honor, bless, and glorify their Creator, and is open to hear his voice and will. At every moment the faithful can open their soul to the Almighty and express their love and gratitude. At the same time, they

receive the help needed for their spiritual journey. This on-going conversation is the way to constantly welcome in the heart the presence of the Risen One. Prayer gives us, therefore, the opportunity to experience the Risen Lord, to perceive him in our lives and in every event of life. This is the great teaching of Maximilian, who lived in the presence of the Redeemer, experiencing the joy of a deep communion with him.

In the Holy Mass, Saint Maximilian had the privilege of being with the living Christ in glory. It is no coincidence that he attributes to the Eucharist central value, both for one’s personal journey of conversion as well as the development of the adherence to the will of God. When he founded the City of the Immaculate in Poland in 1927, the first building to be built was a small wooden church in which, from the time of its consecration, the friars celebrated the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Everyday Maximilian nourished himself with the inexhaustible source of grace that is the Eucharist. Every day in Mass and adoration was the vital and constant dialogue with the Risen One that transformed into a steadfast and inseparable communion. When he approached the altar he experienced the resurrection and had a profound introduction into the paschal mystery.

There is a clear link between the love and the care with which he lived the celebration of Mass and martyrdom: Kolbe, immersing himself day after

### MI Monthly Intention

*Immaculata,  
please intercede...*

*that our hearts and gaze may always be pure and simple, in order to welcome the presence of the Risen Lord in every event of our lives.*

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### **LENTEN MESSAGE OF OUR HOLY FATHER FRANCIS 2014**

March 28 Pope Francis

Dear Brothers and Sisters, (commenting on an initiative to share reconciliation with the Lord); To everyone you will meet you will communicate the joy you receive from the forgiveness of the Father and to be once again in friendship with him. And you will tell them that our Father is waiting for them, our Father forgives you, and wants to celebrate with you. If you go to him with your life, even with many sins, he will celebrate more than scold: this is our Father. This you need to tell them today, many people. Whoever experiences the mercy of God is driven to be a builder of mercy between the last and the poor. In these "little brothers and sisters" Jesus waits for you (cfr. Mt 25:40). Let us receive his mercy and share his mercy! Let us go to reach out to people and celebrate Easter in the joy of God!

<http://www.vatican.va> for latest news of Pope Francis and his message for Holy Week and Easter.

day in the mystery of Jesus who gives himself for humanity, who becomes bread broken for all men, learned to turn his life into a continuous offering for God and for the good of others. Between the Eucharist and Auschwitz there is an indissoluble bond. It is from the kenosis of the Lord that the Polish Franciscan learned the path of martyrdom. At the altar he was at the school of the Crucifix, the greatest example which the Poverello of Assisi, St. Francis, taught him to conform his life. The Immaculate was present in this meeting between the saint and the Risen One, because she is mediator and mother.

The intercession, example, and protection of Mary are fundamental. She introduces the saint to experience the presence of the Lord when celebrating daily Mass. In fact, according to the Polish Franciscan: "There is no better preparation for Holy Communion than to entrust it all to the Immaculate [...]. She knows best how to prepare our hearts and we may be certain that we afford Jesus the greatest pleasure, that we show him the greatest love" (SK 643). And he believes that "after Holy Communion we pray again to the Immaculata, so that she welcomes Jesus into our soul and makes him happy as no one has been able to do so" (SK 1234). Everything should be done with the support of the Immaculata, whose loving presence guarantees a fervent and fruitful participation in Holy Mass, by which the believer is called to give the greatest glory to the Lord.

The love for the Immaculata also has a Eucharist service, since, drawing close to her, thanks to her example and

intercession, the faithful can live better the mystery of the real presence of the Savior in the Sacrament and therefore, with greater freedom, belief, and awareness, nourish themselves at the Eucharistic banquet. The example of Maximilian invites us to make the most of the time in which we participate in the Mass. It is the place of our encounter with the Risen One, the divine school in which we learn to enter into a dynamic Easter, into an exodus, supported by the Immaculata, who leads us, gently and efficaciously to eternal life.

-Fr. Raffaele Di Muro,  
MI International Assistant

*Translated by Ann O'Donnell*



#### ***For Reflection***

- † *In my prayer do I experience the risen Christ?*
- † *Does my prayer lead me to an encounter with the Lord, experiencing that he is alive and present along my life journey?*
- † *Does my prayer go beyond ritualism when I place myself in communion with the Risen Lord?*
- † *Mary is the woman who experiences the reality of the resurrection in glory: does she remind me that I am destined for eternal glory?*



### Joseph, THE Model of Consecration

If St. Maximilian was alive today I think that he would make St. Joseph the spiritual patron of the Militia of the Immaculata for he embodies everything that a member of the MI should be. He was the First to be Consecrated.

In a dream, an angel of The Lord appeared to him and told him "Not to be afraid to take Mary into his home." Neither should we ever be afraid to take Mary into our hearts and home for she carries with her, the Word made Flesh, Our Lord and Savior.

Rather than ever be afraid, like Joseph we should embrace her with all the love in our hearts.

Joseph was spiritually betrothed to Mary. All that he had and was; all of his heart and soul he gave to her completely and totally.

Is this not what each member of the MI is called to do in our consecration?

Who has ever done it more completely and fully than Joseph?

Lastly, from Bethlehem, to Egypt, to Jerusalem, to Nazareth, Joseph carried Mary and Jesus with him, loving them, watching over them, and pouring out his love and honor and devotion upon them.

This is how we are to Evangelize in the MI.

We too are to carry Mary and Jesus with us wherever we go in the workplace, shopping, our neighborhood and our home with all the love and honor and devotion we have in our hearts.

So that on the last day, when we take our last breath, Mary and Jesus will still be at our side because through our Consecration, like Joseph, we never left them and they never left us.

And we too will die in Peace surrounded by Our Lord and Mary to whom we have consecrated our heart and soul, our love and devotion, our whole life, death and eternity.

So at the end of every renewal of our Consecration to the Blessed Virgin, I recommend that we say, "St. Joseph, Pray for us!" Because he was the first to be Consecrated and the model of how to be Consecrated heart and soul to Mary.

In St. Joseph,  
Fr. Patrick Greenough OFM Conv  
MI International Vice President



*The Holy Family with the Little Bird - Bartolome Esteban Murillo. Completion Date: c.1650.*



### Retreats/Retiros

April 6 Lenten Retreat –  
West Haven, UT

**MI Teen Program** – Escondido, CA  
July 6-11: Teen Girls'  
July 13-18: Teen Boys'

**Preparación para la consagración total**  
2 & 3 Junio, en Español 7-8:30pm

## MI Family News

**MI National Board** met March 4-6 at Marytown. Fr. Patrick Greenough, OFM President, Peter Ptak – Vice President, Fr. Steven McKinley, OFM Conv – Spiritual Assistant, Br. Juniper Kris, OFM Conv – Guardian of Marytown, Shevawn Pearson – Youth Coordinator, Sr. Donna, SMMI, Ann O'Donnell – Fr. Kolbe Missionary, Christine Rossi.

The MI wants to project for an Elective Assembly in 2018 requiring clearer indications for the MI Villages and their structure. Board members accepted to be liaisons with MI members who will help to develop these clearer indications, guidelines for MI Villages, KFC, the media and communications.

Fr. Patrick pointed out that the year **2016 will be the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Maximilian Kolbe's martyrdom** and **2017 the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the MI**. The MI National Board wants to sponsor events at Marytown and in the three main regions of the US – east, west and mid-west for these anniversaries. The International MI Office will be sponsoring events which will be announced at a later date.



Pray for the soul of **Fr. Raffaele De Muro's father** who passed away in Italy in March. Fr. De Muro is the MI International Spiritual Assistant.

**Hugo Marion Rausch** - born on January 24th at 3:42 pm, 9lbs 1oz, 21 inches long. He's doing wonderfully. The Rausch Family is part of the MI Family Village in Modesto, CA. Hugo is child number seven.

**Simon Gregory Lowe** - born on March 23rd at 9am, 8 lbs 8 ounces, 20 inches long. Baby and mom, **Ruth Islas Lowe**, are doing well; as well as the other three siblings. Dad – Daniel, Utah



### MEMORARE Prayer of St. Joseph

Remember, most pure spouse of Mary, ever Virgin, my loving protector, Saint Joseph, that no one ever had recourse to your protection or asked for your aid without obtaining relief. Confiding, therefore, in your goodness, I come before you and humbly implore you. Despise not my petitions, foster-father of the Redeemer, but graciously receive them. Amen.

## Marytown's Calendar

<http://www.marytown.com>