



Rejoice in...our littleness.

Dear MI Members and Friends,

In a few days Pope Benedict will solemnly open the Year of Faith. In his apostolic letter, *PORTA FIDEI*, for the indiction of the Year of Faith, he made reference to the renewal of the Church through the “witness offered by the lives of believers: by their very existence in the world.” When I mentioned to older members of an MI Village this emphasis of the Holy Father they were very happy to feel a special part of the Year of Faith. They are affectionately known as the ‘little ole ladies and men’ who get up each day and pray at their bedsides for all the needs of their loved ones and renew their love and commitment to Our Lord asking Our Lady for her continual assistance. They live much of their day in quiet and solitude after years of hard work and raising families.

In many parishes they are the bulwark of faith and prayer. When my first pastor needed special prayers he turned to the faithful who attended daily Mass. He called them the heart of his parish. Many MI members are just such people and this year is a special recognition of your value in the life of the Church. The faith of the little ones – you and I – is so vital.

The month of October seems to be dedicated to the little ones of God. We begin the month with St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, affectionately called the Little Flower who lived and taught

the little way. “We are in an era of inventions. These days, one doesn’t have to bother to climb stairs because the wealthy have elevators to easily replace them. Me, I would like to find an elevator to lift myself all the way up to Jesus, because I am too small to climb the harsh staircase of perfection. I searched all the holy books to find an indication of the elevator, the object of my desire. I read these words which came from the mouth of Eternal Wisdom: ‘If someone is very small, let him come to me.’ Then I came, discovering I had found what I was searching for.”¹

Following her is the feast of the *poverello*, the Little Poor Man of Assisi, St. Francis. He is known throughout the world as the man of poverty and the simplicity of the Gospel. He named his Order the Minors, to remind his followers to stay small and humble. In the *Omnibus of Sources* (Writings and early Biographies) we read, “He wished that the order should be for the poor and unlearned, not only for the rich and wise. ‘With God,’ he said, ‘there is no respect of persons, and the minister general of the order, the Holy Spirit, rests equally upon the poor and the simple.’”²

The little ones live the Gospel in the day to day hours of life. The saints and the Church call each person to “radiate the word of truth that the Lord Jesus has left us.” A significant sacramental that helps us know and

MI Monthly Intention

Immaculata, please intercede...

... that St. Maximilian Kolbe guide us to be witnesses and missionaries of God’s love and mercy..

Year of Faith



Opens
October 11, 2012,
 the fiftieth anniversary of
 the opening of the Second
 Vatican Council, and also
 marks the twentieth
 anniversary of the
 publication of
 the *Catechism of the
 Catholic Church*.

It will end on the
 Solemnity of Our Lord
 Jesus Christ,
 Universal King,
November 24, 2013.

contemplate the truth that the Lord has left us is the holy rosary. October is traditionally called the month of the holy rosary. In Blessed John Paul II's beautiful apostolic letter, *Rosarium Virginis Mariae (I)*, he pointed out:

In the sobriety of its elements, it has all the depth of the Gospel message in its entirety, of which it can be said to be a compendium. It is an echo of the prayer of Mary, her perennial Magnificat for the work of the redemptive Incarnation which began in her virginal womb. With the Rosary, the Christian people sits at the school of Mary and is led to contemplate the beauty on the face of Christ and to experience the depths of his love. Through the Rosary the faithful receive abundant grace, as though from the very hands of the Mother of the Redeemer.

Therefore, let us pick up our rosaries with new zeal for the spread of the grace of faith. You won't be written about in newspapers or found on YouTube but the Church

acknowledges "***your existence in the world.***"

The light of our day is the faith. God's beams of grace penetrate our heart and home in an invisible way. We know He is with us. Maybe in this year we can let the light of faith shine brighter so that others may find the way in the darkness.

Hope to see many of you at the MI National Conference at Marytown.

Ann O'Donnell
 Fr. Kolbe Missionary of the
 Immaculata
fkmissionaries@gmail.com

1. Through the Year with Saint Therese of Lisieux, Sonstant Tonnelier, Liguori, 1998, pgs. 202-203.
2. St Francis of Assisi, Writings and Early Biographies, ed. Marion A. Habig, Franciscan Herald Press, 1972, p. 517.

Points to Ponder

1. How will I live this Year of Faith in communion with the Church?
2. What have I learned from the little way of St. Therese and simplicity of St. Francis?
3. Who can I reach out to share the faith with? Who needs an encouraging word?
4. Quote from the Catholic Catechism: #30 "*Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.*" *Although man can forget God or reject him He never ceases to call every man to seek him, so as to find life and happiness. But this search for God demands of man every effort of intellect, a sound will, 'an upright heart,' as well as the witness of others who teach him to seek God.*

UPCOMING ELECTIONS

We cannot stick our heads in the sand and pretend that we are not living a crucial time for our government leadership. St. Maximilian would be very saddened if we did. He faced the evils of his time and sought solutions. Many prayers are being written and spread for the conversion of our present leadership and for the upcoming elections. MI members are encouraged to pray a daily rosary in honor of Mary, the Immaculate Conception, Patroness of the United States of America, begging her intercession.

Cardinal Burke has also written a prayer for these 40 days (started Sept 28) until the election: <http://www.catholicvote.org/discuss/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/Cardinal-Burke-Prayer-Card.pdf>

Visit our website and blog today!

www.kolbmission.org/en

BLOG:

www.kolbmissionusa.blogspot.com

WHAT'S NEW?

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

NEWS from ROME

The Holy See announced that Pope Benedict XVI will preside at the Solemn Mass for the opening of the **XIII Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on October 7th**, during which the Holy Father will **proclaim two new Doctors of the Church: Saint John of Avila and Saint Hildegard of Bingen.**

Joining the ranks of Saint Therese of Avila, Saint Catherine of Sienna, and Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, German mystic **Saint Hildegard of Bingen**, canonized this past May, will be the fourth woman in Church history to be declared Doctor of the Church. Born circa 1098 in County Palatine of the Rhine (a region in modern-day Germany), she was a Benedictine abbess known for her visions, which she began to receive at the age of three. Hildegard was also known for her contribution to medieval music, having composed dozens of original pieces throughout her lifetime. She died Sept. 17, 1179.

Saint John of Avila, canonized in 1970 by Pope Pius VI, was born May 10, 1500, to a wealthy Catholic family of Jewish descent in Almodòvar del

Only when we live in fullness, when we fill life with "meaning", with sense, and not only with things and affairs, will we be able to sing, to "magnify the Lord," just like the Virgin Mary.

Father Faccenda

Campo, Spain. He was known for his preaching and for his reform of clerical life in his native country. Included among his followers were Saint Francis Borgia, and fellow Doctors of the Church, Saints John of God and Teresa of Avila. He died in Seville on May 10, 1569.

A doctor of the Church is one whose writings have proved to be of particular value to the life of the Church, especially in the area of theology and Doctrine. For a saint to be named "doctor of the Church" these three conditions must be present: *eminens doctrina* (eminent learning), *insignis vitae sanctitas* (high degree of sanctity), and *Ecclesiae declaration* (proclamation by the Church).

MI VILLAGES

Soul of the Departed:

Our friend **Claude Foster** has returned to the Lord

It is with sadness that I inform you that Dr. Claude Foster, age 84, returned to the House of the Lord on Friday, September 14, 2012. Dr. Foster courageously fought T-cell Lymphoma for the last two years until his passing last week. Dr. Foster died peacefully, surrounded by his family in a "beautiful passing" according to his son.

Dr. Foster was a scholar, professor, author, and a man of great accomplishment and of great faith. He was a Fulbright Scholar, studying extensively in the great Universities of Europe; he earned numerous advanced degrees, including a PhD from the University of Pennsylvania, as well as being ordained a Baptist Minister. He taught History at West Chester University for 44 years.

Dr. Foster was an acclaimed historian and writer, having authored the "Biography of Paul Schneider," a protestant minister who died in the concentration camps and "Mary's Knight" the most complete biography of St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe ever written. His "Mary's Knight" biography provides an unparalleled history of the life of St. Maximilian and the origins of the Militia of the Immaculata.

(Continued on page 5...)

BALDWIN PARK, CA

MI Family Village (English/Spanish)
St. John the Baptist Parish Hall
Rik & Judith Hernandez 626-967-0440
or Joe & Edith Venegas 909-627-0327
On our summer break.

ESCONDIDO, CA

MI Family Village
Joe & Sue O'Donnell 760-745-0935
St. Mary's Catholic Church
October:
6 First Saturday Devotion 5:30pm
Mass 6:45 rosary and pizza
10 Cal State San Marcos Young
Adults Talk - The Rosary
13 Public Square Rosary Crusade
12noon - 1pm (prayer for upcoming
election)
30 RCIA Talk - Last Four Things
and Communion of Saints.
We also have the Pilgrim Virgin
visitations to MI families.

HESPERIA, CA

MI Adult Village
Last Friday 10-11:30 AM
Joanne Panicko 760-244-7048

MODESTO, CA

modestomi@aol.com
St. Joseph's Catholic Church

MI Adult Prayer Village and MI Spanish Village

1st Saturday after 8am Mass
Suzanne Flint (English) 209-521-8299
Maria Braun (Spanish)
MI Family Village
Bob & Judy Shannon
pasesetter1@mac.com

October 6 all the Villages will attend a
pro-life diocesan sponsored
conference, "A Day for Life."

MI Spanish Village

We celebrated both our **MI Annual
Picnic and St. Maximilian's feast**

last July and August; the Spanish MI Village is responsible for both events. Everything was just beautiful and we had a good turnout at both about 50-60 people for each event. St. Max's feast was so special. We prayed the rosary after Mass in the plaza and although we were worried about the heat, we had a breeze and shade I am sure that Our Lady arranged this perfect evening. During the rosary (we made a huge rosary out of balloons and it was sent to heaven at the end), we had a beautiful sunset with rays that reached the church. The rays were spectacular! It was a miraculous sight. This was Fr. Mark Wagner's first event in the parish as our new pastor. He led the rosary and stayed the entire time.

In **September** we read and discussed the prologue and chapter 1 of the book "Max....Un hombre para los demás". All seemed to enjoy doing this and we will continue to do it throughout the year in addition to other topics for formation. Maria Delgado-Braun

RIVERSIDE, CA

Holy Family MI Village
2nd Friday, 8:33pm
Thomas & Mari Avalos 951-313-3980
Holy Cross MI Village
2nd Friday of the Month, St. Francis de Sales, Riverside CA, 4:13 pm
Confession - 5:13 pm Holy Mass - 5:44 pm Holy Hour then our Village at The Coffee Bean at 7:03 PM
3712 Mission Inn Ave.
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
Oct 14 MI Family Rosary

(Continued from page 4...)
His work on the life of St. Maximilian, an unequaled detail of the saint's life, continues to inform and inspire generations. Dr. Foster was a great friend of the MI and to the Conventual Franciscans and was a frequent visitor to Niepokalanow. He wrote articles for the Immaculata magazine and gave speeches on the life of St. Maximilian, Holy Scripture, and historical Christianity throughout the country.

Dr. Foster shared his final morning with his family and close friends who read him Psalms and poems. He was preceded in death by his wife, Lois, to whom he was married 60 years. He is survived by his son Stephen and his wife Lori; his daughter Charissa; and five grandchildren – Tyler, Kelsey, Alexander, Dylan, and Luke. A memorial visitation was held on Thursday, Sept. 20, followed by a funeral service at Westminster Presbyterian Church, in West Chester, PA.

As he returns to the House of the Father, I am sure Claude Foster will be greeted by Saint Maximilian whose life he so faithfully and reverently chronicled. Fr. Patrick Greenough, OFM Conv, MI National President



Celebrating the 95th anniversary of the miracle at Fatima and the founding of the MI

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.

WEST COVINA, CA

FKM Center

MI and the Fr. Kolbe Missionaries:

September was filled with special occasions for the farewell to Anna Brizzi who has been called to work in Italy. Over 200 people attended a Mass and reception on Sept 9. MI members - Young Adults, Spanish speaking, the Pilipino community and others expressed their love and gratitude to Anna. Anna departed for Italy on Sept 25 where she continues her role as the FKM General Councilor for Evangelization.

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

In August we had a St Maximilian Kolbe movie/ dinner night with Polish food. We had a delicious feast with a three layer ice cream cake - Strawberry for the red crown, Vanilla for the white crown and chocolate for Franciscan. In September we will be celebrating our two year anniversary. The nature of our gathering is to meet at 6:30pm for pizza followed by prayer at 7:20pm. Kolbean celebration in West Covina, CA

KANSAS CITY, MO

Ave Maria Village 1st Saturday
Christine Rossi immaculata8@kc.rr.com



Photo - OSWATAME, KS retreat

Under Ave Maria Village's guidance are:

OSWATAME, KS

Morning Star MI Village
Denise Bradley

MOUND CITY, KS

Mystical Rose MI Village
Cecilia Jones

LA CYGNE, KS

Spiritual Vessel MI Village

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

September 1 & 2...Fr. Kolbe

Missionary, Ann O'Donnell, spoke to both the Kansas City, MO MI Village and the four Villages in Kansas. On both occasions she spoke on the call to sanctity, the relevance of the MI founded by a canonized Saint - Maximilian Kolbe and the meaning of the words of the total consecration prayer. About 40 people attended both sessions. (see picture above) Christine Rossi is doing a fantastic job of spreading the MI in Missouri and

MI NEWS

Janet Cooke reports on the total consecration to our Lady which took place at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Truckee, CA on Sept 21, 2012 during the Mass celebrated by Fr Matt Blank.

My sister, Janet, and I felt Our Lady guiding us as we prepared 12 people to make their act of total consecration. The group included a priest and a seminarian! We were pleased. Everyone was very touched. Thanks for the prayers.

NEW ASSIGNMENTS:

Fr. Joe Illo, chaplain at Thomas Aquinas College in Ojai, CA, along with **Fr. James Garceau**, **OPraem.** **Fr. Matthew O'Donnell**, chaplain for the Catholic Association for Students (Newman Club) at Stanislaw State University in Turlock, CA, along with the developing parish of All Saints.

Dino Durando is now Director of the Family Life Office for the Diocese of Kansas City – St. Joseph. He and his wife and eight children and grandmother moved to Missouri after being Parish Administrator of St. Joseph in Modesto and leading the MI Family Village.

Kansas. We welcome these new Village members and their dedicated leaders. St Maximilian's life is touching the lives of **Immaculata Village**

TROOPER, PA
MI Totus Tuus Village of the Visitation, BVM Church
 Joe Valovage jrvjmj@verizon.net

HOUSTON, TX
MI "Domus Mariae" Village
 1st Thursday
 6-7:15 pm Our Lady of Czestochowa Church
 1731 Blalock Rd, 77080
 Turrus Davidica 281-793-3394
<http://www.midomusmariae.com>
 Email: info@MIDomusMariae.com
 A monthly Holy Hour and study of St Kolbe's writings.

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
lovinglife4u@gmail.com

Respect Life Sunday, October 7th, is our annual Holy Hour for Life which will include exposition, readings, and the praying of "A Rosary for Life". The prayers are suggested by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. Deacon Jack will preside.

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

OCTOBER FR. KOLBE MISSIONARIES CALENDAR

October 11 St Paul Parish Staff Retreat

October 19-21 MI National Conference – Marytown
 The National Conference is on the Year of Faith.

Click onto www.kolbemission.org/en for further information on events sponsored by the Missionaries.

MARRIAGES: We pray in a special way for these three couples to be wed in November and ask the Blessed Mother to grant them the grace of a holy and happy marriage.

November 3, Dolly Saunders and Russell Sianez at Blessed Sacrament Church, Seattle, WA. Dolly has been an MI Teen, Young Adult and in leadership with the MI Teens in Washington. Russell is from Northern California where they will settle.

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

Web:
www.consecration.com

MI National President
Fr. Patrick
Greenough, OFM Conv

Fr. Kolbe
Missionaries
Of the Immaculata
626-917-0040
fkmissionaries@gmail.com
www.kolbemission.org/en

November 10 *Mariam Ptak* and Richard Ochab at St John the Baptist Church in Johnsburng, IL. Miriam has grown up in the MI and assisted with the MI in various levels at Marytown, IL and with the MI Young Adults.

November 17 *Andy Islas and Julianna Lopez* from Baldwin Park, CA will wed at San Gabriel Mission in San Gabriel, CA. Andy has grown up in the MI and he and Julianna traveled to WYD in Spain with the FKM.



A last wish for FKM, Anna Brizzi, was to see Yosemite. Fr. Matthew O'Donnell hosted a visit to the beautiful valley. l-r Ann, Anna, Fr. Matthew, Ada, Rumela.