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MI Monthly Intention
That Christians may responsibly care for the
protection and preservation of the environment,
which is God's handiwork.

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Who Would Dare Imagine

On numerous occasions, Maximilian speaks of creation. He not only approaches topics related to conversion and sanctification in his writings, but often deals with the beauty of creation. In a meditation, he praises God for the wonders he has worked with the following words: "Who would dare imagine that You, oh infinite, eternal God, have loved me for centuries, or to be more precise, from before the beginning of the centuries?

In fact, you have loved me ever since you have existed as God; thus, you have always loved me and you shall always love me!...

For me you have created the skies scattered with stars, for me the earth, the seas, the mountains, the streams, and all the beautiful things on earth....

Still this did not satisfy You: to show me close up that You loved me so tenderly, You came down from the purest delights of heaven to this tarnished and tear-ridden world, You lived amidst poverty, hard work and suffering." (SK 1145).

Obviously the Immaculata is the most beautiful expression of all creation and St. Maximilian praises and thanks God for giving to all humanity a mother so wonderful. Here are the eloquent words of the Franciscan martyr that emphasize the beauty of Mary, the glory of all humanity: "Yet, from all eternity God had foreseen a creature that would not desert Him whatever the circumstance, someone who would not squander a single grace, who would not appropriate to herself anything she received from Him...."

From the first moment of her existence, the Giver of all graces, the Holy Spirit, established His own dwelling in her soul, taking absolute possession of it and penetrating to such a degree that the name of Spouse of the Holy Spirit only expresses a vague, pale and imperfect, though true, shadow of that union (SK 1224).

Fr. Kolbe praised the “yes” of Mary, the marvel of creation, through which she cooperates in the realization of a new creation, Christ Jesus; “God said: “*Fiat*” (Gen 1, 3, 6) and there was creation came into being. A creature, Mary, said: “*Fiat mihi*” (Lk 1:38) and God made Himself present in her. The creatures also repeat, “*Fiat.*” They conform their will to the Will of the Immaculata. Action and reaction of love.» (SK 1283).

The contemplation of creation allows us to praise, to love, to glorify and bless the Almighty. This is the goal of the M.I.: to exalt the works of God and to bring humanity to acknowledge the Creator, and to discover the infinite love there is for each element in the order of creation. In fact, «The nature of each thing is shaped according to the purpose for which it exists. So if we wish to learn about the nature of the MI we need to examine its purpose. Also, each thing has a dual purpose: an ultimate one and an immediate one. The ultimate purpose of all creation is the external glory of God. Intelligent creatures offer such glory in a perfect fashion, because they are not merely an image of the divine perfections: they also know and recognize such image. Hence the homage, adoration, thanksgiving, and love of the creature toward the Creator. We must love God without limits, because He loved us without limits and showed such love by coming down to this earth in order to lift, enlighten, strengthen and redeem the guilty. He did so even by way of a most humiliating death in the midst of most horrible torments, staying here with us until the end of time, even though He had been abandoned and insulted by ungrateful people; ultimately giving Himself up to us as nourishment, to make us divine through His own divinity. However, since we are limited creatures, we are unable to give infinite glory to God. Let us at least give Him as much as we can. Therefore, the ultimate purpose of the MI is precisely the glory of God, and not only a greater glory, but the greatest possible glory» (SK 1248).

Let us entrust to St. Maximilian Kolbe the following points for our reflection. They come from an unedited article of his, #1285, written in 1937. Consider how much Kolbe expresses and with him let us contemplate and praise the works of God.

For Reflection (SK 1285)

- God: He loves Himself, as well as all creatures: those that are possible and those actually created.
- Creature: A creature loves itself (it does not possess infinity) and its Creator (via limited perfections).
- God loves finite creatures according to His own infinite nature.
- Creatures love the infinite God according to their own finite natures: since finite realities are created, so [the creatures] know the Creator and love Him.
- God loves His own infinite self and also all finite creatures, for the fact that they are limited. So He loves limitedness. Creatures love their own limited condition, namely, their limited perfection, because they were given it freely: they love their own nothingness (that is, in fact, the truth).
- The Father is the Beginning in heaven, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named [cf. Eph 3:14].
- In the physical realm, a law of physical transformation is in force.
- In the supernatural realm, a law of supernatural transformation is in force.

-Fr. Raffaele Di Muro,
MI International Assistant

Translated by Ann O'Donnell

Pope Francis' encyclical on Care for our Common Home:

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html

MI FAMILY NEWS

Feast of St. Maximilian Kolbe – August 14

There were many celebrations of our Patrons feast (Marytown, Irwindale, CA, Modesto, CA, New Haven, UT, TX.....). This marked the opening of the Kolbe Year leading up to the 75th anniversary of Kolbe's martyrdom. To the new consecrants in the US we welcome each and every one of you to the MI. *May you let the Immaculata guide you.*

Marytown - MI National Center

On the Solemnity of the Assumption of Our Lady, a large and varied group of people, of different nationalities and ages, made their consecration to the Immaculata during the 12 Noon Mass. What a great way to celebrate Our Queen!



In conjunction with the World Meeting of Families, we are promoting *Family Marian Consecration* through a series of articles being published in the Marytown MONITOR. Check it online marytown.com. On October 3rd, 2015, there will be a Family Consecration Ceremony: 11:15 AM Rosary procession, followed by 12 o'clock Mass and Consecration Ceremony. Come and invite other families!

MI Mid-West

Check for news on the Conversion of the Heart Through Mary Conference

<http://www.consecration-midwest.org/conference-2015.html>

M.I. Village of the Immaculata, Milwaukee, WI

Congratulations to our 17 consecrants who offered their lives in consecration to the Immaculata after the morning's Assumption Mass at the Basilica of St. Josaphat in Milwaukee, WI.

Fr. Paul Schneider OFM Conv. presided at the Marian Consecration ceremony and invested each new consecrant with the miraculous medal.

<https://www.facebook.com/VillageOfTheImmaculata/posts/1146338242059483>



MI Modesto, CA

<http://www.stjmod.com/> Militia Immaculata

MI Adult Prayer Village

MI Family Village

Inmadulada Español

West Covina, CA

Fr. Kolbe Missionaries

August 14, a special Mass was celebrated by newly ordained, Fr. Jonathan Meyer at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Irwindale, CA. Families, youth, adults and the elderly gathered to honor St. Maximilian Kolbe. Three adults made their total consecration in English and fifteen adults and children in Spanish. Fr. Jonathan remained in church for an hour after the Mass to offer a personal blessing with the relic of St. Maximilian Kolbe.

Sick

Continued prayers are requested for *Cindy Venegas Olson* who is gravely suffering from brain tumors that have been operated on numerous times but are now inoperable. She lives with her husband, Scott and son, Gabriel outside Minneapolis. Cindy and her entire family participated in the YMI summer programs and she continued on as a full time YMI Volunteer. She shared her gifted graphic artist talents with the YMI Newsletter for many years.

Please continue to pray for *MI International President, Raffaella Agguzzoni*, who is battling breast cancer.

Soul of the Departed



May the Lord richly reward and welcome *Father Francis Filice* who passed into the next life July 17 at Nazareth House in San Rafael, CA. Father Filice was a great friend and supporter of the MI/YMI Northern California and Walk for Life West Coast since day one! May God comfort and console all of his relatives and loved ones. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis_P._Filice Here is a picture from 2014 of Father Filice with his grandson, Fr. Joseph Previtali, and his son-in-law, Deacon David Previtali. *Deacon David and his wife Marian Felice Previtali* were YMI Volunteers.

SIDE BARS

The Kolbe year

August 14, 2015-16 75th anniversary of the death of St. Maximilian Kolbe during which we will also remember all those who died in the concentration camps that opened with the first transport of prisoners on June 12-13, 1940.

Fr. Patrick is writing a series of **formation material on St. Maximilian Kolbe**. If you would like to receive this please write or call the MI National Office at Marytown.

In May, June, July 2016 Fr. Patrick Greenough will travel with the **relic of St. Maximilian Kolbe** throughout the US. If you are interested in him coming with the relic to your parish or organization, contact the MI National Office at Marytown.



Pope Francis in the US-Pray for this important visit!

Sept. 23 President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama will welcome Pope Francis to the White House.

**Canonization of Blessed Junipero Serra at Washington's Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Sept. 24 will address a joint meeting of Congress.

Sept. 25 will visit the United Nations to address the U.N. General Assembly.

Sept. 26-27 will participate for the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia

**Blessed Junipero Serra

<http://stjunipero.org/>

<http://www.usccb.org/about/leadership/holy-see/francis/papal-visit-2015/junipero-serra-biography.cfm>

World Meeting of Families

Philadelphia - September 22-25

Marytown - National Shrine of St. Maximilian, Patron of Families, will be represented -- booth 807. Stop By!

ESPANOL

SEPTIEMBRE

Para que cada cristiano ponga la máxima atención en el cuidado y salvaguardia del ambiente en el que vive y que es obra de Dios.

Who would Dare Imagine (please translate into Spanish)

En numerosas ocasiones Maximiliano habla de la creación. En sus escritos no trata sólo de temas relacionados con la conversión y con la santificación del hombre, sino que a menudo se ocupa de la belleza de la creación. En una meditación, con las siguientes palabras, alaba al Creador por las maravillas que ha realizado: «¿Quién se atrevería a suponer que Tú, oh Dios infinito, eterno, me has amado desde hace siglos, mejor dicho, desde antes de los siglos? Tú, en efecto, me amas desde el momento en que existes como Dios, ¡por tanto me has amado y me amarás siempre!... Aunque yo aún no existiese, Tú ya me amabas, y porque ya me amabas, oh Buen Dios, me llamaste de la nada a la existencia. Para mí creaste los cielos constelados de estrellas, para mí la tierra, los mares, los montes, los ríos, tantas, tantas cosas hermosas que hay en la tierra... Pero esto no es suficiente: para mostrarme de cerca que me amas con mucha ternura, bajaste de las delicias más puras del paraíso a esta tierra enlodada y llena de lágrimas, viviste en medio de la pobreza, de las fatigas y de los sufrimientos» (EK 1145). Obviamente la Inmaculada es la expresión más bella de toda la creación y nuestro santo alaba y agradece a Dios por haberle donado a la humanidad entera una madre así maravillosa. He aquí, las elocuentes palabras del mártir franciscano que subrayan la belleza de María, esplendor de la humanidad: «Desde la eternidad, sin embargo, Dios había previsto una Criatura que en nada, ni en lo más pequeño, se habría alejado de él, que no habría disipado ninguna gracia, que nunca se habría apropiado de ninguna cosa recibida de él. Desde el primer instante de su existencia el Dador de las gracias, el Espíritu Santo, estableció su propia morada en su alma, tomó posesión absoluta de ella y penetró en ella de tal modo que el nombre de Esposa del Espíritu Santo no expresa sino una sombra lejana, pálida, imperfecta, aunque verdadera, de esa unión». (EK 1224).

El Padre Kolbe exalta el “sí” de María, maravilla de la creación, mediante el cual coopera en la realización de una nueva creación en Cristo Jesús; «Dios dijo: “Fiat” (Gen 1, 3, 6) y la creación tuvo lugar. Una criatura, María, dijo: “*Fiat mihi*” (Lc 1,38) y Dios se hizo presente en Ella. También las criaturas repiten: “*Fiat*”. Concilian su voluntad con la voluntad de la Inmaculada. Acción y reacción» (EK 1283). La contemplación de la creación nos consiente de alabar, amar, glorificar y bendecir al Altísimo.

Ésta, es en efecto, la finalidad de la M.I.: exaltar cada obra de Dios y poner a la humanidad en la condición de reconocerla, para agradecerle al Creador y descubrir el infinito amor por cada elemento del orden creatural. De hecho, «la naturaleza de todas las cosas está modelada conforme a la *finalidad* que se propone; por consiguiente, también para conocer la naturaleza de la M.I. es necesario examinar su *finalidad*. Todo tiene, además, un doble fin: el último y el inmediato. El *fin último* de toda criatura es la gloria externa de Dios, las criaturas inteligentes ofrecen esta gloria de manera perfecta, ya que no son sólo una imagen de las perfecciones divinas, sino que también, conocen y reconocen esa imagen. De aquí el homenaje, la adoración, la acción de gracias y el amor de la criatura al Creador. Nosotros tenemos que amar de manera infinita, ya que Él nos amó de manera infinita y manifestó ese amor bajando Él mismo a esta tierra, para aliviar, iluminar, fortalecer y hasta redimir al hombre culpable mediante la muerte ignominiosa y entre los tormentos más terribles; quedándose con nosotros hasta el fin de los tiempos, si bien muy abandonado e insultado por personas ingratas; donándose a nosotros como alimento, para divinizarlos con su divinidad. Sin embargo, siendo nosotros criaturas limitadas, no podemos ofrecer a Dios una gloria infinita. Ofrezcámosle al menos todo lo que podamos. Por eso el fin último de la M.I. es precisamente la *gloria de Dios*, y no solamente eso, sino una gloria *mayor*, es más, la *máxima posible*» (EK 1248).

Confiamos al mismo Kolbe los puntos para nuestra reflexión que encontramos expuestos en uno de sus documentos inéditos (cfr. EK 1285). Consideramos cuanto el santo expone y contemplamos la obra de Dios tributándole gloria.

Para la reflexión (EK 1285)

- Dios: Se ama a sí mismo y ama a las criaturas posibles y realmente creadas.

- Criatura: se ama a sí misma (no posee el infinito) y ama al Creador ([que conoce] a través de las perfecciones limitadas)
- Dios ama a la criatura finita según su propia naturaleza infinita.
- La criatura ama a Dios infinito según la misma naturaleza finita: dado que las realidades finitas son creadas, (la criatura) conoce al Creador y lo ama.
- Dios se ama a sí mismo, infinito; y ama a la criatura finita por el hecho de ser limitada, es decir, [ama] la limitación; la criatura ama la limitación, es decir, una perfección limitada, por el hecho de que la ha recibido: ama su propia nada (ésta es la verdad).
- El Padre es Principio en los cielos, del cual toma nombre toda paternidad (en el cielo y en la tierra) (cfr. Ef 3, 14).
- En el orden físico rige una ley de transformación física.
- En el orden sobrenatural rige una ley de transformación sobrenatural.

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