



The Anunciation
Francisco Goya, 1785

MI Monthly Intention

Immaculata, please intercede...

that your docility, Mary, may be an example for all consecrated men and women called to follow the Lord closely on the path of the evangelical counsels.

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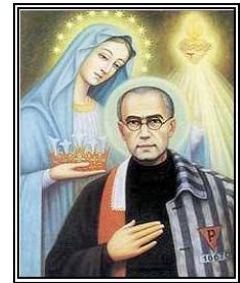
Docility

Dear MI Members and Friends,

Docility is the attitude of availability of the heart on the part of the believer that allows him/her to adhere fully and continuously to the will of the Lord. With serene confidence he/she relies on the Most High in the certainty that his sanctification depends on allowing him/herself to be led by Him. Moreover, the example of the Immaculate reveals this. In this reflection we will focus on this important dimension of the spiritual journey not only in reference to consecrated life, but also in relation to how every believer is called to engage in the project that God entrusts him/her.

Docility triggers a mechanism of sanctification: it enables one to recognize his/her faults and frailties; you are more inclined to trust in God starting from the awareness of your own littleness before God. In every expression of your lives, you can grow in humility and receptivity to divine grace, which is decisive in the spiritual life. In every situation of his vocation and apostolic activity, St. Maximilian experienced the power that comes from the Almighty in the process of inner growth. He realized how this plays a very important role for one's personal conversion.

From the act of placing one's life in the hands of the Most High docility is born and develops. The Immaculata is a wonderful guide and teacher of this. To St. Maximilian there also exists a



docility to Mary, that is to say, to live in a continuous availability to God. In fact, to do what is the will of the Immaculata equals to be always in the divine will. Nothing exists in the Madonna that is not in line with the design of the Most High: from this follows that being in the hands of the Virgin means to be surely on the path of sanctification.

The Evangelical Counsels

A fundamental element of Kolbean asceticism is the practice of the evangelical counsels, which are characterized by obedience to the Lord, and the maternal protection of Mary. Significant is the following expression of the Polish saint: "When we become the Immaculata, then our whole religious life and its sources will be hers and of her. Our obedience will be supernatural because we will do her will; chastity, becomes her virginity; poverty, her detachment from the goods of the earth" (SK 486).

The Immaculata is a reference point for those who live the evangelical counsels. She is primarily a model of the highest value to live the vows. Following her example, you can take a safe route in the religious life. Above all, it is necessary to trust in the intercession and protection of the Virgin. To be led and enlightened by her splendid witness means to make the path of consecration ever more authentic and a herald of a credible proclamation of the Gospel.



Norbertine Sisters,
Tehacapi, CA

**March 25th
Solemnity of the
Annunciation**

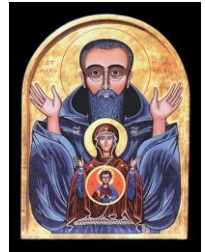
We are wholly, entirely, and exclusively surrendered to the Immaculate with all our acts, and in her and through her wholly, entirely and exclusively given to Jesus, and in him and through him wholly, entirely and exclusively given to our Father in heaven. – St. Maximilian

No one else rescues us from that essential slavery except Jesus, who assumed our flesh from the Virgin Mary and died on the cross to free us from the slavery of sin and to restore us to our lost filial condition. Pope Francis Dec 31, 2014

Contemplating her it is possible to live the evangelical counsels closely anchored to her example. The virtue of obedience, according to the example and thought of Father Kolbe, helps you to practice a holy religious life. Who obeys is awarded a supernatural outlook and living the vows becomes a consequence of seeing one's existence in this way. This helps to organize the fraternal life harmoniously, given that a humble manner allows one to overcome division and discord and to turn one's gaze and goals to the heights.

For example, the Immaculata is a reference point for those who are called to a life of poverty in the way of the Lord. When the consecrated person relies on her, he/she is guided in regards to the use of material goods. The Immaculata is the model

of poverty, because she experienced it profoundly. Her intercession and her role as mediatrix prove valuable to the inner growth of the consecrated in the way of essentiality. Indeed, "Everything that belongs to us is hers. Hence we practice perfect poverty by using those things only which are absolutely necessary and adequate to reach our goal"(SK 486).



-Fr. Raffaele Di Muro,
MI International Assistant

Translated by Ann O'Donnell



For Reflection

- ⚏ What role does docility play in my spiritual journey?
- ⚏ Do I contemplate the docility of Mary in order to make me always more ready to obey the divine plan for me?
- ⚏ Am I always attentive to what the Lord asks me?
- ⚏ Like Mary, am I ready to say "yes" to God?
- ⚏ Am I convinced that my spiritual path is a continuous being led by the Lord, as happened to the Immaculata?
- ⚏ Do I *just* pray to the Blessed Virgin Mary, or am I also convinced that her example is really important for my Christian journey?
- ⚏ Am I aware how integral Mary's example is to the consecrated person, in the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience?



Lent is a fitting time for self-denial; we would do well to ask ourselves what we can give up in order to help and enrich others by our own poverty. Let us not forget that **real poverty hurts:** no self-denial is real without this dimension of penance. I distrust a charity that costs nothing and does not hurt. - Pope Francis

MI Family News

MI National Board

March 9-12 will convene at Marytown
Preparing for an elective assembly of the MI.

Marytown

Preparation Day for Consecration to Mary

Saturday, March 14th, 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM
847-367-7800 EXT. 246

*Consecration Ceremony will be Wednesday March 25th,
the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, 7:00 PM Mass.*

The Father Kolbe Missionaries of the Immaculata

Invite you to the Perpetual Profession of the Vows of
Jillian Cooke

Holy Mass at 1:00 pm on March 21, 2015 at Saint Christopher Church West Covina, CA
RSVP by March 14th FKMissionaries@gmail.com

Preparation for Total Consecration

On March 25, 7PM Mass and rite
March 12 & 19 7-8:30PM

MI Weekend Retreat

Bringing Light into the Darkness

June 5-7, 2015

St. Clare Retreat Center
Soquel, California

Retreat Master:

Fr. Maximilian Okapal O.Praem
of Saint Michael's Abbey
Registration by May 1.

Utah MI

St. Mary's, West Haven, UT & the Militia Immaculata

Bringing Light into the Darkness

A Silent Lenten Retreat

Sunday, March 15th, 2015

1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Featuring MI Speaker Mrs. Christine Rossi from the Archdiocese of Kansas City, KS, recently seen on EWTN's "The Church Universal"

www.stmarysutah.org – Donna Masek



Soul of the Departed

Lisa Hamrick wrote: It is with sadness that I send out the notice of the untimely passing of YMIer, **Hugh James Francis McDonald**, at the age of 58 years. Hugh was from Canada. He will be remembered for his many gifts and his gentle spirit. He was a true Renaissance man. . . a painter, musician/composer, philosopher, etc.. I have very fond memories of Hugh from the days of the YMI and MI with the Father Kolbe Missionaries. Someone described him as a gentle giant, and that's how I remember him. . . tall and lean with a mop of wavy auburn hair, a ready wit and a very big and welcoming smile for everyone. He was a very devout man and his deep faith and profound love and devotion to Our Lady were evident in his person.

One of his brothers, Father Paul, found Hugh at his home and posted this message:

Dear friends of Hugh McDonald. Early on Saturday morning, January 31, my brother (this is Paul writing) died suddenly. His funeral Mass will be at Our Lady of the Scapular Church. Please pray for the repose of his soul.
<http://yourlifemoments.ca/sitepages/obituary.asp?oid=859345#>

Modesto, CA

Celebrated it's 9th Annual Marian Retreat

February 7 at St. Joseph Church

MI members *Frs. Matthew O'Donnell & Mark Wagner, Ada Locatelli, Jillian Cooke, and Carmen Marquez* spoke on the theme of *Bringing Light into the Darkness* to 150 retreatants.

Organized by Suzanne Flint (English), Maria Braun (Spanish) and Nickie Miranda (Children) and their dedicated teams.



left – Suzanne Flint (coordinator), right – Fr O'Donnell blessing participants with a first class relic of St. Maximilian

Daily Renewal of Total Consecration

Immaculata, Queen and Mother of the Church, I renew my consecration to you this day and for always, so that you may use me for the coming of the Kingdom of Jesus in the whole world. To this end I offer you all my prayers, actions and sacrifices of this day.

Daily Miraculous Medal Prayer of St. Maximilian

O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you, and for all those who do not have recourse to you, especially the enemies of Holy Church and all those recommended to you.



Links for MI & MI Calendars in the US

Links for MI & MI Calendars in the US & Canada

Links for MI in the US

www.marytown.com/

www.miyouth.org

www.consecration-midwest.org

www.kolbemission.org/en

MI Canada

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International WEB

www.mi-international.org

Others

<http://www.usccb.org/>

www.vatican.va

www.zenit.org



Tema de la MI para febrero del 2015

Docilidad

COMENTARIO A LAS INTENCIONES DE LA M.I. - 2015 Español

A cargo del padre Raffaele Di Muro

Asistente Internacional M.I.

La docilidad es la actitud de disponibilidad del corazón por parte del creyente que adhiere plenamente y continuamente a la voluntad del Señor. Con serenidad se confía al Altísimo con la certeza que la santificación pasa justamente en el dejarse conducir por Él. El ejemplo de la Inmaculada va en esa misma dirección. Nos detendremos en esta dimensión importante del camino espiritual, no solo en relación a la vida consagrada sino también en relación a cómo cada creyente está llamado a participar en el proyecto que Dios le confía.

La docilidad desencadena un mecanismo de santificación: nos hace capaces de reconocer los propios defectos y fragilidades, inclina a la confianza en Dios a partir del ser conscientes de la propia pequeñez respecto a Dios. Cada expresión de nuestras vivencias puede hacer crecer en nosotros la capacidad de ser humildes y receptivos

Intención mensual de la MI

*Inmaculada, por favor
intercede...*

para que la docilidad de María sea un ejemplo para todos los que se consagran a Dios siguiendo el camino de los consejos evangélicos.

respecto a la gracia divina, la cual en la vida espiritual es decisiva. En cada situación del camino vocacional y de su actividad apostólica, San Maximiliano, tiene un modo de experimentar la fuerza que viene del Omnipotente en su proceso de crecimiento interior y toma conciencia de cómo la disponibilidad tiene un rol de veras importante para la conversión personal.

La docilidad nace y se desarrolla a partir de la necesidad de un sincero y total abandono en las manos del Altísimo. En esta operación la Inmaculada es una magnífica guía y maestra. Además, para San Maximiliano existe también una docilidad hacia María, es decir, vivir según una continua disponibilidad en relación a Dios. De hecho, cumplir la voluntad de la Inmaculada equivale a ponerse siempre en la línea del querer divino. En la Madre no existe nada que no sea conforme al proyecto del Señor: de esto se desprende que ponerse en sus manos quiere decir encaminarse ciertamente en el camino de la santificación.

Elemento fundamental de la ascesis kolbiana es la práctica de los consejos evangélicos que es caracterizada por la docilidad al Señor y a la materna protección de María. Significativa es la siguiente expresión del Padre Kolbe: «Cuando lleguemos a ser Ella, también toda nuestra vida consagrada y sus fuentes serán de Ella y Ella misma: de Ella será nuestra obediencia sobrenatural, ya que es su voluntad; la castidad, su virginidad; la pobreza, su desapego de los bienes de la tierra» (EK 486). La Inmaculada es un punto de referencia para aquellos que viven los consejos evangélicos. Ella es, sobre todo, un modelo de absoluto valor para vivirlos: siguiendo su ejemplo es posible recorrer un itinerario seguro en la vivencia religiosa. Pero es, sobre todo, el confiarse a la intercesión y a la protección de la Virgen la verdadera ganancia. Dejarse conducir e iluminar por su espléndido testimonio quiere decir hacer el camino de consagración siempre más auténtico y signo de un anuncio creíble del Evangelio.

Contemplando constantemente a María es posible vivir los consejos evangélicos estrechamente anclados a su ejemplo. La virtud de la docilidad, según el ejemplo y el pensamiento del Padre Kolbe, ayuda a practicar una vida religiosa santa porque a Ella le fue conferida una mirada sobrenatural y vivir los votos se convierte en una consecuencia de esta visión de la propia existencia. Esta virtud ayuda a organizar en armonía la vida fraterna, visto que el estilo humilde hace posible superar las divisiones y discordias así como también ensanchar la mirada y elevar nuestras metas hacia lo alto.



John William Waterhouse: The Annunciation, 1914

Por ejemplo, la Inmaculada es un punto de referencia para quien está llamado a una vida pobre de seguimiento del Señor. Cuando la persona consagrada se abandona en Ella, se deja guiar también en relación al uso de los bienes. Ella es modelo de pobreza porque la experimentó hasta el fondo pero, sobre todo, su intercesión y su rol de mediadora se revelan preciosos para el crecimiento interior del consagrado en el camino de la esencialidad. De hecho, «a Ella pertenecen todas nuestras cosas, por lo tanto, una pobreza perfecta y el uso de las cosas solo en cuanto son indispensables y suficientes para alcanzar el fin» (EK 486).

-Fr. Raffaele Di Muro,
Asistente de la MI Internacional

Traducido por Gabriela Rodríguez

Para la reflexión

- ⛪ ¿Qué valor tiene el encuentro con el Señor en mi camino espiritual?
- ⛪ ¿Contemplo la docilidad de María para ser siempre más disponible a adherir al proyecto de Dios?
- ⛪ Como María, ¿estoy siempre listo a decir mi «sí» a Dios?
- ⛪ ¿Estoy convencido que mi camino espiritual es un continuo dejarme conducir por Dios, como lo hizo la Inmaculada?
- ⛪ ¿La Virgen María es para mí motivo de oración? ¿Tengo la certeza que su ejemplo puede ser de veras importante en mi camino cristiano?
- ⛪ - La santidad de la Vida Consagrada hace referencia al ejemplo de la Inmaculada ¿soy consciente de eso?

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