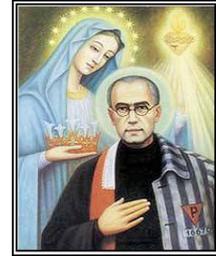


The Joy of... Mary



Dear MI Members and Friends,

In California we are experiencing what we coin a beautiful spring day. Everything is bursting in life and color. On a similar day I had gone to my mother's home to write a meditation for a retreat. In her backyard is a simple shrine to Our Lady of Grace covered with a trellis of roses. It is a beautiful and peaceful place for reflection and rest. Close by is a large bush with simple purple blossoms. In this bush is a community of sparrows that flit and skirt all day long, singing and chirping like a playground of little children. This reminded me of an experience I had in the Holy Land years ago and what I call a **Magnificat Day**.

There had been a rainfall, calming the dirt of the roads and washing the trees. We were walking towards the house of Joachim and Elizabeth in Ain Karim. The walk was lined with fruit trees bursting with white blossoms that were dancing in the

soft breeze. There was joy in the air and in my soul. Nature was singing. I entered the gate and walked into the church of the visitation of Mary and Elizabeth. It was bathed in sunlight and the artworks in the sanctuary were done in beautiful feminine pastel colors. I had not seen such pretty colors anywhere in the Holy Land.

The moment was pregnant with joy.

I was led to a profound reflection on what happened here some 2,000 years ago. Mary bore Christ in her womb and encountered Elizabeth who bore the precursor of Christ, John, in her womb. At Mary's greeting, Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, proclaims: *"Most blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled"* (Lk 1:42-45).

Mary's heart and soul rejoiced in the acknowledgement of the privilege of her Divine

MI Monthly Intention

Immaculata, please intercede...

that the Holy Spirit help us to recognize and value the dignity of women.



Our Lady of Fatima

Poem by one who was deprived most of her life of the knowledge of the Mother of Christ.

Mary, most serenely fair,
Hear an unbeliever's prayer.
Nurtured in an austere creed,
Sweetest Lady, she has need
Of the solace of your grace;
See the tears that stain her face
As she kneels to beg your love—
You whom no one taught her of.

Cornelia Otis Skinner 1901-1979
—an American actress and writer

From an MI Member in Rome

Following a bit the political unfolding of things in the states (with the health insurance issue), I sometimes wonder if the Church in the U.S. is heading towards its own Auschwitz. May our Lady help us to turn things around. But if such a purification is needed, the example of St. Maximilian and the cheerful tone of your newsletter reminds me that the spiritual children of St. Maximilian would be ready "even in Auschwitz", to bring the light and joy of the gospel into the darkest corners of humanity.

Maternity and she sang her

Magnificat – Luke 1:46-55. “*My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; and my spirit rejoices in God my savior.*” This is one of the most joyous encounters found in the Scripture. As a Fr. Kolbe Missionary once said, there was an *explosion* of grace and joy between Mary and Elizabeth.

The Visitation is pregnant with life.

Pregnancy means to have conceived, to have welcomed new life. It means development, growth, nurturing and mystery – between God and human beings. There are two pregnant women open to the mystery of life and, for both of them, miraculous. Elizabeth had been considered sterile. God blessed her seeming sterility and made her fruitful. Mary was Virgin and was to remain Virgin...and become Mother through the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit (Lk 1:35). “Into this world there comes the Immaculate one, with no slightest taint of sin, the masterpiece of God’s hands, full of grace. God, in the Blessed Trinity, looks down on his handmaid’s lowliness (i.e. her humility), and does great things in her, for he is the Almighty.” (St. Maximilian Kolbe, Notes, 1940) Both Mary and Elizabeth give credence to the words of the angel Gabriel, “*For nothing is impossible for God*” (Lk 1:37).

Mary has been *overshadowed* by the Holy Spirit and Elizabeth was “*filled with the Holy Spirit*” Lk 1:41 and they both know Jesus’ presence. **Joy is a fruit of the Holy Spirit that gives us a conscious awareness of possessing a good, Jesus Christ.**

Through the working of the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth is infused with the knowledge of the presence of the Lord

in Mary’s womb and the height of Mary’s dignity; “*And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?*” Mary did not come to Elizabeth shouting, “I am the mother of the Lord!” Rather, the Spirit enlightens Elizabeth’s mind and heart to the truth and Mary sings her joy at being possessed by the Word and the Word is Incarnate in her womb!

Our patron, St. Maximilian wrote: “She benefited by the Redemption in the most eminent manner, in consideration of the merits of her Son; and united with him by a close and indissoluble bond, she receives this tremendous responsibility and dignity of being the Mother of God’s Son, and as a consequence, of being the Father’s well beloved daughter and the **sanctuary of the Holy Spirit**; this exceptional gift of grace places her far above all creatures in Heaven and on earth” (*Immaculate Conception and the Holy Spirit*, Fr. Manteau-Bonamy, OP, Marytown Press, p. 49).



Silver Jubilarian, Ann O'Donnell, Thanking all who made her celebration of vows so special.

25th Anniversary MI Family Picnic

A Fundraiser for the FR. KOLBE MISSIONARIES OF THE IMMACULATA

Monday, MAY 28th 10am-5pm
Memorial Day

Schabarum Park 17250 Colima Road, Rowland Heights (There is a \$6 fee to enter the park)

PICNIC SCHEDULE

11:30 Rosary/1st Raffle Drawing
(Winner must be present)

12:00 Lunch

1:30 Fun & Games

3:15 Raffle Finale & Grand Prize Drawing

(Winner need not be present)

SUGGESTED DONATION

by May 13/after May 13

6 & under.....Free

Family of up to 5 members..\$30/\$35

Family of 6 or more\$40/\$45

Individuals\$10

Click on the link below for an event flyer:

<http://www.kolbemission.org/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/EN/IDPagina/4092>

“Joy of the soul is not something that is to be sought directly. It is a by-product of the doctrines and practices of the Faith. **Joy is an overflow. It overflows from the Christian life, when that life is lived fully.**” (Joy, Bertrand Weaver, CP, Sheed & Ward) Joy comes from conversion (turning from sin and putting on Christ). Joy comes from the Truth (Jesus Christ, the truth will set you free). Joy is found in the Cross (for by the wood of the cross salvation entered the world). And Mary is the bearer of the Good News, the fruit of her womb, Jesus Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Life.

John, also, from the womb encountered the Person of Jesus Christ and he leaps for joy. Our joy, the only true joy comes from the knowledge, service and love of Jesus Christ. John would lay down his life at the service of Jesus. That is Mary’s life, which took her along a path of great obedience of faith and continual revealing of the Will of God. **Her joy was based on trust and surrender in the One by whom she was aware of being so immensely loved.** Mary’s presence in our lives can give birth to the acknowledgement of Jesus, to knowing His presence and to singing His praises with a total abandonment of our lives to His way.

“The surest mark of a believing Christian is the freedom to praise, the freedom to sing one’s own Magnificat. Our Lady accompanies us in this process, and even where there is necessary loss or salutary pain, she turns all to joy. She frees our spirit to write our own Magnificat with the lines of our lives, frees us from complaint to live in praise. **She lends us her heart that we might live her spirit.** Just as Mother Teresa (and St. Maximilian Kolbe), radiated joy in the midst of pain, so too we can radiate the joy of Our Lady’s spirit to all with whom we come in contact.” (Mother Teresa: *In the Shadow of Our Lady*, Joseph Langford, MC, Our Sunday Visitor).

And in living in this continual encounter with our Lord through Mary, we will have only the faintest idea of what we will have when we find her waiting for us on the shores of eternity. Only then will we fully understand the seeds of joy contained in her exultant Magnificat (cfr. Joy).

Mary, *Cause of Our Joy*, fills our hearts with the truest of Joy, Jesus Christ!

Ann O’Donnell

Fr. Kolbe Missionary of the Immaculata

fkmissionaries@gmail.com

Points for Reflection:



It’s the month of our Beloved Mother Mary. How can you bring *her joy* into your surrounding? How can you honor her? Each Village and each MI member should crown her with love!



Share in your Village an experience of the Visitation in your life and if you have not had such an experience ask yourself, “Why not?” Can you sing your own Magnificat?



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



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

MI VILLAGES

MI FAMILY NEWS: let us pray...

Sick and Suffering:
Loida Laroiza, West Covina, CA

Soul of the departed:
Don Panicko, *MI Village Leader in Hesperia, CA* passed away April 27th.

Members of his Village were coming to their monthly gathering as he was being rushed to the hospital with a heart attack. His wife, Joanne, asks prayers for his soul. May he rest in peace. And may Mother Mary welcome home her son.

Anniversary: Ann O'Donnell, *Fr. Kolbe Missionary of the Immaculata*, 25 years of vows, April 11, 1987-2012, West Covina, CA.

Nestor and Anita Jimenez – 64 years of marriage, April 24, 2012, West Covina, CA.



Welcome our new twigling "it's a boy!" to the world,
Dominic Joseph Branche
Born: March 28, 2012

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
We will attend the Annual MI Family Picnic and then break until the new apostolic year.

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 April 15, 2012 – MI Family Village members attended Mass at St Mary's followed by a luncheon reception for almost 200 people. **Joe & Sue O'Donnell, founding couple of the MI Village**, led everyone in the Divine Mercy Chaplet and were honored for their 25 years of work for the MI in the Diocese of San Diego. Fr. Kolbe Missionary, Ann, brought them greetings and thanksgiving from the MI International President, Raffaella Aguzzoni in Rome. Long time member of the Village, Mary Breda, worked over two months to prepare a moving DVD of the history of the Family Village which covers – the Monthly Family Village, an MI Children Camp for five days at a local park for over 200 children, Camping weekends for families, MI Teens, La Posada, All Saints Day parties, Couples Night, Preparation for Total Consecration, Annual Mission Bay day, deaths of two of the children and miracles from them, the new generation of children now young adults getting married.... All is grace and hard work! St. Maximilian said that we will be richly rewarded whenever we bring a soul to acknowledge Our Lady. Joe and Sue, your reward will be great!

No MI Village until August Mission Bay Day. 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

In April our spiritual director, Fr. Benny spoke to both the Prayer and Spanish Villages (about 25 people) about "Redemptive Suffering" Fr. Benny also spoke to an audience of about 30 members of all 3 of our Villages combined for "Shalom American TV". His 4 topics were St. Maximilian Kolbe, The MI, Consecration, and The Consecration Prayer.

April 29th we will be serving Refreshments on St. Joseph's Plaza at all morning Masses in order to Promote MI. **May 4-6 Fr. Kolbe Missionaries**, Ann O'Donnell and Ada Locatelli, will speak at our May Villages and sit in on our MI Parish Council.

All three Villages will join May 6th to Crown Our Lady of Guadalupe after the noon Mass, followed by a reception to introduce parishioners to the MI.

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



Visit our website and blog today!

www.kolbemission.org/en

BLOG:

www.kolbemissionusa.blogspot.com

WHAT'S NEW?

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

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.

WEST COVINA, CA

FKM Center
3rd Sunday 2-4PM
May 20th May Crowning
Bring flowers to Our Lady and snack to share.
Larry & Victoria Jensen 626-222-4456

MI and the Fr. Kolbe Missionaries:

Good Friday – a small group of MI Young Adults joined the stations of the cross in the streets of Los Angeles, organized by Communion Liberation.
April 14, Silver Jubilee celebration for Ann O'Donnell's profession of vows. Beautiful Mass and reception for many MI members, Fr. Kolbe Volunteers, family and friends. Ann has been in the MI since 1976. Her Missionary work has taken her to seven countries. She worked for nine years in Poland.

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 Divine Mercy Mission with the Marion Fathers of the Immaculate Conception was amazing. There were at least 95 people who showed up for this powerful day. We had Mass and excellent talks by Brother Michael and Fr Dan Cambra. Shown in the picture with St Faustina (see photo), are Brother David and Brother Michael who are in training for the priesthood
In May I will introduce our new Spiritual advisor, Fr Kevin and our meeting will be rosary and Benediction.

Under Ave Maria Village's guidance are:

OSWATAME, KS

Morning Star MI Village

Denise Bradley

MOUND CITY, KS

Mystical Rose MI Village

Cecilia Jones

TROOPER, PA

MI Totus Tuus Village of the Visitation, BVM Church

Joe Valovage jrvjmj@verizon.net
Prayer and share meeting with a guest speaker to review their respective journey's of faith.

Welcome to our newest MI Village to share their news!

HOUSTON, TX

MI "Domus Mariae" Village

1st Thursday (except July and August)

6-7:15 PM Our Lady of

Czestochowa Church

1731 Blalock Rd, 77080

Turris Davidica 281-793-3394

<http://www.midomusmariae.com>

Email: info@MIDomusMariae.com

May 3, 5:30pm Feast of Mary, Queen of Poland. Study of St Maximilian Kolbe writings about this important feast day, then the Holy Hour. There will be a Mass celebrated at 7pm. Hope to see you there!

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

MI Formation compiled by
Father KolbeMissionaries
Layout-America Gonzalez

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

luvinglife4u@gmail.com

I called Mike Wick at the Institute for Religious Life office at Marytown regarding copies of the Pope John Paul Vocation prayer book he compiled. We will make it available for use during our monthly Nocturnal Holy Hours. Since the

adoration is a fruit of the Vocational Night and Lenten retreat sponsored by our Village, we will invite the adorers to pray for both a spread of the total consecration and an increase of vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life.

MI CANADA NEWS:

Ajax MI Village

Moderator – Teresa Viechweg

905-428-0952

2nd & 4th Thursdays, 6:30pm

May Fr. Kolbe Missionaries Calendar

- 1** Rumela Camanga travels to Bologna, Italy for the Fr. Kolbe Missionaries General Assembly.
- 2** **MI Village for Spanish speaking**, 9am-1pm or 7-8:30pm
- 3** **Eucharistic Adoration** 8-10pm
- 4-6** **MI Modesto** – Ann & Ada
- 4** **MI Young Adult** 7-10
- 4-5** **Young Adult women 24 hours** 18-25 years old. Call Jillian for information
- 13-27** **Fr. Kolbe Missionaries of the Immaculata General Assembly** – Bologna, Italy
- 19** **Election of General Directress and Council for the FKM**
We ask you prayers for this important event.

SAVE THE DATE

25TH Annual MI Family Picnic

May 28th Schabarum Park, Rowland Heights, CA

MI Teen Summer Programs

At Kamp Kuper Retreat Center, Escondido, CA

Teen Girls July 15-20

Teen Guys July 22-26

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