



MI Sheffield Bulletin – March 2017

“Mary Immaculate is our ideal. Through Her, we wish to gain for Christ all souls in the whole world...” - St Maximilian Kolbe

The First Saturdays of the month

During Her apparition at Fatima in July 1917, the Infant Jesus said to Lucia: **“Have pity on the Heart of your Most Holy Mother. It is covered with thorns with which ungrateful men pierce it with every moment, and there is no one to remove them with an act of reparation.”** Then Our Lady said: “Tell them that I promise to assist at the hour of death with the graces necessary for salvation all those who, in order to make reparation to me, on the first Saturday of five successive months, go to Confession, receive Holy Communion, say five decades of Rosary, and keep Me company for a quarter of an hour, meditating on the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary”.

Following Our Lady's request, The First Saturdays of the months are held in Our Lady of Lourdes Church:

9am – Rosary

9.30am – Mass

10.00am - 15 minutes' meditation of all Rosary mysteries

10.15am Confession

All are welcome. Please join us every First Saturday of the month. Let us be generous in our response to Our Lady's urgent request.



ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF MISSION

A Year for Reflecting and Re-launching with Confidence and Vigor

The year 2017, during which the 100th anniversary of the founding of the MI occurs, is an invitation to appreciate the precious legacy of thought and works that St. Maximilian Kolbe entrusted to future generations. By establishing an association, the Militia of the Immaculata, he allowed his legacy to continue and to expand. A fundamental aspect of the life of the MI is mission. Missionary thrust has always been a specific feature of this Movement and represents both its past and its future. Mission has been and still is a priority in the journey of the Kolbean association. In keeping with Kolbe's style, it is important, therefore, to look back at the past one hundred years and to look to the future from this missionary stance. Here are the significant words of Saint Maximilian: "The goal of the MI (the abbreviation comes from the Latin Militia Immaculatae, or Militia of the Immaculata) is, in fact, to make sure that all become saints. In all this activity, what strikes the eye most of all is its Marian thrust. This is a consequence of a precise understanding of the mission of the Immaculata."(KW 1220)

The MI has a simple yet efficacious plan: the sanctification of all! This goal is accomplished by praying, working, offering one's dedication and apostolate, in order to foster a greater fervor in the believers in Christ, committed to a generous journey of faith. Moreover, the MI strives to encourage those who are far from God's love to embark on a spiritual journey in the Lord. This was the answer that Father Kolbe and his companions offered to the delicate social, political, financial and religious situation of their time. The MI became a solution and motivating factor in facing the great challenges that afflicted the Church and mankind. Noteworthy is the extraordinary surrender to Divine Providence and Our Lady manifested by the young friar Maximilian and his confreres. With little means at their disposal they not only imagined, but were indeed confident, that the Immaculata would carry out the project that, on that notable October 16, 1917, they were able to see only as a mustard seed.

Today St. Maximilian Kolbe teaches those who wish to dedicate themselves to the mission that all legitimate means may be employed in order to disseminate the Gospel: the press, the radio and the arts. For Saint Maximilian there are no limits in the proclamation and the witness given to the love of Christ and the Immaculata. He moves beyond the traditional preaching, proving that evangelization may be carried out through the most sophisticated and advanced means, adapted to the missionary goal. In other words, for the Polish Martyr evangelization is not stagnant, but always dynamic and innovative, according to the possible receptivity of human beings. Apostolic work cannot be limited by space and time. It has to be carried out everywhere and with the largest participation of people who share in the same ideal and evangelizing goal. The whole world is mission territory; therefore, the best theological and cultural formation is necessary to ensure the best reception of the Gospel message. The missionary is a person who thinks and works on a grand scale, supported by divine grace. Saint Maximilian dreamt "big" and therefore the MI and all his apostolic initiatives were born with a wide goal and a universal dimension. The MI, faithful to its Founder, continues to be attentive to the "signs of the times" in the ongoing search for effective and current ways and means for communicating the ever-new Gospel message through the Kolbean charism, marked by its Marian spirituality.

Fr. Raffaele Di Muro, OFM Conv (MI International President)

MI Prayer Intentions – March 2017



**That the MI may work tirelessly for the
buildig up of the Kingdom of God**

Become a Crusader and consecrate yourself to Mary

Mary Immaculate invites you to become Her Crusader and bring more people through Her Heart to the Heart of Jesus. For more information see the website: www.mi-sheffield.com



The Crusade of Mary Immaculate is a worldwide Catholic Church movement founded by St Maximilian Kolbe, which promotes personal consecration to Mary. By joining the Crusade, members become willing instruments of Our Lady and work for the Church and salvation of others. The visible sign of that is wearing Her Miraculous Medal.

How to enroll in the Crusade?

- 1) Select the date on which you want your name recorded in the official register of the MI, preferably a Marian feast day
- 2) On the day of your enrolment recite the official act of consecration
- 3) Complete the enrolment application and post to The Crusade Centre in Manchester
(National Crusade Centre, Redclyffe Road, Urmston, Manchester, M41 7LG, UK).
- 5) Wear the Miraculous Medal that you will receive.
- 6) Renew your consecration daily by praying: *"O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you and for all who do not have recourse to you, especially the enemies of the Church and those recommended to you"*.

Dates

to remember in

March

- 01** – Ash Wednesday; the start of the 40 Days for Life campaign
- 03** – 1st Friday of the month
- 04** – 1st Saturday of the month
- 09** – St Dominic Savio
- 11** – Beginning of Novena to St Joseph
- 13** – 4rd anniversary papal election of Pope Francis
- 20** – St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 25** – the Annunciation of the Lord

ST JOSEPH- CELEBRATION DURING CHILDREN'S MASS

19 March - Children's Mass in honour of St. Joseph

Our next Children's Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes, Sheffield is going to be devoted especially to St Joseph (his feast falls on 20th March this year) - the Foster Father of Jesus and the Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. St Joseph is a wonderful Patron Saint of the Universal Church as well as fathers and families. It will a great opportunity to offer to St Joseph our families, especially our fathers who should imitate the example of St Joseph. Pope Francis has a special devotion to St Joseph. In order to deal with stress, he writes down all his problems in letters to St Joseph. If a problem comes up, Francis explained that he writes it down on a piece of paper and puts it underneath a statue of a sleeping St Joseph which he has in his room. "Now he sleeps on a mattress of notes!" the Pope said, explaining that this is why "I sleep well: it is the grace of God."



"St. Joseph's mission is certainly unique and unrepeatable, as Jesus is absolutely unique. However, in protecting Jesus, in teaching him how to grow in age, wisdom and grace, he is a model for every educator and in particular for every father. ... I ask for you the grace to be every closer to your children, allow them to grow, but be close, close! They need you, your presence, your closeness, your love. Be, for them, like St. Joseph: protectors of their growth in age, wisdom and grace. Guardians of their path, and educators: walk alongside them. And with this closeness, you will be true educators." - Pope Francis