

Knight

ISSN 2719-454X

No. 30 October — December 2022

of the Immaculata



Help for the Poor Souls in Purgatory



Militia Immaculatæ Traditional Observance

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Publisher: Fundacja Militia Immaculatae, ul. Garncarska 34, 04-886 Warsaw, Poland

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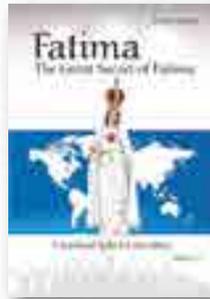
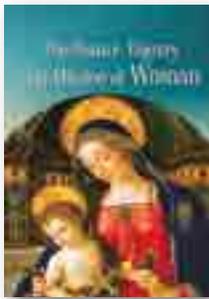
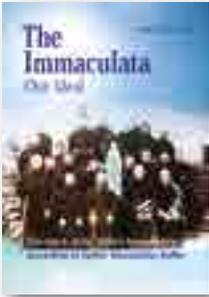


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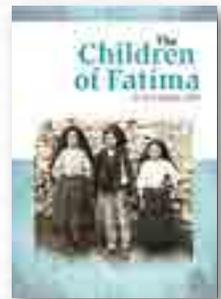
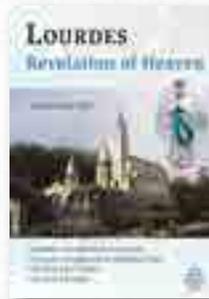
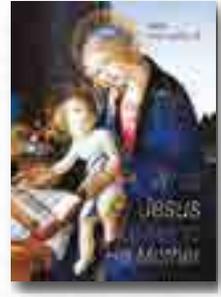
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Dear Knights of the Immaculata!

With her powerful intercession before her Lord and Spouse, Mother Church seeks to help all those who are still in Purgatory, so that they may soon reach the fellowship of the blessed. A day of the Church's loving care for the dead. It is a compassionate and active love.

Compassionate love

The mother knows of the suffering of her children in the flames of the fire of Purgatory and she feels with them: with the suffering of their temporary exclusion and deprivation of the possession of God. Surely, these souls rest "in Christ". They are intimately united to Him. They are in a state of grace, they are saved, and they are fully aware that they will come to see God eternally. But something still holds them back, they are not yet in "eternal peace". The "light of eternity" does not yet shine upon them. They are still in the "bonds of guilt", that is, the temporal punishment for their sins, which they deserved by their sins. The "stain of earthly defilement" still lingers in them. They long for God, for their homeland, for a place of "refreshment, light and peace", for "eternal joy in the land of the living". They still painfully feel their distance from God. They love God and only God, but they cannot possess Him, nor see Him, nor rest on His heart. They are not yet worthy of being close to Him. Sins, infidelities, lack of sorrow and a spirit of repentance have brought this time of waiting upon them. How much they now regret what they have strayed in and neglected! But their sorrow, their tears, and their pleas for grace can avail them nothing. The time of fruitful sorrow is over with the entrance into the gates of death. "The night is coming when no one will be able to act" (J 9:4). They can only suffer, "atone", until through suffering the penalty for sins is paid. The Church knows of the misery, vulnerability and powerlessness of the souls in

Purgatory. That is why she sympathises with them so much and wants this sympathy to extend to our hearts as well.

Active love

The Church knows that she can help the Poor Souls in Purgatory through her intercession, especially through the sacrifice of the Holy Mass. Today she allows every priest to celebrate the Holy Sacrifice three times, so that the flood of graces may flow down from the altars in the fullest possible measure and so that as many souls as possible may enter Heaven today. On the 2nd day of November, the Church gives the faithful the power to grant an unlimited number of plenary indulgences to the souls in Purgatory. Let us therefore realize that we are one with the Church and unite ourselves most deeply with her; let us make today and the entire month of November a day and a month of effective, active charity for the souls in Purgatory. Let us pray for them, let us offer for them the sacrifice of the Holy Mass, let us strive to gain as many plenary indulgences as possible and offer them for the souls in Purgatory.

God is merciful

He is pleased when we compensate for the guilt that the souls in Purgatory cannot alleviate on their own. He loves these souls. He desires to shorten their days of longing for their heavenly homeland with our help, for we can intercede for them because we are bound to them by the communion of the one Body of Christ. Should we not do much more for the souls in Purgatory? When we participate in the Holy Mass, should we not more consciously offer to the Father Christ's atonement for our brothers and sisters in Purgatory? Should we not more zealously pray, work, renounce and sacrifice ourselves? To bear the cross more patiently, so that in this way we can offer the atoning value of our deeds to God for the souls in Purgatory? The so-called heroic act of charity on behalf of the souls in Purgatory is something great: it is pleasing to God and a truly good deed.

Fr. Karl Stehlin

Warsaw, on the 15th of September, Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary



What is Purgatory?

The Penny Catechism of Christian Doctrine puts the whole teaching simply thus (under Article IX of the Creed): “Purgatory is a place where souls suffer for a time after death on account of their sins.” It will be noticed at once how guarded and exact is the Church doctrine on the subject.

All we are compelled to believe as part of the faith is:

- 1) that there is a Purgatory,
- 2) souls suffer there after death for their sins, and,
- 3) we can help to relieve them.

The word Purgatory is sometimes taken to mean a place, sometimes as an intermediate state between hell and Heaven. It is, properly speaking, the condition of souls which, at the moment of death, are in the state of grace, but which have

not completely expiated their faults, nor attained the degree of purity necessary to enjoy the vision of God.

Purgatory is, then, a transitory state which terminates in a life of everything being happiness. It is not a trial by which merit may be gained or lost, but a state of atonement and expiation. The soul has arrived at the term of its earthly career; that earthly life was a time of trial, a time of merit for the soul, a time of mercy on the part of God. This time once expired, nothing but justice is to be expected from God, whilst the soul can neither gain nor lose merit. It remains in the state in which death found it; and since death found it in the state of sanctifying grace, it is certain of never forfeiting that happy state, and of arriving at the eternal possession of God. Nevertheless, since it is burdened with certain debts of temporal punishment, it must satisfy Divine Justice by enduring this punishment in all its rigour.

Such is the signification of the word Purgatory, and the condition of the souls which are there.

On this subject the Church proposes two truths clearly defined as dogmas of faith: first, that there is a Purgatory; second, that the souls which are in Purgatory may be assisted by the suffrages of the faithful, especially by the holy sacrifice of the Mass.

Location of Purgatory

Although faith tells us nothing definite regarding the location of Purgatory, the most common opinion, that which most accords with the language in Scripture, and

which is the most generally received among theologians, places it in the bowels of the earth, not far from the hell of the reprobates. Theologians are almost unanimous, says Bellarmine, in teaching that Purgatory, at least the ordinary place of expiation, is situated in the interior of the earth, that the souls in Purgatory and the reprobate are in the same subterranean space in the deep abyss which Scripture calls Hell.

"A very probable opinion", says St Thomas, "and one which, moreover, corresponds with the words of the saints in particular revelation, is that Purgatory has a double place for expiation. The first will be destined for the generality of souls, and is situated below, near to hell; the second will be for particular cases, and it is thence that so many apparitions occur."

The holy Doctor admits, then, like so many others who share his opinions, that sometimes Divine Justice assigns a special place of purification to certain souls, and even permits them to appear either to instruct the living or procure for the departed the suffrages of which they stand in need; sometimes also for the other motives worthy of the wisdom and mercy of God.

Purgatory in the Divine Plan

Purgatory occupies an important place in our holy religion: it forms one of the principal parts of the work of Jesus Christ, and plays an essential role in the economy of the salvation of man.

Let us call to mind that the Holy Church of God, considered as whole, is composed of three parts: The Church Militant, the Church Triumphant, and the Church Suffering, or Purgatory. This triple Church constitutes the mystical body of Jesus Christ, and the souls in Purgatory are no less His members than are the faithful upon earth and the elected in Heaven. In the Gospel, the Church is ordinarily called the Kingdom of Heaven; now Purgatory, just as the heavenly and terrestrial Church, is a providence of this vast kingdom.

The three sister Churches have incessant relations with one another, continual communication which we call the Communion of Saints. These relations have no other object than to conduct souls to eternal glory, the final term to which all the elect tend. The three Churches mutually assist in populating Heaven, which is the permanent city, the glorious Jerusalem.

What then is the work which we, members of the Church Militant, have to do for the souls of Purgatory? We have to alleviate their sufferings. God has placed in our hands the key of this mysterious prison: it is prayer for the dead, devotion to the souls in Purgatory...

Prayer for the departed, sacrifices, and suffrages for the dead form a part of Christian worship, and devotion toward the souls in Purgatory is a devotion which the Holy Ghost infuses with charity into the hearts of the faithful. It is a holy and wholesome thought, says Holy Scripture, to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from sins (II Machab. 12:46).

In order to be perfect, devotion to the souls in Purgatory must be animated both by a spirit of fear and a spirit of confidence.

On the one hand, the sanctity of God and His justice inspires us with a salutary fear; on the other, His infinite mercy gives us boundless confidence.

This fear of Purgatory is a salutary fear; its effect is not only to animate us with a charitable compassion toward the poor suffering souls, but also with a vigilant zeal for our own spiritual welfare.

Think of the fire of Purgatory, and you will endeavour to avoid the least fault; think of the fire of Purgatory, and you will practice penance, that you may satisfy Divine Justice in this world rather than in the next.

Let us, however, guard against excessive fear, and not lose confidence. Let us not forget the mercy of God, which is not less infinite than His justice. Thy mercy is great above the heavens, says Psalm 108, and elsewhere, The Lord is gracious and merciful: patient, and plenteous in mercy (Psalm 103).

This ineffable mercy should calm the most lively appreciations, and fill us with a holy confidence, according to the words, *In te, Domine, speravi, non confundar in aeternam* — In Thee, O Lord, I have hoped; let me never be confounded.

If we are animated with this double sentiment, if our confidence in God's mercy is equal to the fear with which His justice inspires us, we shall have the true spirit of devotion to the souls in Purgatory.



Help for the Poor Souls in Purgatory



Our Lady and the souls in Purgatory

The souls in Purgatory receive great consolation from the Blessed Virgin Mary. Is she not the Consolation of the Afflicted? And what affliction can be compared to that of the Poor Souls? Is she not the Mother of Mercy? And is it not toward these holy Suffering Souls that she must show all the mercy of her heart? We must not, therefore, be astonished that in the "Revelations of St. Bridget" the Queen of Heaven gives herself the beautiful name of Mother of the Souls in Purgatory. "I am," she said to that Saint, "the Mother of all those who are in the place of expiation, my prayers mitigate the chastisements which are inflicted upon them for their faults."

It is especially on certain days that the Queen of Heaven exercises her mercy in Purgatory. These privileged days are, first, all Saturdays, then the different feast-days of the Blessed Virgin, which thus become as festivals in Purgatory. We see in the revelations of the saints that on Saturday, the day specially consecrated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the sweet Mother of Mercy descends into the dungeons of Purgatory to visit and console her devoted servants. Then, according to the pious belief of the faithful, she delivers those souls who, having worn the holy scapular, enjoy this Sabbatine Privilege, and afterward gives relief and consolation to other souls who had been particularly devout

to her. A witness to this was the Venerable Sister Paula of St. Teresa, a Dominican Religious of the Convent of St. Catherine in Naples.

Being rapt in ecstasy one Saturday, and transported in spirit into Purgatory, she was quite surprised to find it transformed into a paradise of delights, illuminated by a bright light, instead of the darkness which at other times prevailed. Whilst she was wondering what could be the cause of this change, she perceived the Queen of Heaven, surrounded by a multitude of angels, to whom she gave orders to liberate those souls who had honoured her in a special manner, and conduct them to Heaven.

If this takes place on an ordinary Saturday, we can scarcely doubt that the same occurs on feast-days consecrated to the Mother of God. Among all her festivals, that of the glorious



Assumption of Mary seems to be the chief day of deliverance. St. Peter Damian tells us that each year, on the day of the Assumption, the Blessed Virgin delivers several thousands of souls.

The following account of a miraculous vision illustrates this subject: "It is a pious custom," he says, "which exists among the people of Rome,

to visit the churches, carrying a candle in the hand, during the night preceding the feast of the Assumption of Our Lady."

Now it happened that a person of rank, being on her knees in the basilica of the Ara-Cæli in the Capital, saw before her prostrate in prayer, another lady, her godmother, who had died several months previously. Surprised, and not being able to believe her eyes, she wished to solve the mystery, and for this purpose placed herself near the door of the church.

As soon as she saw the lady go out, she took her by the hand and drew her aside. "Are you not," she said to her, "my godmother, who held me at the baptismal font?" "Yes," replied the apparition immediately, "it is me." "And how comes it that I find you among the living, since you have been dead more than a year?"

"Until this day I have been plunged in a dreadful fire, on account of the many sins of vanity which I committed in my youth, but during this great solemnity the Queen of Heaven descended into the midst of the Purgatorial flames and delivered me, together with a large number of other souls, that we might enter Heaven on the feast of her Assumption. She exercises this great act of clemency each year; and, on this occasion alone, the number of those whom she has delivered equals the population of Rome."

Seeing that her goddaughter remained stupefied and seemed still to doubt the evidence of her senses, the apparition added, "In proof of the truth of my words, know that you yourself will die a year hence, on the feast of the Assumption; if you outlive that period, believe that this was an illusion."



St. Peter Damian concluded this recital by saying that the young lady passed the year in the exercise of good works, in order to prepare herself to appear before God. The following year, on the Vigil of the Assumption, she fell sick, and died on the day of the feast itself, as had been predicted.

The feast of the Assumption is, then, the great day of Mary's mercy toward the Poor Souls; she delights in introducing

her children into the glory of heaven on the anniversary of the day on which she herself first entered its blessed portals. This pious belief, adds Father Louvet, is founded on a great number of particular revelations; it is for this reason that in Rome the Church of St. Mary in Montorio, which is the centre of the arch-confraternity of suffrages for the dead, is dedicated under the title of the Assumption.

The Angels and the souls in Purgatory

Besides the consecration which souls receive from the Blessed Virgin, they are also associated with, and, consoled by, the holy angels, and espe-



cially by their guardian angels. The Doctors of the Church teach that the tutelary mission of guardian angels terminates only on the entrance of their clients into Paradise. If, at the moment of death, a soul in the state of grace is not yet worthy to see the face of the Most High, the guardian angel conducts it to the place of expiation, and remains there with it to procure for it all the assistance and consolations in his power.

It is an opinion common among the holy Doctors, says Father Rossignoli, that God, who will one day send forth His angels to assemble the elect, also sends them from time to time into Purgatory, there to visit and console the suffering souls. No doubt there cannot be

any relief more precious than the sight of the inhabitants of Heaven, that blessed abode whither they will one day go to enjoy its glorious and internal felicity. The Revelations of St. Bridget are filled with examples of this nature, and the Lives of several saints also furnish a great number.



If the holy angels interest themselves in what befalls the souls in Purgatory in general, it's easy to understand that they have particular zeal for those of their clients.

It may be here asked how the saints and blessed already crowned in Heaven can assist them. It is certain, says Father Rossingnoli and such is the teaching of all matters in theology of St. Augustine and

St. Thomas, that the saints are very powerful in this respect by way of supplication, or as we say, by *impetration*, but not by *satisfaction*. In other words, the saints in Heaven may pray for the souls, and thus obtain from Divine Mercy a diminution of their suffering; but they cannot satisfy for them, nor pay their debts to Divine Justice; that is a privilege which God reserves to the Church Militant.

Have pity on us! — say the souls in Purgatory

We have it in our power to help those suffering friends of God. We can do so by prayer, almsdeeds, the Holy Mass, our indulgences, and to do so is certainly a work of mercy and charity. Understanding this full well, the saints, without exception, have been most earnest and constant in their efforts to help them. Some of them have



made this devotion one of the strong characteristics of their sanctity, and we venture to say that no truly devout or sincere Catholic neglects this spiritual work of mercy. May the same enlightened piety ever remain firmly rooted in the hearts of our people, and may the day never come when they will cease to exercise a tender solicitude beyond the grave for the souls of those they loved in life. In praying for the dead and gaining indulgences for them, let us remember that every prayer we say, every sacrifice we make, every alms we give for the repose of the dear departed ones, will all return upon ourselves in a hundredfold of blessings. They are God's friends, dear to His Sacred Heart, living His

grace, and in constant communion with Him; and though they may not alleviate their own sufferings, their prayers on our behalf always avail. They can aid us most efficaciously. God will not turn a deaf ear to their intercession. Being Holy Souls, they are grateful souls. The friends that aid them, they, in their turn, will also aid. We need not fear praying to them in all faith and confidence. They will obtain for us the special favours we desire. They will watch over us lovingly and tenderly; they will guard our steps; they will warn us against evil; they will shield us in moments of trial and danger; and when our hour of purgatorial suffering comes, they will use their in-

fluence on our behalf to assuage our pains and shorten the period of our separation from the Godhead.

God does not ordinarily release souls from Purgatory by an absolute act of His power and will, but demands of them with the strictest justice the full payment of their debt, always accepting on their behalf the help of the faithful, which is all the more beneficial to these poor souls the more frequently and fervently it is offered.



How to help the souls in Purgatory

We should make it our practice offer each to day some special prayer or work for the Holy Souls. We may not do much, but by constancy in labouring on their behalf we shall gradually accumulate a treasure for their benefit. We should never miss saying *De Profundis* for them every night, and we should offer up holy communion for them from time to time. In our morning orison we should pray that God may accept our labours, our sufferings, our penances for them.

We should also be careful to say as many indulgenced prayers as we can for them. Every prayer offered on their behalf benefits them; every indulgenced prayer has double efficacy. It has a satisfac-

tory value in itself and has a further power to obtain relief for them by reason of the indulgence attached to it. In this way we can do so much for the Holy Souls!

There are some whom God inspires to make what is called the Heroic Act, by which they offer up all the satisfactions of all their works of their prayers and Masses said for them, and indulgences gained for them after their own death, to be bestowed on the Holy Souls according to Our Lady's pleasure.

This supreme act of self-sacrifice is indeed heroic, for it includes a willingness to remain in Purgatory as long as God shall please for the sake of helping others out.

What a great reward this will obtain in Heaven! What

gratitude it will earn from the Holy Souls!



Testimony of a Knight



In a dense fog

For many years my spouse has worn the Miraculous Medal and always prayed to the Immaculata. One day Our Lady rewarded him for this trust he had placed in her.

It happened in 1970. One November evening, he was traveling by car along an unfamiliar

local road in northern Bavaria. It was dark and the whole area was shrouded in a dense fog. Such dense fog severely restricts visibility and sometimes causes even people who know the area well to lose their bearings.

At the time, there was still no satellite navigation for cars. My

husband stopped to check the route on the map and then continued on his way. In the fog and darkness, he overlooked an unguarded level crossing and did not even notice the lights of the warning signals.

Suddenly, he heard a voice very clearly uttering the warning: "There's a train coming!". He reacted immediately, stamped on the accelerator and, as soon

as he had crossed the tracks, an express train passed right behind his little Fiat with great momentum.

My husband and I are both convinced that the Immaculate One protected him, because he prays to her every day and resorts to Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in every situation. Also, we always have such a medal in the car.

Barbara P.



Marian retreats and conferences in the USA

In the second half of July, the director of the M.I., Fr. Karl Stehlin visited the United States of America. As part of this visit, Fr. Stehlin gave a 5-day Marian retreat and conferences in several chapels.

The retreat was held at the La Salle Retreat Centre in Wildwood (near Saint Louis), Missouri. Forty-nine women attended. During the teachings, Fr. Stehlin focused on explaining the spirituality and the idea of the Militia Immaculatæ and the practical application of Marian doctrine in the concrete lives of the Knights. He recalled the examples of St Louis Grignion de Montfort, the children of Fatima, Fr. Maximilian Kolbe — how they responded to the call of the Immaculate to be HER child, slave, Knight!

On 14–16th of July, Fr. Stehlin visited the Queen of Angels Church in Dickinson (Houston). There he gave two conferences on the Immaculata.

"He spoke beautifully about the apostolate and work in Poland and the miracles through Our Lady in these extraordinary times. More than one hundred and twenty people attended the conferences. We are very grateful for Fr. Stehlin's visit," — Fr. Adam Purdy said.

On the following days, Fr. Stehlin gave two conferences at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Chapel in Fort Worth (Texas). At least a hundred parishioners are already M.I. Knights, but many listened attentively to the sermons and conferences of the M.I. Director.



Meeting in Fort Worth

On the afternoon of the 17th of July, Fr. Stehlin visited Our Lady of Fatima Chapel in Sanger (Texas) to give a sermon and two conferences on the M.I. About 75 Knights attended.

Last August, a Knight newly received at this chapel gave his elderly neighbour a Miraculous Medal. He asked her to wear it, to which she agreed, and about three months later she told him she wanted to become a Catholic. Her desire came as a complete surprise because the Knight did not try to convert her or tell her about the Catholic faith, he gave her ONLY (or INSTEAD) a Miraculous Medal! A few weeks later she was baptised, received into the Church, and 2 months later she died.

Father James Trummer said: "I visited her in hospital to administer the sacraments before she died and she, to my edification, continually kissed the Miraculous Medal out of love for Our Lady. In my opinion, her conversion was an absolute miracle that can only be attributed to Our Lady!"

Father Stehlin's visit to these two chapels was followed by the reception of 50 new Knights of the Im-

maculata on the 15th of August — the feast of the Assumption.

The final stage of the visit to the USA was at the Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Warners (New York State). Father Stehlin preached 3 sermons on the Immaculata and 2 conferences on HER Knighthood. Approximately 450 people attended the event. The parishioners are extremely grateful for the sermons and lectures, and enrolment in the M.I. will continue.



Conference in Dickinson



Pilgrimage to the shrine of Mother Cabrini

Approximately 200 people participated in the two-day walking pilgrimage from Watkins to the shrine of Mother Cabrini (USA). This was the 20th pilgrimage. In this year's event, prayers were especially offered for the supporters of abortion rights.

"In the current situation, they do not value life. We want them to change their minds about life," — said Fr. Paul Robinson, Prior of St. Isidore's Church in Watkins.

The pilgrims prayed for the conversion of abortion supporters. Along the way, they also held talks on the Supreme Court decision *Dobbs v Jackson Women's Health Organisation* and its impact on Catholic believers. The facilitators encouraged participants to think of ways they could individually respond to the recent Supreme Court



ruling on abortion rights. The list included peaceful protest, prayer and voting.

Many participants said that the ruling spurred them to action.

The final leg of the pilgrimage was a rugged trail leading to the shrine of Mother Cabrini. The monument was built in 1946, the same year that the Catholic Church canonised Mother Cabrini. Today, the site attracts thousands of visitors every year.

Cabrini, an Italian immigrant, first visited Colorado in 1902 to meet with mine workers. The stone house she helped build in the foothills near Golden became the home of a Catholic summer camp and retreat.

After the pilgrimage, some members explored the area around the shrine. This journey was completed, but many left knowing that their work was not yet over.



Walsingham Pilgrimage 2022

August 27th 2022 saw the Annual Pilgrimage of the Knights of District GB & Scandinavia to Walsingham in the East Anglia region of England. The village lies in a rural part of the country where public transport is sparse, and the best access is by car or hired coach. Sadly, the very high cost of fuel made this year's pilgrimage very expensive, but nonetheless, 122 souls took part. A small number of extremely zealous pilgrims spent 2 days walking 37 miles from Kings Lynn to the Slipper Chapel to join the main procession from there to the Priory ruins where Mass was offered and the Country was once again consecrated to the Blessed Virgin Mary by the District Superior, Fr. Robert Brucciani.

Some of the pilgrims stayed overnight and attended Mass at the Priory ruins on Sunday morning.



During the Mass at the ruins of the Priory



The Consecration by Fr. Brucciani

As the route of the pilgrimage was through open country, there was little opportunity to distribute Miraculous Medals or literature, but the pilgrims continued to sing their hymns lustily as they processed through the little village to the Priory ruins.

On arrival, Fr. Brucciani conducted the Consecration while others set up the temporary altar beneath the last standing arch of the Priory.

The weather was kind to the pilgrims, and tea and sandwiches were made available at a hostelry in the village after the Mass.

Since the Pilgrimage of 2021, a further 139 Knights have been enrolled into the Militia Immaculatæ and the aim is to have exceeded 1,000 by the date of the next pilgrimage.

Conference in Knock about the Holy Mass

After a two year hiatus, the Knock conference is back! Fr. Davide Pagliarani, Superior General of the Society of Pius X, gave the keynote address.

Just when the old liturgy seemed to be firmly re-establishing itself throughout the world, the motu proprio *Traditiones Custodes* was released on the 16th of July 2021. The purpose of this newest document was clearly to limit the celebration of the ancient Roman rite.

In light of this most recent attack on the Mass, Society in Ireland were hosting a series of conferences discussing the increasingly importance of the old Mass and liturgy in today's world. The conference, as always, lasted three days.

The main speaker was Fr. Davide Pagliarani, superior general of

the Society of Pius X. In his speech, he emphasised that the Mass is the main focus of the Society. The life of a priest makes it real: the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is the most important and essential point of each day.

The next speaker was Fr. Patrick Abbet, who took up the theme: true liturgical participation. Sister Mary Leo (Sister of the Society of Pius X) spoke on the teaching the liturgy with catechism, while Mr. Grattan Keating talked about Celtic art.

Time was also spent at the conference on early Celtic liturgical practices, as presented by Fr. Ailbhe O'Reilly.

The Militia Immaculatæ had a small table with M.I. publications and rosaries, which were much in demand.



Pilgrimage to Marian shrine in Gietrzwałd (Poland)

As with every year, on the second Saturday of September, the faithful of the Society of St. Pius X and the Knights of the Immaculata made a pilgrimage from Olsztyn to Gietrzwałd in 2022. Nearly 1,000 people attended this year.

Gietrzwałd is the shrine where Our Lady appeared to two girls, Barbara Samulowska and Justyna Szafryńska, in 1877 (from the 27th of June until the 16th of September). Like Our Lady of Lourdes, she called herself the Immaculate Conception. During the apparition Our Lady said: "I want you to pray the Rosary daily" and to their question, she replied: "I am the Blessed Virgin Mary of the Immaculate Conception."

The pilgrimage began with a High Mass celebrated by the M.I. director, Fr. Karl Stehlin.

During the pilgrimage Fr. Stehlin gave a few conferences about the Immaculata.



New M.I. corners in Poland

We are happy to announce that, with the creation of new chapels, M.I. corners are being set up. The M.I. corner is usually built in the form of an open bookcase or cupboard. Pre-blessed Miraculous Medals, current M.I. publications, *i.e.* books, brochures, folders, as well as cards and pictures, are available there. It is a very important place in the chapel because it allows each Knight easy access to the tools of the apostolate, which are M.I. publications.

Photo: M.I. corner in Bielsko-Biala



Apostolate in agro-tourism

Holidays, places to rest, meetings with many people in agro-tourism accommodation, hotels, on hiking and cycling trails are ideal moments to talk about the Lord God and His Mother. The M.I. publications, which can also be consulted in one of the year-round agro-tourism farms run by our faithful in the Low Beskids, will help.

We cordially invite the readers of the Triumph of the Immaculata to visit this site:

www.nowezycie-w-beskidzie.com



Preparations for the pilgrimage to Jasna Góra

As always for the pilgrimage to the Marian shrine of Jasna Góra (Poland), M.I. Headquarters prepared special materials to be distributed by the pilgrims.

Counting on a large turnout of pilgrims and the many people encountered on the way, the Knights began preparing the materials several months before the 4th of August (day when pilgrimage is starting).

Nearly 20,000 assorted packets were prepared. Based on last

year's experience, it was decided to equip pilgrims with four categories of packets:

1. A package containing a number of basic folders.
2. A package consisting of three flyers about the Miraculous Medal and three Miraculous Medals.
3. A package containing a small flyer about the Miraculous Medal with a decorative string.
4. A packet for benefactors who received pilgrims or donated various goods to them.





Pilgrims on their way

The XXVIII International Pilgrimage of the Catholic Tradition to Jasna Góra set off, as usual, on the 4th of August from the Warsaw Church of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Before setting off, the pilgrims had the opportunity to stock up on M.I. publications, rosaries and Miraculous Medals in the M.I.

tent set up especially for the occasion in the church courtyard.

Spiritual accompaniment was provided by Fr. Łukasz Szydłowski, who gave conferences on the virtues along the way, and Fr. Dawid Wierzycki, who preached on the qualities of Our Lady during the daily Masses. Each day began with morning prayer and Mass with a sermon.



During the pilgrimage, the rosary was prayed, the hours were sung and many devotional songs were also sung. There was also time for talks, catechesis and the *sacrum silentium* (a time of silence for personal conversation with God).

On the way, the pilgrims distributed Miraculous Medals with folders prepared by the M.I. Central Office (see p. 31) and other M.I. publications, including the Triumph of the Immaculata and the Knight's Book, which were very popular. A special table with publications was set up in the morning and at lunchtime.

The publications were distributed for the second consecutive year. Pilgrims met people who had been presented with them the previous year. "I already have a wonderful medal; I received it from you two years ago and I wear it all the time," — says a middle-aged gentleman. An elderly lady encountered by



a pilgrim who wanted to give her a folder about the three Hail Mary devotion states: "Last year I received this folder and I pray this prayer every day. I also encourage others to do the same. Thank you very much."

On Saturday, on the eve of the ascent to Jasna Góra, a farewell was held for Brother Klaus, who had dedicated nearly three decades of his life to the zealous apos-



tolate of the Society of St. Pius X in Poland. Also on that day, Fr. Łukasz Szydłowski received 18 new Knights into the M.I.

The pilgrims reached Jasna Góra on the 14th of August, ending their journey at the miraculous image. It was a beautiful time of retreat on the road, and may the lessons learnt on the pilgrimage route bear abundant fruit in bringing faith, hope and love for one's neighbour into one's everyday life.

More photos on the following pages

On the way to the Queen of Poland (Jasna Góra) – photo report



Knights prepared for the distribution of the M.I. publications



The Militia Immaculatæ is an army of Knights of Mary Immaculate which works for the conversion of all men to God, be they Protestants, or Jews, or Muslims, & in particular the Freemasons, and that all become saints, under the patronage and through the mediation of the Immaculate Virgin.

The Militia Immaculatæ was founded by St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe on the 16th of October 1917. Since 1937, Militia Immaculatæ is also called the Knights of the Immaculata.



Original Statutes of the Militia Immaculatæ (by St. Maximilian)

"She will crush your head." (Genesis 3:15)

"Thou alone hast vanquished all heresies throughout the world."

(from the Roman Breviary)

I. Goal of Membership:

To work for the conversion to God of all men, be they sinners, heretics, schismatics, Jews, Moslems etc., in particular the Freemasons; and that all become saints, under the patronage and through the mediation of the Immaculate Virgin.

II. Conditions of Membership:

1. To consecrate oneself entirely to the Immaculate Virgin, placing oneself freely as a docile and generous instrument in her hands.
2. To wear the Miraculous Medal.

III. Duties of Membership:

1. If possible, to pray the following ejaculatory prayer at least once a day: "O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee, and for all those who do not have recourse to thee, especially for the Freemasons and for those who are commended to thy care."
2. To use all other valid and legitimate means for the conversion and sanctification of men, according to one's means, in the different states and conditions of life, as the occasions present themselves; this is entrusted to the zeal and prudence of each one. Particularly recommended, however, is spreading the Miraculous Medal.

N.B. These means are recommended only as suggestions and not as an obligation; not one of them obliges under pain of sin, not even venial sin. Our principal motive is to help the greatest possible number of souls to be united with the Sacred Heart of Jesus through the mediation of the Immaculata.

If you want to join us, please email: info@militia-immaculatae.org
and tell us which country you are from.

Masses for the M.I. in 2022

We are pleased to announce that Father Dennis McDonald, National Moderator of the M.I. in the U.S., will offer in the year 2021 Holy Masses for the sanctification of the Knights of the Militia Immaculatæ. Father will celebrate these Masses on the most important Feasts of Our Lady.

February 2nd – Purification/Presentation

March 25th – Annunciation

April 8th – Our Lady of Compassion

April 26th – Our Lady of Good Counsel

May 31st – Queenship of the Blessed Virgin

June 27th – Our Lady of Perpetual Help

July 2nd – Visitation of the Blessed Virgin

August 2nd – Queen of Angels

September 12th – Holy Name of Mary

October 13th – Fatima apparition

November 27th – Miraculous Medal

December 10th – Our Lady of Loreto



We offer sincere thanks to our benefactors, through whose help we are able to print and distribute good reading materials.

Please support the apostolate of the Militia Immaculatæ

www.militia-immacolatae.org/english/donations/

