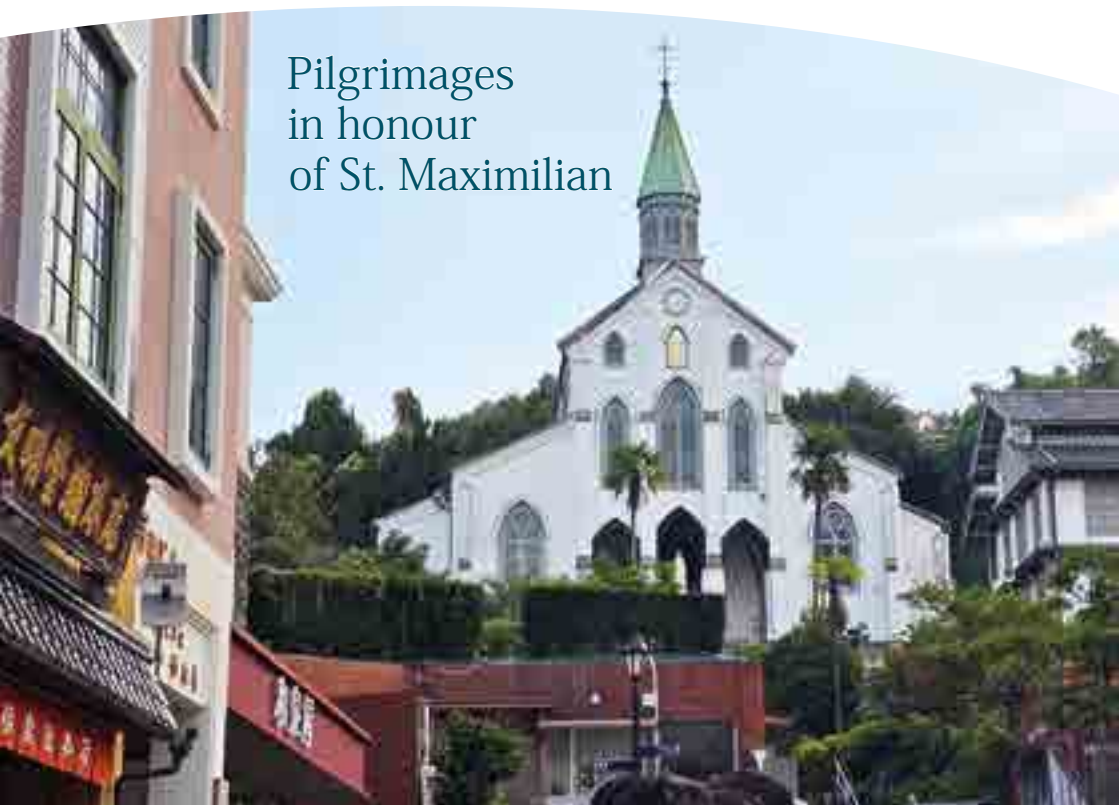


Knight of the Immaculata

ISSN 2719-454X

No. 43 January — March 2026

Pilgrimages
in honour
of St. Maximilian



The Immaculata
is our life



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

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The Immaculata

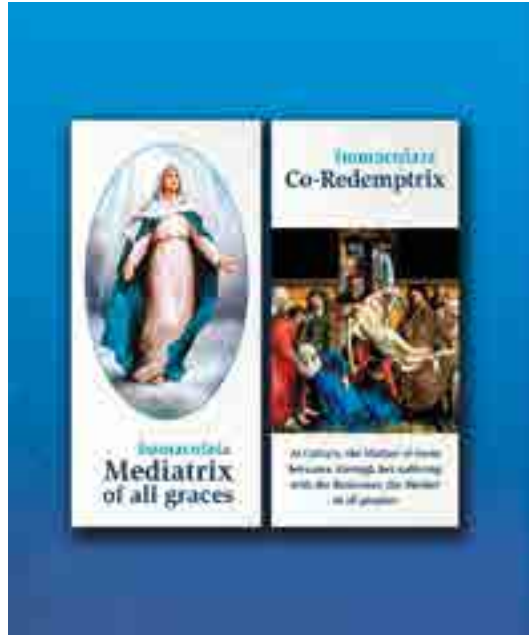
Mediatrix and Co-Redemptrix

Such a shocking doctrinal note from the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, *Mater Populi Fidelis*, demands a clear response.

Therefore, the Knights of the Immaculate recommend two flyers that will help every Catholic understand the role of the Blessed Virgin Mary as Co-Redemptrix and Mediatrix of all graces.

The flyers contain a concise, clearly written explanation of both titles of the Immaculate and their consequences for us.

Pope Leo XIII, St. Louis Marie Grignion de Montfort, and St. Maximilian Kolbe, among others, wrote about the crucial role of the Mother of Christ in our salvation.



Quotes from their works are also included in these flyers, which should reach as many Catholics as possible, especially those confused by the papal Dicastery's stance.

Flyers for download:

www.militia-immacolatae.org/english/flyers

Dear Knights of the Immaculata!

We are beginning another year. The previous one was a special year for the Militia Immaculatæ. We had many opportunities to joyfully celebrate the 25th anniversary of the renewal of the Knighthood of the Immaculate. The Immaculate Virgin and the program promoted by the Militia's founder, Father Maximilian Kolbe, were paramount in these celebrations — so that SHE be known and loved. Many new Knights joined in spreading HER veneration, and existing Knights renewed their consecration to the Immaculate Virgin, which will hopefully renew their apostolic zeal.

However, last year also touched us with a very disturbing circumstance: the publication of the doctrinal note *Mater Populi Fidelis* concerning certain Marian titles relating to Mary's cooperation in the work of salvation. A note issued on the 4th of November 2025 by the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith states that "using the title of Co-redemptrix to describe Mary's cooperation is always inappropriate" and that "special caution is necessary in applying the title of Mediatrix to Mary."

These terms are particularly disturbing to us Knights, because we know that the founder of the M.I., St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe, based the essence and activity of the Knighthood primarily on two titles of the Immaculate: Co-redemptrix and Mediatrix of All Graces. "As Co-redemptrix, she desires to extend to all humanity the fruits of the redemption accomplished by her Son, and strives to win over to Christ heretics, schismatics, Freemasons, Jews, etc. The Immaculate's sole desire is to raise the level of our spiritual life to the heights of holiness", he wrote before December 1937 in Niepokalanów.

Father Maximilian spread the title of Mediatrix of All Graces, and from 1932, the M.I. 2 circles and the Franciscans themselves sought to establish the dogma of the Mediatrix of All Graces. A step towards this was the introduction by the Franciscan Fathers, based on Decree No. 973/34 of the Congregation of Rites of the 17th of January 1934, of the feast of Our Lady

Mediatix of All Graces into their religious calendar; the feast was set for the 31st of May. This was possible thanks to the decision of Pope Benedict XV, who on the 12th of January 1921, permitted the Office and Holy Mass to all dioceses and religious congregations requesting this grace.

For centuries, constant efforts have been made to preserve the honour and emphasize the role of the Immaculate Virgin in the work of salvation. This was especially important when the enemies of the Holy Catholic Church were initiating their revolutions, proclaiming various heresies. The founder of the M.I. was well aware of this, writing: "In the supernatural order, heresy is nothing other than, in one form or another, a distancing from grace, and therefore from the Mediatix of grace. The remedy for it is the regaining of grace, and therefore drawing closer to the Mediatix of Graces."

For us, dear Knights, this is an opportunity to familiarize ourselves with two brochures on mediation and co-redemption. Both are available in the library: <https://militia-immacolatae.org/english/flyers/>. They can be ordered via the form and, after appropriate introduction, distributed to virtually everyone.

This doctrinal note also encourages us to practice the First Saturday devotion even more fervently. The 10th of December, 2025, marked the 100th anniversary of the appearance of Our Lady with Child Jesus to Sister Lucia in Pontevedra, when Our Lady asked her to accompany her on the First Saturdays in reparation for all the blasphemies with which ungrateful people wound her Immaculate Heart.

As the Lord Jesus said to Sister Lucia: "There are five kinds of insults and blasphemies committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary," and one of them is: "The blasphemies of those who publicly seek to sow in the hearts of children indifference or contempt, or even hatred, for their Immaculate Mother."

Let us renew our zeal in fulfilling the conditions of the First Saturdays and make reparation to the Immaculate Mother for all the blasphemies that wound her Immaculate Heart that loves us so much!

*Fr. Karl Stehlin,
Director of the Knighthood of the Immaculate Virgin Mary
of the Traditional Observance*



St. Maximilian on how to read about the Immaculata

When you start to read something about the Immaculata, do not forget that at that moment you come into contact with a living being, who loves you, who is pure, without any stain.

Also, remember that the words you see are unable to express who she is, because they are human words, drawn from earthly concepts, words that present all things in a human manner, while the Immaculata is a Being totally of God. Thus, she is in some way infinitely more sublime than all that surrounds you. She will re-

veal herself to you through the phrases that you read and will convey to you thoughts, convictions, feelings that the author himself could not possibly even imagine. (...)

Do not start reading, then, before appealing with some prayer for her help. Do not worry about reading much, but rather interweave your reading with elevation of your heart to her, especially when feelings of another nature awaken in your heart. Then, when you finish your reading, entrust to her the yield of an ever more beautiful fruit.



The Immaculata is our life

Mary is our life, because she obtains for us the pardon of our sins. In order to understand rightly the reason why the holy Church calls Mary our life, we must consider that as the soul gives life to the body, so divine grace gives life to the soul; for a soul without grace, though nominally alive, in truth is dead, as we find in the Apocalypse: "Thou hast the name of being alive, and thou art dead."

As Mary, then, obtains for sinners, by her intercession, the gift of grace, she restores them to life. The holy Church applies to her the following words of Proverbs: "They that in the morning early watch for me, shall find me." They shall find me, or, according to the Septuagint, "they shall find grace." Hence, to have recourse to Mary is to find the grace of God; for, as immediately follows: "He who finds me shall find life, and shall receive from God eternal salvation." Listen, as St. Bonaventure exclaims here upon these words, "Listen, all ye



who desire the kingdom of God; honour the Virgin Mary, and ye shall have life and eternal salvation."

St. Bernardine of Sienna says that God did not destroy man after his fall, because of the peculiar love that He bore his future child Mary. And the saint adds, that he doubts not all the mercy and pardon which sinners receive under the Old Law was granted them by God solely for the sake of this blessed Virgin.

Therefore St. Bernard exhorts us, if we have been so unfortunate as to lose divine grace, to

strive to recover it, but to strive through Mary; for if we have lost it, she has found it: and hence she is called by this saint, "The finder of grace." This the angel Gabriel expressed for our consolation, when he said to the Virgin, "Fear not, Mary,

for thou hast found grace." But if Mary had never been without grace, how could the angel say to her that she had found it? A thing is said to be found when it has been lost. The Virgin was always with God and with grace; she was even full of grace, as the Archangel himself announced when he saluted her, "Hail! full of grace, the Lord is with thee." If, then, Mary did not find grace for herself, for whom did she find it? Cardinal Hugo answers, when commenting upon the above passage, that she found it for sinners who had lost it. Let sinners, then, says the devout writer, who have lost grace, flee to Mary; with her they will certainly find it; and let them say: "Oh Lady, what is lost must be restored to him who has lost it; this grace which thou hast found is not thine, thou hast never lost it; it is ours, for we have lost it, and to us thou shouldst restore it."



In connection with which, Richard of St. Laurence remarks: If then we desire to find the grace of God, let us go to Mary, who has found it, and always finds it. And since she ever has been, and ever will be, dear to God, if we have recourse to her, we certainly shall find it. She says, in the holy Canticles, that God has placed her in the world to be our defence, and therefore she is ordained to be the mediatrix of peace between the sinner and God. "I am become in his presence as one finding peace." By which words St. Bernard gives

encouragement to the sinner, and says: Go to this mother of mercy, and show her the wounds which thy sins have inflicted upon thy soul. Then she will certainly pray her Son that he may pardon thee by the milk with which she has nourished him, and the Son who loves her so much will certainly hear her. So, too, the holy Church teaches us to pray the Lord to grant us the powerful intercession of Mary, that we may arise from our sins, in the following prayer: "Grant

us, oh merciful God, strength against all our weakness; that we who celebrate the memory of the holy Mother of God, may, by the help of her intercession, arise again from our iniquities."

Justly, then, does St. Lawrence Justinian call her the hope of evildoers, *spes delinquentium*, since she alone can obtain their pardon from God. St. Bernard rightly names her the ladder of sinners, *Peccatorum scala*; since she, this compassionate queen, offers her hand to poor fallen mortals, leads them from the precipice of sin, and helps them to ascend to God. St. Augustine rightly calls her the only hope of us sinners, since by her means alone we hope for the remission of all our sins. And St. John Chrysostom repeats the same thing, namely, that sinners receive pardon only through the intercession of Mary. Whence the saints in the name of all sinners thus salute her: Hail! Mother of God and ours; Heaven



where God dwells; Throne from which the Lord dispenses all graces; always pray to Jesus for us, that by thy prayers we may obtain pardon on the day of account, and the glory of the blessed in Heaven.

Do not despair, as the devout Bernardine de Bustis says, oh sinners, although you have committed all possible sin, but confidently have recourse to this Lady, for you will find her hands full of mercies. Then she adds: Mary is more desirous to bestow favours upon you than you are to receive them. By St. Andrew of Crete, Mary is called "The Security of Divine Pardon." By this is meant, that when sinners have recourse to Mary that they may be reconciled to God, God assures them of pardon, and gives them the assurance by also giving them the pledge of it. And this pledge is Mary, whom he has given us for our advocate, by whose intercession, in virtue of the merits of



Jesus Christ, God pardons all sinners who place themselves under her protection. It was revealed to St. Bridget by an angel, that the holy prophets were full of joy when they learned that God, by the humility and purity of Mary, would become reconciled to sinners, and receive into His favour those who had provoked His wrath. **M**



Pilgrimage in the steps of St. Maximilian in Japan

The good Lord granted a group of several dozen faithful the grace of a pilgrimage to Japan. The main purpose of the trip was to follow in the footsteps of St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe and to learn about the history of Catholicism in Japan.

Father Karl Stehlin shared his knowledge of the various sites and events associated with them, accompanied by Father Thomas Onoda (the only Japanese priest ordained in the Society of St. Pius X) and Father Paul, a Pallottine priest serving in Korea and getting to know Catholic Tradition. We also had Japanese guides on site. Ms Yoko, a pagan, stayed with us the longest and received a Miraculous Medal and brochures in Japanese from our Knights

of the Immaculate, along with assurances of prayers for her conversion (which we encourage those reading this report to do as well).

Our first steps were to the St. Maximilian Museum in Nagasaki. This building stands on the site of the house where the Pole lived at the beginning of his missionary work in Japan in 1930. He lived here with Brother Zenon Żebrowski and Brother Hilary Łysakowski. From that time, there remains only the hearth – a red brick chimney. Extreme poverty prevailed here. It is important to remember that Father Kolbe was in the advanced stages of tuberculosis, suffering greatly, and the prevailing climate intensified his suffering. Such heroism and the

example of the monks were greatly appreciated by the local population.

Near this modest building stands the oldest surviving church building in Japan, built in 1865. The Church of the 26 Japanese Martyrs was built towards Nishizaka Hill, the site of their martyrdom.

On the 17th of March, 1865, several peasants visited this shrine. One of them approached Father Petitjean (the parish priest and church builder) and said, "We are from Urakami; all of us in Urakami share the same faith." These were the confessions of Catholic exiles who risked their lives to maintain their faith. Can we pos-



Qura Cathedral, built in 1865



A monument commemorating the discovery of Christians in Japan who remained faithful despite many years of bloody persecution

sibly imagine Father Petitjean's surprise and joy when he heard these words? "Where is the statue of Our Lady?", the newcomers asked. The priest led them to the statue and said, "It really is Our Lady. It really is Our Lady holding her Son Jesus. The people were moved." After confirming that Father Petitjean was celibate and had been sent by the Pope, they were convinced he was a *pardere* (a priest). That night, Father Petitjean wrote a letter expressing his excitement at having found the congregation and sent it to his superior, Father Girard, in Yokohama. When the letter reached Rome and its contents reached the ears of Pius IX, the aged Pope reportedly burst into tears of joy. When it was learned that there was a Catholic priest in Nagasaki, hidden Christians from other cities and regions, such as Goto, Amakusa, Hirado, and Imamura, one by one visited the Tenshudo in Oura and professed their faith. Many of them later re-



The place of the martyrdom of many Catholics (Unzen Hell)

turned to the Catholic Church under the guidance of French missionaries. According to reports, this number reached as many as 50,000.

For three days, we had the opportunity to attend Holy Mass at Nakamachi Church. It is built on the site where, in the 17th century, 16 Japanese men received the crown of martyrdom. Another site of Catholic martyrs is Mount Unzen, also known as *Unzen Hell*. Hot springs constantly bubble here, emitting acrid sulphurous steam. In 1600 and the following years, the ruler of Shimabara used this site to torture hundreds of men, women, and children into renouncing their holy Catholic faith. Despite these cruel sufferings at temperatures of 2,000°C, these courageous Catholics chose death. On Nishizaka Hill, after torture (e.g., hanging upside down in a pit), Paul Miki and 25 companions were finally crucified. The monument commemorating this event features a quote from St. Mark: "Deny your-



Paintings depicting the martyrdom of many Japanese people in the Museum of 26 Martyrs



The surviving wall of Urakami Cathedral, located 500 metres from the epicentre of the atomic bomb explosion; two priests and many worshippers who were waiting for confession or performing penance were killed on the spot.

self, take up your cross, and follow me." The creator of this monument converted.

These places provided us with an opportunity to reflect and meditate on so many examples of faithfulness to God even unto death, and above all, to pray for the conversion of Japan through the intercession of these holy martyrs.

Another place where time seemed to stand still was the atomic bomb museum. It's difficult to grasp the horror of this event, when on

the 9th of August 1945, at 11:02 AM, 40,000 people suddenly perished, with tens of thousands more dying soon after. How diligently one must guard one's soul for it to be in the state of grace!!!

This event is linked to the story of St. Maximilian's physician and a man who had previously helped the monks, Dr. Nagai Takashi. He converted thanks to the prayers of his future wife, Midori. He had already fallen seriously ill before the bomb exploded. He survived the disaster, helping the victims as much as he could. Later, bedridden, he prayed through the intercession of Father Maximilian and drank the



The rosaries of the faithful melted during the atomic bomb explosion



The life story of Dr Nagai Takashi in the museum dedicated to him

waters of Japanese Lourdes. He lived six years longer than doctors predicted, raised his two children, and wrote books lying down.

Our last stop in Nagasaki was Japanese Niepokalanów – Mugenzai no Sono, or Mary's Garden. Relics and precious mementos of St. Maximil-

ian are located here. This place was unaffected by the atomic bomb explosion because it is located behind a mountain. The Japanese *Knight of the Immaculata* emanated from here, and the graces of the Immaculate Virgin Mary radiated so strongly that after World War II, 50% of Jap-



A fragment of the exhibition at the Japanese museum in Mugenzai no Sono

anese conversions occurred there. Walking uphill, we reached the Japanese Lourdes, with its statue of the Immaculate Virgin and St. Bernadette, and, of course, a spring gushing from the rock. There, we prayed the Rosary. The rosary accompanied us at every moment: whether in these places of worship, on the bus, or on the plane — inseparable from the Immaculate Virgin! After the high temperatures in Nagasaki, the city of Akita welcomed us with cold and rain, and, interestingly, an "invasion" of bears. So, in the garden near the shrine, we sang Marian hymns loudly to ward off these beasts. And just before, we prayed and performed the Stations of the Cross. The shrine itself is the site of the apparitions of Our Lady to Sister Agnes Sasagawa in 1973. They call for penance, poverty, and acts of self-sacrifice to appease the wrath of the Divine Father. We had ample time to offer our intentions before the miraculous statue of Our Lady. This wooden statue wept 101 times over a six-year period, from 1975 onward. The fluid was analysed and found to be unequivocally human tears.

Akita also witnessed the martyrdom of Catholics in the 16th and 17th centuries. Countless faithful were tortured, crucified, or beheaded here. The repression affected entire families for five generations. Many



Statue of Our Lady of Akita

of them gave their lives by the Kuso Tsu River, where, in the pouring rain, we prayed the rosary.

The sacrifice made by the Japanese martyrs (a total of approximately 300,000 people) cannot be separated from the blessing bestowed upon this country by the Immaculate Virgin Mary in the person of St. Maximilian Maria Kolbe. Therefore, through his intercession and that of the holy martyrs, we trust in the great graces prayed for us, our loved ones, and Japan itself.

We returned home safely, flying over the North Pole! :)



Pilgrimage in the steps of St. Maximilian in Poland

The pilgrimage in the footsteps of St. Maximilian in Poland was organized as part of the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the renewal of the M.I. in its traditional form. It began with Holy Mass; after Fr. Karl Stehlin delivered the first conference. In it, he referred to the beginnings of the M.I. of Traditional Observance and the need to fulfil the message of the great saint, Fr. Maximilian. Following in Fr. Maximilian's footsteps, we were to discover his spirituality, learn about events from his life, examine the origins of the M.I. and the magazine *Rycerz Niepokalanej*, and above all, understand how incredible and unique this work is.

The first place we visited was Zduńska Wola – the town where Rajmund Kolbe, our future saint, was born, one of the three sons of Juliusz and Marianna Kolbe. A pious guide, fascinated by St. Maximilian, led us through the Basilica of the As-

sumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, where little Rajmund was baptized and confirmed. He showed us the small, one-room flat where Mundek (diminutive) was born and recounted many details about the life of the saint and his family. In the museum dedicated to the saint, he spoke with great emotion and passion about the difficult character and impetuosity of young Raymond, his wise and pious mother, father, and brothers. With great appreciation, he shared the observation that "St. Maximilian lived only 47 years, yet he accomplished so much."

After a year of living in Zduńska Wola, the Kolbe family moved to Pabianice. This city was the next destination of our pilgrimage. Here, we visited St. Matthew's Church, where the Immaculate Virgin appeared to the saint with two crowns – one of purity and one of martyrdom. We know that young Raymond accepted both.

From that event, his life changed completely, and the Immaculate Virgin, for whom he had acquired love and devotion from his family home, prepared and guided him in the fight against the enemy of souls.

From the conferences given by Fr. Stehlin, we learned about the saint's subsequent stays and activities — the seminary in Lwów and the years spent in Rome, where, in 1917, in the face of blasphemous Freemason demonstrations, he founded the M.I.

After completing his studies and receiving two doctorates in Rome, Maximilian Kolbe came to Kraków and served as a lecturer at the Franciscan seminary. Following in Fr. Maximilian's footsteps, our pilgrimage from Pabianice reached Kraków.

One of the fathers guided us around St. Francis's Basilica. The most important room associated with the saint's work is the Italian Hall, where the first meeting of the M.I. in Poland took place. After a few months of Fr. Maximilian's activity in Kraków, the M.I. numbered 1,000 members. It was in the Italian Hall that the most important conferences for the Knights were held. These were led by the soft-spoken saint, who was seriously ill (in the advanced stages of tuberculosis).

To reach more people, in 1921, thanks to a great effort by St. Maximilian, the first issue of *Rycerz Nie-*



The Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Zduńska Wola, where Rajmund Kolbe was baptised

pokalanej (Knight of the Immaculata) was published in a circulation of 5,000 copies. This magazine was criticized by many, but appreciated and read by many ordinary people. The Immaculate's desire was being fulfilled — the saint was winning more and more



Pabianice: the school building attended by Rajmund Kolbe

souls to her. With the Immaculate's help, subsequent issues of *Rycerz Niepokalanej* were published, and when the work was developing rapidly, the decision was made to send the saint to Grodno. Father Maximilian arrived there with a single suitcase and had to start all over again. After five years, however, he left with three carriages carrying, among other things, printing presses. The Immaculate herself led the work, which the superiors did not know what to do with and did not want to see grow. She held in her hands the best "broom", the most noble, steadfast Knight. Our pilgrimage ended in Niepokalanów, where we visited St. Maximilian's cell and museum, the cemetery, and finally St. Maximilian's Chapel.

Father Maximilian arrived in Niepokalanów from Grodno in 1927. Once again, he had to start from scratch... On donated land, he erected buildings, organized a printing house, and a seminary. In a very short time,

the work experienced incredible growth. The number of *Rycerz Niepokalanej* issues published reached 4 million.

In 1930, the Immaculate sent her Knight to Japan. There, not knowing the language, having no printing presses, and having no resources, he founded a monastery and seminary, and began printing *Knight of the Immaculata* in Japanese.

After six years, he returned to Poland. Niepokalanów was bustling with activity. Many candidates were applying to join the order. St. Maximilian planned to build an airport to distribute publications even faster by



Kraków: the main altar in the Franciscan church

plane. He also built a radio station and planned to launch a television station. And then World War II broke out.

The Immaculate Virgin prepared Fr. Maximilian for a martyr's death. And in Auschwitz, we faced an immense amount of suffering, pain, and injustice. The roll call, the saint's death cell, the camp barracks — everyone prayed alone, in silence, and spiritually experienced those events.

"I live only for souls" — these were the words of St. Maximilian. His desire was for all people to be saved, for all to hear about the Immaculate Virgin and the Lord God. The saint's entire 47-year life was a battle for souls, a battle against the forces of evil, a battle often very exhausting both spiritually and physically. Father Maximilian never gave up or doubted. He trusted the Immaculate Virgin implicitly and entrusted every action to her. "If you hadn't come here, I would have been a pagan", the young Japanese man told the saint, and this gave Fr. Maximilian the certainty that he was acting in accordance with the will of the Most High. For this Knight of the Immaculate, fulfilling God's will, the apostolate knew no bounds; there was no stopping it.

Reflection: The Society of St. Pius X planned to first begin the apostolate of Tradition in Central and Eastern Europe in Russia. Father Stehlin made the decision to remain in Poland and develop this work in our homeland in



Niepokalanów: Knights in front of the first chapel

Niepokalanów. And we can say, like that young Japanese man: "If you hadn't come here, we would have been modernists."

Thanks be to God and to the Immaculate for this unique pilgrimage!



Niepokalanów: the grave of Prince Jan Drucki-Lubecki, who donated the land for the future monastery

The M.I. Days in Gdynia (Poland)

Similarly to Warsaw, M.I. Days were also held in Gdynia. The M.I. headquarters set up two tents with publications and devotional articles. The faithful showed great interest. On the 20th of September, Fr. Karl Stehlin delivered two conferences

and a sermon during Holy Mass, and afterward welcomed 16 new Knights into the M.I. Father Stehlin's Sunday sermons, delivered during all Holy Masses, focused on the apostolate conducted by the Knights as part of their affiliation with the M.I.



The M.I. Days in Kraków and in Poznań (Poland)

Due to the 25th anniversary of the renewal of the Militia Immaculatæ, the M.I. Days were held at the Priory in Kraków from the 4th to 5th of Octo-

ber and at the Priory in Poznań from the 24th to 26th of October 2025.

During the lectures and sermons, Fr. Karl Stehlin, Director of the M.I.,

emphasized the great role and dignity of being a Knight of the Immaculata. Through his prayers, sacrifices, and the distribution of the Miraculous Medal, a Knight does not act alone — he is, above all, an instrument of the Heavenly Mother, Queen in the fight for the salvation of souls, thus contributing to the expansion of the Kingdom of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. He therefore fulfils his role as a member of the Church Militant.

This occurs through an act of will, expressed in the words of consecration to the Immaculate, composed by St. Maximilian Kolbe. In this way, a Catholic becomes a member of this spiritual army.

The result of the M.I. Days in Kraków was the enrolment of 24 new Knights and in Poznań was the enrolment of 19 new Knights to the M.I. and the renewal of the act of consecration by the Knights present there.



Above: the enrolment into the M.I. in Kraków; below: the enrolment into the M.I. in Poznań



Without devotion to Mary, there is no independence!

On the 11th of November, a new experience for the M.I. Headquarters was to take part in the Polish Independence Day celebrations in Warsaw. This initiative was a kind of prologue to the Independence March. The M.I. table was located very close to the stage where debates, musical performances and contests took place, which on the one hand resulted in a lot of noise, but on the other hand, it was an opportunity for people listening to the performances to see what we had to offer.

The interest was great. Throughout the duration of the event (approx. 4 hours), the stand was besieged by crowds of the Independence March participants taking advantage of the M.I. corner. A large group of Knights conducted apostolate in motion, distributing booklets and flyers



among the March participants who, for various reasons (usually due to distance), did not approach the M.I. stand.

Estimates of the number of participants in the Independence March vary, depending on the source, between 160,000 and 300,000.



An interesting initiative in Biała Podlaska (Poland)

The Knights of the Immaculate in Biała Podlaska have decided to share the truth about the Catholic Mass with the wider community by placing the flyer *The Catholic Mass is the Most Beautiful Thing This Side of Heaven* on a banner trailer.

We hope that propagating information about the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, as the Catholic Church has always celebrated it, will contribute to the knowledge of Catholic doctrine, of which the Tridentine Mass is both the most perfect expression and fulfilment, and against which the heresy of modernism constantly combats.

We deeply hope that by entrusting our activities to the Immaculate Virgin Mary, many souls, with God's grace, will come to know the Truth, which will lead to the expansion of



our community of faithful and the establishment of a chapel in Biała Podlaska that will operate permanently for the greater glory of God.

New Knights in Warsaw (Poland)

On the 8th of December, the main feast of the M.I., the ceremony of admitting new people to the M.I. took place in the Warsaw church under the invocation of Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The ceremony was preceded by a short lecture from Fr. Piotr Świerczek, who explained to the candidates how important it is for every Catholic to participate in the Knights of the Immaculate. By becoming a Knight, we become an instrument in the hand of Our Lady herself. We become tools in the fight for the salvation of the souls of our neighbours, thanks to which we fulfil the most important commandments: love of God and neighbour. The meeting was attended by both candidates for the M.I. and Knights who renewed their *Act of consecration to the Immaculate*.



The Army of the Immaculate was increased by 28 Knights on Mary's feast day. Let us pray that they will zealously spread the honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary and be good instruments in leading souls to the Sacred Heart of Jesus through the hands of Our Lady.



The M.I. enrolment in Bredell (Australia)

Two new members were enrolled as Knights of the Immaculatae last

December on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.



The M.I. Apostolate in UK

January is the time when some of us make New Year resolutions. It is not too late to add a further one – to be more active in promoting the growth of the Militia Immaculatae Apostolate in District GB and through it, the saving of more souls for Our Lord, which is the prime purpose of being a Knight.

Here are examples from two Knights of how this growth might be achieved:

Anna attends a busy Saturday market where she hands out flyers and Miraculous Medals to all who will accept them. She also takes the opportunity to engage them in conversation about the objectives of the

M.I. Furthermore, she has posted a description of the work of the M.I. on Facebook's "Chapels" page in the expectation of sparking a discussion.

Lara keeps her eyes peeled for parked cars with a crucifix dangling inside, and puts a Medal and flyer under the windscreen wiper for the owner to study on return. What is more, when she sees anyone wearing a crucifix around their neck, she offers them a Medal and a flyer, and tries to explain about the Apostolate.

So here we have some examples of how growth might be achieved. Might we try to emulate the example of these two Knights?

God bless the work!

The M.I. Days in Lithuania

On the 8-9th of November 2025, Fr. Karl Stehlin visited the Lithuanian M.I. group. At the Kaunas Priory, the faithful from Kaunas, Vilnius, Šiauliai, and Samogitia listened to two lectures about the founder of the Militia Immaculatæ, St. Maximilian Kolbe, the history of the M.I. and Niepokalanów, the recent Polish pilgrimage to Japan, and more. Father Stehlin emphasized Maximilian's living faith and zeal, the connection between the founding of the Knights of the Immaculate in Rome in 1917 and the apparitions at Fatima.

He spoke about the difficult conditions of the M.I.'s apostolate in the Far East, and the incredible success of this work in the Philippines and Poland. Father Stehlin reminded each of us that the M.I.'s apostolate is a unique experience. It is simply fulfilling the commandment of love for God and neighbour – by praying and

making offerings for our neighbours, telling them about God and the Immaculate Virgin, and distributing miraculous medals, we contribute to their salvation.

On the 9th of November, after Holy Mass in Kaunas, 10 new Knights of the Immaculate were accepted, and eight new Knights in the chapel in Vilnius. Currently, there are 52 Knights in Lithuania. We are grateful for the flyers, booklets, and several books in Lithuanian printed for us by the M.I. Headquarters in Warsaw. We distribute these materials in the M.I. corners in our chapels and during the annual book fair in Vilnius. There are several zealous faithful who distribute miraculous medals. Furthermore, we combine the M.I. apostolate with the *Lithuania Prays* campaign – a public rosary every Wednesday in Kaunas, Vilnius, and Šiauliai.



The M.I. Days in Tallinn

The Knights of the Immaculate in Tallinn, the capital of Estonia, celebrated the 25th anniversary of the restoration of the M.I. During several conferences, Fr. Karl Stehlin presented the biography and spirituality of St. Maximilian Kolbe and talked about the establishment, development and powerful influence of the Knights of the Immaculate throughout the world.

In the context of the doctrinal note *Mater Populi Fidelis* issued on the 4th of November 2025 by the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, Fr. Stehlin — according to the teachings of St. Maximilian — reminded us of the wonderful and superior role of Mary, Mediatrix of all graces, as a sol-



id basis on which the spirit of the M.I. is based.

The nine new Knights consecrated themselves to the Immaculate and committed themselves as her instruments to help save all souls, especially in Estonia, known since the Middle Ages as *Terra Mariana* (The Land of Mary).

The National Day of the M.I. France

As part of the celebrations marking the 25th anniversary of the renewal of the M.I., the National Day of the M.I. was held in Paris. The main focus of the celebrations were conferences, whose theme was: *The M.I. as help and support for the priesthood*.

The meeting began with an opening full of zeal for holiness and for the Immaculate Conception with Fr. Peignot. Next, Fr. Castelain explained to us the splendours of the priesthood with the Immaculate Conception. Then we had Mass with a sermon

by Father Peignot! Unfortunately, we only have a small part of this great sermon, which filled us all with zeal for our Queen!



Conference by Fr. Gonzague Peignot, Superior of the District of France

We then took a lunch break and resumed at 2:30 pm with a conference by Fr. Paul Marie, OFM, Capuchin: a retrospective of the first 17 years of the M.I. in France. After a 15-minute run to the Atelier de Marie, we continued with a very concrete and spiritual conference on the M.I. as an instrument in the hands of the Immaculate, help and auxiliary to the

priesthood, and finally, a worldwide retrospective of the 25 years of the M.I. in the world with Fr. Stehlin, Director of the M.I.

We thank all the generous benefactors of the M.I. because, despite the small number of people present, the proceeds from this Marian day (more than €1,000) will truly enable us to move forward with our projects.

The M.I. Days in Canada

From the 4th to the 11th of December 2025 at the invitation of the Fatima Centre, Fr. Karl Stehlin visited Canada for a series of conferences. His arrival was associated with two important anniversaries in 2025:



Sermon by Fr. Karl Stehlin in Toronto

– the 100th anniversary (the 10th of December 1925) of the apparition of the Virgin Mary with the Baby Jesus to Sister Lucy in Pontevedra, in which Mary asked for the establishment of the reparative devotion of the Five First Saturdays;

– the 25th anniversary of the renewal of the Militia Immaculatae in Poland.

Father Stehlin gave five conferences in Toronto at the Church of the Transfiguration, including one in Polish, and two at the Church of St. Peter in New Hamburg. He also gave an extensive interview to the Fatima Centre website.

It should be emphasized that the speeches of Fr. Stehlin took on a particular meaning in the context of the latest document *Mater Populi Fidelis*, which prohibits the use of the titles *Co-redemptrix* and *Mediatrice of All Graces* for the Blessed Virgin Mary, which is practically her

dethronement and is also a devastating distortion of the doctrine of redemption.

On the 11th of December Fr. Stehlin was awaited by a group of believers from Poland gathered in the chapels of the Society of St. Pius X in Ontario, who also participated in the other conferences. This short evening was limited to Holy Mass and a longer sermon in Polish and meetings in a room under the church.

The Poles present at the meeting were most pleased with the opportunity to confess in Polish, also before all Masses on other days.

As usual, the books and publications of M.I. in Polish and Miraculous Medals brought by the father attracted great interest.

In all his conferences, Fr. Stehlin referred to modern times and all the threats posed by the modern world, especially the media, which rob us of time, often sowing spiritual confusion, commotion and scandal, causing despair and neglect of duties of state in each of us.

Surrendering to the multitude of sensational information and "prophecies", we often forget about the most important thing — the rescue and help that the Immaculate Heart of Mary, with its promise repeated over and over again, brings in difficult times. The Blessed Virgin Mary assured her worshippers of this during all the apparitions rec-



Meeting with Poles in Toronto

ognized by the Church, especially at Fatima.

For the end times, which we have undoubtedly entered, we received salvation through her in the form of devotion to her Immaculate Heart, especially the Five First Saturdays and the prayer of the Rosary. In times of universal scandal and debauchery, and the fall of faith, and many scandals (starting with the Catholic hierarchy), we should devote our strength, by the grace of God and with the help of the Mediatrix of All Graces, to saving sinners from eternal damnation.

This purpose is served by the Militia Immaculatæ, founded by Maximilian Kolbe in Rome in 1917, renewed in the traditional spirit 25 years ago.

Such a short visit by Fr. Karl Stehlin left us unsatisfied, but refreshed us by reminding us of Our Lady's assurance, repeated so many times:

"In the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph!"

The M.I. Day – 25th Anniversary Celebration in Singapore

The year 2025 marks the 25th anniversary of the revival of the Militia Immaculatae (Traditional Observance), a significant milestone in the history of this Marian apostolate founded by St. Maximilian Kolbe. After a year of postponements due to ongoing renovations to the chapel premises, this long-awaited celebration was finally held on the 13th of

December 2025 at the Priory of Singapore.

The day began with the Holy Mass, after which the faithful gathered for a joyful program combining both material and spiritual nourishment. There was an atmosphere of food, fun, fellowship, and apostolic zeal. A lively fair featured an array of rosaries, chaplets, crucifixes, Christmas gift packs of cookies and other spiritual paraphernalia, alongside Kolbe Publications' own prints of prayer cards, bookmarks, posters, and books.

Popular activities included the much-loved *Tikam Wheel* (our own Wheel of Fortune), Catholic trivia for the intellectually inclined, hooplaring games for the young, and traditional "five stones" for the more dexterous. A highlight of the day was





a violin performance by our resident virtuoso, who offered beautiful renditions of Marian and sacred pieces, including Gounod's *Ave Maria*.

Following this period of wholesome recreation, the programme turned to its spiritual climax: a conference by Fr. Fortin, followed by the enrolment of new members into the Militia Immaculatæ. The strong

turnout and many calls for more such events testified to the enduring vitality of the Marian spirit among the faithful.

Rosary procession in Einsiedeln (Switzerland)

At Switzerland's largest Marian pilgrimage site, Einsiedeln, the largest SSPX rosary procession in the country took place on the 11th of October 2025, organized by Militia Immaculatæ. Around 750 faithful – including many families and young people – walked through the streets of the pilgrimage town, praying and singing. Father Lukas Weber opened the procession with the words: "We pray for a Christian future and for peace."

Led by the cross and accompanied by altar servers, brass music, and Marian hymns, the procession moved through Einsiedeln. At its center was a flower-adorned statue of Our Lady of Fatima, flanked by Knights of the Immaculata in white mantles. Many passersby stopped to watch, and some spontaneously joined in.

In his address, Fr. Weber recalled the encyclical *Quas primas* by Pope

Pius XI, which introduced the Feast of Christ the King exactly 100 years ago – as a sign of Christ's reign over the world. "When Christ is no longer King, man becomes a plaything of ideologies," said Fr. Weber.

The procession was also an act of reparation – for the sins of our time and to console the Immaculate Heart of Mary, as requested in Fatima. Father Weber explained the significance of the Five First Saturdays as a spiritual response to the needs of our time.

The Feast of the Holy Rosary commemorates the victory at the Battle of Lepanto (1571), attributed to the power of the rosary. The procession in Einsiedeln continues a long-standing tradition – as an expression of faith, gratitude, and hope.

More information and photos:
www.rosenkranzprozession.ch



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 a 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.

January — March 2026

We are pleased to announce that priests will offer in the year 2026 Holy Masses for the sanctification of the Knights of the Militia Immaculatæ.

- January 3rd** — First Saturday of the Month
(Fr. Lucas Weber, Fr. Raymond Lillis,
Fr. Andreas Jeindl)
- February 2nd** — Purification
of the Blessed Virgin Mary
(Fr. Dennis McDonald,
Fr. Timothy Pfeiffer)
- February 7th** — First Saturday of the Month
(Fr. Lucas Weber, Fr. Raymond Lillis,
Fr. Stefan Frey, Fr. Andreas Jeindl)
- March 7th** — First Saturday of the Month
(Fr. Lucas Weber, Fr. Raymond Lillis,
Fr. Helmet Trutt, Fr. Andreas Jeindl)
- March 19th** — Feast of St. Joseph
(Fr. Timothy Pfeiffer)
- March 25th** — Annunciation
of the Blessed Virgin Mary
(Fr. Dennis McDonald)



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-immaculatae.org/english/donations/

