



EVERYTHING IS YOURS, O MARY

MAY 2019

When one receives a gift, it is important to accept it, value it with gratitude. One responds to Jesus' gift of his mother from the cross by welcoming Mary into their life and entrusting everything to her to correspond to her motherly love. Saint John Paul II, the Pope of "Totus Tuus", wrote in *Redemptoris Mater*: "Such entrusting is the response to a person's love, and in particular to the love of a mother" (RM 45). St. Maximilian loved to repeat to his brothers that everything must be given and belong to her, life, death, and eternity. "The spirit of Niepokalanów consists of nothing more than the fact that it belongs to her: everything in it belongs to her, those who inhabit it, its machines, its buildings, and even its debts. But above all, every heart that beats in it" (KW 463).

Concretely speaking, what can I, or should I, offer to the Madonna?

Marilena's testimony is significant:

I was 18 years old when the consecration to the Immaculata was proposed to me. I had some difficulty committing, because according to me, I needed to offer Mary the most beautiful things, the holiest virtues, instead I found myself with my defects, frailty, and relational difficulty, poor and proud. I wasn't worthy to entrust myself to Mary. These words of Father Faccenda were illuminating: "Often it will seem to us that we have nothing to offer Mary, because we will feel all the reality of our human and spiritual limits, the inability to do the good we want, the weight of our sin... But it is precisely this that we must put in the heart and hands of Mary" (La prese con sé, pg. 165). Enlightened by these words I began to offer Mary my anxieties, fears, and difficulties. I found peace and serenity in accepting myself as I am, with my limitations. I rediscovered that not everything in me was negative, I began to value and offer Mary also the gifts received – life, family, affection given and received. After many years I can say that the consecration to Mary has been one of the most important breakthroughs in my life, I have experienced that nothing is lost of who I am, what I do and think, if everything is continually offered to Mary" (Marilena da Bazzano).

St. Maximilian wrote: "Let us remain joyful in peace in the Immaculata and let us be shaped by her without placing any restriction, as she pleases, through pleasant and unpleasant events, outer or intimate joys, sorrows, temptations, etc., etc.: everything for her" (KW 556).

He encouraged his friends in Auschwitz, "He entrusted me to Mary saying: 'Take the hand of Christ in one of your hands and the hand of the Madonna in the other, now even if you walk in the dark, you can go forward with the same certainty of a child that has taken the hands of his parents'" (A Man for Others, P. Treece).

How beautiful to have this certainty!

The Missionaries of Harmese, Poland



Entrust St. Maximilian with your **desires, dreams, and hopes**. The missionaries will pray for your intentions every day, and on the fourteenth of every month, they will carry them to Auschwitz where Fr. Kolbe gave his life so that another might live. At his cell they will ask his intercession. Write to: celakolbe@kolbemission.org

Do not forget love.
for Missionaries of the Holy

Misjonarki
Niepokalanej Ojca Kolbego