

# **MI DIRECTORY FOR THE USA (November 2005)**

## **I. Nature and Scope**

### Article 1

1. The Militia Immaculata (MI) was founded on October 16, 1917 by St. Maximilian Kolbe in Rome, Italy.
2. The National Center of the Militia Immaculata is a religious association with juridical personality within the general structure of the Militia Immaculata, an international public association of the faithful of the Catholic Church.
3. The Militia of the Immaculata in the United States performs its activity according to the spirit and directives of the Church and according to the general statutes of the MI.
4. The National Center of the MI is located at Marytown, 1600 West Park Ave., Libertyville, IL 60048
5. The Official Latin title for the MI is "Militia Immaculatae." In the United States, the Movement is known as the "MI" or as the "Militia of the Immaculata." Members are known as "Mlrs." In the past the MI has been known in the USA as the "Knights of the Immaculata" and its members referred to as "Knights."

### Article 2

**The purpose of the MI in the United States is:**

1.To promote the reign of the Kingdom of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the world through consecration to Mary, the Immaculate Conception, who is the Mediatrix of all graces.

2.To present the figure of St. Maximilian Kolbe as an evangelical man, who was authentically Marian and Franciscan in spirit; as a true missionary and example of love toward all.

## **II. Spirituality and Formation**

### Article 3

The MI takes its spiritual identity from Sacred Scripture and Tradition as articulated by the Magisterium of the Church and from the patrimony of the Franciscan Order, in particular the life and writings of St. Maximilian Kolbe.

### Article 4

Particular attention is given to the presence of the Youth and Young Adults as an integral part of the Association. The National **Youth** Director will set out a specific formative and pastoral itinerary **approved by the National Council**.

### Article 5 - **Membership**

1. Membership in the MI is open to practicing Catholics over the age of reason (approximately 7 years of age). A person must enroll in the MI, since the act of Total Consecration must proceed from an individual's free decision. One person may not enroll another.

2. The consecration to Mary of parishioners by their pastors, of children by their parents, of couples by the priest officiating at their wedding, of religious by their superiors, or of priests by the bishop at their ordination is not "Total"-and therefore not MI-unless the individual pledges "Totus Tuus" (or the Kolbean equivalent).

3. "Family Consecration" is only valid for membership in the MI when all members of the family are over the age of reason and each one makes the act of Total Consecration to Mary.

4. Consecration can be lived out:

- a. MI-1 individually and spontaneously.
- b. MI-2 in an associative form.
- c. MI-3 in a total and unconditional way, in legitimately autonomous bodies, devoted in an exclusive manner to the cause of the Immaculate. It is precisely the case of the City of *the Immaculata*, of the directive *Centers*, of the *Marian Houses*, of the male and female *Institutes* and *Congregations* of Kolbean inspiration.

5. Within in the MI movement, there are two special categories of membership for which certain people may qualify: Knights at the Foot of the Cross (KFC) and MI Contemplatives.

6. The KFC are those who are infirm, suffering, disabled, and/or elderly persons within the MI who explicitly offer a portion of their daily prayers and trials for the MI to Jesus and Mary.

7. An MI contemplative is a **cloistered** person who lives the evangelical vows of poverty, chastity and obedience modeled after the Blessed Virgin Mary who contemplated the gospel mysteries in her heart.

8. All new consecrants are referred to the National Center and then referred to the regional center or filial office if there is one. Each consecrant receives a blessed Miraculous Medal, certificate, MI intentions, MI Village brochure and a Miraculous Medal brochure.

## Article 6 – **Formation**

1. Each member of the MI must go through a process of formation;

- a) Initial formation for those preparing to make the Act of Total Consecration for the first time; and
- b) Continual formation for those striving to implement that consecration.

2. Initial preparation for Consecration:

a) A basic understanding of total consecration as expressed in the MI Prayer of Marian Consecration composed by St. Maximilian Kolbe.

b) For those needing more understanding of how to prepare for consecration, contact the MI National, Regional Center or Filial Office.

3. Continual formation:

a) All consecrants are expected to grow in their consecration through prayer and study

- Prayer: by the daily renewal and living out of his/her consecration.
- Study: by reading the life, theology and Mariology of St. Maximilian Kolbe
- By attending the MI National Conference or local events
- By deepening one's Catholic theological tradition, especially the Franciscan theology and spirituality

b) The format in which MI formation takes place:

- MI conferences and events
- The Immaculata magazine and other MI publications.
- The Internet and mass media.

### III Mission

#### Article 7

#### **The Mission of the MI is expressed:**

- 1) On a personal level – by conversion and personal sanctification.
- 2) On a local level – in the context of family, neighbors and daily life.

3) On the ecclesial and worldwide level – where a “member opens up his or her heart to each person and to the entire world” (**General Statutes, Article 10**).

## Article 8

MI members are encouraged to collaborate with Institutes and Congregations of Kolbean inspiration.

## Article 9

### **The members are active:**

- 1) In the field of evangelization (announcing the Word, catechesis, courses in spiritual formation and Marian doctrine, especially ministry to the youth and young adults);
- 2) On the level of charity (corporal works of mercy and justice and peace);
- 3) In the areas of mass media (editorial, radio, television, and internet, etc.)

# **IV Organization and Government**

## Article 10

### **The Act of Consecration consists of:**

- 1) The prayer of St. Maximilian Kolbe which
- 2) Should be made before a representative of the MI, if possible, and
- 3) Consists of a public or private rite which requires the Act of Consecration, the reception of the Miraculous Medal, and enrollment in the MI National Center.

## Article 11

- 1) The structures of the association are:
  - National Center
  - Regional Centers
  - Filial Offices

- Groups

2) The Regional Centers and Filial Offices are public associations **recognized by the National Council**. They require recognition by the local Bishop who appoints an Ecclesiastical Assistant **and this Regional or Filial Office is then approved by the International Center in Rome**.

3) Groups are private associations that do not need canonical recognition but must be associated with the National or Regional Center or Filial Office.

4) **When** a private group **seeks to** becomes public, it needs **recognition** from the Filial Office. If no Filial Office exists, it needs **recognition** from the Regional or National Center **and the local Ordinary**.

## Article 12

The juridical body of the MI is made up of the President, the Assistant, and the Presidential Council. The other juridical bodies of the MI i.e. Regional Centers and Filial Offices are structured in a like manner.

## Article 13

The governing bodies of the Association in the United States are: the National Assembly, the National President, and the National Council.

## Article 14

1) The National Assembly is constituted by the National President, the National Assistant, the Presidential Council, the Regional Presidents, the Regional Assistants, the National Youth and Young Adult Delegate, and the Provincial representatives.

2) The National Assembly gathers for election every six years.

## Article 15

**The National Council consists of:**

- President
- National Assistant (a Conventual Franciscan)
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Three Council Members
- Youth Coordinator
- One member from each institute of Kolbean inspiration.

#### Article 16

The MI Youth and Young Adult National Coordinator is nominated by the National President and elected by the National Assembly for a term of six years.

#### Article 17

The Immaculata Magazine is now recognized by the National Council as the national voice of the MI. It is currently a publication of the Conventual Franciscan Friars of Marytown in collaboration with the National Council. The President, with the Council, has the responsibility to have a publication that is the national voice of the MI.

#### Article 18

##### **The responsibilities of the National Assembly are:**

- 1) To elect the President and the National Council
- 2) To discuss and approve the general programs for the next six years
- 3) To examine the financial affairs of the MI
- 4) To examine the report of the National President during his term
- 5) To examine the reports of the Regional Centers

#### Article 19

## **The responsibilities of the National Council are:**

- 1) to propose, examine and approve projects and activities according to the aims of the MI.
- 2) to discuss and examine the report of the National President and the budget and balance sheet presented by the Treasurer
- 3) to express its opinion regarding the erection of Regional Centers and Filial Offices
- 4) to approve the annual balance sheet and budget of the National Center
- 5) to support the activities of formation of the Regional Centers

## Article 20

### **The responsibilities of the National President, in collaboration with the Assistant are:**

- 1) to convoke and preside over the National Council at least once a year
- 2) to call and preside over the National Assembly every six years
- 3) to erect Regional Centers and Filial Offices after hearing the opinion of the National Council
- 4) to coordinate the work of the Regional Centers and to foster communion with the local Ordinaries
- 5) to promote meetings, study conferences and the participation in activities promoted by other institutions, bringing, where it is useful and opportune, the contribution of the charism of the MI
- 6) to engage those responsible on the filial and regional levels in the realization of the official program of the Association
- 7) with the advice of the National Council and in agreement with the International President, to resolve eventual conflicts within the Association
- 8) If the President does not reside at the National Center, he or she must visit the National Center quarterly for a minimum of three full days per visit.
- 9) It is highly recommended that the National Assistant reside at the National Center and if this is not possible, he should visit the National Center quarterly for a minimum of seven (7) full days per visit.

10) Votes only in case of a tie.

## Article 21

It is the responsibility of the National President to present to the International President and the Conventual Franciscan Conference a report on the state of the MI every year.

## Article 22

### **The responsibilities of the National Assistant are:**

- 1) To promote the MI among the Order of Friars Minor Conventual.
- 2) To provide spiritual and apostolic formation to the members of the MI according to the doctrine and spirit of St. Maximilian Kolbe.
- 3) To promote the spirit and the ideals of the MI to the world at large.
- 4) To assist in the collaboration between the various Institutes and Congregations of Kolbean spirituality.
- 5) Each regional assembly proposes three names to the proper authority or authorities, and the National Assistant appoints a person.

## Article 23

### **The responsibilities of the National Secretary are:**

- 1) Assist in fulfilling the programs of the President and the Council
- 2) Handle correspondence
- 3) Maintain the National Office
- 4) Maintain an up-to-date record of all Regional Centers and Filial Offices

## Article 24

### **The responsibilities of the National Treasurer are:**

- 1) Maintain the accounting records of the National Center

2) Submit a financial report of the National Center to the National Assembly, approved by the National Council

## Article 25

- 1) The terms of office on the National and Regional levels require an absolute (one over 1/2) majority for election and last for six years. Re-election is possible with a simple majority; a third term requires 2/3 majorities.
- 2) If a Council member fails to attend two consecutive meetings, he or she has automatically resigned his or her seat. If a Council member, for whatever reason is unable to fulfill his term, the said Council will nominate and elect a replacement.
- 3) Services rendered by members in the exercise of any office undertaken within the Association come under the category of voluntary work and, consequently, are intended as gratis to all intents and purposes, except for the reimbursement of expenses upon the presentation of a receipt slip.
- 4) A person cannot hold identical seats on the National and Regional level at the same time.

## Article 26

- 1) The Regional Assembly is composed of the Regional Council –
  - Presidents of Filial Offices
  - Local Assistant
  - Delegate of the Youth and Young Adults
  - Delegate of the Institutes and Congregations of Kolbean inspiration, if they exist in that territory
  - The Conventual Franciscan representative of each Province in that region
- 2) The Regional Assembly is presided over by the National Assistant then by the National President then by a delegate.

3) The National President confirms in writing the election of the Regional President.

4) The Regional Assembly elects the officers of the Regional Council.

## Article 27

1) The Regional Council consists of:

- President
- Regional Assistant
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Two Council Members of Institutes of Kolbean inspiration if present in that region
- Youth Coordinator

2) A region consists of a minimum of three Filial Offices, and a Regional Center is to be chosen from one of the Filial Offices.

3) The responsibilities of the Regional Council are:

- a) To propose, examine and approve projects and activities according to the aims of the MI.
- b) To discuss and examine the report of the Regional President and the budget and balance sheet presented by the Treasurer.
- c) To express its opinion regarding the election of Filial Offices
- d) To approve the annual balance sheet and budget of the Regional Center.
- e) To support the activities of formation of the Filial Offices.
- f) To implement the formation programs proposed by the National Center.
- g) To monitor the communication of the Filial Offices with their local church.
- h) To receive and discuss the report of the Regional President at the end of each year.
- i) To review the financial report of the previous year and to approve the budget for the following year.

j) To meet at least once a year.

## Article 28

### **The duties of the Regional President, with his council, are:**

- 1) To give a report to the Regional Center after each meeting.
- 2) To promote spiritual formation
- 3) To participate in National meetings of the MI
- 4) To present to the religious authority or authorities the names proposed to be appointed by the National Assistant.
- 5) To seek approval for publications from the National Council. If the National Council is not in session, the approval comes from the National President and the National Assistant.
- 6) All reports and publications should be forwarded to the National Center and to the International Center.

## Article 29

### **The responsibilities of the Regional Assistant are:**

- 1) To provide spiritual formation to the members of the MI according to the doctrine and spirit of St. Maximilian Kolbe.
- 2) To collaborate with the President of the Regional Council concerning the initiatives of the Movement.

## Article 30

All commitments of the Regional and National Centers with the Institutes and Congregations of Kolbean spirituality should be confirmed in writing.

## Article 31

### **The responsibilities of the Filial Offices are:**

- 1) To represent the MI at Diocesan gatherings of ecclesial movements.
- 2) To assist in the needs of the private associations of the MI.
- 3) To assist in the promotion and formation of the MI.

## Article 32

**The Filial Office Council consists of the following offices filled by a minimum of four people:**

- President
- Ecclesiastical Assistant
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- One Council Member

- 1) The responsibilities of the Filial Council and its officers correspond to that of the Regional Council.
- 2) The members of the MI elect the officers. If this is not possible, the Regional Council appoints them.
- 3) The Regional President or the Regional Assistant or the Delegate presides at the election of the Filial Council with the right to vote at that election.

## Article 33

For the canonical erection of a Filial Office, at least ten members are required.

## **V. ECCLESIASTICAL GOODS**

### Article 34

The National budget will be presented by the Treasurer and approved by the National Council. The National President has a discretionary fund of not more

than \$\_\_\_\_\_ in an annual period. Expenses in excess beyond the budget and the discretionary fund require approval of the National Council.

## Article 35

### **Alienation of Goods**

For alienation whose value exceeds( to be determined by the National Council) \_\_\_\_\_, but does not exceed 1/2 the maximum value established by the U.S.C.C.B., consent is needed of the National Council; if the value exceeds half but not the maximum consent is also needed by the International Council.

## **VI. VALIDITY OF THE NORMS**

## Article 36

Modification of the present Directory must be decided by the National Council and approved by the International Council.

## Article 38

- 1) Anything that is not explained in this Directory should be referred to the General Statutes or the Code of Canon Law.
- 2) The Directory is effective and promulgated upon approval of the International Council.