

August Franciscan Meditation August 2022

August is a month of love and hearts for me. Mike and I celebrate our 54th wedding anniversary this month. Our first grand child, Katherine Mary, was born on the Feast of St. Clare and Katie, as she is known, is a true light in our life. My daughter and her husband were married 25 years ago this month on what would have been my parents' 50th anniversary. Yes, August is a very special month.



The Church also recognizes August as a month of love and a very special heart. We honor the Immaculate Heart of Mary, our very own mother. The Immaculate Heart represents the desire of the Blessed Virgin to bring all people to her Son.

When we meditate on Mary's Immaculate Heart, we ponder her love of God and her unselfish response of "yes" to God's role for her. This yes was not a one-time option. It lasted her entire life as she cared for and raised her Son and followed Him to Calvary. I cannot begin to understand the unbelievable torment that loving heart felt as she saw her child beaten, tormented, nailed and left to die a most painful and horrible death.

And yet, we know she had hope. She was in the room with the Apostles waiting for the gift of the Spirit that her Son promised. She knew he would deliver as He promised.

A Franciscan Conventual Friar took the love of our Blessed Mother to his own heart. St. Maximilian Kolbe consecrated his life to her and gave us a plan to join him in this consecration. Perhaps, he too, felt a sword in his own heart when he saw the total disregard for human life in Auschwitz and gave his own life to save another's. How fitting it is that his own feast day is on the 14th of this month of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

My own Bishop Dewane invited the members of our Diocese to rededicate ourselves to God in imitation of our Blessed Mother's complete consecration of her life to the Will of God. Our whole Diocese journeyed the 33 days of prayer and dedicated ourselves to Mary's loving heart.

In closing, let us never forget the words of St. Maximilian Kolbe: "Never be afraid of loving the Blessed Virgin too much. You can never love her more than Jesus did."