

## **A T Least Two Or Three Mortifications Daily**

Lent has already started and with it, the remembrance of the sufferings of the Lord Jesus. It would be good if each of us performed two or three mortifications daily. Small, tiny things but lasting all Lent long. It could be mortification of the eyes or restraining; or an urge to jest, etc. Such acts should not injure health because we need strength and health in order to work for the glory of the Immaculata.

*(From a morning meditation, March 3, 1933, Mugenzai no Sono.)*

### **We Must Imitate Christ**

Everyone must imitate Christ. If we do not, then the purpose for which we were created is not fulfilled. We know that the way of Jesus was filled with thorns. Of course, the Lord Jesus does not expect us to walk exactly the same way He did. But He demands that we bear the cross of our daily duties and make sacrifices of our will. If, however, we find even these things difficult, let us go to the Immaculata and pray for help. She surely will not refuse us. This life demands sacrifices of us. As St. Augustine says, "Self-love to the point of contempt for God is a trait of the condemned. And, on the other hand, the trait of Christ's disciples is love for God to the point of contempt for self."

*(Good Friday, March 26, 1937)*

### **Always Have Hope**

In difficulties, doubts, weaknesses, and discouragement, let us think of heaven...heaven is near. Every day it is nearer. So have courage! She is waiting there to press us to her heart. And do not believe the devil when he wants to convince you that there is heaven, but not for you. For even if you would commit every sin possible, one act

# Max's Maxims



October 16, 1917: Friar Maximilian establishes the Militia of the Immaculata with six other student friars of the Order's seminary.

April 28, 1918: Friar Maximilian is ordained a priest in the church of Sant' Andrea della Valle and on April 29, celebrates his first Mass there at the altar where Our Lady of Grace appeared to Alphonse Ratisbonne in 1842.

of perfect love will wash everything away so that not even a trace of them will be left.

*(From part of a letter to friars, Mugenzai no Sono)*

### **Hope Of The Harvest Is In The Seed**

My beloved, you will experience it even in this life that the entire perfection of holiness, the entire zeal of the apostolate and the entire success of missions depend not on great wisdom, great wit, talents or even on the number of prayers and penances, but only on the perfection of holy obedience.

*(Letter to high school seminarians at the Polish City, November 29, 1931.)*

### **Suffering Is To Be Expected and Welcomed**

Anyhow, can any sacrifice be too great when it is for the Immaculate? We consecrated ourselves to her not only in theory, but in reality, in practice. If we do not grow weary in the battle to win the world for the Immaculate, sufferings will not cease overtaking us. The more strenuously we struggle, the more weighty and numerous will be the pains which will fall to our lot. But this will last only till we die. The resurrection will come.

*(Letter from Nagasaki, July 12, 1935.)*

### **A Glimpse Of Spiritual Life**

Live it as if it were, indeed, the last day...Tomorrow is uncertain, yesterday is no longer yours. Only the present belongs to you...Love the most Blessed Virgin very deeply...Every action you perform will remain forever...Humility is the foundation of the virtues...This very day begin to serve God.

*(Simple jottings and scraps of inspiration that derived from his meditations while on retreat in 1918, April 21-27; ordained April 28.) †*