



MAXIMS IN HAIKU

Maxims in Haiku

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Photography – Ann Marie Grady, CSJ

The Maxims of the Little Institute is a different document than the Maxims of Perfection which are also written by Jean-Pierre Médaille, SJ. It's believed that Father Médaille wrote the Maxims of Perfection as a personal retreat journal and then published them for a wider audience. The Maxims of the Little Institute were written specifically for the firstSisters of St. Joseph.

Haiku is a verse form of 3 unrymed lines of 5-7-5 syllables. The use of this form offers an interesting way to present the maxims in a brief, concise mode, moving them from their 17th century background to the 21st century. The photography that accompanies the Maxims in Haiku is presented to evoke, to tease out, to hint at the many meanings embedded in the maxims for the 21st century. Nature imagery is used as a visual metaphor to set up a conversation between words and images and viewer.

In this Maxims in Haiku series, the images and verses will be followed by the original Maxims of the Little Institute written by Jean-Pierre Médaille, SJ. We hope you enjoy viewing and reflecting on this wonderful expression of the spirituality of the Sisters of St. Joseph.