

August 14, 2020

Happy Friday!

This year the Assumption of Mary is not a Holy Day of Obligation. However, Fr. Gillespie will be celebrating a Vigil Mass tonight at 5:30. Readings for the Vigil Mass are linked here. <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/081520-vigil.cfm>

1. Today's Readings: <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/081420.cfm>

2. **The RE Corner with Jan Heithaus:** St. Maximilian Kolbe, Priest and Martyr
St. Maximilian Kolbe is best known for giving up his life at the Nazi concentration camp at Auschwitz, volunteering to take the place of another prisoner condemned to die. But did you know that Mary appeared to him when he was a child? You can read more about this heroic man in the attached article. There is a national shrine to this saint here in the US at Libertyville, IL. See the website for more information: <https://kolbeshrine.org>

Also some additional information here: *Life for Life: Maximilian Kolbe* on **FORMED**<http://watch.formed.org/videos/life-for-life-maximilian-kolbe>

For children in your family: *Lukas Storyteller: Saint Maximilian Kolbe* on **FORMED**....can watch it here: <http://watch.formed.org/videos/lukas-storyteller-st-maximilian-kolbe>

3. Quote of the Day: "The most deadly poison of our times is indifference. And this happens, although the praise of God should know no limits. Let us strive, therefore, to praise Him to the greatest extent of our powers." *Maximilian Kolbe*

Today's saint is very powerful in that his work and reflections are from a current time - the 20th century. Something we know as we either lived through or studied in school. Take some time over the weekend to watch the videos on FORMED.

Blessings to all today! May the Holy Spirit  be with you today in all you

do!

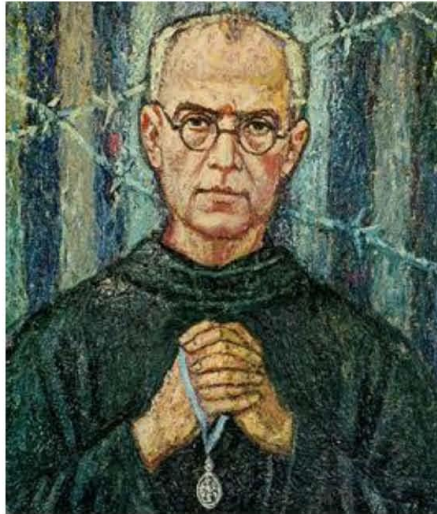


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Saint Maximilian Mary Kolbe



“I don’t know what’s going to become of you!” How many parents have said that? Maximilian Mary Kolbe’s reaction was, “I prayed very hard to Our Lady to tell me what would happen to me. She appeared, holding in her hands two crowns, one white, one red. She asked if I would like to have them—one was for purity, the other for martyrdom. I said, ‘I choose both.’ She smiled and disappeared.” After that he was not the same.

He entered the minor seminary of the Conventual Franciscans in Lvív—then Poland, now Ukraine— near his birthplace, and at 16 became a novice. Though Maximilian later achieved doctorates in philosophy and theology, he was deeply interested in science, even drawing plans for rocket ships.

Ordained at 24, Maximilian saw religious indifference as the deadliest poison of the day. His mission was to combat it. He had already founded the Militia of the Immaculata, whose aim was to fight evil with the witness of the good life, prayer, work, and suffering. He dreamed of and then founded *Knight of the Immaculata*, a religious magazine under Mary’s protection to preach the Good News to all nations. For the work of publication he established a “City of the Immaculata”—Niepokalanów—which housed 700 of his Franciscan brothers. He later founded another one in Nagasaki, Japan. Both

the Militia and the magazine ultimately reached the one-million mark in members and subscribers. His love of God was daily filtered through devotion to Mary.

In 1939, the Nazi panzers overran Poland with deadly speed. Niepokalanow was severely bombed. Kolbe and his friars were arrested, then released in less than three months, on the feast of the Immaculate Conception.

In 1941, Fr. Kolbe was arrested again. The Nazis' purpose was to liquidate the select ones, the leaders. The end came quickly, three months later in Auschwitz, after terrible beatings and humiliations.

A prisoner had escaped. The commandant announced that 10 men would die. He relished walking along the ranks. "This one. That one."

As they were being marched away to the starvation bunkers, Number 16670 dared to step from the line.

"I would like to take that man's place. He has a wife and children."

"Who are you?"

"A priest."

No name, no mention of fame. Silence. The commandant, dumbfounded, perhaps with a fleeting thought of history, kicked Sergeant Francis Gajowniczek out of line and ordered Fr. Kolbe to go with the nine. In the "block of death" they were ordered to strip naked, and their slow starvation began in darkness. But there was no screaming—the prisoners sang. By the eve of the Assumption, four were left alive. The jailer came to finish Kolbe off as he sat in a corner praying. He lifted his fleshless arm to receive the bite of the hypodermic needle. It was filled with carbolic acid. They burned his body with all the others. Fr. Kolbe was beatified in 1971 and canonized in 1982.

Source: *fransicanmedia.org*