

Chronicle of the life of St. Maximilian

- **1894, January 07** — Raymond Kolbe was born in Zduńska Wola (Poland).
- **1904** — At the age of ten he had a vision of the Virgin Mary who showed him two crowns: red (martyrdom) and white (purity). He accepted both.
- **1907** — He entered the seminary at Lwów in Poland.
- **1910** — He became a Franciscan novice and took the name of Maximilian.
- **1912** — Maximilian was directed to the International Seraphic College in Rome.
- **1917, October 16** — He founded the Militia Immaculatae.
- **1918, April 28** — He was ordained priest and celebrated his First Holy Mass in the church of Sant' Andrea delle Fratte in Rome.
- **1919** — He returned to Poland from Rome.
- **1922, January 01** — The first issue of "*Knight of the Immaculata*" was published.
- **1927, November 21** — He founded Niepokalanów ("City of the Immaculate"), near Warsaw in Poland.
- **1930, April 24** — He arrived in Japan where he founded Mugenzai no Sono ("Garden of the Immaculate") and started publishing "*Seibo no Kishi*", the Japanese "*Knight of the Immaculata*".
- **1936** — He returned to Poland from Japan.
- **1939, September 19** — Maximilian and 41 brothers were arrested by German soldiers. However, after having passed through 3 concentration camps, they were released on the 8th of December.
- **1941, February 17** — German soldiers arrested him again.
- **1941, August 14** — He died in a starvation bunker in Auschwitz concentration camp after offering his life for another prisoner.

By St. Maximilian Marian praises

Grant to me that I may praise you, most Blessed Virgin.
Grant that I may praise you with all my strength.

Grant that I may live and work and suffer for you and for you alone, that I may be consumed and die for you.

Grant that I may contribute to your greater and more extensive glorification.

Grant that I may pay you such homage as no one has yet paid you.

Grant that others may surpass me in their zeal for your glorification and that I may then, as though in a noble competition, propagate devotion to you ever more deeply and swiftly and magnificently, as desired by Him Who exalted you so ineffably above all other creatures.

*Grant to me to praise thee, O most Blessed Virgin,
Give me strength against thine enemies.*



MILITIA IMMACULATÆ

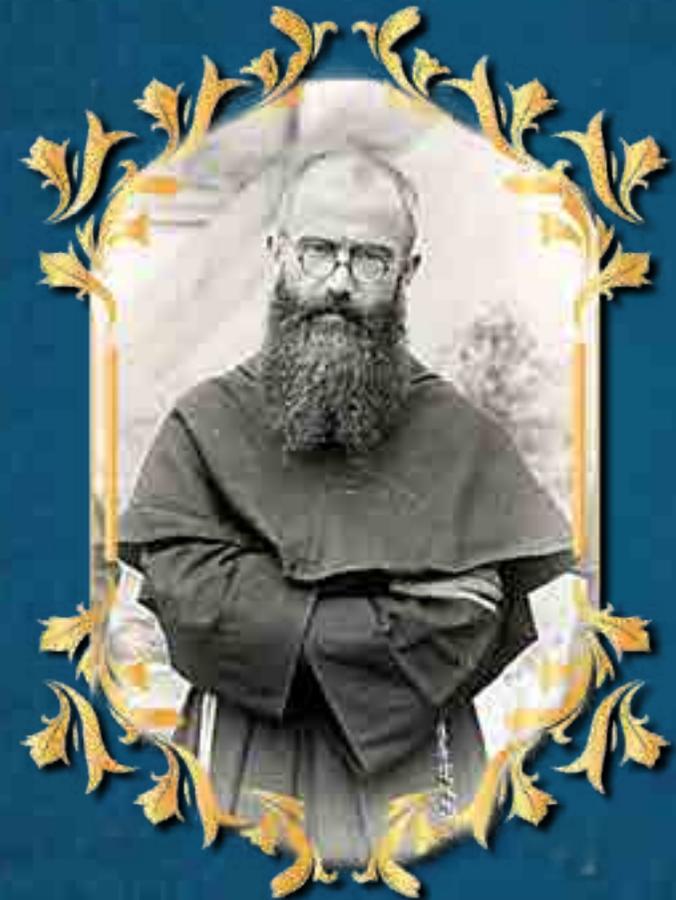
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Saint Maximilian Maria Kolbe



The founder of the
Militia Immaculatae

The founder of the M.I.



On the 16th of October 1917 (three days after the miracle of the sun in Fatima) Br. Maximilian Kolbe, with permission from his superior, founded together with six confreres, the Militia Immaculatae while kneeling before Our Lady's altar in the chapel of the Seraphic College in Rome.

The zealous apostle

St. Maximilian Kolbe was exhilarated by the thought of the Immaculate Virgin prevailing over Satan. The sight of the spiritual and moral decadence that was ruining souls spurred him to waste no time, to use every means, to try every method valiantly, in order to save souls.

His bravery relied purely on the boundless powers given to the Immaculate Virgin. *"We need to submit ourselves as docile instruments into her hands, availing ourselves of every lawful means, pushing ahead through the spoken word and through the dissemination of Marian literature and the Miraculous Medal, and giving strength to our activity by prayer and good example."*

In 1927 Fr. Kolbe founded **Niepokalanów** (City of the Immaculata) in Poland. Twelve years after its founding, the City numbered 762 religious brothers, who zealously dedicated themselves to the Marian apostolate in every possible form, especially the apostolate of the Catholic press.

In 1930 St. Maximilian founded in **Japan** the City of the Immaculata *Mugen-zai no Sono* and the magazine *"Knight of the Immaculata"* in Japanese: *"Seibo na Kishi"*.



He was planning to start the City of the Immaculata in **India**.

St. Maximilian — consecrated to the Immaculata



"To conquer the whole world, all hearts and each person individually, for the Queen, not only of Heaven, but also of Earth. To give true happiness to those poor unfortunates who seek it in the ephemeral pleasures of this world, this is our aim."

*St. Maximilian in Hrodna,
on the 12th of September 1924*

The modern publisher

In Niepokalanów (City of the Immaculata) in Poland, St. Maximilian installed the printing house. The modern machinery had been installed, including three machines which could produce 16,000 copies of the review in an hour, new techniques of type, photogravure and binding were adopted.

Intensive prayer and ceaseless sacrifice, all done under the guiding light of the Madonna, were producing miracles in the development of Maximilian's projects:

1. *"The Knight of the Immaculata"*, an illustrated monthly. Circulation reached a million.
2. *"The Little Knight"*, a monthly for young people, reached a circulation of 165,000.
3. *"The Child-Knight"*, a monthly for small children, with 35,000 circulation.
4. *"The Little Daily"*, published every day with a circulation of 200,000.
5. *"Miles Immaculatae"*, a quarterly in Latin for the clergy and seminarians, with 15,000 copies.
6. Many books about lives of Saints and some ascetical writings.
7. A radio station in Niepokalanów.

The martyr

On the 17th of February 1941 (during World War II) Fr. Maximilian was arrested by German soldiers. On the 28th of May he was brought to the concentration camp in Auschwitz.

There he replaced the father of a family who had been condemned to death. He survived for eleven days in a starvation bunker and prepared the other condemned men to enter eternity. On the 14th of August, the vigil of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, he was killed by a lethal injection.

His beatification process was successfully completed in April 1969 with the decree of the heroicity of virtues. He was beatified in 1971 and declared a saint in 1984.



The starvation bunker, in which St. Maximilian died