

Remembering the 70 years since the Martyrdom of St Maximilian Kolbe: 1941-2011

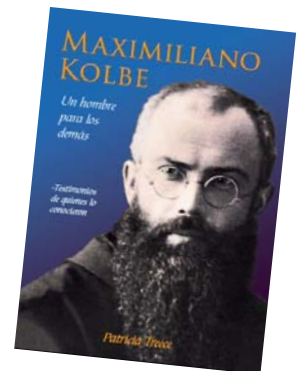
My dear Friends,

On June 15, 1941 Fr. Kolbe, Number 16670, wrote:

“My Dearest Mammusia,

At the end of May I was transported to the Auschwitz camp. I’m well. Dearest Mamusia, because our dear God is everywhere and thinks of everyone with great love, don’t be concerned about me or my health. Since I don’t know how long I’ll be here, for the time being it would be best not to write”.

Kolbe Rajmund



It was that same year, on August 14, that Fr. Kolbe was injected with a lethal dose of phenol acid because they needed the cell for other prisoners. On August 15, the Assumption of Mary, his body was cremated and his ashes spread to the winds. Patricia Treece’s book, A Man for Other (now in Spanish), gathers the testimonies of those who knew him, the power of his will, his spirit of sacrifice, his capacity of self-offering for the cause of the Immaculata. This Franciscan was defined by Blessed John Paul II as the *Patron of our most difficult century*.

It may seem that all was a failure for this forty-seven year old apostle of the Virgin Mary. But it is from suffering that life is born. His heritage continues in the world through the *Militia of the Immaculata*, with more than four million persons consecrated to the Immaculata. There are many institutes of consecrated life that have been inspired by his apostolate and spirituality, one of which is our Fr. Kolbe Missionaries and Volunteers of the Immaculata.

We invite you to unite with all the members of the MI in praying the **Novena to St Maximilian from August 5 – 13**. We suggest that you pray daily to St. Maximilian along with his chaplet (prayers can be found at www.kolbemission.org/en) and reading from Patricia Treece’s book, or other Kolbean material.

For those of you who would like to participate in the **Annual Mass in honor St. Maximilian Kolbe, it will be on August 13 at 11AM, St. Christopher Church in West Covina**. Fr. Hugh Barbour, OPraem – Prior of St. Michael’s Abbey, and Msgr. Nestor Rebong, pastor of St. Christopher’s will concelebrate. Preparation classes for total consecration the Immaculata (to be done at the Mass) are August 6 and 11 from 7-8:30PM. August 6 there will also be preparation in Spanish.

May the Lord with his Mother grant us the grace to be good and to give our life each day in the little things that come our way. Praying for all of you, especially in Lourdes where I will be on August 15 and with the youth of the world gathered with Pope Benedict for World Youth Day in Spain.

Anna Brizzi

Local Directress for the Fr. Kolbe Missionaries