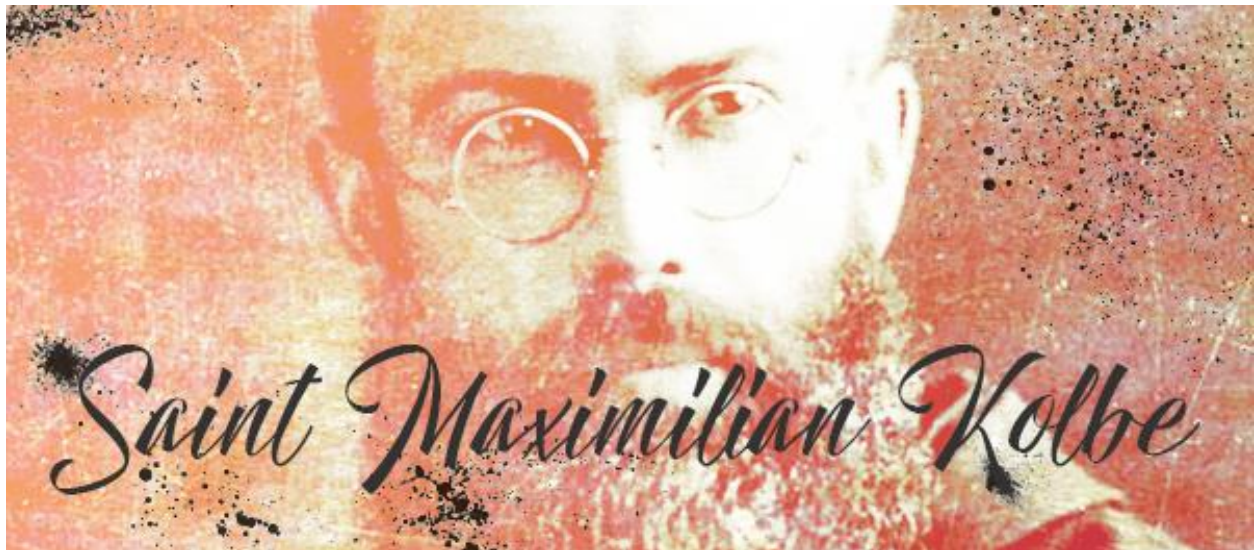


Advent Journey to Jesus Through Mary

Second Sunday in Advent



“Let us give ourselves to the Immaculata [Mary]. Let her prepare us, let her receive Him [Jesus] in Holy Communion. This is the manner most perfect and pleasing to the Lord Jesus and brings great fruit to us. Because the Immaculata knows the secret, how to unite ourselves totally with the heart of the Lord Jesus... We do not limit ourselves in love. We want to love the Lord Jesus with her heart, or rather that she would love the Lord with our heart.”

-St. Maximilian Kolbe

As we continue our preparation this Advent, which we remember means, “coming” (i.e. the coming of Christ), we move towards our next Saint in our preparation for total consecration to Jesus through Mary. St. Maximilian Kolbe was a Franciscan priest who is most known for offering his life in place of another man in a concentration camp during World War II. He is known as the martyr of charity. Kolbe was also a brilliant and holy theologian who wrote primarily on the Immaculata: the Blessed Virgin Mary.

His entire life permeated with a deep love for the Blessed Mother, whom he gave everything to leading him to say, “rest confidently assured that whoever belongs to her will not be lost.” It is the Immaculata who will best and most properly prepare us for the coming of Christ, thus our Advent journey is rightly with and through her. With Mary, there is nothing to fear, there is no need for worry: “Let us let ourselves be led, then; let us not attempt to do more than that which [Mary] wills or more quickly. Let us let ourselves be carried by her; she will think of everything and take care of all our needs, of the soul and of the body.”

She herself will prepare us if only we would give ourselves to her. The fruits of such a devotion and resignation to her are these: an increased love for God and His will, a greater love of the beauty He has created in ourselves, a profound love of neighbor, and a boldness in faith. “Never be afraid of loving the Blessed Virgin too much. You can never love her more than Jesus did.”

In the arms of the Immaculata, let us be carried to Jesus. Let us give ourselves this Advent to Jesus through His Mother, who magnifies the Lord by her life. In this endeavor, for the glory of God, let us follow the example of St. Maximilian Kolbe, the Knight of the Immaculata, and the martyr of charity, and be commissioned by his words:

It is not enough to become the Immaculata's within some defined limit. In every respect, we must desire to radiate her, so as to draw to her the souls of all others who are, will be, and might be—without restriction. In a word, we are to become hers, more and more ready to sacrifice self entirely for her, to the last drop of blood in the conquest of the whole world and every soul in particular—as soon as possible, as soon as possible, as soon as possible.