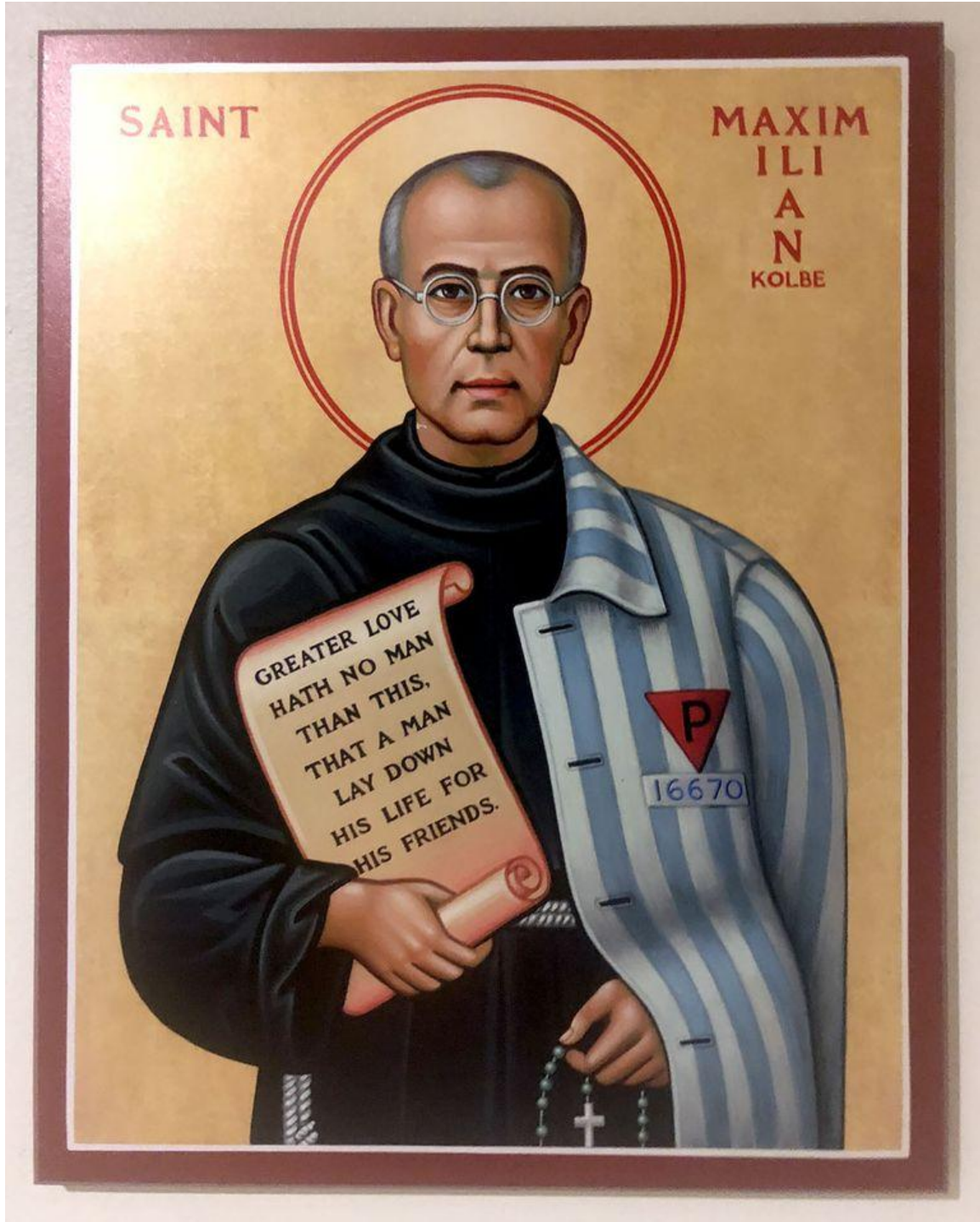


Saint Fr. Maximilian Kolbe, OFM Conv, Evangelist,
an essay on "The Knight of The Immaculata," Martyr (1894 - 1941 AD)



https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=370

In a miraculous vision of Holy Mary in his youth, Maximilian was asked, 'Which crown of Christian Martyrdom do you choose - the white crown or the red crown?' He answered, 'Both.'

After becoming a Catholic Priest, "Maximilian, a Polish Franciscan Friar, promoted devotion to Mary under The Title 'Immaculata'" throughout the world, personally evangelizing even as far as Japan, founding an enduring Catholic community in Nagasaki, target of a ghastly atomic bomb at the end of WWII.

When Poland was invaded at the start of WWII by the Germans from one side and the Soviets from the other, he continued the work of The Church, The Franciscans and the Militia Immaculata, whose secretly printed paper clandestinely reached throughout Nazi occupied Poland, into Germany and throughout Europe.

Father Kolbe continued to lead his monastic band in resisting the Nazi horror and sheltering Jews, until "In February 1941, he was arrested by the Gestapo and sent to Auschwitz, where he covertly continued his priestly ministry: praying, consoling, hearing confessions.

When a young father cried out in agony as he was sentenced [to death] to the starvation bunker, Maximilian offered to take his place." Ministering the other men sentenced to death with him in the starvation bunker, he led them in prayers and hymns, until he alone was left barely alive.

"He died by lethal injection after surviving for two weeks. Auschwitz survivor Jerzy Bielecki called Maximilian's self-offering "a shock filled with hope, bringing new life and strength... It was like a powerful shaft of light in the darkness of the camp."

Indeed, that "light" was, one might contemplate, a glimpse of The Pillar of Old of cloud by day and fire by night - The Presence of GOD that once led the ancient Israelites, The Angel of The LORD - in that darkest of places. <https://www.yavohmagazine.com/messianic-teachings/the-cloud-by-day-and-fire-by-night>

There, one might even contemplate a glimpse of The Light of Love emanating from The Stigmata Wounds of CHRIST - which Saint Francis of Assisi was graced to receive when beholding The Crucified One in The Seraphic Vision - taken on in body, mind and spirit by Saint Maximilian Kolbe.

<https://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/stigmatization-of-saint-francis.html>

Saint Kolbe indeed lived and died fulfilling the Marian promise the he would receive as he asked, both a white and a red crown of Martyrdom for The Faith. "Pope John Paul canonized Maximilian as a "Martyr of Charity" in 1982." *

Saint Fr. Maximilian Kolbe, pray for us to receive, from GOD's hand ~ and with Holy Mary's prayers ~ The Grace we need to face the white and even red crowns of Christian martyrdom in our lives, in The Power of The HOLY SPIRIT, for The Sake of love of Your Name, one another and even ourselves. Amen.

JOHN 15:12-13

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=38M8DJX6Tto&list=RDC7AIf--i1Y0&index=7>

12 This is My Commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

*[adapted from "Saint Maximilian Kolbe." The Magnificat, 8/14/2021. Memorial, p 180.]