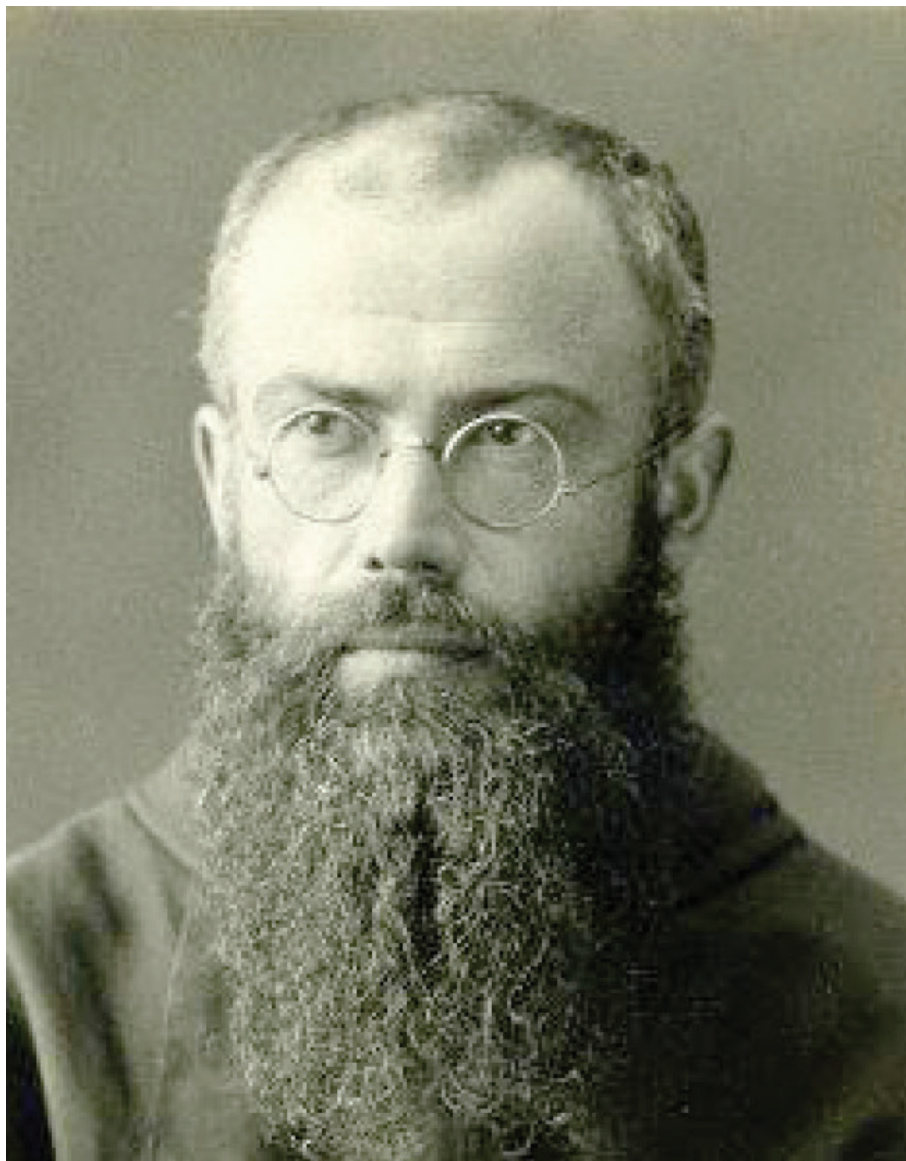


Solemn Novena in Honor of St. Maximilian Kolbe



Opening Hymn

If the Presider is a priest or deacon, he enters, accompanied by the servers as a opening hymn is sung.

Presider: The Lord be with you.

All: **And with your spirit.**

Presider: Let us pray.

O God, who filled the Priest and Martyr Saint Maximilian Kolbe with a burning love for the Immaculate Virgin Mary and with zeal for souls and love of neighbor, graciously grant, through his intercession, that striving for your glory by eagerly serving others, we may be conformed, even until death, to your Son. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

A Reading from the Holy Scripture

Scripture readings for each day of the Novena refer to the *Fruits of the Holy Spirit*, which are well reflected in life of St. Maximilian Kolbe and which blossomed into his martyrdom of charity:
The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. (Gal 5:22-23)

A Reading from the Writings of St. Maximilian M. Kolbe

The reading selected will refer to one of the Fruits of the Holy Spirit.

Day One:

The Fruit of the Spirit Is Love

A Reading from the First Letter of St. John (4:7-21)

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love. In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his only Son into the world

so that we might have life through him. In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also must love one another. No one has ever seen God. Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love is brought to perfection in us. This is how we know that we remain in him and he in us, that he has given us of his Spirit. Moreover, we have seen and testify that the Father sent his Son as savior of the world. Whoever acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God remains in him and he in God. We have come to know and to believe in the love God has for us. God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him. In this is love brought to perfection among us, that we have confidence on the day of judgment because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear because fear has to do with punishment, and so one who fears is not yet perfect in love. We love because he first loved us. If anyone says, "I love God," but hates his brother, he is a liar; for whoever does not love a brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. This is the commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

From the Writings of St. Maximilian Kolbe (KW 935)

The essence of mutual love does not consist in the fact that no one causes sorrows to us—which is impossible among men—but that we learn to forgive one another in an ever more perfect manner, immediately and completely. Then we will recite with great confidence the invocation contained in the "Our Father": "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors" [Mt 6:12]. It would be a real trouble if we had little or nothing to forgive others for.

Let us trust, therefore, in Divine Providence, in the Will of the Immaculata, and remain confident that God allows all things in view of a greater good.

Day Two:

The Fruit of the Spirit Is Joy

A Reading from the Gospel according to St. Luke (1:39-55)

During those days Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord ¹⁴ should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." And Mary said: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior. For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness; behold, from now on will all ages call me blessed. The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is from age to age to those who fear him. He has shown might with his arm, dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart. He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones but lifted up the lowly. The hungry he has filled with good things; the rich he has sent away empty. He has helped Israel his servant, remembering his mercy, according to his promise to our fathers, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

From the Writings of St. Maximilian Kolbe (KW 987C and 1080)

Truly supreme and incomparable joy is infused by the Holy Spirit, when one suffers for love of Christ.

[The purpose of the MI] is to make humanity happy, by instilling into each soul—which thirsts and craves for happiness every moment of its life—the love of the one who can and wants to introduce peace and joy into each heart, during this earthly exile, in the midst of the confusion that surrounds us, of the concerns and headaches that beset us everywhere, of the pain that reaches the very depths of our hearts. Those who truly love the Immaculata and flee to her with filial love and affection at times of temptation and hardship in life, will surely

take down all the obstacles on the road to happiness, and foretaste the joys of heaven. Those who in their lifetime have worked with zeal to expand the reign of the Immaculata will be happy at death.

Day Three:

The fruit of the Spirit Is Peace

A Reading from the Gospel according to St. John (14:23-27; 16:32-33)

Jesus said, "Whoever loves me will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our dwelling with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; yet the word you hear is not mine but that of the Father who sent me. "I have told you this while I am with you. The Advocate, the holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name - he will teach you everything and remind you of all that (I) told you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.

Behold, the hour is coming and has arrived when each of you will be scattered to his own home and you will leave me alone. But I am not alone, because the Father is with me. I have told you this so that you might have peace in me. In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world."

From the Writings of St. Maximilian Kolbe (KW 1065)

Paradise was described even better by the man who, in this life, was plucked up to it for a short time: by St. Paul, who says: "What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love him" (1 Cor 2:9). It is a description even closer to the truth, because it shows the infinite difference between the ideas that we hold about heaven and its reality.

However, those who, here on earth, have had the chance to enjoy a small foretaste of paradise should be able to form an idea of what it will be like. And anyone may achieve that. One need only approach Confession with sincerity and great care, with deep sorrow for sins and firm resolve to make amends. Then they will immediately experience a peace and a happiness compared to which all the fleeting but dishonest pleasures of the world are, rather, loathsome

torments. Let everyone come to receive Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament with a good preparation; let them never allow their souls to remain in sin, but purify them right away. Let them perform all their duties well; raise humble and frequent prayers to the throne of God, especially through the hands of Mary Immaculate. Let them also embrace their brothers with charitable hearts, enduring suffering and difficulties for God's sake. Let them do good to everyone, including their enemies, only for the love of God and not in order to be praised or thanked by men. Then they shall realize what it means to *have a foretaste of heaven* and find *peace* and *happiness* even in poverty, in suffering, in disgrace, in sickness.

Day Four:

The Fruit of the Spirit Is Patience

A Reading from the Letter of St. James (1:1-4 and 5:7-11)

James, a slave of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes in the dispersion, greetings. Consider it all joy, my brothers, when you encounter various trials, for you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. And let perseverance be perfect, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand. Do not complain, brothers, about one another, that you may not be judged. Behold, the Judge is standing before the gates. Take as an example of hardship and patience, brothers, the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Indeed we call blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of the perseverance of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, because "the Lord is compassionate and merciful."

From the Writings of St. Maximilian Kolbe (KW 46 and 56)

Let us work with prudence, patience, and humility, but with perseverance, purifying continuously our intentions, to fulfill only the will of God through the Immaculata, helping each other by prayer, advice and action.

Let us be led, let us be *quiet, quiet*, let us not claim to do more than she wants, or faster [than she wants it]. Let her carry us; she will take care of everything, she will provide for all our needs of the soul and the body; let us give to her any difficulty, displeasure, let us trust that she will take care of them better than we could. Therefore *peace, peace*, a lot of peace in *unlimited* confidence in her. We did not make the MI; we do not know nor can carry it forward. If the MI belongs to our Heavenly Mother, the obstacles will make it stronger, and if not, let it fall; why should we meddle? If even our Heavenly Mother would not want the MI to last, but be content with what it has done so far, she is Our Lady; may she do whatever she likes.

Let us take care of things, but let us not worry about them. We need that the external and internal tribulations, the *failures*, the listlessness, the *fatigue*, the jeers, the misfortunes, and other crosses purify and strengthen us. It takes a lot of *patience* even with ourselves and even with the good God, who tries us out of love.

Day Five:

The Fruit of the Spirit Is Kindness

A Reading from the Gospel of St. Luke (6:27-36)

But to you who hear I say, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. To the person who strikes you on one cheek, offer the other one as well, and from the person who takes your cloak, do not withhold even your tunic. Give to everyone who asks of you, and from the one who takes what is yours do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you. For if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do the same. If you lend money to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit (is) that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, and get back the same amount. But rather, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend expecting nothing back; then your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as (also) your Father is merciful.

From the Writings of St. Maximilian Kolbe (KW 97)

Please do not be discouraged by the fact that coldness and malice prevail, because the grace of God, through the Immaculata, is stronger. The purpose of the Militia of the Immaculata is to conquer the whole world, all hearts and each person individually, for the Queen, not only of Heaven, but also of the Earth. To give true happiness to those poor unfortunates who seek it in the ephemeral pleasures of this world, this is our aim. You have to conquer even your hometown for the Immaculata: this is your place of battle. We must fight with our prayer, good example, and cordiality, with great gentleness and kindness, as a reflection of the Immaculata's goodness. Those people who seek happiness outside of God are unhappy people who, wrapped up in sin and vice, are chasing happiness, looking for it where there is none and where they cannot find it.

Day Six:

The Fruit of the Spirit Is Generosity

A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans (12:1-21)

I urge you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship. Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect. For by the grace given to me I tell everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than one ought to think, but to think soberly, each according to the measure of faith that God has apportioned. For as in one body we have many parts, and all the parts do not have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ ³ and individually parts of one another. Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us exercise them: ⁴ if prophecy, in proportion to the faith; if ministry, in ministering; if one is a teacher, in teaching; if one exhorts, in exhortation; if one contributes, in generosity; if one is over others, ⁵ with diligence; if one does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be sincere; hate what is evil, hold on to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; anticipate one another in showing honor. Do not grow slack in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, per-

severe in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the holy ones, exercise hospitality. Bless those who persecute (you), bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Have the same regard for one another; do not be haughty but associate with the lowly; do not be wise in your own estimation. Do not repay anyone evil for evil; be concerned for what is noble in the sight of all. If possible, on your part, live at peace with all. Beloved, do not look for revenge but leave room for the wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." Rather, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head." Do not be conquered by evil but conquer evil with good.

From the Writings of St. Maximilian Kolbe (KW 1079)

Let us pray to the Immaculata with fervor, that she may accept us as her own property. We can do that by using the act of consecration to the Immaculata printed on our enrollment cards. Thus, on this day, all of us knights of the Immaculata *renew our act of unconditional surrender* to her. Let us do it together, if we can; all of us. In Poland, there are now about 20,000 of us. Let us rekindle in ourselves love and trust toward our most beloved Lady, Queen, Mother, Leader, Hope...

Some of us may already have forgotten to recite that short little prayer every day: the *ejaculatory prayer* that the Immaculata herself taught us, the one listed in our enrollment cards as one of the means [available to us]. May such people be rekindled and resolve no longer to neglect it. Also... each of us ought to ask himself or herself: Have I done all I could in the course of this year for the Immaculata, for the salvation and sanctification of my soul and my neighbor's? Or am I being reproached by my conscience for my laziness, listlessness, my poor zeal... or my want of self-sacrifice?... *Let us examine ourselves...* Let this day be a day of *rebirth* for our souls, a day of renewal in our zeal for expanding the kingdom of the Most Loving Queen of heaven and earth.

We ought not to rely at all on ourselves. *Neither* should we, however, *place limits on our trust* in her. In every difficulty or temptation, let us have recourse to her and we shall not fail. Let us entrust all our endeavors to her and we shall surely achieve what she wants.

Day Seven:

The Fruit of the Spirit Is Faithfulness

A Reading from the Gospel according to St. Luke (12:35-44)

Jesus said, “Gird your loins and light your lamps and be like servants who await their master’s return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival. Amen, I say to you, he will gird himself, have them recline at table, and proceed to wait on them. And should he come in the second or third watch and find them prepared in this way, blessed are those servants. Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour when the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.” Then Peter said, “Lord, is this parable meant for us or for everyone?” And the Lord replied, “Who, then, is the faithful and prudent steward whom the master will put in charge of his servants to distribute (the) food allowance at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master on arrival finds doing so. Truly, I say to you, he will put him in charge of all his property.”

From the Writings of St. Maximilian Kolbe (KW 149)

You must be prepared for moments of darkness, anguish, uncertainty, fear, sometimes very insistent temptations, and suffering of the body and of the soul—that are a hundred times more severe. In fact, if there were nothing to bear, for what would you go to heaven? Without struggle victory would be impossible and without victory there can be no crown, there can be no reward [cf. 1 Cor 9:25]. Therefore, from now on be prepared for anything.

However, we must not be afraid of anything, because we *can* and we must *win*. But how? Here is how: by *not trusting ourselves in any way* and by *offering all of ourselves, all the temptations, and our difficulties to the Immaculata, surely we will always be victorious* (it is obvious that on our part we have to do what we can not to fall). The Immaculata cannot abandon her children.

Satan never sleeps and—with the permission of God—he often will suggest “wise” propositions, he will show you other “pseudo-duties,” other “happiness,” but he who loves the Immaculata sincerely

and wholeheartedly, will easily recognize the enemy and will cast him out.

Serving the Immaculata with fidelity, we can give the best service to our family. In fact, is she not able to help our families incomparably better than we can ourselves? Let us entrust to her all of those close to our hearts, and she, the best among mothers, will help them in the best way possible.

Day Eight:

The Fruit of the Spirit Is Gentleness

A Reading from the First Letter of St. Paul to Timothy (6:11-19)

You, man of God, avoid all this. Instead, pursue righteousness, devotion, faith, love, patience, and gentleness. Compete well for the faith. Lay hold of eternal life, to which you were called when you made the noble confession in the presence of many witnesses. I charge (you) before God, who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus, who gave testimony under Pontius Pilate for the noble confession, to keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearance of our Lord Jesus Christ that the blessed and only ruler will make manifest at the proper time, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, and whom no human being has seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal power. Amen. Tell the rich in the present age not to be proud and not to rely on so uncertain a thing as wealth but rather on God, who richly provides us with all things for our enjoyment. Tell them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous, ready to share, thus accumulating as treasure a good foundation for the future, so as to win the life that is true life.

From the Writings of St. Maximilian Kolbe (KW 925)

Mutual love does not consist in the fact that no one ever causes any sorrow in us, but that we strive not to cause grief to others and we become accustomed to forgiving whatever hurts us immediately and completely. In such mutual forbearance lies the essence of mutual love. St. Thérèse writes: "I saw only too well how very imperfect was my love for my Sisters; I did not really love them as Jesus loves them. I see now that true charity consists in bearing with the faults of

those about us, never being surprised at their weaknesses, but edified at the least sign of virtue. I see above all that charity must not remain hidden in the bottom of our hearts, for ‘no man lighteth a candle and putteth it in a hidden place, nor under a bushel; but upon a candlestick, that they who come in may see the light’ [Lk 11:33]. It seems to me that this candle is the symbol of charity; it must shine out not only to cheer those we love best, but *ALL* those who are of the household.” And later she writes: “I know, my Jesus, that You never command the impossible; You know better than I do how frail and imperfect I am. You know perfectly well that I can never hope to love my Sisters as You love them, unless You Yourself love them in me. It is only because You are willing to do this that You have given us a *New Commandment*, and I love it because it is my assurance that You desire to love in me all those whom You command me to love.” The deeper such love, the more effective will missionary activity be.

Day Nine:

The Fruit of the Spirit Is Self Control

A Reading from the Gospel of St. John (18:19-23)

The high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his doctrine. Jesus answered him, “I have spoken publicly to the world. I have always taught in a synagogue or in the temple area where all the Jews gather, and in secret I have said nothing. Why ask me? Ask those who heard me what I said to them. They know what I said.” When he had said this, one of the temple guards standing there struck Jesus and said, “Is this the way you answer the high priest?” Jesus answered him, “If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong; but if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?”

From the Writings of St. Maximilian Kolbe (KW 1065)

Let all also embrace their brothers with charitable hearts, enduring suffering and difficulties for God’s sake. Let them do good to everyone, including their enemies, only for the love of God and not in order to be praised or thanked by men. Then they shall realize what it means to *have a foretaste of heaven* and find *peace* and *happiness* even in poverty, in suffering, in disgrace, in sickness.

Such foretaste of paradise is also a sure harbinger of eternal bliss.

Indeed, it is not easy to exert self-control in the manner described above to achieve this happiness, but remember that those who ask it of the Immaculata with humility and perseverance will *certainly* achieve it, because she is unable to deny us anything, nor is the Lord God able to deny her anything.

Anyway, we shall *shortly* know exactly what it will be like in heaven. Surely in a hundred years none of us will still be walking on this earth. But what are a hundred years in the face of what we have been through?... And who will have to wait as many more years?... Soon, therefore, provided we are *well prepared, under the protection of the Immaculata*.

Fervorino

Following the readings, a brief reflection may be offered.

Hymn

Novena Prayer

One of the following prayers may be used:

1.

Lord Jesus Christ, who said, “Greater love than this no man has that a man lay down his life for his friends,” through the intercession of St. Maximilian Kolbe whose life illustrated such love, we beseech you to grant us our petitions . . . (*quietly mention special requests.*) Through the Militia of the Immaculata movement, which Maximilian founded, he spread a fervent devotion to Our Lady throughout the world. He gave up his life for a total stranger and loved his persecutors, giving us an example of unselfish love for all men, a love that was inspired by true devotion to Mary. Grant, O Lord Jesus, that we too may give ourselves entirely without reserve to the love and service of our Heavenly Queen in order to better love and serve our fellowman in imitation of your humble servant, Maximilian. **Amen.**

(Three Hail Marys and a Glory Be.)

2.

Merciful God, you made St. Maximilian Kolbe one of the foremost Catholic evangelists of the difficult twentieth century.

Through the Militia of the Immaculata movement which he founded, he implanted the truths of the Immaculate Conception and your merciful plan for us all in countless hearts, thus moving them to full conversion in faith

and hope, to perfect obedience and union with the Heart of Jesus, and to complete observance of the New Covenant.

You made him fruitful through carrying the cross of suffering with dignity and hope, loving his persecutors, and giving up his life for a total stranger. Through his intercession grant us our petitions . . .

(quietly mention the requests you have). Give us a like dignity and hope in our sufferings and sacrifices, and if it will glorify you, heal us of all our infirmities, both physical and spiritual.

Finally, enable us to follow his example of effective Catholic evangelism with Mary for the return to you of all the masses of mankind, and of every individual person, family, society and culture of our time and of all time to come. **Amen.**

(Three Hail Marys and a Glory Be.)

Responsory in Honor of St. Maximilian Kolbe

Lord, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, have mercy on us.

Christ, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

God our Father in heaven,

receive our humble prayers.

God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

save us.

God the Holy Spirit,

fill our hearts with your love.

Holy Trinity, one God,

grant us your salvation.

Holy Mary, Mother of our Savior,

intercede for us.

St. Maximilian Kolbe, great

hearted lover of God and man,
pray for us.

Faithful follower of St. Francis of Assisi,

teach us your total dedication to the Gospel life.

Man of living faith,

lead us to believe as you did.

Brave Knight of the Immaculata,

help us to be instruments of Mary.

Apostle of the Miraculous Medal,

give us confidence in Mary, the Mother of Jesus.

Model of religious life,

assist us to be poor, chaste and obedient.

You encouraged the union of all

Christians,

teach us to respect all true believers in God.

You practiced poverty and

simplicity,

encourage us to live a modest life.

Example of angelic innocence,

elevate us to keep our hearts and minds pure.

Apostle of Christian example,

teach us to remember what Jesus said and did.

Angel of peace and reconciliation,
*inspire us to be living exam-
ples of God's peace.*

You were loyal to the teachings
of Christ,
teach us the same fidelity.

Apostle of the communications
media,
*help our journalists to be
promoters of truth and
goodness.*

Educator of youth,
*uplift our young people to
find true meaning in their
lives.*

Defender of morals and Christian
values,
*protect us from the immoral-
ity in our midst.*

Zealous apostle of Nagasaki
in Japan,
*defend us from nuclear de-
struction.*

Great missionary of our times,
*help us participate in the
evangelization of the world.*

You prayed for your oppressors,
*teach us how to forgive and
forget.*

You had respect for every person,
*help us to see in each other
the image of God.*

You saw God's will in your
sufferings,
*intercede for the sick and
those with terminal illness.*

Victim of violence and hatred,
*teach us how to love our
enemies.*

You volunteered to die for another,
lead many persons to offer

their talents in service.

You shared a meager piece of
bread with fellow prisoners,
*intercede for the hungry and
starving of the world.*

Victim of planned extermination,
*inspire our doctors and
nurses to protect human life.*

You died for the father of a family,
*restore the Christian dimen-
sion of family life.*

You assisted the dying prisoners,
*stand by us also in the hour
of our death.*

Patron of the dying,
*intercede for those who are
in agony of mind and body.*

You were united with Christ in
suffering,
*help us to understand that
we do not suffer alone.*

You died by a poisonous injection,
*aid those who are addicted
to drugs and alcohol.*

Martyr of Auschwitz,
*help us endure our suffer-
ings patiently.*

St. Maximilian Kolbe,
*teach us that without sacri-
fice there is no proof of love.*

Lamb of God, you take away the
sins of the world,
hear our prayers.

Lamb of God, you take away the
sins of the world,
*receive the intercession of
your saints.*

Lamb of God, you take away the
sins of the world,
*to you be glory in heaven
and on earth.*

Concluding Prayer

Presider: Let us pray.

Almighty and Eternal God, you gave us in the person of St. Maximilian an example of true devotion to the Immaculate Mother of our Savior and of unselfish love for our neighbor. Grant we beseech you through his intercession, that we may grow in our understanding of love of the Immaculata; that we may recognize her presence, her voice, her love and her power with us and be filled with an ardent desire and will to fulfill her will in every detail, and thus become sharers and true instruments of her most perfect response to you, in the Holy Spirit through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Presider: May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

Presider: Let us go in peace.

All: Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn