

CONTRIBUTORS OF POLISH HERITAGE

Saint Faustina Kowalska
The Apostle of Divine Mercy, Fourth
Female Doctor Of The Church (pending)



At age 20 she entered the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy and was later transferred to Plock and then to Vilnius where she met her confessor, Father Michael Sopocko, who supported her devotion to the Divine Mercy

Faustina and Sopocko directed an artist to paint the first Divine Mercy image, based on Faustina's reported vision of Jesus

Sopocko used the image to celebrate the first Mass on the first Sunday after Easter which later was **established by Pope John Paul II as Divine Mercy Sunday**

She is considered a mystic and visionary and is known and venerated within the Church as the **Apostle of Divine Mercy**

When St. Faustina died in 1938, she left behind her diary. In this, we can read about **God's gift of Mercy to an individual soul and to the whole world**

Her diary, **Divine Mercy In My Soul**, has become the handbook for devotion to **The Divine Mercy**

She was canonized by Pope John Paul II in 2000. Her feast day is October 5

TO SCIENCE ARTS AND FREEDOM

SAINTS OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



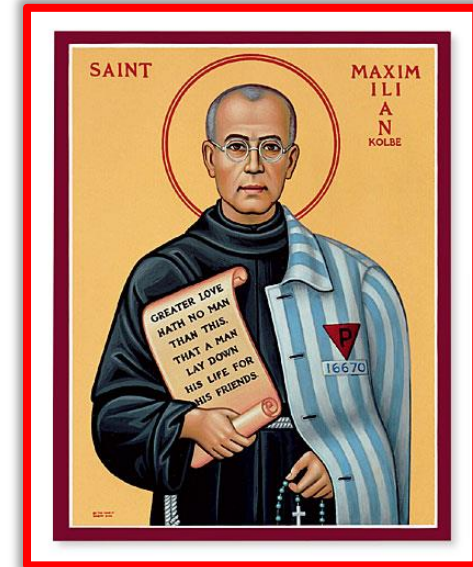
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Saint Maximilian Kolbe
A Friar Who Volunteered To
Die In Place Of A Stranger In Auschwitz



Maximilian was born in 1894 in Poland and became a Franciscan. He contracted tuberculosis and, though he recovered, he remained frail all his life.

Before his ordination as a priest, Maximilian founded **The Immaculata Movement** devoted to Our Lady. After receiving a doctorate in theology in Rome, he spread the Movement through a magazine entitled "**The Knight of the Immaculata**" and helped form a community of 800 men. Kolbe traveled to Japan where he built a comparable monastery

In 1936 he returned home because of ill health. After the Nazi invasion in 1939, he was imprisoned and released for a time. But in 1941 he was arrested again and sent to the concentration camp at **Auschwitz**

On July 31, 1941, in reprisal for one prisoner's escape, ten men were chosen to die. **Father Kolbe offered himself in place of a young husband and father** and was executed two weeks later after enduring starvation, thirst, and neglect

A statue to this modern martyr was unveiled in July 1998 and stands above the **West Entrance to Westminster Abbey**

He was canonized by Pope John Paul II in 1982. His feast day is August 14