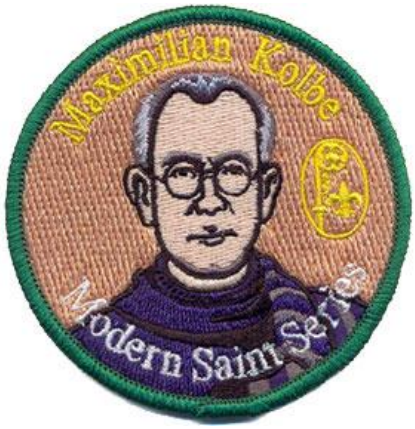
Modern Saint Series

Maximilian Kolbe Religious Activity

Maximilian Kolbe was a Polish priest imprisoned at Auschwitz by the Nazis during World War II. He offered his life to save the life of a Polish husband and father. Saint Maximilian Kolbe's example of selfless love for others is something all of us can emulate to help us put the needs of others, or the greater good, ahead of our own interests.



The Maximilian Kolbe activity is part of the Modern Saint Series. This series honors 20th and 21st century Catholics who have had a profound impact on many people around the globe. The goal of each activity in this series is to help young people learn more about these outstanding Catholics so that young people might relate to what they have done and look to them as role models.

How to Participate in This Activity:

All Read about Maximilian Kolbe. You can find the answers to these questions on www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=370, https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/saint-maximilian-mary-kolbe/ and https://kolbeshrine.org/. Feel free to use other resources.

First – Fifth Grade Students: Complete four requirements and two activities OR visit the Maximilian Kolbe Shrine in Libertyville IL.

Sixth – Twelfth Grade Students: Complete five requirements and three activities OR visit the Maximilian Kolbe Shrine in Libertyville IL.

Anyone who completes the necessary requirements and activities may receive a patch. Patches may be ordered online at https://nccsshop.org/product/maximilian-kolbe/.

Requirements:

1) When and where was Saint Maximilian Kolbe born?
2) What did he establish in Japan?
3) What was the name of the magazine Maximilian Kolbe created and what was it about?
4) What was the name of the religious order he belonged to?
5) When and where was Maximilian Kolbe martyred? Why did he offer his life?
6) When was Saint Maximilian canonized?

Activities:

1) Saint Maximilian Kolbe was greatly devoted to Our Lady. Pray the Rosary by yourself or with your family.

2) Saint Maximilian Kolbe believed in standing up for what is right in order to save a life. With your parents/guardian or Scout unit, imitate him by praying a rosary for an end to abortion, supporting efforts to prevent suicide or joining a group dedicated to ending gun violence.

3) Saint Maximilian Kolbe went without food or water in the days before he died. Help those who hunger and thirst by volunteering at a food pantry or helping out with a food drive.

4) Saint Maximilian Kolbe consecrated himself to Mary. Research with your parents/guardian the Militia of the Immaculata. Discuss with your family consecration to Mary https://militiaoftheimmaculata.com/act-of-consecration-to-mary/.

Requirements for Adults:

1) Assist young people in learning more about Saint Maximilian Kolbe through this Modern Saint Religious Activity.

2) Share your thoughts about Saint Maximilian Kolbe with young people.

3) Review the responses to the requirements by young people to confirm the accuracy of the responses and to help ensure young people understand the important lessons we can all learn from Saint Maximilian Kolbe.

4) If young people are to receive a patch, purchase the patch from the NCCS online store: https://nccsshop.org/product/maximilian-kolbe/.

Answers to Requirements:

1) He was born Rajmund Kolbe in Zduńska Wola, Poland in 1894.

2) In 1931, he established the Mugensai no Sono" ("The Garden of the Immaculate") Franciscan monastery in Nagasaki, Japan. Now called Seibo no Kishi ("Knights of the Blessed Mother"), the monastery survived the atomic bombing of Nagasaki on August 9, 1945, and remains an important Catholic site in Japan to this day.

3) The magazine Maximilian Kolbe founded was called Knight of the Immaculata. It was dedicated to evangelization through consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is still published today.

4) In 1910, he joined the Conventual Franciscan Order. He was sent to study in Rome where he founded the Militia of the Immaculata on October 16, 1917.

5) While imprisoned by the Nazis at the Auschwitz death camp in 1941, Maximilian Kolbe offered himself in place of a young Polish husband and father. The man he saved, Franciszek Gajowniczek, survived and dedicated his life to preserving the memory and legacy of Maximilian Kolbe. Gajowniczek was at Kolbe's canonization by Pope John Paul II in 1982.

6) He was canonized by Pope John Paul II on October 10, 1982.

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