

CRUSADE OF MARY IMMACULATE

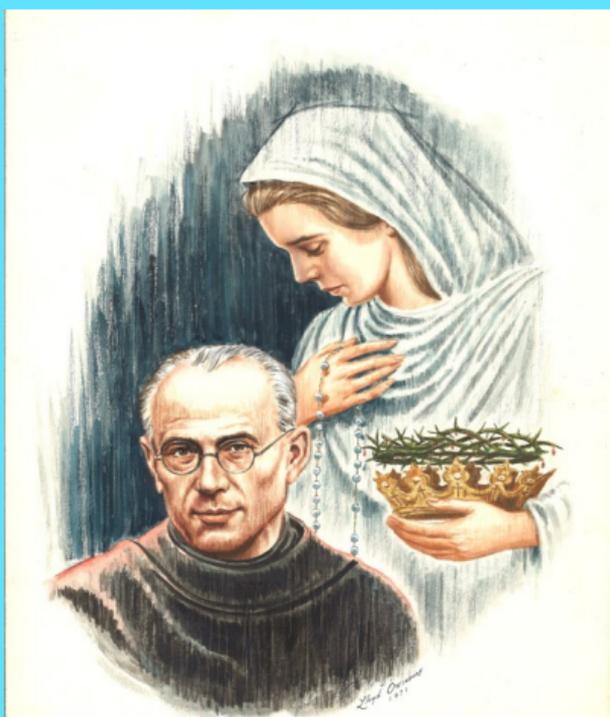


What is it?

How can I join?

St. Maximilian Mary Kolbe

St. Maximilian was born Raymond Kolbe in Zdunska Wola, Poland in 1894. As a young boy he had a mystical experience in which the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to him offering him two crowns, a white one (signifying purity) and a red one (signifying martyrdom): the young Raymond chose both.



Raymond went on to enter the Conventual Franciscan Order, receiving the religious name of Maximilian Mary. Fr. Maximilian not only had a loving devotion to Our Lady, but he knew her importance in the work of salvation. We can see from his writings that he had profound theological insights surrounding the mystery of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

He eventually went on to help build two large friaries - called 'Cities of the Immaculate' - in Niepokalanow (Poland) and Nagasaki (Japan). Using modern means of communication - both friaries had large printing presses installed - he spread devotion to Our Lady, making her known and loved.

In these friaries several magazines devoted to Our Lady were printed and distributed in huge numbers.

In 1939 Poland was invaded by the Germans, and before long Fr. Maximilian was taken prisoner. He was eventually moved to Auschwitz concentration camp, and it was here on 14 August 1941 that he was put to death, having given up his own life for that of a fellow prisoner, Franciszek Gajowniczek.

He was canonised, as a martyr, in 1982 by Pope St. John Paul II.

History of the C.M.I.

The Crusade of Mary Immaculate (C.M.I.) was formed by St. Maximilian and a small group of friars in 1917. Each friar consecrated himself to Our Lady praying for the conversion of sinners and the sanctification of all. The Miraculous Medal was to be the external sign of their consecration. To-day, the C.M.I. has grown into a worldwide movement.

In 1986 - 87 the Conventual Franciscan Order was entrusted with the parish of Fairview in Dublin, having been invited into the Dublin Archdiocese by Archbishop Kevin McNamara. Shortly afterwards, Fr. James McCurry OFM Conv. assisted Fr. Patrick Griffin OFM Conv., the first Franciscan in Fairview, in setting up the C.M.I. in Fairview.

The Minister General of the Order, Fr. Lanfranco Serrini OFM Conv., had visited the new foundation in Fairview, and later met with Fr. James to ask that he go to Ireland to introduce the C.M.I. - Fr. James was at that time the National Director of the C.M.I. in the U.S.A.

Fr. Patrick organised a novena to St. Maximilian in the parish in November 1987, and Fr. James preached. Subsequently, the First Saturday Mass and C.M.I. devotion was set up as an 'identification badge' for the C.M.I.



In 1990 Fr. James brought Franciszek Gajowniczek to Ireland and he addressed 5,000 people during the Elphin Diocesan pilgrimage to Knock. He also spoke about St. Maximilian in Sligo, Roscommon, Longford, and in Fairview. Much media attention was given to him during his visit, including radio and television interviews.



Fr Patrick Griffin OFM Conv. (first from left) along with Franciszek Gajowniczek (third from left) pictured in Knock Marian Shrine, 1990.

In 1991, the 50th anniversary of St. Maximilian's martyrdom, Fr. James and Fr. Patrick organised a nationwide pilgrimage from Ireland to Poland.

What is consecration to Our Lady?

‘Consecrating’ means setting oneself aside for the service of God. The Church has always advocated consecrating oneself to Jesus through Our Lady - ‘*To Jesus, Through Mary*’. The form of consecration used in the C.M.I. is the one composed by St. Maximilian, and is set out on page 7. By making this consecration the person becomes the property of Our Lady, and allows himself to be used as an instrument in her hands for the conversion of sinners and the sanctification of souls.

How do I enrol in the C.M.I?

1. Choose the date on which you wish your name to be recorded in the official register of the C.M.I., preferably a Marian feast day. Complete the attached application form and post it to the address shown on page 8.
2. Prepare for your consecration by prayer (especially the Holy Rosary), spiritual reading, and Confession on or shortly before the day of enrolment.
3. On the day of your enrolment attend Holy Mass, if possible. Before a statue of Our Lady pray the *Act of Consecration*, as set out on page 7. Give yourself wholeheartedly to Our Lady so as to let the Holy Spirit guide you on the path to holiness with her. Wear the Miraculous Medal (we will send you one).

A plenary indulgence, subject to the usual conditions, is granted for enrolment in the C.M.I.

What are my obligations as a C.M.I. member?

- Membership is open to all Catholics aged 7 years or older.
- Members should pray the Act of Consecration daily.
- Members should wear the Miraculous Medal.

You will be part of the C.M.I. family, so try to stay in touch as best you can - by prayer, visiting C.M.I. websites, attending local C.M.I. events. Be ready to make Our Lady known and loved by others in the best way that you can - for example by passing on Miraculous Medals to others.



Solemn Act of Consecration to Our Lady

(according to St. Maximilian Mary Kolbe)

O Immaculata, Queen of Heaven and earth, refuge of sinners and our most loving Mother, God has willed to entrust the entire order of mercy to you. I, a repentant sinner, cast myself at your feet, humbly imploring you to take me with all that I am and have, wholly to yourself as your possession and property. Please make of me, of all my powers of soul and body, of my whole life, death, and eternity, whatever most pleases you. If it pleases you, use all that I am and have without reserve, wholly to accomplish what was said of you: *“She will crush your head”* [Gen. 3:15], and *“You alone have destroyed all heresies in the whole world.”* [Office of the B.V.M.] Let me be a fit instrument in your immaculate and merciful hands for introducing and increasing your glory to the maximum in all the many strayed and indifferent souls, and thus help extend as far as possible the blessed kingdom of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. For wherever you enter you obtain the grace of conversion and growth in holiness, since it is through your hands that all graces come to us from the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

V. Allow me to praise you, O Sacred Virgin.

R. Give me strength against your enemies.

How to contact us

If you are living in Ireland and wish to know more about the C.M.I. please contact us at:

Crusade of Mary Immaculate

Franciscan Friary

St Francis Street

Wexford Town

Republic of Ireland

Eir Code-Y35 H793



C.M.I. APPLICATION FORM

- I have read the pamphlet explaining consecration to Our Lady and the obligations of enrolling in the Crusade of Mary Immaculate (C.M.I.)
- I am a Catholic.
- I am aged 7 years or older*.
- Please enrol me in the C.M.I.

Please enrol me as of this date (*date of my consecration*):

Title

Christian Name

Surname

Address

Eircode (*if known*)

Date of birth

Telephone (*optional*)

Email (*optional*)

How did you learn of the C.M.I?

Signature : _____

Date : _____

*Signature of parent or guardian :
(if applicant under 18 years of age) _____



