



FEAST DAY: Aug. 14th

St. Maximilian Kolbe - Evangelization

Introductory Prayer: Lord, you dwell in brightness, truth and love. St. Maximilian was a beacon of your light shining in a very dark period of recent history. He gave hope to countless souls of your love and mercy abiding with them in the midst of their suffering. In a heroic act of selfless Christian charity, he offered his life for a total stranger. He preferred a single day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere. Help me to imitate his faith, hope and love.

Fr. James Kelleher, SOLT video #1 (www.youtube.com/watch?v=GHywy8wetKk)

Luke 8: 16-18 – A lamp on a stand.

Jesus said to the crowd: “No one who lights a lamp conceals it with a vessel or sets it under a bed; rather, he places it on a lamp stand so that those who enter may see the light. For there is nothing hidden that will not become visible, and nothing secret that will not be known and come to light. Take care, then, how you hear. To anyone who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he seems to have will be taken away.”

Fr. James Kelleher, SOLT video #2 (www.youtube.com/watch?v=KVYqttYiPs0)

Discussion questions (credit to Father Barry O’Toole, LC for framework of reflections and questions):

1. Torch Bearers: There are advantages to carrying a torch in the dark. At night, a torchbearer sheds light so that all who are with him can walk confidently, without stumbling along a dark path. Time is not wasted stepping insecurely and hesitantly; rather, the whole group walks purposefully and goes quickly where it needs and wants to go. St. Maximilian’s faith was the torch which illuminated the path for so many. He founded a monastery in Poland dedicated to our Lady in which after just ten short years there were 900 friars! He also established a radio station and printing house to further the mission of preaching the Gospel.

- a) Do I have an appreciation for the gift of faith that I have received from God? Do I allow its light to shine? How?
- b) The Miraculous Medal and the Rosary were St. Maximilian’s favorite “spiritual weapons” to conquer souls for Christ. Have you ever used Sacramentals to help spread the faith? What were the results?

2. Wisdom at its Best: Jesus affirms, “For there is nothing hidden that will not become visible, and nothing secret that will not be known and come to light.” When I am not praised and recognized by others, I might feel unappreciated. This is when I need to shine a lot of light to get out of that black hole. Do my good works seem to go unperceived? The Lord himself will expose them on the judgment day. The more they are hidden from others now, the more merits I will gain before God. The Blessed Virgin Mary’s life is very much hidden in the Holy Scriptures, yet she is the greatest of all God’s creation.

- a) What remedies are available to combat pride, vanity and selfish ambition?
- b) Contrast Mary’s selflessness with that of Eve’s selfishness. How can we become for like Mary and less like Eve?

3. A Rewarded Success: “To anyone who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he seems to have will be taken away.” Here Jesus plumbs deeper into what we have already reflected on. “To anyone who has” obviously refers to the torchbearer who has successfully led his band of friends. He will be entrusted with more responsibility. “...And from the one who has not”: The torchbearer who can’t keep his flame alive will be ousted. He will be taken away. “He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for my sake will find it.” Matt 10:39.

- a) Do I staunchly live the fire of the faith, or do I hesitate in witnessing to his love?
- b) Do I serve my family and put faith first?

Men’s / Women’s parish team resolution for the month (choose one or suggest your own):

- Volunteer an hour of my services to CSS or other organization that works with those in need.
- Read Bishop Olmsted's *Into the Breach* (for men) or St. John Paul II's *Letter to Women*.
- Commit to receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation at least once in the next month.

Closing Prayer: One decade of Scripture Rosary: fourth Glorious Mystery, the Assumption of Mary.

Verses to be recited before the Hail Mary's:

1. Blessed art thou, O daughter, by the Lord the most high God, above all women on earth. (Judith 13:23)
2. For He has so magnified thy name this day, that thy praise shall not depart out of the mouths of men. (Judith 13:25)
3. In every nation which shall hear thy name, the God of Israel shall be magnified on occasion of thee. (Judith 13:31)
4. Thou art the glory of Jerusalem, thou art the joy of Israel, thou art the honor of our people. (Judith 15:10)
5. Hear, O daughter, and see; turn your ear, for the king shall desire your beauty. (Ps. 44:11-12)
6. And the temple of God in heaven was opened, and there came flashes of lightning, and peals of thunder. (Rev. 11:19)
7. And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun. (Rev.12:1)
8. And the moon was under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars. (Rev.12:1)
9. All glorious is the king's daughter as she enters; her raiment is threaded with spun gold. (Ps. 44:14)
10. Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done wondrous deeds. (Ps. 97:1)

(Taken from www.ourcatholicprayers.com)

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