



August 14

Commemoration: Maximilian Kolbe, 1941, martyr

Saint Maximilian Maria Kolbe OFM Conv (8 January 1894 – 14 August 1941) was a Pole of German ethnic heritage and a Conventual Franciscan friar, who volunteered to die in place of a stranger in the Nazi German concentration camp of Auschwitz, located in German-occupied Poland during World War II.

He was canonized on 10 October 1982 by Pope John Paul II, and declared a martyr of charity. He is the patron saint of drug addicts, political prisoners, families, journalists, prisoners, and the pro-life movement. Pope John Paul II declared him "The Patron Saint of Our Difficult Century".

In Italian he is known as "San Massimiliano Maria Kolbe"; his given name in Polish is "Maksymilian", in French, "Maximilien".

Due to his efforts to promote Consecration and entrustment to Mary, he is known as the *Apostle of Consecration to Mary*.