



# A BEAUTY THAT ATTRACTS

JANUARY 2019

“Immaculate Virgin”, with these words we turn to the Virgin when we entrust ourselves to Her or when we renew the offering of our life. These words have conquered since youth the martyr of Auschwitz Saint Maximilian Kolbe. The Immaculata entered Kolbe’s life with all its richness and having found welcome and docility, manifested in and through her all her power. The desire to know and love the Immaculata accompanied him for all his life unto the cell of death.

A year before dying, he prayed: *“O Immaculata, I wish to know you more and more...and to love you in a more ardent way”* (KW 1307). Even knowing that Our Lady is known better in humble prayer and in the experience of daily life, Maximilian dedicated time to the study of Mariology, utilizing the Scriptures, the Church’s traditions and reflecting on the apparitions of the Virgin, in particular on the apparitions at Lourdes and of the Virgin at Rue du Bac.

He felt remorse in knowing that Our Lady was little known or known superficially. For this reason, he wanted to establish “a Marian Academy to study, teach and publish in all the world who the Immaculata is...This is a known field and so necessary for a practical life, for the conversion and sanctification of souls” (KW 508). He wished therefore to *“write something more, a booklet on Our Lady and the dogmatical, but in a deeper and easier way.”* (KW455)

In the first hours of February 17 1941, Maximilian almost foreseeing that he wouldn’t have much time left, dictated to Fra Arnaldo Wedrowski *“Immaculate Conception. These words were pronounced from the mouth of the Immaculata herself; therefore they indicate with maximum precision and in the most basic manner, who She is”* (KW1318). Around 10 a.m. of the morning of that same day the Gestapo arrived at Niepokalanow and Maximilian was arrested and taken to the prison of Pawiak at Warsaw, and from there on May 28, he arrived at the concentration camp of Auschwitz.

But still with the atrocities and humiliating sufferings, Kolbe never lost an occasion to talk about his fixed idea, the “Immaculata.” In the second half of July, on a Sunday afternoon, Maximilian met secretly with some priests and gave his last reflection on the Immaculata. An important testimony from one of them, father Sigmund Ruzsak: *“I can say that father Maximilian wouldn’t have existed without his love for the Mother of Jesus. But his love was sublime, theological, universal. We had to have the soul of a child to understand.”* (Patricia Treece, Maximilian Kolbe, pg. 202)

The beauty that radiates from Mary Immaculate continues to still fascinate us today. She reflects the power of the love of God that renders us capable of love and tenderness.

*The Missionaries of Harmese, Poland*



Entrust **St. Maximilian** with your **desires, dreams, and hopes**. The missionaries will pray for your intentions every day, and on the fourteenth of every month, they will carry them to Auschwitz where Fr. Kolbe gave his life so that another might live. At his cell they will ask his intercession. Write to: [celakolbe@kolbemission.org](mailto:celakolbe@kolbemission.org)

Do not forget love.  
*for Maximilian Kolbe*

**Misjonarki**  
Niepokalanej Ojca Kolbego