

Our Lady of Fatima Bulletin August 18-19, 2012

Father J.D. Zatalava, Pastor 2010 12th Avenue Altoona, PA 16601 814-942-0371 www.ourladyoffatimaaltoona.com

Day by day, little by little, piece by piece we are developing in the Parish an appreciation and affection for Saint Sister Faustina Kawalska and the devotion she inspires to the Divine Marcy.

Last Tuesday forces conspired to inspire the pastor to initiate bringing that same level energy to fostering an active parochial devotion to the great Polish Martyr and Saint Maximilian Mary Kolbe.

WHO IS ST. MAXIMILIAN?

St. Maximilian Mary Kolbe (1894-1941) was born at Pabianice, in Russian Occupied Poland. He was baptized Raymond at the Parish Church. Already proficient in virtue, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to him in 1906 A. D., about the time of his first communion.

She offered him the graces of virginity and martyrdom and asked him which he wanted. Filled with zeal, he begged for both, and was filled thereafter with the most ardent desire to love and serve this Immaculate Queen.

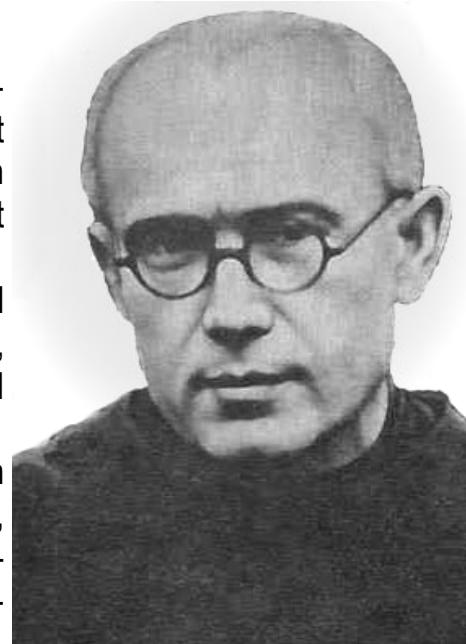
He joined the Order of Friars Minor Conventual at Lvov in Austrian Occupied Poland, where he took the name Maximilian, and after finishing preliminary studies he was sent to the International Seraphic College in Rome to pursue doctorates in philosophy and theology.

In 1917 on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the conversion of Alphonse Ratisbon, renowned anti-Catholic and agnostic of Jewish lineage, St. Maximilian was moved by divine grace to found a pious association of the faithful known as the Militia of the Immaculate.

The Militia was to be a loosely organized tool in the hands of the Immaculate Mediatrix for the conversion and sanctification of non-Catholics, especially those inimical to the Church. Its members consecrated themselves to the Blessed Virgin Mary, invoked Her daily for the conversion of sinners, and strove by every licit means to build up the Kingdom of the Sacred Heart throughout the world.

Ordained to the priesthood in 1918, St. Maximilian returned to Poland to teach Church History in Cracow, where he organized the first group of the Militia outside of Italy. Because of ill health he was freed to devote his time exclusively to the promotion of the Militia, whereupon he founded the "Knight of the Immaculate," a monthly Roman Catholic Magazine promoting the knowledge, love and service of the Immaculate Virgin, in the conversion of all souls to Christ Our Lord.

The phenomenal growth of this apostolate led to the foundation of the first city of the Immaculate, Niepokalanow in 1929. This was a friary of Franciscan priests and brothers engaged in the use of all kinds of modern equipment so as to promote via the mass media the Militia through all parts of Poland.. (see back of insert. for more)



QUESTIONS WELCOME

Our Lady of Fatima is a Marriage Building Parish in Altoona, PA

Lately, the Church's teaching on contraception has been getting a good deal of public attention in the media. This has naturally led to people asking questions, especially if this teaching is news to them.

Even as Catholics, we may be struggling with questions of our own.

It's good and helpful for us to acknowledge and explore our questions. And it's healthy for us to grapple with God the Father's desire for our happiness. He understands our human nature—his Son became one of us (Jesus is true God and true man)! Jesus, through his Spirit of wisdom and knowledge, can handle the questions, struggles, or anxieties we bring to him (see Matthew 11:28).

Blessed John Paul II, quoting the words of Christ, would often encourage us: "Do not be afraid!" We should never be afraid to pursue the truth. Maybe you've had some of the following questions, yourself:

What does the Church teach about married love?

What does this have to do with contraception?

Does saying "yes" to children at the altar mean never using contraception?

Are couples expected to leave their family size entirely to chance?

What if a couple has a serious reason to avoid having a child?

Is there really a difference between using contraception and practicing natural family planning?

Can some methods of birth control cause an abortion?

What does any of this have to do with my marriage?

Consider that in marriage, spouses love not only through words, but through the actions and gestures of their bodies. In particular, the sexual act in marriage speaks of a total commitment to a future together—a future open to welcoming the gift of a child if so blessed and open to fruitful love and service to others. The Church's teaching on marital sexuality is an invitation for husband and wife to enter more fully into communion with each other and with the blessed Trinity, the fount of life and love.

The questions above, and others like them, are answered on a helpful new web page, www.usccb.org/love-and-sexuality.

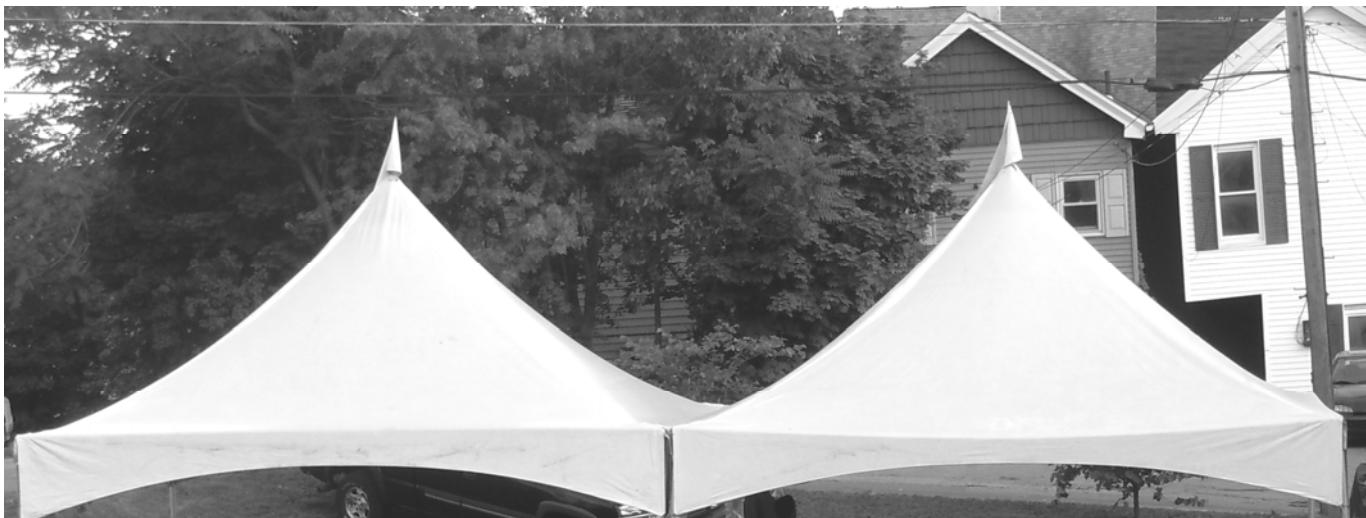
Are we willing to consider the questions that live in our hearts? When the teachings of Christ are understood, embraced and practiced, they can radically change our lives for the better. Christ wants us to have life to the fullest. There is nothing like walking with him. No joy can be compared when we choose to follow him and live in his joy (see John 15:11).

Memories Forward . . . !





Please note this special though belated announcement: Our parishioner, Megan Wall, graduated in June of 2012 from AASD. She will be going to Penn State, Altoona Campus, in the fall. Congratulations!



Photos by Bill Bravin
And Chris Keagy

A Latin Toast:
Ad Multos Annos
Meaning:
To Many More Years

Two years later St. Maximilian, heeding the call of the Holy Father to all religious, to come to the aid of the missionary efforts of the universal Church, volunteered to go to the Orient to found another city of the Immaculate, Mugenzai No Sono .

St. Maximilian returned to Niepokalanow, as its spiritual father, in 1936 and under his able direction the number of the friars there grew above 900 in the months preceding World War II. Publishing apostolate was producing 1,000,000 magazines monthly as well all 125,000 copies of a daily paper for the 1,000,000 members of the Militia worldwide.

After the invasion of Poland by the German Wermacht in September of 1939, the friars dispersed and Niepokalanow was ransacked. St. Maximilian and about 40 others were taken to holding camps, first in Germany, and later in Poland. By the mercy of the Immaculate they were released and allowed to return home on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the same year. During the war the friars turned to caring for about 5,000 Jewish refugees of the Poznan district as well as providing a repair shop for the farming machinery of the locale.

To incriminate St. Maximilian, the Gestapo permitted one final printing of the "Knight of the Immaculate" in December of 1940. In February of 1941, they came to Niepokalanow and arrested St. Maximilian. He was taken to Pawiak Prison in German Occupied Warsaw, Poland, and later was transferred to Auschwitz.

Over the entrance gate of this concentration camp was a sign in German, "Work makes free!". In reality, upon entering the prisoners were told that all Jews had the right to live only two weeks, Roman Catholic priests 1 month.

At Auschwitz several million Roman Catholics were put to death along with another several million persons of Jewish lineage. The objective of Hitler, in his hatred for Jesus Christ, was both to remove all witness to the truth of the original revelation of the God of Israel (the Jewish nation), as well as all who came to believe in Him in His Incarnation by Mary (Roman Catholics).

Thus, St. Maximilian, Knight of the Immaculate Virgin, was placed by Divine Providence at the very center of the ideologic and spiritual conflict of the century, and was destined by God to be the sign of contradiction to a nation given over to diabolic hatred of God and His people.

St. Maximilian, in response to the vicious hatred and brutality of the prison guards, was ever obedient, meek, and forgiving. He gave counsel to all his fellow prisoners "Trust in the Immaculate!" "Forgive!" "Love your enemies and pray for your persecutors!" He was noted for his generosity in surrendering his food despite the ravages of starvation that he suffered, for always going to the end of the line of the infirmary, despite the acute tuberculosis afflicting him.

In the end, by the maternal mediation of the Virgin Mary, he received the grace to be intimately conformed to Christ in death. For on the night of August 3, 1941 a prisoner successfully escaped from the same section of the camp in which St. Maximilian was detained. In reprisal, the commandant ordered death by starvation for 10 men chosen at random from the same section.

One of the condemned, Seargent Franciszek Gajowniczek, shouted out, lamenting that he would never see his wife and children again. In his stead, St. Maximilian Mary, who had remained standing all night long during the selection of the condemned, stepped forward and offered his own life in exchange for this man. Ten days later, having led the other 9 in prayers and hymns, St. Maximilian was given a lethal injection of carbolic acid, and passed into eternal glory.

Pope Paul VI beatified St. Maximilian in 1973 and Pope John Paul II canonized him in 1982 as a martyr of charity.

In light of our parish's rising interest in and devotion to Saints Maximilian and Faustina we should begin thinking about having some representation of the images in our worship space. Either pictures or statues that would fit in with or overall décor while never distracting our attention away from the altar during Mass. We will start accepting donations designated for that purpose.

Mon. 08/20	<u>A Day of Prayer for Victims of Cancer</u>
Feast	Saint Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church
8:00 AM Mass	Mrs. Luzia Tse, Catarina Wong
Tues. 08/21	<u>A Day of Prayer for Victims of Heart Diseases</u>
Feast	Saint Pius X, Pope
8:00 AM Mass	Denise Keagy, Tom and Beth Moore
Wed. 08/22	<u>A Day of Prayer for Victims of Arthritis</u>
Feast	The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary
8:00 AM Mass	Theresa McCall, Mrs. Sis Hollern
Thur. 08/23	<u>A Day of Prayer for Victims of Nervous Disorders</u>
Feast	Saint Rose of Lima, Virgin
8:00 AM Mass	Teresa G. Mincin, Ann., Anna Miller, Daughter
Fri. 08/24	<u>A Day of Prayer for Victims of Emotional Disorders</u>
Feast	Saint Bartholomew, Apostle
8:00 AM Mass	Bill Conrad, Ray and Rosemarie Keller
Sat. 08/25	<u>A Day of Prayer for Victims of Diabetes</u>
Feast	Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
4:30 PM Mass	Living and Deceased Members of Our Lady of Fatima Parish
Sun. 08/26	<u>A Day of Prayer for Victims of Addictions</u>
Feast	Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:00 AM Mass	Sally Colledge, Husband Pete
11:00 AM Mass	Jean M. Pufka, Joe, Patty, Jared, Jordan, Adam & Leanne Pufka

Lord
Jesus
Christ
Son
Of
God
Have
Mercy
On
Me
a
Sinner

Happy Birthday:

8/25 Patty Pufka
8/26 Paul Masic

Wedding Anniversaries:

8/20 Freddie and Danielle Sisto
8/23 Brent and Linda Ronan

MONEY MATTERS

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, (August 12, 2012)

206 people Celebrated Liturgy at O.L.F. contributing \$ 2,515.00 of which \$ 178.00 accounted for non-env. contributions.
Envelopes In Circulation 203 # Used 92 # Unused 111

August Camp Payment received = \$809.39

Our Lady of Fatima Pleaded That we pray the Holy Rosary Daily
At O.L.F. before each Mass and privately from 8:30am to 7:00pm