

# Liturgy Alive of Feria

Saint MAXIMILIAN KOLBE, Priest, Martyr

Memorial

August 14

## Introduction

Maximilian Mary Kolbe became a Franciscan Conventual. He was a great devotee of the Blessed Virgin Mary. He was interned in the Nazi concentration camp of Auschwitz. When the father of a large family was hand-picked for extermination, Fr. Maximilian offered himself to the commander to die in the man's place. He was starved to death. Pope John Paul II proclaimed him the Patron of our Suffering Century.

## Opening Prayer

God our Father,  
St. Maximilian Kolbe practiced  
what your Son Jesus called  
the greatest love that disposes a person  
to lay down one's life for one's friends.  
Through Jesus, who calls us his friends,  
and with the help of the prayers of St Maximilian  
make our love as strong as life and death.  
Let it always have the last word in us  
and be given for free, like yours.  
Make us love one another as Jesus has loved us,

he who is our Lord for ever.

## Prayer over the Gifts

Lord our God, loving Father,  
your love appeared with a human face  
in your Son Jesus Christ.  
He showed all the depth of your love and his  
by laying down his life for us, his friends.  
May he be our food  
on the road of life and of love  
not only when it is easy to love  
but also when it is hard to be faithful  
and when love demands self-forgetting sacrifice.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

## Prayer after Communion

Our loving God,  
in this eucharistic celebration  
you have given us new proof of your love  
by giving us your Son and his Spirit.  
Jesus has strengthened our love.  
Accept our thanks and bring out the best in us,  
that we may bear rich fruit of faithful, reliable love.  
Let your Spirit unite us  
to build community with one another  
and to live in your love and joy

now and for ever.