

Comfort & Joy

As we transition from a season of Thanksgiving to Advent and await the joyous birth of Jesus, we are often reminded that this is the “most wonderful time of the year”. For many the joy of the season is overshadowed by the loss of a loved one, despair and loneliness, financial troubles or addiction. This newsletter is a collection of excerpts from articles offering words of encouragement that may help you discover and re-connect with the hope, comfort and joy that the birth of our Savior brings.

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 4

WINTER 2013

St. Maximilian Kolbe—The Patron Saint of Hope

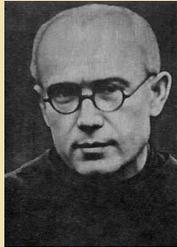
1

Blessed Are Those Who Mourn

2

Upcoming dates of interest:

- * January 14, 7PM — Pro-Life Committee Meeting *(New members always welcome!)*
- * January 21, 7PM — Evening for Life



St. Maximilian Kolbe

The Patron Saint of Hope

It was hope in the love of Christ that compelled St. Maximilian Kolbe to confidently step forward and say, "I wish to die for that man."

Maximilian Kolbe was born in Poland in 1894. Because of his efforts to protect Jewish refugees during the Nazi occupation of Poland, Kolbe was sent to Auschwitz in 1941. Thrown into the dank, crowded underground bunker with the other men, he continued to set an example of faith and hope, leading them in prayers of praise and adoration to God, singing hymns, and encouraging them to focus on the certain and irrevocable promises of Christ. He was later executed by lethal injection after he bravely offered to take the place of a fellow inmate who had been condemned to die by starvation.

Maximilian Kolbe, a martyr for charity, was canonized by

Blessed Pope John Paul II on 10 October 1982.

While there are many things we can learn from the life of St. Maximilian Kolbe, one which stands out above others is the power of hope. Here we do not speak of hope as a natural human virtue, that will somehow "get through the day" or complete a difficult task, but rather as one of the three theological virtues of faith, hope and charity that are infused into the human person by God.

God provides us with unceasing encouragement through the virtue of hope, even in the midst of the greatest difficulties, providing us with not only a thirst for what He has planned out of His superabundant goodness, but the certitude that He Himself will aid us in journeying ever-more-deeply into His life of love.

St. Maximilian Kolbe provides

(Continued on page 2)

"We can therefore hope in the glory of heaven promised by God to those who love him and do his will. In every circumstance, each one of us should hope, with the grace of God, to persevere "to the end" and to obtain the joy of heaven, as God's eternal reward for the good works accomplished with the grace of Christ" (CCC 1821).

**SAINTS ROSE &
CLEMENT PARISH**

111 Long Street
Warwick, RI 02886

office@ssrc4.necoxmail.com
Attn: Pro-Life Committee



What is urgently called for is a general mobilization of consciences and a united ethical effort to activate a great campaign in support of life. All together, we must build a culture of life.

~Blessed John Paul II

We are on the Web!
WWW.SSRCPARISH.COM



"Each one of them is Jesus in disguise."

— Blessed Mother Teresa



Blessed Are Those Who Mourn

Whatever our response to mourning, the point of the beatitude is that a blessing remains on those who mourn because the blessing is due to the love of Christ, not the goodness of man. For God's tenderness is vastly greater than we can understand or imagine.

The tears that Christ shed on the cross put out the fires of hell for us, if we receive them. The suffering that we have to endure in Christ is not "vengeance" but a sharing in his own suffering.

And even when chastisement comes to us for our real sins, it is ordered, always and forever, toward our final bliss and blessing, not toward our destruction. But before, behind, and above it all is that tenderness, a desire for our

true comfort (not the TV or alcohol-numbed counterfeit the world sells us) that is the deepest, sweetest comfort there is. It is a comfort that made Paul actually rejoice in his sufferings. It is a comfort so intensely beautiful that sane

men have walked gladly straight to their deaths rather than lose it. To taste it is to lose the desire of the cheap imitations the world routinely offers. Today, if you are mourning, may you know the comfort God gives in

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted"



(Matthew 5:4)

Christ and drink of it deeply.

An excerpt from:

Blessed Are Those Who Mourn by Paul Shea, Catholic Exchange 4/21/2010.

The Patron Saint of Hope

(continued from page 1)

us with a portrait of the theological virtue of hope. In his life, we see not only the external, human manifestations of the virtue of hope, but also learn not to embrace those capitol errors so common in the present age: the unawareness of or disbelief in God's immanent presence; doubt of God's all inclusive plan of divine love; the apparent inability to trust in God's help; and the growing uncertainty that God intervenes in human history and in the daily lives of his children.

Further, the example of St. Maximilian's life teaches us not to fall prey to the temptation of thinking life's tragedies are somehow entirely random coincidences,

"We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose." (Rom. 8:28).

Nearly all of us, at some point or other, realize that we are not in complete control. We may find our-

selves, one day, suddenly immersed in some unsolvable tragedy or circumstance for which it seems there can come no good end. Caught up in the situation, all our efforts often become concentrated on attempting to extricate ourselves from whatever seems opposed to our immediate, temporal happiness, while in the process we lose sight of the eternal landscape that lay on the horizon. We can begin to misunderstand our purpose, and overlook the connection between the reality of our life and its events and God's providence. It is not unlike walking along a path while our gaze remains stubbornly riveted at our feet: our eyes fail to raise upon the rich meadows at our side and the magnificent sunrise that lay beyond.

Excerpted from:

St. Maximilian Kolbe and the Theological Virtue of Hope, By F.K. Bartels, Catholic Online 8/14/2012.