



THE MODERN SAINT

Saint Maximilian Kolbe Parish is a Roman Catholic Christian community which unselfishly ministers to all people through hospitality, prayer, formation, and service. Eucharist centered and led by the Holy Spirit we strive to be grateful stewards of all God's gifts.

SPREADING DEVOTION TO OUR EUCHARISTIC LORD

THE CHILDREN OF MARY

"Jesus, I Love You in the Most Blessed Sacrament!"

This is the cry and prayer of the Children of Mary. This enflamed love for Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament is the witness and message they proclaim. Their love for our Eucharistic Lord and their desire to quench His thirst impels them to work to spread love and devotion for Him within the Church and beyond. Our Lord calls these consecrated women of the Children of Mary to tell His people He loves them and is with them.

The Children of Mary is a relatively new order founded in January of 2002 in Newark, Ohio. Their Mother Foundress, Mother Margaret Mary, responded to the call to "go, sell all you have and come follow Me," in August, 1989. She moved to some land in Newark and proceeded to live the next eleven years in silence and solitude in a primitive hermitage. Her days were spent in prayer and hard, manual labor. Bishop Griffin, the bishop of Columbus at the time, requested that she be open to other women coming to share her life of prayer. On January 17, 2002, Mother Margaret Mary was consecrated by Bishop Griffin in their chapel in Newark, Ohio. Zoning restrictions prevented any expansion of the Newark Motherhouse, so with the permission of Columbus Bishop Campbell and Archbishop Schnurr, the Children of Mary moved their motherhouse to the Holy Spirit Center in Cincinnati in November, 2016.

The Children of Mary continue to expand in response to the call to spread devotion to our Eucharistic Lord. They will be opening a new house in Sydney, Ohio, in August at the request of Fr. Jarred Kohn at Holy Angels. Some of the



Several of the sisters in their Newark chapel after Mass.

“WE’RE LIKE WHAT
WE’RE AROUND.”

ABBEY RUMPLER
CO-WORKER, CHILDREN OF MARY

LIVING AS CHRIST CALLS US TO LIVE



St. Thomas,
from Rubens' Twelve Apostles Series.

By: Fr. Jim Riehle

While summer can be time of leisure and relaxation, the Church nonetheless continues to present us with great saints by whom we can learn much about the call to holiness.

July 3, for example, is the feast of St. Thomas the Apostle, a first century Jew who even though he spent three years with Jesus, still struggled in his faith.

From there we can jump to the 20th century to the life of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati. This saintly young man died at the age of twenty-four on July 4, 1925. In his short life he devoted himself to the faith and to the poor. He was not a priest. He was not a monk. He was a man that knew his vocation was to love like Jesus did.

Pier Giorgio came from a wealthy family. Yet he gave most of his money away, often giving his train-fare to the poor and choosing to run home instead.

When he died, his family expected their fellow elites and political figures of the city to come out and offer their condolences and attend the funeral. They were surprised, however, to find the streets of Turin lined with thousands of mourners as the funeral procession passed by. It was the poor of the city who had come out to honor this holy young man who had given them so much.

In July, we also celebrate the life of St. Elizabeth of Portugal, a Spanish princess, given in marriage to the king of Portugal. Prayerful and devout, this queen went to Mass every day. After her husband died, St. Elizabeth spent the rest of her life performing works of charity and penance. She died in 1336.

Moving back into more modern times, we encounter the life of one of the Church's youngest saints. Maria Goretti was only 11 years old when she was killed on July 6, 1902. When a young man in her community attacked her, Maria fought back and told him that she preferred to die rather than lose her purity and innocence.

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After she was brutally attacked, and lay dying in the hospital, she not only forgave her attacker, but she told those present that she wanted him to be in heaven with her. Years later, that man converted in prison, a conversion he attributed to Maria's prayers. When he was released, he went to see Maria's mother to ask for her forgiveness. Maria's mother told him that if her daughter could forgive him, then surely she could not withhold forgiveness. In a sure sign of what holiness and faith and mercy can do in people's lives, the very next day, the two of them went to Mass together and received Holy Communion side by side. They were also together in 1950 when Maria was canonized a saint.

From Italy, we go to China, as we remember the life of St. Augustine Zhao Rong, a Chinese soldier who was assigned to escort a bishop to his execution. Witnessing the courage and fortitude of that bishop, Augustine converted, was ordained a priest, and soon after gave his own life for the faith, martyred in the year 1815.

From 19th century China we can jump to 7th century Ireland and Germany, and there encounter the life of St. Killian - a nobleman by birth, then a monk, this Irish missionary and bishop was sent to what we now call Bavaria. He was martyred in 689, dying because he stood up for the Church's teachings on the sacrament of marriage.

There are more saints we could talk about, such as Sts. Amalberga, Odo, and Ethelburga, for example. Quite honestly I just felt they were worth a mention because I like their names. Any expectant parents looking for a saintly name for your little girl, don't forget about Sts. Amalberga or Ethelburga.

When we take a step back and see these lives, the holiness of a simple Jewish man from Palestine, to the noble families and palaces of Europe, from queens to poor little girls, from China to Ireland, priests, bishops, mothers, sisters, missionaries, lay people, we see there is no cookie cutter life for holiness, except having the courage to live as Christ calls us to live.

We all know that the world is a mess. So, we hear people say things, like "I just don't know what can be done" or "Somebody needs to fix this."

God has given us the answer. Just as He spoke to Moses, just as Jesus called the Apostles, God calls on us to heed His voice, to return to the Lord, to love Him with all that we are and to love our enemies as Jesus loves them.

That is the mission. Let us pray for the courage to carry it out and become the saints we are meant to be.



Portrait of St. Elizabeth of Portugal
by José Gil de Castro

“LET US PRAY FOR THE
COURAGE TO CARRY OUT
OUR MISSION AND
BECOME THE SAINTS WE
ARE MEANT TO BE.

FR. JIM RIEHLE

HIGHWAY TO HEAVEN AND THE EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL



By: Jo Zink

“The Eucharist is my highway to heaven.” This is how Blessed Carlo Acutis referred to the Eucharist. Bl. Carlo is the first millennial to be beatified. In his short fifteen years of life, he developed such an intense love of Jesus in the Eucharist that he used his considerable computer skills to develop a website devoted to Eucharistic Miracles. He even personally visited most of the sites of the miracles he cataloged. It is no wonder that Bl. Carlo is the patron of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ (USCCB) three year Eucharistic Revival. In early April, a relic of Bl. Carlo was brought to the United States in support of the Revival. “The US bishops will house the relic for one year for a pilgrimage of faith and sanctity for all, especially for young people,” Archbishop Sorrentino of Assisi, Italy, said as he presented the relic to Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York. 7

The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Mass. Through the prayers of the priest, ordinary bread and wine are transformed into Jesus’ body, blood, soul, and divinity. This is Jesus’ great gift to the Church. Through the Eucharist, He can keep His promise to be with us until the end of time—literally. He is present at every Mass and

in every tabernacle throughout the world. This is amazing! Sadly, many Catholics do not recognize this great gift—this fundamental truth of our faith.

A Pew study in 2019 found that only 30 percent of Catholics believe in the true presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. This is a real crisis for the Church. It is a tragedy. If we can’t recognize Jesus in the Eucharist, can we really appreciate or encounter the love that put Him on the cross? And if we don’t encounter His boundless love for us, how can we even begin to love Him in return?

The USCCB has been inspired by this sobering reality of the loss of faith and belief in the Real Presence to launch a three year Eucharistic Revival. This Revival is more than an event or program. The USCCB envisions a true revival to rediscover the source and summit of our faith. The revival will incorporate prayer, pilgrimage, and worship.

“I am the living bread that came down from heaven, whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world.” (John 6:51)
Our very lives—the life of the entire world—depends on

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this bread from heaven. But too many either do not know this life-giving news, or they have rejected it for one reason or another. Rekindling the fire of love and devotion for the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus will take more than a series of meetings or some kind of step-by-step plan. It is a call to every Catholic in every parish across the United States. Over the next three years, every Catholic diocese, parish, school, apostolate, and family is invited to rekindle their love and devotion to the Eucharist.

The Revival kicked off on June 19, the Feast of Corpus Christi. This first year from June 19 through June 11, 2023 is the Diocesan Year of Eucharistic Revival. Jeremy Helmes, Director for the Office for Divine Worship & Sacraments for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, is the archdiocesan point person for the Revival. “My role is to coordinate all of our archdiocesan efforts vis-à-vis the revival.” His office is also coordinating efforts with the Center for the New Evangelization. It might seem like this is one more thing to pile on parishes with all the changes happening with Beacons of Light. Jeremy points out, “The first principle of Beacons of Light is Eucharist. We must continue to be a Eucharist-centered church to remain ‘on mission’.” The Archdiocese has also been focusing on efforts to bring people back to Mass who have been away for a variety of reasons. What better way than to help them to encounter Jesus, alive and present, in the Eucharist!

The second year, June 11, 2023-July 17, 2024, will be the Parish Year of Eucharistic Revival which will culminate with the first National Eucharistic Congress to be held in nearly 50 years. It will be held in Indianapolis, IN on July 14-17, 2024. Thousands of Catholics will make the pilgrimage to Indianapolis to personally encounter the Eucharistic Jesus. After this encounter, people will return to their parishes and communities for the third year of the Revival, Year of Out-Going Mission, which will end Pentecost, 2025.

Hopefully, this end of the formal Revival will only mark the beginning of a groundswell of love and devotion to the most Sacred and Eucharistic Heart of Jesus.

More information and resources for the Eucharistic Revival can be found at <https://eucharisticrevival.org/> and <https://resources.catholicaoc.org/divine-worship-and-sacraments/news/celebrating-the-solemnity-of-the-body-and-blood-of-christ>

ST. MAX AND THE FAITH ALLIANCE

**CHRIST HAS NO BODY ON EARTH
BUT OURS, NO HANDS, BUT OURS,
NO FEET, BUT OURS.
OURS ARE THE EYES THROUGH
WHICH THE COMPASSION OF CHRIST
LOOKS OUT UPON THE WORLD.**

ST. TERESA OF AVILA

By: Colleen Dill

Alleviate local poverty, demonstrate Christian love. It's a simple mission statement with a powerful backing. The Faith Alliance of West Chester and Liberty Township brings together 12 local churches to work jointly toward this mission. There is also a lengthy list of community partners and donors who bolster this ministry work. "We are committed to our mission to "Alleviate local poverty, demonstrate Christian love." Partner churches and board members hold different religious practices and doctrines, but these are put aside for the purpose of serving those who truly have need," shares Faith Alliance board president, Elizabeth Schirm. St. Max joined the Faith Alliance in 2016 and has actively participated in many of their outreach programs. St. Max is currently the only Catholic church in the alliance! "I love that we (St. Max) are part of a community of churches who focus on our neighbors in need. Faith Alliance provides wonderful opportunities to serve in addition to informing the community about each church partner's outreach activities," says Lakme Kodros, St. Max Pastoral Associate for Outreach.

Celebrating its 10th anniversary this past fall, Faith Alliance coordinates several large outreach projects. Elizabeth continues, "the Faith Alliance (FA) connects local Christian congregations to serve the communities of West Chester and Liberty Township through service projects (X-Days), food drives (Feed Our Neighbors in Need), and our church alliance is of tremendous support to Reach Out Lakota's Backpack Drive and Adopt-a-Child Christmas Drive. The FA may best be known for the Summer Literacy Program and Summer Lunch Ministry. These programs aid families with children who struggle with reading comprehension and/or food insecurity. We work with the Lakota School District and Lakota Child Nutrition and, in 2021, had 12 church partners and many volunteers. This is Christian community working at its best!"

While monetary and material donations are needed and appreciated, volunteer hours are invaluable. As with most charitable organizations, the Faith Alliance has also had a loss of willing volunteers over the past couple of years and, as with other charities, the work that needs to be done cannot be done with finances alone. "We are seeking volunteers for the coming season! Email info@thefaithalliance.com for more details!" Elizabeth says. "We are always looking to add members to our board. If you have a love of Christ and a heart for service, I'd love to talk with you." There are also many open volunteer positions that are smaller time commitments, such as helping to deliver summer lunches or to build reading skills in children who are struggling.

As Catholics we are called to the works of mercy, which can sometimes feel overwhelming in a world where there is so much need. The Faith Alliance helps us to take small steps toward fulfilling this calling. Though the steps may be small the impact can be great. Not only can we support their food and supply drives, we can put our feet on the ground, one hour at a time, to physically answer our Lord's call to serve our neighbors.



TOP St. Max participated in Faith Alliance Xdays, a community service day. **BOTTOM** St. Max collected just short of 4000 lbs. this past Lent for Faith Alliance's Feed Our Neighbor campaign which went directly to Reach Out Lakota!

CHILDREN OF MARY, Continued from Page 1

sisters will reside in the old rectory at Holy Angels and help promote devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and help at the school there. The Children of Mary are also launching a new lay-led apostolate in Sydney, Disciples of Our Eucharistic Lord. One of the primary commitments of the apostolate is a weekly Holy Hour dedicated to quenching our Lord's thirst and in reparation for those who do not believe or recognize Him in the Eucharist. This Holy Hour is focused completely on these intentions. The hope is that this will spread beyond Sydney to other areas of the Archdiocese and beyond.

As we begin the three year Eucharistic Revival being launched by the USCCB, the Children of Mary are a great resource for individuals and parishes to grow in love and devotion to Jesus in the most Blessed Sacrament. In addition to the lay apostolate launching in Sydney, they are also promoting a movement called "Love for Love" to encourage enthronement of Jesus as King of our hearts and King of America. Resources and information can be found at loveforlove.net.

For those who are inspired by or drawn to the Children of Mary's charism and want to be more directly involved in their work and prayer, becoming a co-worker may be for you. The co-worker is like a third-order involvement for the laity to share in the work and spirituality of the Children of Mary. Abbey Rumples has been a co-worker for about four years. Her journey began when the Children of Mary were visiting St. Max. She was struck by their singing to our Lord. Abbey is a convert to the Church and she had never been exposed to such young, joyful, beautiful women so devoted to Jesus. She was struck by their love and simplicity. One of the sisters explained to Abbey's young daughters that she was, "married to Jesus and got to wear her wedding dress every day."

One of the sisters gave Abbey the book *Ceaseless Act of Love*. After a few months of praying the rosary with her children, she read the book and went to their website and clicked on the "get involved" tab. She was drawn to the co-worker opportunity because, "It's for everyone. I could be a co-worker as a busy mom and wife." Abbey feels blessed to be a part of this community loving Jesus and speaking the Truth with love. She wants to be around that because, as she says, "We're like what we're around."

For any young women who feel they may have a call to live this life of devotion to Jesus and His Most Sacred and Eucharistic heart, the Children of Mary accept women



Abbey's daughter with Sr. Bernadette Marie with after she received her black veil and made her final vows.

between the ages of 18 and 30, and the entire discernment process takes a minimum of 6 ½ years. In addition to the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, the sisters also make a fourth vow to pray for priests and a fifth vow to quench the thirst of Jesus to be loved in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

For more information on how you can support or get involved with the Children of Mary, see their website, childrenofmary.net. Their website is also packed with resources and materials to help you draw closer to Jesus and encounter Him in the Eucharist.



TOGETHER WE GROW CAMPAIGN

Don't forget about our Together We Grow Campaign! You can see status updates about the campaign and make a pledge online at saint-max.org/TWG.



Saint Maximilian Kolbe Catholic Church

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LITURGY SCHEDULE

MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil 4:30 PM

Sunday 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM

Monday-Saturday 8:30 AM

First Fridays 7:30 PM

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Tuesday-Saturdays after 8:30 AM Mass

Thursdays 6:00-6:45 PM

Saturday 3:00-4:00 PM

SEND US AN UPDATE

Have you moved, or do you have a new phone number or new email address? Please contact the office at 513.777.4322 ext. 101 or cgroh@saint-max.org to give us an update!



WHAT IS THE 1% CHALLENGE?

1% OF YOUR DAY IS 14 MIN AND 24 SEC.

JUST 1% OF YOUR DAY given to God in focused prayer will change your life. We would like to challenge you to spend just 1% (let's round up to 15 min) OF YOUR DAY EVERY DAY PRAYING with Scripture through a Catholic tradition called lectio divina.

WANT TO RECEIVE THE 1% CHALLENGE DAILY EMAIL WITH SUGGESTED READING?

Text 1percent to 42828.

More info on the 1% Challenge can be found on our website at saint-max.org/takethechallenge.