

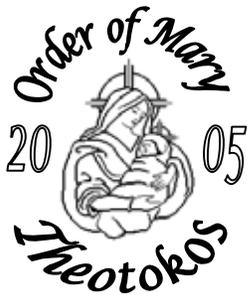
The Theotokan

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Order of Mary Theotokos

www.ecc-usa.org/OMT.html



"He has risen as he said."

We join with Mary the Theotokos in a very special way on Easter Sunday morning. Mediate on the sorrow that was Mary's as she stood at the foot of the cross on Good Friday to witness the death of her son, Jesus. But, also imagine and celebrate the joy of Mary on Easter Sunday morning when she realized that he, Jesus, had risen from the dead.

Our Holy Rule

**-Mark your Calendar-
Important dates to
put on your calendar:**

**Your Profession dates
because you need to
remember to request
First and Final
Profession documents
from the Abbot.**

**ECC+USA 2006 Synod
Will be held at St.
Meinrad Abbey
Retreat Center in
Indiana on September
8, 9, and 10, 2006. All
OMT members are
invited to attend.
Additional details
later.**

The OMT Holy Rule of Life has four basic rules to which each member makes a promise at each step of his/her profession (as a Postulant, First Professed, and Solemn Profession):

1) To lead a God-centered life dedicated to the mission of Jesus Christ, as Mary did.

2) To organize his/her life around prayer and good works for the glory of God, as Jesus and Mary did in their lives. OMT members offer to God their daily prayers of reading from the Holy Scriptures, spiritual reading, lives of the saints, meditation.

The official prayerbook of the OMT is the *Magnificat* publication (available at www.magnificat.net) which gives daily morning, evening and night prayers based on the

Psalms and Sacred Scripture, a meditation on Mary, a brief account of the life of a saint, and the Liturgy of the Eucharist which enables the OMT member to join with all others in the Catholic Faith tradition through spiritual Communion with our priests or actual reception of Holy Communion if the Celebration of the Eucharist is available to them.

3) To love God's creation, protect it, nurture it and bring it with Jesus to the fulfillment that the Creator intended when he sent his Son, Jesus, to redeem it.

4) To live a life of loving God first, and neighbor as self. The great commandments that Jesus gave us and Mary showed us how to live through her life. The living of the details of this Holy Rule of Life is as unique as each one of us! God's will be done!

Q&A's from the Abbot

Q. Why do I get multiple copies of email prayer requests?

A. There are several fairly distinct ministries in the ECC+USA: the Clergy, the Loci, and the OMT. Each of these has an egroup so that members can communicate requests, information, prayers, and (very judiciously) special inspirational messages that we find or receive from others. You may be on one or more of these egroup lists and thus receive multiple copies of an email posting. Often, when I receive something from one of our groups that I think OMT would value, I pass it along to you. I almost always pass along requests for prayers or acknowledgements for answered prayers to you.

on 4 September 1910 he became a novice in the *Conventual Franciscan Order* at age 16. He took the name Maximilian, made his first vows on 5 September 1911, his final vows on 1 November 1914.

Studied philosophy at the Jesuit Gregorian College in Rome from 1912 to 1915, and theology at the Franciscan Collegio Serafico in Rome from 1915 to 1919. On 16 October 1917, while still in seminary, he and six friends founded the *Immaculata Movement (Militia Immaculatae, Crusade of Mary Immaculate)* devoted to the conversion of sinners, opposition to freemasonry (which was extremely anti-Catholic at the time), spread of the Miraculous Medal (which they wore as their habit), and devotion to Our Lady and the path to Christ.

Arrested with several of his brothers on 19 September 1939 following the Nazi invasion of Poland. On 28 May 1941 he was transferred to Auschwitz and branded as prisoner 16670. At one point he was beaten, lashed, and left for dead. The prisoners managed to smuggle him into the camp hospital where he spent his recovery time hearing confessions. When he returned to the camp, Maximilian ministered to other prisoners, including conducting Mass and delivering communion using smuggled bread and wine.

The Order of Mary the Theotokos is a ministry of the Ecumenical Catholic Church+USA. Professed membership is open to all men and women of faith, married or single, regardless of their denominational affiliation.

"Magnificat" Prayer Book

The "Magnificat" is more than a prayer book. It is a source of inspiration and learning. It is also the link that ties all OMT members together. At approximately the same time of day, each member prays morning prayers, evening prayers, and night prayers and so joins with all other members in a spiritual community of love and devotion to Our Lord Jesus Christ through Mary, his mother and our mother. Even though our members are geographically separated we are happily united in our prayer life three times a day offering the same prayers together across time and space.

St. Maximilian Mary Kolb

Raymond was known as a mischievous child, sometimes considered wild, and a trial to his parents. However, in 1906 at Pabianice, at age twelve and around the time of his first Communion, he received a vision of the Virgin Mary that changed his life. "I asked the Mother of God what was to become of me. Then she came to me holding two crowns, one white, the other red. She asked if I was willing to accept either of these crowns. The white one meant that I should persevere in purity, and the red that I should become a martyr. I said that I would accept them both." -*Saint Maximilian*

He entered the Franciscan junior seminary in Lwow, Poland in 1907 where he excelled in mathematics and physics. For a while he wanted to abandon the priesthood for the military, but eventually relented to the call to religious life, and

In July 1941 there was an escape from the camp. Camp protocol, designed to make the prisoners guard each other, required that ten men be slaughtered in retribution for each escaped prisoner. Francis Gajowniczek, a married man with young children was chosen to die for the escape. Maximilian volunteered to take his place, and died as he had always wished - in service.

Read more about Saint Maximilian Kolbe at www.catholic-forum.com/saints/saintm01.htm