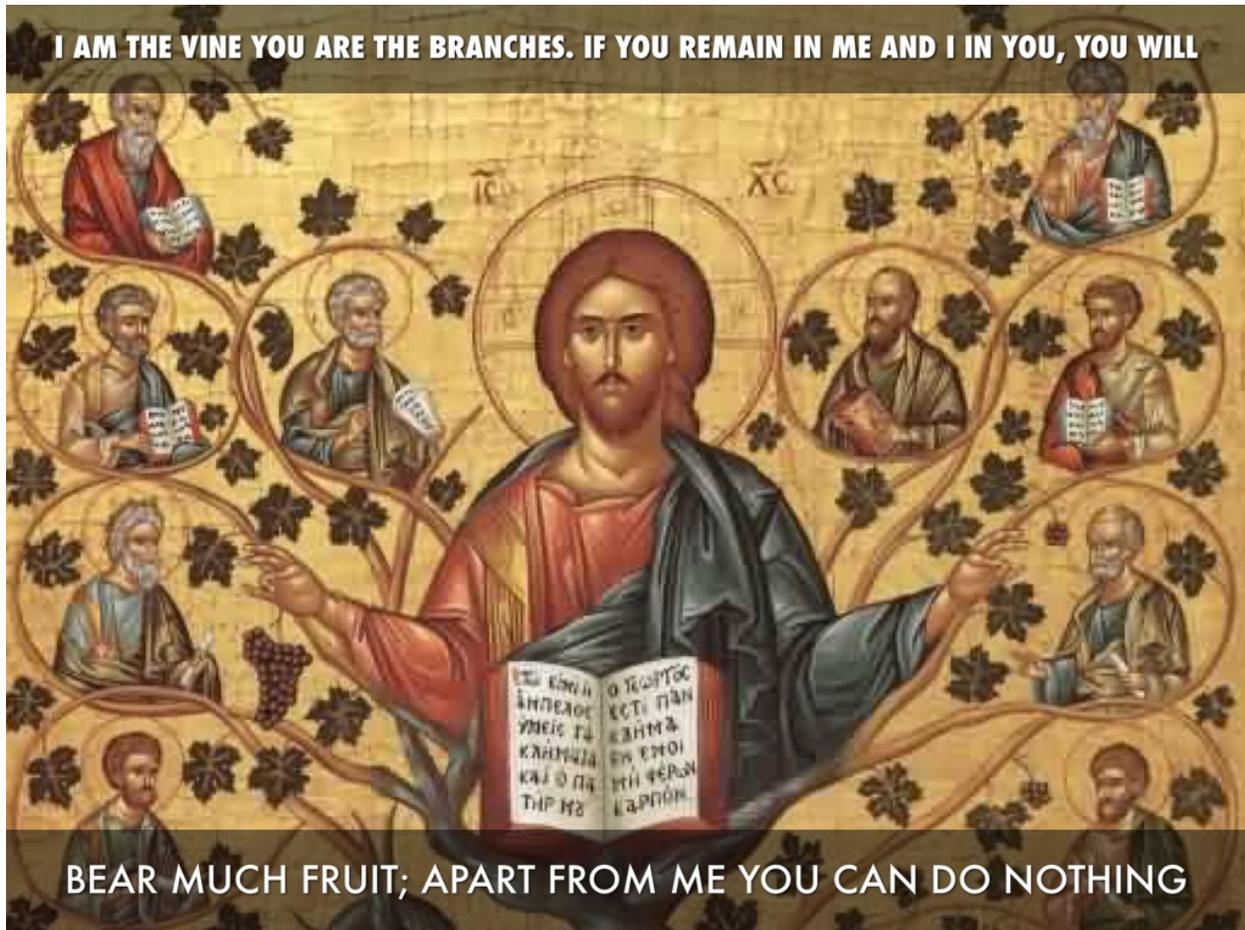


75th Anniversary of the Martyrdom of St. Maximilian Kolbe

Week 13. November 6-13

The Martyrdom of Self Reliance



Americans in particular and people in general prefer to be self reliant. Because Being self reliant is an important part of being independent. Many people therefore spend their lives gathering money, power, influence, education and other things for them to rely upon when they need it.

Jesus however said the opposite. "Apart from Him we can do nothing." Jn. 15:5
Christians are never independent nor self reliant. Everything is grace and "every good gift comes from the Father of Lights. James 1:17

St. Maximilian understood and lived a life of total reliance upon God and the Immaculata. The only treasure he had was the Faith in his heart as he journeyed forth to start a new mission in Japan.

When questioned what he would do, his answer was, "The Blessed Mother has her plan ready."

One month to the day he arrived, without a yen in his pocket, friendless, and not knowing a word of Japanese and he had 2,000 copies of the Immaculata magazine in Japanese on the street.

Another time when in Poland when inflation was rampant and money was nearly impossible to come by, he went to press anyway for the latest issue of the Immaculata magazine without the money to pay the bill!

He prayed to the Blessed Mother for help, and at the foot of Her statue he found a sack with a note pinned on it that said, "for my dear Mary Immaculate." In was money - the exact amount necessary for the printing bill!

St. Maximilian never allowed his lack of resources to stop him from promoting the Gospel and Consecration to the Immaculata. Because the Virgin Mary had all the resources he needed. All he needed was Faith!

Prayer : O Blessed Virgin, when the Angel appeared to you at Nazareth, your only response was "Yes! Fiat!" May we never be concerned about how or what or when, but only with saying "Yes!" to whatever the Lord asks of us through you.

Meditations and Questions

1. How do I rely on God and the Virgin Mary?
2. How do I fail to rely on God and the Virgin Mary?
3. How willing am I to step out in Faith without calculating the cost?
4. Am I anxious about tomorrow?
5. Do I live by Faith or my own personal resources?