

75th Anniversary of the
Martyrdom of St. Maximilian
Kolbe

Week 3. August 28-Sept -4

The Story of the Two Crowns.

This is an actual picture of the altar of Our Lady before whom Maximilian knelt and received the vision of the the Two Crowns.

Next to his martyrdom in Auschwitz, the story of The Two Crowns is perhaps the most famous in the life of Maximilian. Dr. Claude Foster, in his book *Mary's Knight* relates the story most accurately.

After a scolding that his mother had given him, she said, (Mundek, is a diminutive of Raymond)

O Mundek, Mundek," she sobbed, "whatever will become of you?"



Mundek was greatly upset at his mother's distress. He loved his mother so deeply that the thought of having driven her to tears anguished him. He ran from the house, his cheeks burning and his heart breaking. He betook himself to that place which he knew would offer him the most tranquil refuge, the Virgin Mary altar in the parish church. "O Holy Mamusia," he prayed, "I'm a bad boy. I cause my mamusia to cry. Whatever will become of me? Please make me a good boy, a more obedient son." Later, he would relate to his mother that while he was kneeling before the altar, he had a vision of the Virgin.

[Note: there are two altars dedicated to the Virgin Mary in the Pabianice parish church, one to Our Lady, Counselor of the Afflicted, and one to Our Lady of Victory. It probably was before the altar of Our Lady of Victory that the youth Mundek knelt].

After this vision there was a dramatic change in Mundek's personality.

Noticing the change in Mundek, his mother encouraged him to tell her what happened.

Mundek placed his head on Maryanna's lap, and while she gently stroked his head, Mundek related to her the vision which he had had in the parish church.

Maryanna later related what was told to her by her son:

Mamusia, the Virgin Mary appeared to me. In one hand, the Virgin held a white crown, and in the other hand she held a red crown. "Rajmund," the Virgin asked, "would you like to have these crowns, the white crown of purity and the red crown of martyrdom?"

I answered, "Yes Holy Mother, I would like to have them." The Virgin smiled and disappeared.

"I believe that if I seek to serve Our Blessed Lady," he said, "she'll give me the crowns."

Maryanna realized that somehow her young son already knew something about holiness and martyrdom.

It is important to note that Mary did not say "which crown would you choose? Rather Mary offered him BOTH crowns and he accepted them.

His mother was the first to realize that martyrdom was being offered offered to Maximilian. At first Maximilian thought the martyrdom was going to be for the independence of his beloved Poland. Only later did Maximilian realize that is was to be for his Beloved Immaculata for the glory of Her Son.

Prayer : O Blessed Lady, in the spirit of St. Maximilian, I accept whatever crowns you offer me today and everyday. I only ask that you give me the Faith, Hope, Love and Courage that you gave St. Maximilian, so that I may wear them well, for the glory and honor of your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Meditations and Questions

1. What were the crowns that Mary offered to Maximilian?
2. What crowns do Mary offer to me?
3. How well do I accept and wear these crowns?