

75th Anniversary of the Martyrdom of St. Maximilian Kolbe

Week 34



Ashes to Ashes.....

Years ago Maximilian said, "I would like to be ground to dust for the Immaculate Virgin and have this dust be blown away by the wind all over the world."
Maximilian received his wish.

On August 15, the day after Maximilian died, his body was carried to the crematorium. Along with the other prisoners who died with him, Maximilian's body was cremated and the ashes were spread across the farmlands and into the nearby ponds as were the ashes of millions of other prisoners.

Every Ash Wednesday we are reminded that we are dust, and unto dust we shall return. For most people this is simply a yearly ritual, but for Maximilian and millions of others in Auschwitz it was a reality.

Long before Maximilian's body was consumed by the fire of the crematorium, his heart and soul was consumed by the fire of God's love.

This is why Maximilian was so eager to step out of line and go into the starvation bunker and eventually have his body cremated.

His heart and soul had already been consumed by the fire of God's Love.

All that was left was to offer his body.

If like St. Maximilian we allow our hearts and souls to be consumed by the love of God, then when our bodies become ashes and dust, we will not care for our souls will soar!

Prayer : May the power of Your Love O Lord, fiery and sweet as honey, draw my heart away from all that is under heaven, so that I may die for love of Your Love, You Who were so good as to die for love of my love. (The Absorbeat of St. Francis of Assisi)

Questions and Meditations :

1. What desires consume my body?
2. What desires consume my soul?
3. Where will I be 100 years from now?