

Reflection

August 14, 2024,

Feast of Maximilian Kolbe, Martyr 2nd World War, Franciscan

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Wisdom 3:1-9

John 15:12-16

We celebrate today one of the named martyrs of World War II. a man who was willing to lay down his life for another man. Maximillian Kolbe a man who in his lifetime created much fruit. A man who had the vision to see that the peoples of the east had much to teach us so he studied Shintoism and Buddhism and worked to translate the message of the Gospel the call of Jesus to the Japanese people. A man who used every recent technology available at the time to communicate the Gospel message to the people of Japan creating a Marian garden in Nagasaki that survived the atom bomb. In Poland he created a community surrounding the monastery that sheltered thousands of refugees a number of them Jews. Max was one of those who found God wherever he was and made manifest the gospel of love and freedom to all. giving his life so that another might live was the culmination of a lifetime of bearing fruit.

At this time, when last week we prayed together for peace for the end of nuclear war and armaments we are presented with this 20th century example of what one person can do to influence many. In this week of ordinary time, we are confronted with the reading from Sunday when we heard about Elijah sleeping under the Broom tree waiting to die, pleading with God to let him die because he had enough, let us not be found under the broom tree waiting to die saying "God I've had enough." but let us hear the words addressed to us in the first reading today. Those who trust in God will understand the truth because we are living in a world where truth has become relative and we live by the words of promise that our faithfulness will allow us to live in love in grace and mercy because we have been chosen like Elijah not to die under the Broom tree but to keep walking nourishing each other and those we meet along the way.

Chosen to love one another commissioned to bear fruit to do what we can,
where we can, to bring the gospel to those who do not understand the word to
create peace where there is only struggle and chaos not to ignore what **is**, but
to see what **is** and bring love to join with forces and energy for change and
bring peace to our time, to bear fruit

To say with Teilhard a contemporary of Maximilian

“Lord of my childhood and Lord of my last days

God, complete in Yourself

Yet, for us, continually being born.

God, you offer yourself to our worship as evolver and evolving,

The only being that can satisfy us.

Sweep away at last the clouds that still hide You,

The clouds of hostile prejudice and false creeds.”

And we join with others across the globe in singing.

Women’s Peace Prayer

If every woman in the world had her mind
set on freedom.

If every woman in the world dreamt a
sweet dream of peace

If every woman of every nation,
young and old each generation

Held her hands out in the name of love,
there would be no more war.
If every sister in the world sang a
deep song of freedom
If every sister in the world sang a sweet
dream of peace
If every sister of every nation, sang together.
for all creation
Bridging borders in the name of love
There would be no more war.

If all our sons and all our daughters stood
together in freedom
With sons and daughters of every nation
a global chorus for peace
If all our sons and all our daughters reached
in friendship across the waters
Refusing to be enemies
There would be no more war.

words and music by Karen MacKay sung by Carolyn McDade's Great Lakes Singers