

**Homily – Wed. 19th Week in O.T., Mem. Of St. Maximilian Kolbe
Mass with Pastoral Ministry Center Employees – August 14, 2024**

Dear collaborators in the ministry to shepherd the Lord’s flock in the Archdiocese of San Antonio; today, the Church honors the memory of Saint Maximilian Kolbe, a man of deep faith and heroic charity. His life serves as a powerful reminder of what it means to be a true witness of Christ.

The prophet Ezekiel speaks to us today about those “marked on the forehead,” those who remain faithful to God despite the challenges around them. These words remind us of St. Maximilian Kolbe, who, in the face of unimaginable suffering, remained a beacon of God’s love. His devotion to the Immaculate Conception, and his ultimate sacrifice at Auschwitz, demonstrate a life lived for others, embodying the Gospel’s call to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.

In our workplace, we are called to reflect this same spirit. Whether we are in Administration, Pastoral Ministries, Catholic Schools, Development, or in support roles, each of us has been given unique gifts by God. We are invited to offer these gifts generously to one another, creating a community where faith is refreshed and strengthened. Our tasks, however mundane they may seem, are opportunities to serve Christ and one another. As St. Maximilian used modern means to evangelize, we, too, can use our skills and talents to further the mission of the Church.

As we welcome new employees into our Pastoral Ministry Center family, we are reminded that our work here is not just a job, but a ministry – a sacred opportunity to make Jesus present

to others through our actions and words. As Pope Francis has pointed out: *“Work makes the human person similar to God.”*

As we gather for Mass today, let us remember that we are in the presence of the Lord. Jesus promised, “where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” This is a profound encounter with the living God, who is here to inspire, guide, and transform us.

In the spirit of St. Maximilian Kolbe, let us approach our work and our interactions with a heart full of love and a spirit of service. Let us be mindful that, through our dedication and kindness, we make Jesus present to those around us. May we always seek to uplift one another, offering fraternal correction with love and humility, as Christ teaches us.

As we move forward together, let us pray for the grace to live our faith authentically in our shared mission. May Our Lady of Guadalupe help us – like she helped St. Maximilian – to be true witnesses of the Lord’s mercy in our community and the world.