



# Book of Saints

**“SUPERHEROES OF GOD”**

By **REV. LAWRENCE G. LOVASIK, S.V.D.**

**Divine Word Missionary**

## PART 6

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NIHIL OBSTAT: Daniel V. Flynn, J.C.D., *Censor Librorum*

IMPRIMATUR: ✠ Joseph T. O’Keefe, D.D.,

*Vicar General, Archdiocese of New York*

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# Saint Maximilian Kolbe

August 14

**M**AXIMILIAN was born on January 7, 1894, in Poland and became a Franciscan. He had tuberculosis and, though he got well, remained frail all his life.

He founded a Movement dedicated to Mary Immaculate and spread it through a magazine called “The Knight of the Immaculate.” It helped to form a community of 800 Franciscan men who dedicated themselves to the service of Our Lady.

Maximilian went to Japan and India spreading the Movement. Because of ill health he returned home in 1939. After the Nazi invasion of Poland, he was imprisoned and released for a time. But he was arrested again in 1941 and sent to the concentration camp at Auschwitz.

On July 31, 1941, for one prisoner’s escape, ten men were chosen to die. One was a young husband and father. Father Kolbe offered himself in his place. He died after two weeks of starvation. He was canonized by Pope John Paul II in 1982.

# Saint Francis of Assisi

October 4

**K**NOWN as the Seraphic Saint, Francis was born at Assisi, Italy, in 1182. In his youth he loved pleasure and fine clothes, but he renounced his wealth and lived in poverty because he heard our Lord calling him to leave the world and follow Him.

Francis put on the clothes of a poor shepherd and began to preach to the people about peace with God, peace with one's neighbor, and peace with one's self. He looked on all people and things as his brothers and sisters because they were all created by the same God.

Francis took twelve young men to Rome with him, and the Pope gave him permission to start a new religious order, the Franciscans. He also helped St. Clare to start the order known as the Poor Clares.

Francis had a vision in which he saw Jesus hanging on the Cross. The marks of the five wounds of Jesus were left in his hands, his side, and his feet. Francis died on October 4, 1226.

