

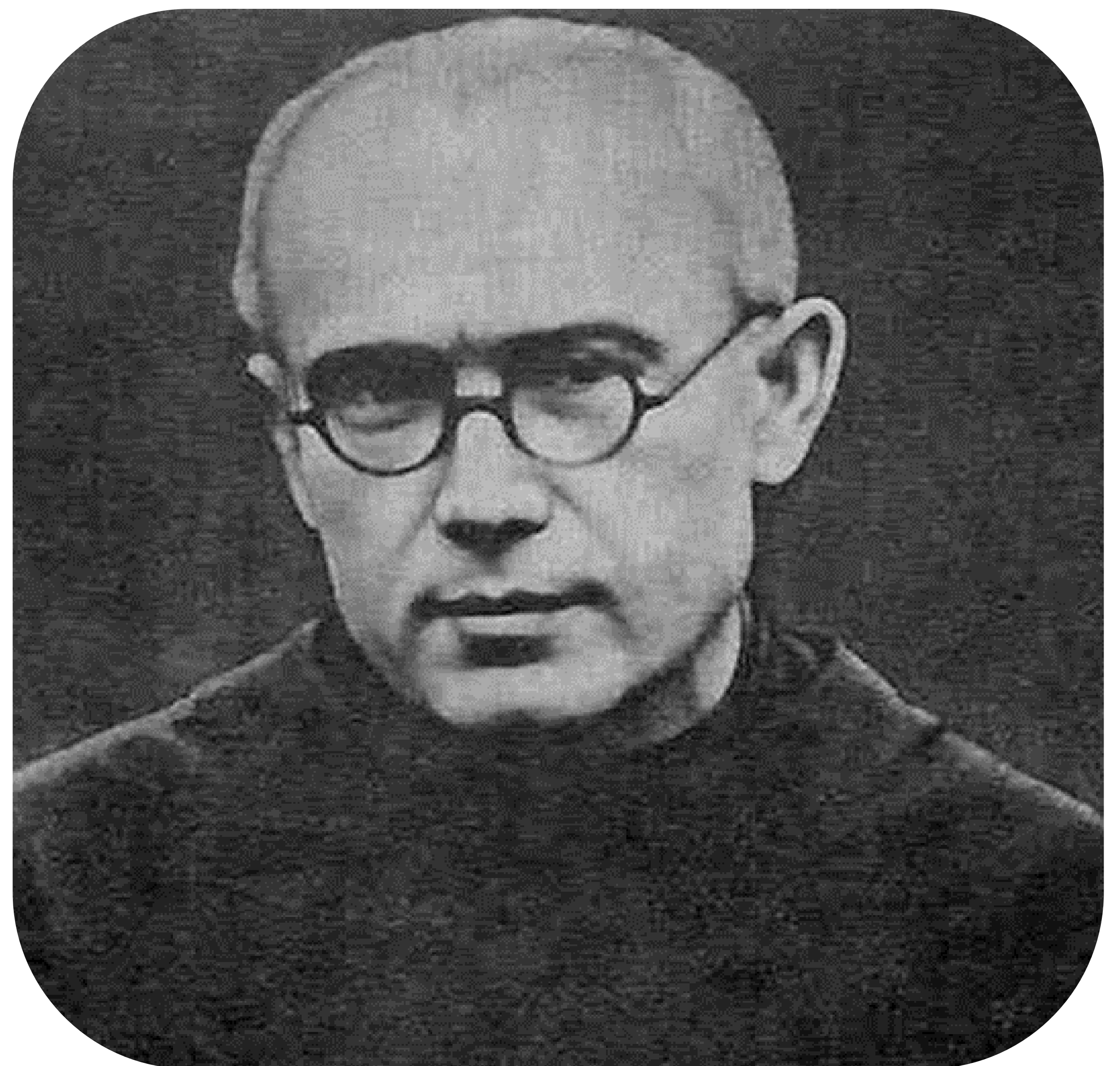
St Maximilian Kolbe

**Born: 8 January 1894,
Poland**

Died: 14 August 1941, Poland

Beatified: 17 October 1971

Feast: 14 August



Maximilian Maria Kolbe, a Polish Conventual Franciscan friar, volunteered to die in place of a stranger in the German death camp of Auschwitz, located in German-occupied Poland during World War II.

He had been active in promoting the veneration of the Immaculate Virgin Mary, founding and supervising the monastery of Niepokalanów near Warsaw, operating an amateur radio station and founding or running several other organisations

On 10 October 1982, Pope John Paul II canonized Kolbe and declared him a martyr of charity. The Catholic Church venerates him as the patron saint of amateur-radio operators, of drug addicts, of political prisoners, of families, of journalists, of prisoners, and of the pro-life movement. John Paul II declared him "The Patron Saint of Our Difficult Century"

Due to Kolbe's efforts to promote consecration and entrustment to Mary, he is known as the *Apostle of Consecration to Mary*.