

Formula for Holiness: $W + w = S$

Since our baptism all of us have been **called to holiness!** One of our greatest desires, indeed, is to become saints and be with God in Heaven forever and ever! I am not shy to ask people, "Do you want to go to Heaven?" A few days ago I had been invited to come and pray with a family who had lost a young son. I used that opportunity to talk about the Christian mystery of suffering, and the importance of accepting the crosses of our daily lives. I also talked about the great reward of being with God in Heaven. Our souls never die and our hope is that once our bodies pass away, our souls will be welcomed by God. When I asked the question, "*Who wants to go to Heaven?*", all hands (about a dozen people) went up quickly, with one exception: a young child, maybe 12 years old. He kept his two hands on his knees. I then entered into a brief conversation with him. He appeared to be unaware of what I spoke of. I simply told him that we will fully understand Heaven once we are there! From Jesus' own discourses we believe that Heaven is a place where there are no more sufferings, no more pain, no more tears, no more fighting or strife. We believe it is a place where everyone is filled with joy, showing love to everyone. Then, I asked again, "*Do you want to go to Heaven?*" After a few seconds of silence, the young child smiled ...and I took this as a positive answer...

The key question we all face is, *what am I to do to enter Heaven?* St. Maximilian Kolbe, one of the greatest saints of the 20th century, (gave his life at Auschwitz to save the life of a married man who didn't want to die) gives us a formula for holiness:

$$W + w = S$$

W is God's Will, **w** is my will, and **S** is Sainthood or Sanctity: God's Will combined with our will brings us Sanctity. If I align my will with God's Will, I will be a saint; i.e **someone in union with God.**

I love mathematics and I find St. Maximilian's equation attractive. I rarely use "props" in my homilies, but chose to show that equation in the middle of my homily last Sunday. I put this prop under the ambo and first showed it upside down by mistake. To my surprise, this is what I saw through the transparency of the paper:

$$S = m + M$$

I immediately thought about Mary but didn't mention it in my homily, keeping to my original script. After Mass, I went back to Day 12 of 33 Days to Morning Glory where St. Maximilian asks the question, "*Who are you, O Holy Saints of God?*" and answers with this above formula for Sanctity. Then, he goes on, pointing out that "*Mary is the only created person who perfectly does God's Will...so when we are united with her, we can more easily do God's Will ...and as the image was revealed to St. Catherine Laboure of the Miraculous Medal, Mary distributes all the graces if we ask.*" This interpretation is central to the Consecration to Jesus through Mary, which many of us are currently doing and will be completing on Sunday, October 7, when we celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. Additionally, our parish is scheduled to welcome the International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima, and Bishop Dorsonville (see details on next page).

To sum up, Jesus is the Way to Heaven - to follow Him we need to align our will with **His Will** (Jesus is both God and man). An easy and effective way to do so is to be united with Mary, who perfectly does God's Will, and ask her (in Union with her Spouse, the Holy Spirit), to pour upon us all the graces we need. I am sure that by now you may feel all confused. But it is not that complicated: Mary together with her Spouse the Holy Spirit, leads us to Jesus, and Jesus, the Son of God, leads us into Heaven! We know that we cannot do it alone. We need God's graces poured into our hearts by Mary and the Holy Spirit living in Mary.

Come Holy Spirit, living in Mary.
Unite my will to the will of your spouse Mary, which is one with your will.
Come Holy Spirit. Help me to be Holy!

**One in Christ,
Fr. Alain**