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## **No Greater Love than this... (John 15.13)**

A story is told of how Maximilian Kolbe, a Polish Franciscan friar, volunteered to die in place of a stranger in the German death camp Auschwitz in 1941. After a prisoner escaped from the camp one day, the deputy camp commander picked 10 men to be starved to death in an underground bunker as a way to deter any further escapes. When one of the selected men, Franciszek Gajowniczek, cried out, "My wife! My children!", Kolbe volunteered to take his place.

This is a story of great sacrifice and we may class it as heroism. The story of Maximilian Kolbe is, however, not unique, as time after time, men and women stand in the gap for man: a display of selfless love for fellow humankind. This reminds us of the greatest act of selfless, redeeming love of all time... Jesus' death on the cross on Calvary. Once for All, Christ willingly took on the cross of shame to die so that all who would believe in him may have eternal life.

God's love is not only declared once a year on days like St. Valentine's, but is given freely every day through the many gifts of grace given to all people, believers and non-believers alike, with the promise being there for all who would in time turn to God in faith.

Not all of us may be called to volunteer our lives for another as Maximilian Kolbe did, but we still have the duty to offer of our time and resources unselfishly for the gain of others who cry out for help.

As we journey through this costly period of self-denial in Lent, I pray that what we give up or take up as a sign of our discipleship may serve to bring us closer to God. As we remember the death of Christ for our sake and the sake of the world, may we allow our bad tendencies to die with him; and finally, as we rejoice and celebrate the resurrection on Easter Day, may we rise to new life with Him, to live Christ-inspired lives of service and love to our fellow human beings.

"See! The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world".  
Blessings always,

Mmasape