



Jesus Lives On

Begin

Discuss with your child some ways that you discovered, or continue to discover, your own purpose. Read aloud the unit title on page 177. Ask your child to tell how he or she might discover a purpose and mission as Jesus' disciple. Discuss opportunities and challenges involved with living our missions. **Ask:** *Who or what inspires your mission? Why can it be difficult to live as a disciple in our world?* Explain that in this unit your child will explore finding Jesus and learning his or her purpose and mission as a disciple.

Introduce the Saint

Ask your child to read aloud the paragraph about Saint Maximilian Mary Kolbe on page 177.

Ask: *What did young Raymond Kolbe ponder when he prayed to the Virgin Mary? ("What is going to become of me?") What vision did he have? (Mary was carrying two crowns: one white [purity] and one red [martyrdom].) Say:* *Because he accepted both crowns, how do you think Maximilian Mary Kolbe lived out the example of Jesus Christ?*

Invite your child to read aloud How the Saint Relates. Begin a discussion of missions that make a difference in the world. **Ask:** *What are some real-life examples of people whose mission made a difference in the world?* (Answers will vary.)

Turn to page 178. Have your child read aloud the title Devoted to Mary and the introductory paragraphs. **Ask:** *What does it mean to be devoted to someone? (setting aside personal interests on behalf of someone else) How did Maximilian win over enemies of the Church? (through a religious movement that he organized called Militia Immaculata)*

Read aloud the section Missionary Travels. **Ask:** *Why did Maximilian want to do missionary work? (He wanted others to know the happiness that comes from experiencing the presence of God.) How did Maximilian spread Jesus' teachings as a missionary? (He founded a monastery in Japan.)*

Read aloud the section A Soldier for Christ. Point out Maximilian Mary Kolbe's act of courage in hiding 2,000 Jews, explaining that fear probably prevented more people from taking risks as he did to help the Jews, risks that could have resulted in their own arrest or death. **Ask:** *In what ways did he live Christ's example at Auschwitz? (He offered himself to save another.)*

Pray aloud "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." [John 15:13] **Say:** *Maximilian stood up for what he believed as part of his mission to follow Jesus Christ.*

Together add Saint Maximilian Mary Kolbe's feast day, August 14, to your calendar. Discuss his life with your child. **Ask:** *What surprised you? What impressed you? What inspired you?*