

SAINT MAXIMILIAN, MARTYR A CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR FOR CHRIST'S SAKE

PROCONSUL DION: What is your name?

MAXIMILIAN: What for? I cannot be a soldier. I am a Christian.

THE PROCONSUL: Measure him.

MAXIMILIAN: Do it. But I cannot serve. I cannot commit evil. I am a Christian.

THE PROCONSUL: Let him be marked.

MAXIMILIAN: Never. I cannot be a soldier.

THE PROCONSUL: You must either be a soldier or die.

MAXIMILIAN: I will not be a soldier. Cut off my head, if you will. I cannot be a soldier for the world. I am a soldier for my God.

THE PROCONSUL: Who put these ideas into your head?

MAXIMILIAN: My conscience, and He Who chose me.

THE PROCONSUL: Be a soldier, and receive the mark.

MAXIMILIAN: No. I already wear the mark of Christ my God.

THE PROCONSUL: I shall immediately send you to your Christ.

MAXIMILIAN: This is my desire. Do it quickly. It will be my glory.

THE PROCONSUL: Put the mark on him.

MAXIMILIAN: I will not have the mark of the world. If you put it on me, I shall break it. It has no value. I am a Christian. I am not allowed to wear on my neck the leaden mark. I already wear the sign of salvation of Christ, of the Son of the living God. You do not know Him. He, Christ, suffered for our salvation, and God delivered Him unto death for our sins. It is Him Whom we, all of us Christians, serve and follow. He is the prince of life, the Saviour.

THE PROCONSUL: Be a soldier. Receive the mark, rather than die miserably.

MAXIMILIAN: I do not die. My name is already near God. I refuse to serve.

THE PROCONSUL: Think of your youth. Be a soldier. Soldiering is fitting to your age.

MAXIMILIAN: My militia is God's militia. I cannot fight for this world. I do not cease to repeat it: I am a Christian.

THE PROCONSUL: Among the guards of our lords, Diocletian and Maximian, Constantius and Galerius, there are Christian soldiers.

MAXIMILIAN: It is their own business. But I, I am a Christian. I do not serve.

THE PROCONSUL: But what evil are soldiers doing?

MAXIMILIAN: You know it.

THE PROCONSUL: Be willing to serve, or I shall punish with death your contempt of military service.

MAXIMILIAN: I shall not die. If I leave this world, my soul will live with Christ my Lord.

THE PROCONSUL: Through your impiety, you have refused to serve. You shall undergo the punishment. This will be an example to others. The sentence is: Maximilian has, out of impiety, refused the military oath; he shall be beheaded.

MAXIMILIAN: Praise to God!

—From the Acts of Saint Maximilian, martyr, 'A Conscientious Objector for Christ's Sake,' text 20 in *Love of Christ*, ed. Lev Gillet (London: A. R. Mowbray, 1961), 17–19.

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