

# The Little Flower

By

Father Leonard Feeney, M.I.C.M.



Knowing that it would burn she courted fire;  
And who shall wish to chide her heart's desire?

For when the little altar-rose was sweet  
And withering beside the candle heat,  
And when she saw a beautiful, white moth -  
Its wings drop flaming to the altar-cloth:

Long did she ponder would it not be right  
To brave the pain if she but reach the light  
And be Love's fuel as a moth, a rose,  
And fall where all earth's bitter beauty goes.

For beauty runneth out as quick as sun,  
Quick as a nun lights candles, one by one  
For Vespers; swift as swallow-shadows pass  
Or field mice trickle through the flowing grass.

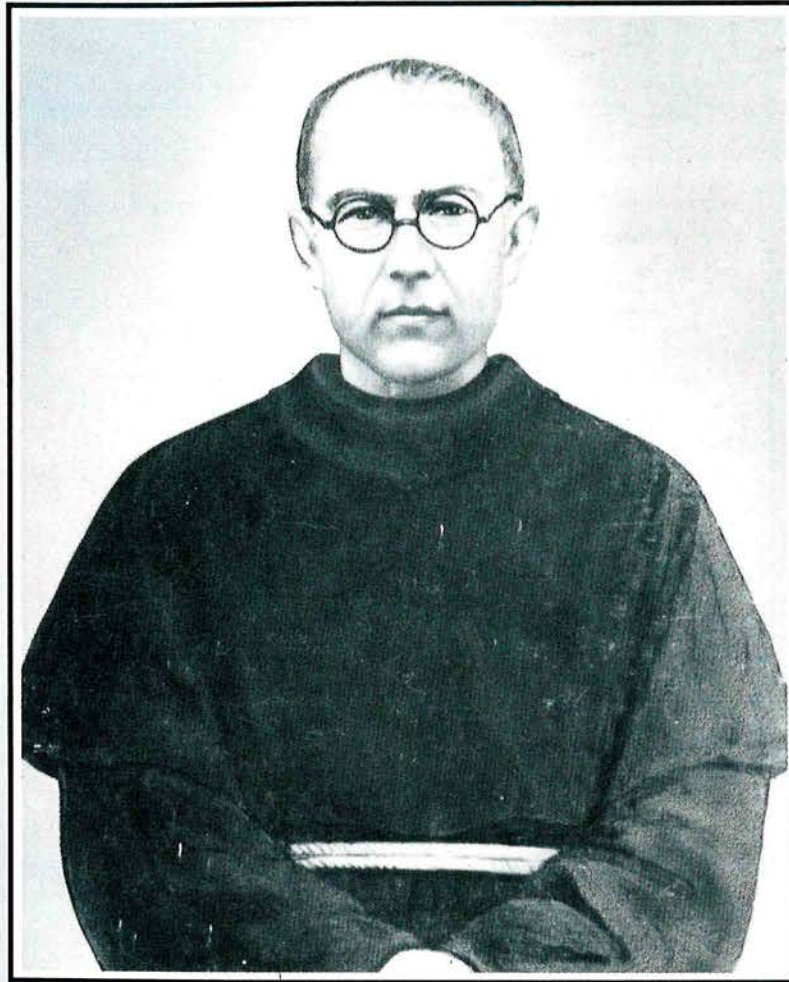
Alas for all the violet petals shed  
And all last Summer's lilies that are dead! -  
For hollyhocks, laburnum, marigold  
And whatsoever names the flowers hold!

She heard the bells above the convent chime.  
She dreamt of that eternal seeding-time  
When starry soil and loam of azure field  
Would be her substance and her colors yield.

And so the flame became her heart's desire;  
Knowing that it would burn she courted fire -  
She who had seen upon the altar-cloth  
The rose's dust, the ashes of a moth!

# The Dangers of Scientism

by Brother Francis, M.I.C.M.



Saint Maximilian Kolbe (1894-1941):  
the scientist-Saint with interests  
in rocketry and space travel.

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*Scientism is not the same as science,  
but is rather an abuse of the scientific method  
and of scientific authority.*

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**If** a man were to say to me, "I refuse to use my eyesight except through a microscope," I might think that the man is queer or crazy, and I would certainly try to avoid his company. Imagine taking a walk with a man who keeps one eye closed, and the other, permanently fixed to a microscope! Such a man is worse than blind, for a blind man who cannot see the stars, talks about them, and eagerly seeks to learn; but the man tied to the microscope neither sees nor seeks. The blind man knows that he is blind and acts accordingly, but the man with the microscope thinks that he is the only one who sees, and if you dare to mention the sky before him, he says, "But where is the sky!", meaning, of course, that the sky could not exist unless it could be placed in his range of vision.

Now if you take this clumsy and most unlikely illustration and translate it from the order of sense to the order of intelligence, you get one of the most common intellectual types today, the type of a mind that will not apply its intelligence except through the scientific method. This type of mind is apt to undermine common sense, on the ground that future scientific discovery might disprove any certainty. It discredits philosophy, because the objects of philosophy (God, the spiritual soul, cause, substance, etc.) cannot be weighed or measured, can neither be reduced to a mathematical formula, nor observed in a test tube. And finally, this type of mind discards all revelation, on the ground that religion is not a channel of knowledge and that its value is purely emotional and unintellectual. This is the attitude of mind that is gradually being recognized as a cultural danger by educators and social thinkers, and is coming to be called "scientism". Scientism is not the same as science, but is rather an abuse of the scientific method and of scientific authority.

Here are some instances to illustrate what I mean by the term "scientism": Physicists are now being consulted, not only on the development of atomic energy, but also on the morality of dropping atomic bombs. Professional experts must now tell us, not only whether children may be exposed safely to gamma rays, but even, whether children may be exposed to sun light. Experts must