

Saint Maria Goretti

Prayer

O Saint Maria Goretti, who, strengthened by God's grace, did not hesitate, even at the age of twelve, to shed your blood and sacrifice life to defend your virginal purity, deign to look graciously on the unhappy human race, which has strayed far from the path of eternal salvation.

Teach us all, and especially modern youth, with what courage and haste we should flee anything that could offend Jesus and defile our souls with sin. Obtain for us from God great horror of sin so that, keeping our souls undefiled, we may live holy lives on earth and win eternal glory in heaven. Amen.



St. Maria Goretti was born to a poor peasant family on 16 October 1890 in Corinaldo, a town near Ancona, Italy. Maria was the third of seven children of Luigi and Assunta Goretti.

When she was seven years old, the Goretti family moved to Ferriere di Conca, a village near Anzio, where they shared a home with Giovanni Serenelli and his son Alessandro. Maria was nine years old when her father died of malaria. While her mother worked the farm Maria took care of her siblings and also cooked for the Serenellis.

Maria was known for her unusual serious-mindedness and piety. Every night she would recite the Holy Rosary for the repose of her father's soul. As Ferriere had no parish church, nor a priest, Maria would walk for kilometers for the privilege of hearing Mass.

At the time it was not customary to receive First Holy Communion before the age of twelve, but Maria, extremely devout and religious, pleaded with her mother to let her take instructions when Maria was not quite eleven years of age. Every day, Maria walked to the village of Mazzoleni, where she received catechetical instructions. During this time Maria intensified her piety, obedience to her mother and love for her siblings. She was busy preparing her soul to receive Jesus. On Thursday, 29 May 1902, the feast of Corpus Christi, she received her Lord for the first time. Maria would receive the Body of Christ only 4 more times before she died.

Being a beautiful child, Maria attracted the attention of 20-year-old Alessandro. It was 5 July 1902 when Alessandro tried to force his attention on her. He was furious over her refusal to commit an act of impurity and when Maria resisted him with all her strength, crying out repeatedly, "It is a sin. God forbids it," he drew a knife and stabbed her fourteen times.

At about 6 o'clock in the evening her weakened body was put on a stretcher and put in a horse-drawn ambulance which took her to the hospital at Nettuno. Doctors worked feverishly to save her life. No anesthetic was administered because the attendants feared peritonitis. Despite the intense pain, she uttered not a sound, till she finally lost consciousness. In the morning of 6 July 1902, Maria received Holy Communion for the last time, and openly forgave Alessandro, her murderer. Then Maria died.

Alessandro was captured soon after Maria's death. Originally, he was going to be sentenced to death, but since he was a minor at that time the sentence was commuted to 30 years in prison. He remained unrepentant and incommunicative to the world. In his 8th year of imprisonment he had a vision of Maria. He saw a garden, where a young girl dressed in white was gathering lilies. She smiled, came near him and invited him to accept an armful of lilies. As he accepted them, each lily was transformed into a still white flame. Maria then disappeared.

A local bishop, Monsignor Giovanni Blandini, visited Alessandro in jail. He wrote a thank you note to the Bishop, asking for his prayers and telling him about his dream. Alessandro's conversion was complete. When he was released from prison after serving 27 years, his first act was to travel to Maria's mother, Assunta, to beg her forgiveness. She forgave him, saying that if Maria had forgiven him on her deathbed then she could not do less, and they attended Mass together the next day, receiving Holy Communion side by side. Alessandro reportedly prayed every day to Maria Goretti, referring to her as "my little saint."

Alessandro later became a Capuchin lay brother, living in a convent and working as its receptionist and gardener, until dying peacefully in 1970.

On 27 April 1947, His Holiness, Pope Pius XII beatified Maria, and on 24 June 1950, the same Pope solemnly canonized her and proclaimed Saint Maria Goretti the new patroness of Catholic Youth. This ceremony was attended by 250,000 faithful, including her mother (the first mother to see her child canonized) and her brothers and sisters. St. Maria Goretti has also been a principal patron of the World Youth Day celebrations, begun by Saint Pope John Paul II, and held around the world.

Parish Week ❖ Sunday, 10 July 2022

**Saturday, 9 July / St. Augustine Zhao Rong, priest,
& Companions, martyrs**

- 8.00 am Mass: † Elsie Lobo (Carol Morra)
- 11.30 am Wedding: Rylan Callaghan & Monica Penollar
- 5.00 pm Mass: † Lydia Marquez (family)

SUNDAY, 10 JULY / 15-C

■ *Homilist: Fr. Elias Chachati*

- 9.00 am Mass: † Therese Bernaldoendaya (Raphael)
- 10.30 am Mass: † Matty D'Souza (family)
- 12.00 pm Mass: † Neil McDaniel (Gillis family)
- 1.30 pm Baptism
- 7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

Monday 11 July / St. Benedict, abbot

- 8.00 am Mass: † Luigi DeCicco (Emma)
- 7.00 pm Mass: Int. Alwina Fernando (friends)

Tuesday, 12 July

- 8.00 am Mass: † Dionisio Sr. Alcantara (Janet Aguirre)

Wednesday, 13 July / St. Henry

- 8.00 am Mass: † Mr. & Mrs. Charles Rosario
(Christine Martin)

Thursday, 14 July

- 8.00 am Mass: Int. Camila Maulion (Corine)

Friday, 15 July / St. Bonaventure, bishop & doctor

- 8.00 am Mass: Int. Scotley Johnson Jr. (Theresa Johnson)

Saturday, 16 July / Our Lady of Mount Carmel

- 8.00 am Mass: † Charles D'Silva (Lydia & family)
- 1.00 pm Wedding: Abe Sena & Jan Wage
- 5.00 pm Mass: † Lalita D'Souza (Joseph)

SUNDAY, 17 JULY / 16-C

■ *Homilist: Fr. Edwin Galea*

■ *Parish Bazaar*

- 9.00 am Mass: † Eleanor Alex Aexandris (friends & family)
- 10.30 am Mass: † Ernesto, Lydia & Justino Rodas (family)
- 12.00 pm Mass: † Lina Vaccaro (Di Michele family)
- 7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

A Special Gift FOOD

Our Parish thanks **Jocelyn and Rene Antigua** for their kind donation of healthy MARKET PRODUCE for distribution at our Liturgies. Your gift is appreciated.



Parish Bazaar 9 am – 2 pm, 17 July

The Catholic Women's League and the St. Vincent de Paul Society are organizing a Parish Bazaar on Sunday, 17 July, beginning after the 9.00 am Mass and continuing to 2.00 pm. **Krispy Kreme** donuts will be on sale: \$10 a dozen. The proceeds will support *ShareLife* and the work of the *CWL*.

Would **you** like to rent a table? For \$20, you can display your culinary skills, exhibit your artworks, and clean out your closets!
Call: **Lillian**, 647-909-6425, or: **Anastasia**, 647 882 1849

Focus on the Word

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Deuteronomy 30.10-14; Colossians 1.15-20; Luke 10.25-37

O God, who show the light of your truth to those who go astray, so that they may return to the right path, give all who are accounted Christians the grace to reject whatever is contrary to the name of Christ and to strive after all that does it honour. Amen.

RCIA Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

5 August **The path to Holiness: Growing in Faith**
(Mass at 7 pm, Meeting at 7.30 pm)

"I want to become a Catholic."

Thinking of becoming Catholic? Leave a message for the Pastor at: 416-261-0076, and come to the next meeting for Inquirers.

The RCIA meets Friday evenings at 7.30 pm; the parallel RCIC process for the Youth meets Saturday mornings.

The next meetings:

RCIA Adults: 5 August, 2 Sept. - 7.30 pm

RCIC Youth: 6 August, 3 Sept. - 10.00 am

ShareLife 2022

Living the Gospel by helping
our neighbours in need

Please make a sacrificial gift to *ShareLife*.

Our Parish goal for 2022 is: \$42,000.00

A Freewill offering will be taken on: **10 July**.

Please donate, and help us reach our goal! Your generosity will help bring compassion and hope to others



10 July: **ShareLife** Appeal, Freewill Offering

On 10 July, the 2nd collection will be the *Freewill* Offering for our annual *ShareLife Appeal*, supporting 33 Catholic agencies and 10 grant recipients that respect the sanctity of all human life.

COMING UP

7015o22

- 17 July Parish Bazaar, Yard Sale, Bake Sale
& *Krispy Kreme* Fundraiser (proceeds to *CWL* & *ShareLife*)
- 31 July 2nd Collection: *Maintenance*
- 1 Aug. Infant Baptism Parent/Godparent Meeting (7:40 pm)
- 6 Aug. Wedding: Lyon Lobo & Reynie Chauhan (3:00 pm)
- 7 Aug. Infant Baptism (1:30 pm)
- 14 Aug. 2nd Collection: *Canadian Missions*
- 27 Aug. Wedding: Grisani & Fernandes
- 28 Aug. 2nd Collection: *Maintenance*

Website stmariagoretti.archtoronto.org

For more information on Parish activities, including the *Bazaar* on 17 July, check pages 3 and following in the website bulletin.

ShareLife 2022

Your help brings hope to All

Rejected by family, but not alone

How Camila lost her home before finding her path

Camila was attending programs at ROSE OF SHARON when she suddenly found herself at risk of homelessness. Counsellors worked with her to complete housing applications. Then, she learned she was pregnant with her second child.

Counsellors provided ongoing support as she considered how to move forward. Despite all of the upheaval in her life, she attended almost every program available to her that year, actively engaging, asking questions, and doing everything within her power to build a better life.

She began to set boundaries and change the way she was communicating with her partner. At the end of the year, she walked out a much stronger woman, with a much clearer sense of who she is, what kind of life she wants for herself and her daughters (now two of them), and how to advocate for herself in order to reach those goals.

She wouldn't be deterred

How Eva and her baby overcame the lockdown



Eighteen-year-old Eva wasn't sure how she could raise a baby while going to school. It seemed like too much, until she got connected with Rose of Sharon Services for Young Mothers. She worked with a counsellor, participated in parenting classes, and began high school programming tailored to her specific needs, while entrusting her daughter to the childminding staff. She found success at school, which had always been a struggle due to a learning disability.

An overwhelming setback

Then Covid-19 hit and she once again felt overwhelmed. But, with the support of her counsellor and teacher, Eva persevered and graduated in June 2020. Since the students at Rose of Sharon could no longer celebrate together, staff organized a mobile graduation. Eva received her Ontario Secondary School diploma during a brief socially-distanced ceremony, as she was applauded by the people who have loved, supported and encouraged her along the way.

Would he answer the call?

How Alex fought COVID-19 and paralyzing anxiety



Alex is a 34 year-old who struggles with anxiety, which has limited his career opportunities and overall enjoyment of life. In an attempt to cope with his paralyzing bouts of fear, he bravely attended a walk-in counselling clinic at Catholic Family Services of Simcoe County (CFSSC). The appointment went well and Alex booked a series of follow-up sessions.

Meanwhile, the pandemic had escalated to the point that CFSSC needed to close for face-to-face services. Alex's counsellor called him to schedule a telephone session, but could not reach him. Weeks went by without word from him, despite several more calls.

No longer alone in his struggle

At last, Alex finally answered the phone. He shared that he had contracted Covid-19 and had experienced a severe reaction. His anxiety had also worsened due to the pandemic.

Thanks to the counsellor's consistent support, Alex developed the trust needed to overcome several hurdles in his mental health journey. Alex no longer feels alone in his struggle as he learns new tools and techniques to manage his anxiety.

When life takes a dark turn

How Damien got his life back on track through a journey of recovery

Damien had a serious drinking problem, causing him to lose several jobs. His life took a dark turn. He became depressed and spent three weeks surviving on alcohol and cigarettes. Fortunately, Damien's family and friends sent police on him to do a wellness check. Soon after, he entered St. Michael's Homes Treatment Program, where he was diagnosed with Major Depressive Disorder and Substance Use Disorder.

The road to recovery

Because of your generosity to *ShareLife*, he was able to attend a psychotherapy program to help him with his situation. It is through kind and generous people like you that many others, like Damien, receive the help they need to guide them towards change, recovery, and a chance to turn their lives around. Thank you for your constant support and generosity to *ShareLife*.



In 1976, Archbishop Philip Pocock (*photo above*) founded the SHARELIFE campaign in the Toronto Archdiocese to support the work of Catholic agencies that serve the greater community.

Remember our SHARELIFE Agencies at this critical time

Community / Family Services

Catholic Community Services of York Region, Catholic Cross-cultural Services, Catholic Family Services of Durham, Catholic Family Services Peel-Dufferin, Catholic Family Services of Simcoe Country, Catholic Family Services of Toronto, *FertilityCare* Toronto, Natural Family Planning Association

People with Special Needs

Mary Centre, *Our Place* Community of Hope, Saint Elizabeth Health Care, St. Bernadette's Family Resources Centre, St. Michael's Homes / Matt Talbot Houses, *Silent Voice* Canada (*ministry to the deaf*)

Children and Youth

Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto, Catholic Settlement House Day Nursery, *Covenant House*,

Sancta Maria House / **Young Parents:**

Rosalie Hall, Rose of Durham, Rose of Sharon,

Vita Centre / **Seniors:**

Les Centres d'Accueil Heritage, Loyola Arrupe Centre, Providence Healthcare, Society of Sharing

Affiliated Organizations

Camp Ozanam (*Society of St. Vincent de Paul*),

Good Shepherd Ministries, Birthright International

ShareLife 2022 Living the Gospel!

Our *ShareLife* Freewill Appeal is on 12 July
*Today, we reflect on Living the Gospel by
Revering Life at All Stages:
From Conception to Natural Death.*

REVERENCE FOR LIFE has been a core principle of *ShareLife* since our founding in 1976. We recognize the sacredness of life from conception to natural death. We are also committed to Catholic Social Teaching that upholds the dignity of poor and marginalized people, affirming that everyone is created in the image of God. Our agencies apply these values in everything they do.

Thanks to all for your support of our parish 2021-22 *ShareLife*. This is a real blessing, a tribute to the generosity of every donor, at a time of great need.

Please make a sacrificial gift to *ShareLife* through our parish campaign.

The *Share Life* Freewill Appeal is this Sunday, 10 July. Please donate, and help us reach our goal!

Your generosity will help bring compassion and hope to others.

If you have not yet had a chance to participate in our parish Appeal, there is still time to help us reach our goal!

There are still late donations coming in; this year's Campaign officially closes at the end of July.



RCIC candidates after their 2 July 2022 meeting.



CWL members Corine and Lillian bring the St. Maria Goretti Pilgrimage collage to the Sanctuary, 3 July 2022.



Friends join **Fr. Malcolm Candappa** in the Sanctuary after the 5.00 pm Mass. 2 July.



Knights of Columbus (Francis, Charles, Cezar, Melvin and Mario) bring the statue of our Patroness to the Sanctuary, 3 July.



Recent 1st Communicants
at the Altar, 3 July 2022.



Monton and Solijon families at the Altar after
the Baptism orientation, 3 July 2022.



Lillian D'Souza with members of the Francis family, 2 July 2022.



Eleven of our student volunteers after a morning of helping around the Church, 9 July 2022.