

St. Maria Goretti



The Story of Alessandro Serenelli

“Maria’s forgiveness saved me.” – A. Serenelli

Alessandro Serenelli was born into a family well acquainted with poverty and hardship. Shortly after he was born, his own mother attempted to drown him. She died several months later, while in a mental asylum. His brother was also interned in an asylum, where he also died.

Alessandro’s father, Giovanni, was an alcoholic who struggled to provide for his children. He moved the family multiple times trying to earn a living as a manual laborer. Unfortunately, his alcoholism prevented his holding down a job for very long. It was while working as a sharecropper that he met Luigi Goretti, father of Maria Goretti. Since both families lived in poverty, they decided to partner together and attempt to work as a team for those hiring sharecroppers.

Both men eventually decided to move their families to a small town called Le Ferriere di Conca, near Nettuno, about 40 miles south of Rome. By this time, Giovanni Serenelli had only his son Alessandro living with him. They found work, and lived in a house with the Gorettis on one side and the Serenellis on the other, and a kitchen in the middle.

Within two years, when Alessandro was 18 years old, Maria’s father died of malaria. His own father was increasingly gripped by alcohol, and Alessandro became more and more reclusive and withdrawn.

Alessandro began to make lewd jokes and gestures towards Maria. These were followed by repeated attempts to seduce her. Maria wanted nothing to do with Alessandro and rejected one of his propositions. Knowing he was capable of violence, she was careful never to be alone with him. But Alessandro devised a plan to approach the house in the middle of the day, when Maria would be alone and everyone else would be at work.

When Maria found herself trapped in the house alone with Alessandro, she resisted him with all her strength. In fact, her resistance was so great that he was unable to rape her. In a fit of rage, Alessandro stabbed Maria 14 times with a file. Maria died 24 hours later.

Alessandro was sentenced to 30 years in prison. In prison he was locked in isolation as he was prone to physical violence against other inmates.

One night, six years into his prison sentence, Maria appeared to him. She appeared in a garden picking 14 white lilies, and handed them to him one by one. This gesture of forgiveness, this act of love, filled him with light and the Holy Spirit. He

was immediately contrite for what he had done. He finished the rest of his sentence in tranquility. In fact, his behavior became so docile, and the transformation of his person was so dramatic, that he was released three years early. After his release he sought the forgiveness of Maria’s mother. He joined the Capuchin Franciscans and, as a lay brother, worked as a gardener, porter, and general laborer. He died in the peace of Christ, with the love and admiration of those that knew him, at the Capuchin convent at Macerata, Italy, on 6 May 1970.

Following his death, the Capuchin friars with whom he lived found a sealed envelope among his personal effects. It was his spiritual testament, written in the form of an open letter to the world. It contains an appeal that all follow the way of Christ. It also paints a dramatic and touching picture of a man who was able to regain his dignity through the generous mercy that those he wounded extended to him:

I am now almost 80 years old. I am close to the end of my days. Looking back at my past, I recognize that in my early youth I followed a false road—an evil path that led to my ruin. Through the content of printed magazines, immoral shows, and bad examples in the media, I saw the majority of the young people of my day following evil without even thinking twice. Unworried, I did the same thing.

There were faithful and practicing Christian believers around me, but I ignored them. I was blinded by a brute impulse that pushed me down the wrong way of living.

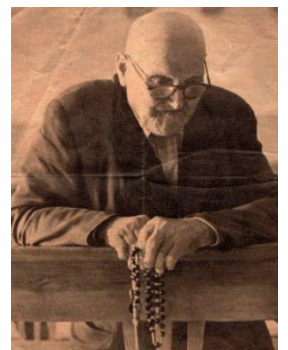
At the age of 20, I committed a crime of passion, the memory of which still horrifies me today. Maria Goretti, now a saint, was my good angel whom God placed in my path to save me. Her words both of rebuke and forgiveness are still imprinted in my heart. She prayed for me, interceding for her killer. Thirty years in prison followed.

Resigned, I atoned for my sin. Little Maria was truly my light, my protector. With her help, I served those 27 years in prison well. When society accepted me back as a member, I tried to live honestly. With angelic charity, the sons of St. Francis, the minor Capuchins of the Marches, welcomed me among them not as a servant, but as a brother. I have lived with them for 24 years. Now I look serenely to the time in which I will be admitted to the vision of God, to embrace my dear ones once again, and to be close to my guardian angel, Maria Goretti, and her dear mother, Assunta.

May all who read this letter of mine desire to avoid evil and follow the good. May all believe with the faith of little children that religion with its precepts is necessary for life. It is true comfort, and the only sure way in all of life’s circumstances, even in the most painful.

Peace and all good.

Alessandro Serenelli
Macerata, Italy, 5 May 1961



Focus on the Word

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C
Genesis 18.1-10; Colossians 1.24-28; Luke 10.38-42

Show favour to your servants, Lord, and mercifully increase the gifts of your grace, that, made fervent in hope, faith and charity, they may be ever watchful in keeping your commands. Amen.

RCIA Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

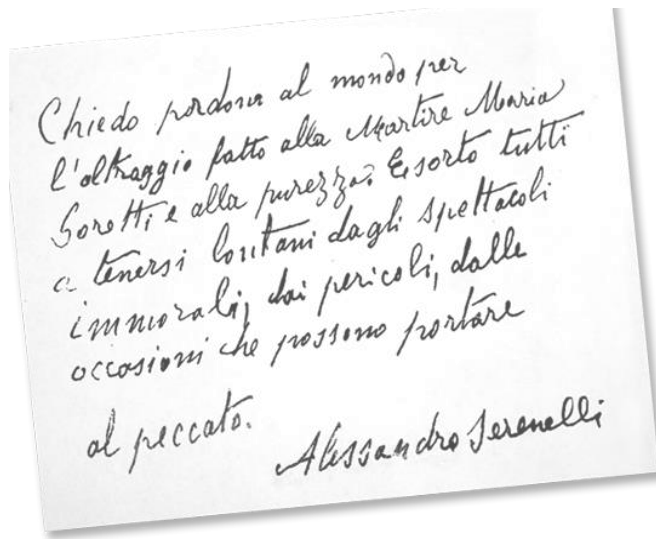
5 August **The path to Holiness: Growing in Faith**
(Mass at 7 pm, Meeting at 7.30 pm)

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



Parish Week ❖ Sunday, 17 July 2022

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: 9am – 2pm

- 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

Monday 18 July

- 8.00 am Mass: Int. Andrew Valy (daughter)
- 7.00 pm Mass: † Hans & Rose Kwa (Angela Tam)

Tuesday, 19 July

- 8.00 am Mass: † Aurelio Ayuson (Juanita)

Wednesday, 20 July / St. Apolonaris, bishop & martyr

- 8.00 am Mass: † Cesaria Zacarias (Juanita Ayuson)
- 9.00 am Rosary Apostolate training (N. Classroom)

Thursday, 21 July / St. Lawrence of Brindisi, priest

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

Friday, 22 July / St. Mary Magdalene

- 8.00 am Mass: † Henry Carta (Sunshine)

Saturday, 23 July / St. Bridget, religious

- 8.00 am Mass: † Audrey Hussey (Alice Larkin)
- 5.00 pm Mass: Int. Tessie Mendonca (friends)

SUNDAY, 24 JULY / 17-C

- Homilist: Fr. Edwin Galea

- 9.00 am Mass: † Angelica & Dominic Fernandes (Joseph)
- 10.30 am Mass: † Mervyn & Delicia Rajpakse (Samanthi)
- 12.00 pm Mass: † Theresa Forrestall (Regina Reardon)
- 7.00 pm Mass: Pro Populo

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

This year's ShareLife campaign ends on: **31 July**.

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



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**. (*Rain date: 24 July)

A Special Visitor FR. MALCOLM CANDAPPA

Our Parish gratefully thanks **Fr. Malcolm Candappa** for his recent visit to his relatives in our Parish, and for concelebrating the 5.00 pm Mass on 2 July. God bless you and your service to the Church, in University Administration in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

COMING UP

7016022

31 July	2 nd Collection: <i>Maintenance</i>
1 Aug.	Infant Baptism Parent/Godparent Meeting (7:40 pm)
6 Aug.	Wedding: Lyon Lobo & Rajnie Chauhan (1:00 pm)
7 Aug.	Infant Baptism (1:30 pm)
14 Aug.	2 nd Collection: <i>Canadian Missions</i>
27 Aug.	Wedding: Grisani & Fernandes

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

Answering God's call

How you helped Fr. Kevin Adriano heed God's call and fulfill his vocation to Priesthood

[Photo: **Fr. Kevin Adriano**. After years of study at St. Augustine's Seminary, Fr. Kevin was ordained to the priesthood on November 5, 2021.]



After years of study at St. Augustine Seminary on Kingston Road, near Brimley, **Father Kevin Adriano** was ordained to the Priesthood on 5 November 2021. But the road to Priesthood was not always easy.

His journey to ordination began in 2010, when he entered the seminary immediately after completing high school. Although the formation process at St. Augustine was challenging, Fr. Kevin Adriano shared that it led him into a deeper relationship with the Lord and helped him become the priest God called him to be.

It takes a village

Whenever he would be in a challenging situation, he overcame it by remembering all of your prayers and sacrifices for him. This helped him put things into perspective.

On the day he was ordained he recalls being overwhelmed with gratitude for the support you gave him. "I realized as I was standing there, now as a priest, that I am standing here because of the prayers and support of others," Fr. Kevin Adriano recalls. "I am filled with gratitude for your generosity."

Living the Gospel by providing for those in need

Give a helping hand to those who need it most, right here at home. By donating to Sharelife, you help support over 40 agencies to serve the most vulnerable people in our community – regardless of their faith, age, or background.

2,785

People with special needs and their caregivers were supported

21,750

People helped through counselling and mental health programs

10,000

Seniors' lives were improved through social activities, health services and grocery support

The Papal Visit Healing and Reconciliation: An Historic Journey

Pope Francis will make a pastoral visit to Canada from July 24 to 29, 2022. The Pope's visit will provide a unique opportunity for him, once again, to listen and dialogue with Indigenous Peoples, to express his heartfelt closeness and to address the impact of colonization and the participation of the Catholic Church in the operation of residential schools throughout Canada. The papal visit will also provide an opportunity for the shepherd of the world's 1.2 billion Catholics to connect with the Catholic community in Canada.

The Catholic Church has a responsibility to take genuine and meaningful steps to journey with Indigenous Peoples of this land on the lengthy path to healing and reconciliation. This site will provide information on the historic journey of Pope Francis to Canada, a significant step on the road to truth, understanding and healing. We invite you to join us as we reflect, pray and prepare to welcome the Holy Father for these special days among us.



The Pope is coming to Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples

A few months back when the Indigenous delegation from Canada went to Rome, Father Susai Jesu went along to support and accompany them. He brought with him a letter of invitation inviting the Holy Father to come to Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples parish, which is an indigenous parish that has significance in the Canadian church as the National indigenous parish, especially in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, B.C., and the North.

Sacred Heart invited Pope Francis, hoping that their parish could serve as a highly symbolic venue for his pilgrimage of healing and reconciliation.

Elder Fernie Marty, who has served the parish Indigenous community for over twenty years, and Father Mark Blom, OMI, are excited and also aware that this visit has a profound role in reconciliation, not just locally, but for the entire province and country.

Parishioner Patricia Golosky gratefully hopes for forgiveness, healing and a new beginning.

They believe that the pope seeing the potential for healing that the example set by their parish represents can benefit all people across Canada, with the example of Jesus serving and dwelling among us.

Combining Christian faith harmoniously with elements of indigenous tradition, such as the architecture detail of a teepee at the altar, the Church is being rebuilt after a tragic fire, to be ready for the Holy Father's arrival.

In the meantime, Sunday Masses continue at the neighbouring school, as well as space generously provided for other days' Masses at St. Clare parish and at Santa Maria Goretti Italian parish, both also in central-north Edmonton.



World's Ukrainian bishops gather in Poland near Polish border

Prevented by war from meeting in Kyiv, 40 Ukrainian Catholic bishops from around the world met in Poland, less than 10 miles from the border with their homeland, in early July.

The meeting of the Synod of Bishops of the Eastern-rite Church had been delayed two years because of the Covid-19 pandemic, but the war in their homeland, the need for ministry to their people and the pastoral and psychological care of Ukrainians forced from their homes made the synod July 7-15 even more essential.

“We, as the Church, have found ourselves on the front line of the information war. That is why it is essential for us to experience this synod, to feel the fraternal unity of our global Church, which unites all Ukrainians around the world in Ukraine and in the diaspora,” said Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk of Kyiv-Halych, head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, at the synod’s opening Divine Liturgy July 7 in the Ukrainian Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Przemysl.

The Ukrainian Catholic Church at home and abroad, he said, has become “a powerful voice” for sharing with the world “who Ukrainians are, what they fight for, what they live and die for.”

Archbishop Salvatore Pennacchio, Vatican nuncio to Poland, spoke before the Divine Liturgy, conveying the greetings of Pope Francis, who entrusted the bishops and their deliberations to the care of Blessed Mykola Charnetsky and the two dozen bishops, priests, nuns and laypeople beatified with him in 2001 as martyrs of Soviet persecution.

“In this very moment we better understand the circumstances in which these martyrs lived and died,” the nuncio said. Pope Francis is certain that “today, they protect their suffering people from heaven.”

Pope Francis urged the bishops to be close to their people, especially in the time of war, so they can give to them “the living water of hope.”

Hope and encouragement cannot be conveyed solely by words, he said. They must know that their pastors are with them, ready to listen and to help. While the Ukrainian bishops were meeting in Poland, Archbishop Paul R. Gallagher, the Vatican foreign minister, told an Italian news program that a serious study of a possible papal trip to Kyiv would begin after the pope returned from Canada July 30.

Asked if the trip could take place in August, the archbishop said, “Possibly, I wouldn’t rule it out. However, a lot depends on the results of the trip to Canada. Let’s see how the pope holds up during this trip, which is also very demanding, and then we’ll see.”

Msgr. Robert J. Vitillo, secretary-general of the International Catholic Migration Commission and convener of the Catholic Response for Ukraine Working Group, met with the Ukrainian bishops in Przemysl July 9, sharing information about the global Catholic response to the needs of Ukrainians displaced by the war and listening to the bishops concerns about the current and future needs of their people.

The ICMC is a Vatican-approved network of the migration and refugee services of national bishops’ conferences and Catholic charitable agencies. Since shortly after Russia invaded Ukraine in February, the commission and the working group have tried to coordinate efforts to serve both people who have fled Ukraine and those displaced within the country.

The working group includes Caritas Internationalis and its Ukrainian members, Jesuit Refugee Service, the Sovereign Order of Malta, DePaul International, the Knights of Columbus, Stella Maris, Council of Bishops’ Conferences of Europe and the Commission of the Bishops’ Conferences of the European Union.

Msgr. Vitillo reported that the bishops expressed “concerns about special protection of children and need to supply psycho-social experts to help integration, not assimilation, of refugees into host countries.

There is also the issue of, the psychological and medical impact of the war on soldiers, women, children and men, as well as on priests — including issues related to substance abuse — the need for refugees and internally displaced persons to have access to work and decent housing, and the need for rehabilitation and development programs after the war is over.”



Top: Aiden McCarthy was found under his mortally wounded father on 4 July 2022.

Irina McCarthy, 35, and her husband Kevin McCarthy, 37, were killed in the 4th of July shooting in Highland Park, Illinois

[Above:] Tragedy in Illinois, Highland Park mass shooting

[Right:] Work approaches its completion on Eglinton LRT



Repair & Renewal at St. Maria Goretti School

