



Picture 20.1 - St. Maria Goretti

### St. Maria Goretti

She was born on the 16th of October 1890. She lived with her parents in a small town, called, Corinaldo in Italy. Her parents were Luigi Goretti and Assunta Carlini. She was the third in a family of seven.

Though her family was poor, they lived happily and closer to God and Mother Mary. When she was six years old, they shifted to Paliano. After the death of the father, with mother she undertook the responsibilities of the family. With brothers and sisters, she

lived a life pleasing to God. One day when nobody was at home, Alessandro came and tried to persuade her to commit sin against the 6th commandment. She did not give in. Therefore, he stabbed her. Before her death, she told her mother: “Mother, I gave a promise on the day of my First Communion, i.e. I will not get destroyed my divine life even if I have to die. I have kept that promise.” Just like Lord Jesus forgave those who crucified her, St. Maria Goretti forgave Alessandro, the one who stabbed her.

When she died, she was 12 years old. She is a saint today. Her feast is celebrated on the 6th of July.

Just like St. Maria Goretti, we have to protect our character. We must pray that God may help us to protect our divine life and we may live faithfully to Him. Let us ask the mediation of St. Maria Goretti to live like her.

## St. Agnes

She had a deep faith in God and lived a chaste life from her childhood. On the day of her 12th birthday, she went to mass with her parents and received Communion. After the mass, she met the Bishop and told him that she would live as a virgin throughout her life and dedicate her life to Lord Jesus. On the same evening the son of the governor sent her a gift with the intention of marrying her. She rejected the gift saying that she has married to the Son of the Heavenly King, Lord Jesus. On hearing this, he got angry and ordered to arrest her. Soldiers put her in jail. She was forced to offer flowers and incense to statues of gods and goddesses. She continued to pray to God in firm faith without obeying the wicked. The son of the governor came and promised to deliver her from all persecutions, if she consented to marry him. She told him that she belonged to Lord Jesus Christ, her saviour. On hearing this, he got angry and ordered to kill her.



Picture 20.2 - St. Agnes

She was beheaded. She was faithful to Lord Jesus till her last moment. She was buried in the family tomb outside Rome. Today that tomb bears her name. The Church celebrates her feast on the 21st of January.

## St. Dominic Savio

He was born on the 02nd of April 1842 in the village of Riva, northern Italy. His parents were Charles and Bridget Savio. He spent his early life at home. He was blessed with God's graces.



Picture 20.3 - St. Dominic Savio

Dominic Savio requested to give him First Communion at the age of seven. This was not the practice in the Church of Italy at that time. Normally, children received their first holy communion at the age of twelve. Dominic's Parish Priest was so impressed with his intelligence concerning the faith, his love for the Lord and his piety that he made an exception. He said to Dominic Savio: "I will give you a beautiful gift on Easter Sunday. On that day I will give First Communion to you." It was a happy news to Dominic Savio. He informed this to his parents. From that time onwards, he received Communion regularly with devotion.

He gave the example in words and deeds to those in school to live good Christian lives. He fell ill desperately. Dominic was sent home to recover from his ill health. At home he spent a saintly life of prayer.

He died on the 09th of March 1857. When he was nearing his death he saw a wonderful vision and said: "Oh, what wonderful things I see"

Saint Dominic is the patron saint of choirboys, the falsely accused, and juvenile delinquents. His green scapular has helped many pregnant women to give birth to children without pain. The feast of St. Dominic Savio is celebrated on the 10th of March.

### Activity



1. Write an article to a newspaper on “Exemplary Lives.”
2. Write three things that you can do to live a saintly life.



### For Life

Let us dedicate our lives for the betterment of others.