

Prayer Before a Dance or Party

Dear Saint Maria Goretti!

The world teaches that we must please others in order to be popular. Conscience demands that I please God more than one who asks an evil thing in the name of false love. Teach me by your example to instill into others a real respect for purity. I entrust the purity and safety of my future spouse to your care and prayers.

Through your powerful intercession, help me to make of this evening an occasion for helping others to become spiritually stronger. Grant that others may see in me reason to change their ways, if that be necessary, and that I may have the courage to resist any temptation to sinful conduct. Let others be led closer to Jesus and Mary by my example. Oh Little Saint, who wanted to be popular only with your Divine Master and His Blessed Mother, help me to imitate you. Amen.

Prayer Before a Date

Dear Little Saint Maria Goretti!

Teach me that God must be my first love and that all other love is based on Him and Him alone. Obtain for me the grace to cease toying with the occasions of sin and to remember that my body and the bodies of all in grace are temples of the Holy Spirit, destined someday for a glorious resurrection. I entrust the purity and safety of my future spouse who I don't know yet but God does, to your care and prayers.

Through your beautiful example, teach me the value and dignity of Christian purity. Grant that I may never be the occasion of dragging others into hell, by suggestive words, the way I dress, or evil deeds of any kind. Through the merits of your Martyrdom, obtain for me the grace to turn aside from sin, no matter what the cost, so that one day I may enjoy Heaven with you and all the other saints. Amen

St. Maria Goretti, the Patroness of Youth: The girl who would rather die than commit sexual sin.

October 16, 1890

Maria Goretti is born in Corinaldo, Italy

July 5, 1902

Maria is stabbed 14 times by her 20-year-old neighbor, Alessandro Serenelli, because she refused to have sex with him while shouting "No! It is a sin! God does not want it!"

July 6, 1902

Maria dies at the age of 11 years, 9 months and 21 days. After 20 painful hours of suffering during which she forgave and prayed for Alessandro, Maria entered Heaven fortified with the Last Sacraments. Her last earthly gaze rested upon a picture of the Blessed Mother. After few years, Maria appeared to her murderer in his prison cell one day. She smiled at Alessandro and was surrounded by lilies, the flower symbolic of purity. After 30 years in prison Alessandro left and became a brother at a Franciscan monastery.

June 24, 1950

Maria Goretti is declared Saint in St. Peter's Square by Pope Pius XII, becoming the youngest officially recognized Catholic saint ever. Her mother, and her murderer, attended the canonization ceremony together. The Pope proposed her as the Patroness of modern youth and set July 6th as her feast Day. For more on Saint Maria Goretti check www.mariagoretti.org

