

St. Maria Goretti, Patroness of Abused Children

Survivors Prayer

Dear God,
we ask you to help us find healing and peace
in our life.

Grant us hope in these times of trial.

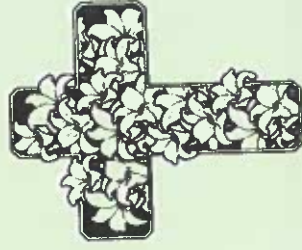
May Maria Goretti who was strengthened by
Your Grace join with us in prayer for healing
of all victims of abuse, particularly those
abused as children or young adults.

Fill us with your Love so that as Maria
prayed for her attacker, we too might have
the courage to pray for the true conversion of
our abusers: that they might seek Your Mercy
through prayer and penance.

Loving God, pour into our hearts and lives
your healing Spirit, that the sacredness of
every human person might be respected and
protected as the precious image of God. Help
us to live in the peace which Maria Goretti
had found in Christ and in the love of his
mother Mary.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our
Lord. Amen.

Maria Goretti Network: www.mgoretti.org



Prayer For Those Affected by Abuse

Dear God, we ask you to help all those who
suffer from abuse.

Help them find healing and peace in their life.

May Maria Goretti who was strengthened by
Your Grace join with us in prayer for healing
of all victims of abuse, particularly those
abused as children or young adults.

Grant us your Love that we might reach out to
them in Your Name with hope in times of
trial.

As Maria prayed for her attacker, grant us the
grace to pray for the true conversion of all
involved with the abuse: that they might seek
Your Mercy through prayer and penance.

Loving God, pour into our hearts and lives
your healing Spirit, that the sacredness of
every human person might be respected and
protected as the precious image of God.

Help us to live in the peace which Maria
Goretti had found in Christ and in the love of
his mother Mary.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our
Lord. Amen.

For More Information: www.mgoretti.org

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Meetings in Snowflake, AZ:

In person: Our Lady of the Snow Church
First Wednesday of each month at 6pm in the
Knights room located on the south side of the
building where the ramp is.

Online: Via Zoom (details on mgoretti.org)



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Maria Goretti Network

For those affected by abuse



All those affected by abuse need love and
support.

It doesn't matter if the abuse was physical,
sexual, emotional, spiritual or mental.

It does not matter who the abuser was,
whether it was a relative, a friend, a spouse, a
minister, a priest, a nun, a rabbi, a teacher, a
coach, or a stranger, we welcome you.

We are survivors and friends of survivors
who understand the need to experience the
healing power of Jesus Christ.

We are not after money. Money is irrelevant
when your soul has been destroyed.

We are not out for revenge. We have found
that the hate and anger towards those who
harmed us prevents us from a full recovery.
We leave vengeance to God.

**Our sole interest is in helping our
brothers and sisters experience healing
in God's Love.**

Moved by the love of Jesus, we in Maria Goretti Network, as members of the body of Christ, reach out to our brothers and sisters who have been abused to tell you there is help, there is hope, there is love. **The abuse you suffered was not your fault and you are not alone.**

Each person is created in the sacred image of God and deserves to be respected and protected. It is NEVER ok to abuse someone. It is NEVER the victims fault. Jesus Christ alone can bring victims to the point of healing. Maria Goretti Network connects survivors of abuse who seek to bring healing through the ministry of Jesus Christ.

Forgiveness never Excuses Abuse:

No one has the right to hurt other people. Forgiving an abuser does not excuse the abuse. Every perpetrator should receive justice from the civil law, take steps to ensure they never victimize again, and seek to make amends in an appropriate manner. Maria Goretti Network prays for perpetrators to turn themselves in to civil authorities, to seek competent professional help and to accept responsibility for their actions.

Importance of Reporting Abuse

MGN encourages society at large to help civil authorities bring perpetrators to justice and to support victims in the very difficult path to healing in their life. We encourage victims to come forward and tell someone what happened. Too many victims keep what happened to them inside, never telling anyone. This trauma that victims keep inside often leads to guilt, shame, low self-esteem, depression, sexual dysfunction, alcohol or drug abuse, an inability to form lasting relationships and sadly, in far too many cases, suicide.

Principles of the Maria Goretti Network:

1. MGN finds in Jesus Christ the source of true healing and forgiveness.
2. MGN recognizes that any form of abuse is evil.
3. MGN is a group committed to work for healing of individuals.
4. MGN encourages reporting all crimes of abuse to appropriate authorities
5. MGN seeks to network all people of good will that can help in the process of healing the scars of abuse.
6. MGN feels division and bitterness is a fruit of sin, which can only be healed through love, and so we work with love to promote collaboration and respect with others who work to help the healing process.
7. MGN believes in justice for abusers. Forgiveness does not excuse the abuse, but encourages the abusers to accept responsibility for their action and to change their life.
8. MGN is an apostolate of committed Christian men and women and is independently directed by its board, and is committed to fostering Christian life in harmony with the Catholic tradition.
9. MGN is non-political and committed to transparency and accountability.
10. MGN recognizes that the Church is established by Christ as His instrument for carrying the Good News to all people. This is a mission that belongs to all the People of God.

Who is Maria Goretti?

Maria was 12 years old when she was mortally wounded in a sexual assault by a 20 year old neighbor. Before she died she forgave her attacker, who was sent to prison. During his 28 years in jail, he repented of his hideous crime. Upon release he went to Maria's mother and sought her forgiveness, too. Maria died in 1902 and in 1950 was recognized as a heroic Christian by being proclaimed Saint Maria Goretti.

Some other heroic Christians who suffered abuse and responded with love:

Blessed Laura Vicuna was born in Argentina. She died following abuse at the age of 13 in Chile in 1904.

St. Josephine Bakhita was born in Darfur, Sudan, Africa. Sold into slavery as a child, she died a free woman in 1947

What does the MGN do?

Local Chapters

At the local level peer support is provided through regular meetings and through prayer. Survivors helping other survivors journey toward recovery.

Virtual Meetings

For those unable to attend in person, our website lists many meetings that provide the option of participating electronically.

Where can I get more information?

www.mgoretti.org

miguel@mgoretti.org (713) 851-3708

Donations are tax deductible