

PEOPLE OF SIGNIFICANCE

A STORY OF FORGIVENESS

Born in Italy in 1890 her father died when she was young and her family became quite poor. She would most likely have had to work hard to help her family but it is very clear that she had an extremely close relationship to God. One day, when she was around 12 years old, she was sat at the top of some stairs sewing a shirt when a man named Alessandro approached her and attempted to rape her.

She struggled and resisted his advances, however, Alessandro attacked her with a knife and ran off. Her purity had been preserved but she was dying. She was taken to hospital where she underwent surgery but later died. Before she died she forgave her murderer.

Alessandro was unrepentant and was sent to prison for 30 years. However, one night he had a powerful dream of Maria which changed his life. Once he was released from prison he went straight to Maria's mother for forgiveness and then three years later was present at her canonisation.

What's your significant story?

"No, God does not wish it."

PRAAYER

*Heavenly father,
you gave us a wonderful
example of forgiveness through
St Maria Goretti.*

*Grant us through her
intercession the strength to
not only forgive others but
to love them completely.
Give us hearts which are open
to others and a faith which
burns brightly for all to see.*

Amen



ST MARIA GORETTI