

*Please join in prayer September 26 – October 3, 2009*

**St. Maria Goretti,**  
Patroness of Abused Children



Maria Goretti is the patroness for abused children. She is a role model in her willingness to forgive her abuser. She found peace in the love of Jesus Christ.

Children who have been hurt by someone sometimes need help to feel safe again. Jesus can help them feel safe and loved. We can pray for them, and be nice to them.

## Child's Prayer for Those Hurt by Others

Loving Father,  
you love us  
and you give us life  
and ask us to love each other.  
The Saints remind us how to act.  
Please keep all your children safe.  
When a child is hurt by someone,  
help them find safety and hope.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus.  
Amen

Prayer approved by Most Rev. Alvaro Corrada, SJ

If you know of someone who is abused, tell your parents, or your teacher, or another trusted adult.

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**St. Maria Goretti,  
Patroness of Abused Children**



Maria Goretti is the patroness for abused children. She died as a result of her abuse. She is a role model in her willingness to forgive her abuser. She found peace in the love of Jesus Christ. Many victims of abuse have difficulty finding such peace. Particularly for those who were abused by people in the church or by close family members, it is often very hard to be open to the healing love of Jesus Christ. Victims need help in their journey toward healing. Besides the immediate victim, there are often parents or loved ones who suffer along with the victim.

The Maria Goretti Network offers peer support to victims and those who care about them. The East Texas Chapter meets 7 PM on the third Saturday of each month in St. Mary's Parish Hall.

[www.mgoretti.org](http://www.mgoretti.org) or contact Miguel [forallvictims@yahoo.com](mailto:forallvictims@yahoo.com) or 281-392-0222

If you know of someone suffering from abuse of neglect contact the Department of Family and Protective Services 1-800-252-5400

**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](http://www.mgoretti.org)

**Prayer for those suffering from 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.

Prayers approved by Most Rev. Alvaro Corrada, SJ