

Ill: brother of Ed. Noonan	University of Notre Dame	<u>Meeting tonite</u> 117 M. Bldg.
(Cav) mother of Tom Boemer	Religious Bulletin	at 6:45 for students interes-
(Cav.).	January 9, 1950	ted in Rome Pilgrimage.

### He Killed Maria Because.....

....she would not give in to his impure demands. But on June 11, 1950, Blessed Maria Goretti, Virgin and Martyr, will be canonized a saint.

Maria was born in a little village south of Rome, from poor but deeply Christian parents. When she was not yet twelve, an 18-year old neighbor, Alexander Serenelli, tried to seduce her. She refused.

On July 5, 1902, when she was alone in her small home, Alexander tried to force her to submit--this time he carried a dagger. Exasperated by her resistance, he plunged the dagger into her breast. Her last words were of forgiveness for her murder.

Alexander was sentenced to 30 years in prison where he repented. After serving his time, he entered the religious life, and, together with Maria's own mother, brother and two sisters, witnessed the process of his victim's beatification.

### What The Holy Father Said About Her.

After congratulating the mother for the "incomparable happiness of having seen her own daughter elevated to the glory of the altars," he added that Maria is the mature fruit of a Christian home with its old, simple method of education, "of a home where one prays, where the children are brought up in the fear of God, in obedience to their parents, in the love of truth and self-respect; accustomed to be satisfied with little and to give a helping hand....."

"How great is the error of those who consider virginity as an effect of ignorance and ingeniousness of little souls without passion, without ardour, without experience... ..How can he who has surrendered without struggle imagine what strength it requires to dominate, without a moment of weakness, the secret stirrings and urgings of the senses and the heart which adolescence awakens in our fallen nature? to resist, without a single compromise, the thousand little curiosities which impel one to see, to listen....to feel, and thus bring the lips to the intoxicating cup; and inhale the deadly perfume of the flower of evil?....."

"Our Beata (Maria) was a strong soul. She knew and understood. That is precisely why she preferred to die.....Though still young, she already gave signs of the intensity and depth of her love for the divine Redeemer....."

### "Woe To The World Because Of Scandals!"

In these words the Holy Father denounces modern immorality and calls upon Catholics to react boldly. "Woe to those who consciously and deliberately corrupt souls by the novel, newspaper, periodical, theater, film, immodest fashion!....Woe to those fathers and mothers who through lack of energy and prudence, give in to every caprice of their sons and daughters, and renounce that paternal and maternal authority which is like a reflection of the divine majesty! But woe also to so many Christians in name and appearance, who, if only they wanted, could rise against the evil and would be supported by legions of right-minded persons ready to fight....."

The Holy Father then explained that the chief reason why Maria has won the heart of Christendom is that she sealed with her own blood her love of Christ and her fidelity to the commandment of God. Blessed Maria Goretti is the modern St. Agnes.

Prayers: (deceased) grandmother of Tom Sullivan (Cav); mother of George Heimel (Mor); uncle of Joe Bellons (Ly); grandfather of Peter Paluglio (Far); friend of Father Cam-pion, C.P.; father of Bob Meyer (Al); Charles Griffin; father of James Carey (O-C); Frank P. Hayes; Grandfather of W. (Ly) and H. (O-C) Burke. Ill sister of P. Paluglio; Joe Gatz (Cor); appendectomies Vic Riley and Jim Flood (Far). Special Intentions--8.