SAINTS IN THE OLG ALTAR
ST. MARIA GORETTI
1890-1902

1. Maria Goretti, a young girl from _______________ Italy, was only ___ years old when she was martyred.
2. The farmhand, ________________ Alessandro, threatened to kill Maria if she did not give in to his advances, but Maria refused because she knew it would be a _____________ ______. _____________
3. Maria was stabbed ___ times and suffered for _____ hours without any anesthesia, during which she _____________ forgave Alessandro and said she wanted to him to one day be in _____________ Heaven with her.
4. Maria died while looking at a picture of ________________ St. Mary.
5. Alessandro was sent to 30 years in prison where he showed no signs of being sorry until a bishop came and visited him in jail. Alessandro told the bishop that Maria had appeared to him with lilies in a dream (some versions of the story say Maria gave him 14 lilies, symbolizing the number of stab wounds he inflicted on her).

6. After getting out of prison, Alessandro went to Maria’s mother and begged for forgiveness. Maria’s mother found it incredibly tough to forgive him, but knew she had to since Maria did. Maria’s mother and Alessandro went to Mass together the next day and received Holy Communion side-by-side.
7. Alessandro reportedly asked Maria to **pray** for him every day and referred to her as “my **little** saint”. Eventually Alessandro became a lay Capuchin Franciscan brother and lived in a monastery until his death, dedicating his life to prayer and simple work.

8. Both **Alessandro** and Maria’s **mother** were present in Rome when Maria was named a saint. This marked the first time a mother attended the canonization of her child.

9. Over **500,000** (1/2 a million!) people came to Maria’s canonization in 1950, most of them **young** people.
1. John Vianney wasn’t a super **smart** student, especially with regards to Latin. This caused him to be discouraged and stressed, so he went on a **60**-mile walk to the shrine of St. John Francis Regis to **pray** for help. After this John still struggled, but wasn’t **stressed** about it anymore.

2. During Vianney’s final seminary exams he broke down and struggled to answer all of the questions asked by his professors. Fr. Balley knew that Vianney understood all the **basics** of the faith and was very **holy**. He spoke up for Vianney and they agreed to let him become a **priest**.
3. Vianney was sent to Ars, France, where the people didn’t care about their faith: they drank too much, they worked all day on Sundays, never went to Mass, and used horrible language (kind of sounds like America today, huh?).

4. Vianney fasted and did penance for everyone in Ars (in other words, he practiced redemptive suffering for them!). Eventually people in Ars started to change.
5. So many people found out about Vianney’s holiness that they came from miles away and lined up down the block for Confession. Vianney would hear Confessions for up to 16 hours a day at times. Vianney had the gift of ___________ reading _____________ souls, meaning he could tell people their sins and help them make a better Confession.

6. Vianney fasted all the time. He reportedly only ate a piece of hard bread or one boiled ___________ potato per day as a form of fasting for his people.
7. For a number of years Vianney was tormented by the **devil** at night. Satan would make all kinds of sounds (yelling, knife-scraping noises, banging on the door, making fun of him, etc.) in order to keep Vianney awake at night. He did this, supposedly, so that Vianney wouldn’t get the rest he needed to continue to hear **Confessions** for so many hours and minister to so many people. Vianney noted that the torments were always the worst when he, in his words, “Was about to land a big fish” (meaning he was just about to get a big-time **sinner** to turn-around and start to become a big-time **saint**). In all of this torment Vianney stayed **joy**-filled and pretty much **laughed** at the devil’s attempts to scare him away from doing God’s work. In fact, Vianney joked about the devil, saying they, “We’re almost chums”.
8. It is said that the devil told Vianney, "If there were 3 such priests as you, my kingdom would be ________ruined______." What if _______ you _______ and _______ I _______ became saints like John Vianney?
1. Giuseppe Sarto became Pius X when he was elected pope in 1903.

2. Pius is well remembered for moving the age of 1st Communion from 12-14 to 7.

3. Pius’ most famous quote: “I was born poor, I lived poor, I will die poor.”
1. Not much is known for certain about St. Lucy, other than that she **rejected** the proposal of a man for the sake of remaining pure and was subsequently accused of being a **Christian** and then executed in Sicily.

2. Some accounts say Lucy was tortured and had her **eyes** gouged out before being executed. Other accounts say Lucy gouged her own **eyes** out so that a desiring man would not be attracted to her anymore.

3. Lucy is oftentimes pictured holding a plate with her own **eyes** sitting on it.
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