

HER CHILD CROWNED SAINT

As nearly half-a-million watch, Pope Pius the Twelfth proceeds to hold the first open air canonization in the history of St. Peter's. 48 years ago 11-year-old Maria Goretti was stabbed to death defending her virtue. Today her church gives her its supreme honour.

From his throne Pope Pius delivers his homily, speaking in Italian, instead of the customary Latin, so that all may understand. He tells of the life and martyrdom of Maria, presenting her as a model to the youth of today. And now comes the canonization of the little peasant girl who suffered when many others, older might have chosen life. Watching are her two brothers, one of them, Angelo, comes from America for today. At a window is her aged mother; somewhere, nearby, her sister, a nun. For the first time, the Church of Rome confers Sainthood in the presence of the mother and family of the one honoured. So shall a little child lead others.