
THE CHILDREN'S CORNER

"Let the children come to me, do not hinder them," (Mk 10:14)

A Season of Saints!

Gianna Beretta, the tenth of thirteen children, was born in 1922 to loving Catholic parents in Italy. As a young girl, Gianna truly loved Jesus! She had the grace to view her life as a beautiful gift from God. Due to the careful training in her religious studies by her parents and her eldest sister Amelia, Gianna was given special permission to make her First Holy Communion at the age of 5 1/2. Two years later she received the Sacrament of Confirmation. From then on, Gianna went to Mass and received Jesus in Holy Communion every day. She and her sister, Virginia, attended a school run by the Dorothean Sisters. Even though school work was difficult for Gianna, she studied diligently. She and Virginia helped each other to earn good grades. One time, a priest at the school gave a three-day retreat for the students and the two Beretta girls attended. The graces Gianna received at this retreat marked her for the rest of her life. These are the resolutions she wrote in her notebook: 1. *To do all things for the Lord... To serve God, I will not go to the movies without being sure that the film is suitable and not scandalous or immoral...* 2. *I prefer to die rather than commit a mortal sin...* 3. *To say the "Hail Mary" every day so that the Lord might give me a holy death...* 4. *I wish to fear mortal sin as if it were a serpent and I repeat I would die a thousand times rather than offend the Lord.* 5. *I wish to ask the Lord to help me not to go to hell and therefore to avoid all that would harm my soul.* 6. *I beg the Lord to help me understand His great mercy.* 7. *I propose to obey M.M. and to study even though I don't feel like it, for the love of Jesus.* 8. *From this day on, I wish to pray on my knees in the morning in Church just as I do in my room in the evening at the foot of my bed.* 9. *The way of humility is the shortest way to reach holiness. To pray that the Lord will lead me to Paradise...*

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"We are kids telling kids about Jesus!"



Saint Gianna Beretta Molla

In 1942, Gianna began studying medicine and became a doctor. She opened a clinic where she served mothers, babies, the elderly, and the poor. Gianna met Pietro Molla, an engineer, and the two were happily married in 1955. Gianna gave birth to three babies and was a dedicated mother. When she and Pietro found out that God had blessed them with a fourth child, they were overjoyed! However, Gianna soon found out that she had cancer. The surgeon said that in order to save her life, she would need an operation that would take the life of the child in her womb. Gianna protested and said she wanted to put the life of her child before her own. She gave birth to a healthy baby girl and one week later Gianna died a holy death. Pope Saint John Paul II canonized Gianna in 2004. Pietro and many family members were there.