

Saint Gianna Beretta Molla



Date of birth: October 4, 1922
Birthplace: Magenta, Italy
Date of death: April 28, 1962
Canonization: May 16, 2004 by Pope St. John Paul II
Feast Day: April 28

Patron Saint of: Mothers, Physicians, and Unborn Children

About Gianna:

Gianna Beretta Molla was born into a devout Catholic family as the tenth of thirteen children, fostering a deep love for her faith and shaping her belief that life is a precious gift from God. In 1942, she began studying medicine in Milan while serving the poor through the St. Vincent de Paul Society. After earning degrees in medicine and surgery at the University of Pavia, she opened her own practice in 1950 and specialized in pediatrics in 1952. Gianna dedicated herself to Catholic Action, promoting the Church's social teachings. Although she wished to join her missionary brother in Brazil, chronic health issues kept her in Italy.

In 1954, Gianna met Pietro Molla, and they married the following year. Over the next four years, they welcomed three children. In 1961, Gianna became pregnant with their fourth child but experienced severe pain due to a fibroid tumor in her uterus. Faced with three options—abortion, hysterectomy, or risky surgery—she chose surgery, prioritizing her baby's life in accordance with Catholic teachings. The surgery was successful, and both Gianna and her unborn child survived, though complications continued throughout her pregnancy.

As her delivery date approached, Gianna prayed for her child's well-being, begging her family to prioritize the baby's life over hers. On April 21, 1962, she gave birth to Gianna Emanuela via cesarean section. Gianna Beretta Molla died a week later from septic peritonitis on April 28, 1962.

Her legacy continued with a miracle attributed to her intercession in 2003, when a woman facing a life-threatening pregnancy prayed for Gianna's help. Despite bleak odds, she delivered a healthy baby boy. This miracle led to Gianna's canonization, celebrated in the presence of her husband and daughter. Gianna Beretta Molla's life exemplifies faith, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment to the sanctity of life.

A word from Gianna:

"If you must choose between me and the child, do not hesitate: choose the child. I insist on it. Save the baby."

Find out more:

Books: *Saint Gianna Molla: Wife, Mother, Doctor* by Pietro Molla

Youtube: *The Beauty of Sainthood - Dr. Gianna Emanuela*