

St. Gianna Beretta Molla (f)

- b. 1922, d. 1962 (39 yrs.)
- Patron Saint of mothers, physicians and pre-born children
- Born into a large Italian family (she was the tenth of thirteen kids), she always intended on becoming a missionary, like her brother, after she had completed her studies. Because of a series of illnesses she was not able to travel like she intended but she still worked as a pediatrician. It was not long after this that she met her husband and had three children.
- When she became pregnant with her fourth child, she developed a *fibroma*, a tumor, on her uterus, which was dangerous to the fetus. The doctors gave her three options: one, she could abort the fetus, two, she could have a hysterectomy, remove the uterus and thereby killing the fetus, or three, they could remove the tumor, which would save the fetus but leave her in danger when the pregnancy came to full-term. She chose to have only the tumor removed and when full-term came, she delivered the baby safely via Caesarian section, but she died one painful week later.
- She was quoted as saying, *"One cannot love without suffering or suffer without loving."*
- Her life inspired the founding of the *Gianna Center*, the first pro-life, Catholic healthcare center for women in New York.
- Her husband, *Pietro*, attended her canonization, which was believed to have been the first occurrence. He just died in 2010.
- Feast Day: April 28th



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