

*From John Paul II's Homily on Canonization of St. Gianna*

*Gianna Beretta Molla* was a simple, but more than ever, significant messenger of divine love. In a letter to her future husband a few days before their marriage, she wrote: *"Love is the most beautiful sentiment the Lord has put into the soul of men and women"*.



Following the example of Christ, who *"having loved his own... loved them to the end"* (Jn 13: 1), this holy mother of a family *remained heroically faithful to the commitment she made on the day of her marriage*. The extreme sacrifice she sealed with her life testifies that only those *who have the courage to give of themselves totally to God and to others are able to fulfil themselves*.

Through the example of Gianna Beretta Molla, may our age rediscover the pure, chaste and fruitful beauty of conjugal love, lived as a response to the divine call!

One cannot love without suffering or suffer without loving".

"Look at the mothers who truly love their children: how many sacrifices they make for them. They are ready for everything, even to give their own blood so that their babies grow up good, healthy and strong".

Saint Gianna composed this prayer of consecration to Mary: "O Mary, into your maternal hands I place myself and I abandon myself completely, sure of obtaining whatever I ask of you. I trust in you because you are the sweet Mother, I confide in you because you are the Mother of Jesus. In this trust I place myself, sure of being heard in everything; with this trust in my heart I greet you "my Mother, my trust", I devote myself entirely to you, begging you to remember that I am yours, that I belong to you; keep me and defend me, O sweet Mary, and in every instant of my life, present me to your Son, Jesus".

"O Jesus, I promise You to submit myself to all that You permit to happen to me, make me only know Your Will".