

Saint Gianna Beretta Molla: A Modern Day Saint- A model as a young woman, a spouse, a mother and a doctor

Magenta (Milan) - ITALY, 10/4/22 ~ Ponte Nuovo of Magenta, 4/28/62

~ Proclaimed a Saint 5/16/2004 by Pope John Paul II~



*“Wonderful woman, lover of life,
exemplary spouse, mother
and professional doctor,
offered her life not to violate
the mystery of the dignity of life”.*

† Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini
(on the back of the Beatification medal
April 24, 1994)



The Holy Places of Saint Gianna’s Life in Ponte Nuovo of Magenta: A Restoration and Improvement Project Including the Creation of:

“The Saint Gianna Beretta Molla International Center”

~ In service to the Universal Church

*~ A beautiful place of prayer, study and spirituality where all pilgrims
are welcome*

Ponte Nuovo is a small suburban village of the municipal district of the city of Magenta, which is about just one mile and a half long.

Here in Ponte Nuovo, Saint Gianna lived with her husband Pietro and their children, for six and a half years as a **spouse** and as a **mother**.

Here in Ponte Nuovo, Saint Gianna, as a **pediatrician**, devoted herself to work as the Director of the Advisory Center for mothers and for the nursery linked to the *Opera Nazionale Maternità e Infanzia* (O.N.M.I., a national organization for motherhood and childhood).

She also worked as a volunteer at the medical service of the nursery school and of the primary school of the small village.

Here in Ponte Nuovo, Saint Gianna **entered Paradise**.

The Holy Places of Saint Gianna's Life in Ponte Nuovo of Magenta

1. The spousal home of Gianna and Pietro

Gianna Beretta married Pietro Molla, her most worthy spouse, on September 24, 1955 in the Basilica of Saint Martin in Magenta, Gianna's parish church, where she was baptized.

After their marriage, which was celebrated by Gianna's brother, Father Giuseppe, Gianna and Pietro went to live in Ponte Nuovo of Magenta, in the small house that was usually given to the family of the Director of the S.A.F.F.A (*Società per Azioni Fabbriche Fiammiferi ed Affini*) Factory (that was the largest Factory of all the Factories that S.A.F.F.A. Company had in Italy). Pietro had already been living in this house, a S.A.F.F.A. Company property, since 1950, when he was appointed Director.

In this house in Ponte Nuovo, in her spousal bed, **Gianna gave birth to Pierluigi** on November 19, 1956, to **Maria Zita (Mariolina)** on December 11, 1957, and to **Laura** on July 15, 1959. This is the home where **Pietro and Gianna raised their children. Then, in her nuptial bed, she died** of septic peritonitis on April 28, 1962, at the early age of 39, **after giving birth to Gianna Emanuela at San Gerardo Hospital in Monza (Milan), a week before.**

Pietro and his children went on living in this house, which was enlarged to answer the family's needs in 1963. Only two years after Gianna's death, on February 12, 1964, Pietro witnessed his other greatest sorrow: Mariolina, at only 6 years of age, joined her mother in Heaven because of an acute glomerulonephritis and kidney failure.

Pietro, with Pierluigi, Laura and Gianna Emanuela, continued living in the house in Ponte Nuovo for another 17 years. They all **moved to Milan in 1981** because the S.A.F.F.A. Company had need for this house.

With much love, Pietro preserved and took care of all the original furniture that was in the home during the years he lived there with Gianna. This includes all the furnishings in the nuptial bedroom, the small dining room, the living room, and the kitchen. **At present, Gianna Emanuela** continues to care for and preserve this furniture with the same great love as her father.

Saint Gianna, or 'Saint Mom' as Gianna Emanuela lovingly refers to her, touched this furniture many, many times... as well as the windows, the doors and the walls of her spousal home. This act of touching by the saint makes it more "holy". Therefore, Gianna Emanuela also feels it is her duty to preserve and take care of both the furniture and the home, because **all of this is a relic now** that her mother is a canonized Saint.

Since 1981, S.A.F.F.A. left the house in Ponte Nuovo uninhabited. Long after, when the company had a series of corporate changes, it was completely abandoned.

Interest in preserving **the spousal home of Saint Gianna as a relic** began several years ago. **Saint Gianna's brother, The Servant of God, Father Alberto**, (a physician missionary and Capuchin Friar in Grajaú, Maranhão, Brazil; for whom the Diocese of Bergamo opened the Process of Beatification in 2008, seven years after he died at the age of 84) thus wrote in a letter to his sister Mother Virginia, **on April 16, 1980**:

"... As for the small house, a SAFFA property, where Gianna died, I think it would be appropriate to ask SAFFA to donate it or sell it to the Diocese of Milan or to the Parish church in Magenta, so that it can be turned into a center for prayer with the Blessed Sacrament, and with people who dedicate themselves (as it happens in Padua for Father Leopoldino, for example) to collect the received graces, to offer material to spread the devotion to her, etc. and to create a center of studies on the spirituality of the Christian family..."

At present, the spousal house of Gianna and Pietro is in very bad condition due to heavy deterioration. However, with this proposed restoration project, and with the help of Divine Providence, **Father Alberto's prophetic words can at last become a reality** and we can provide for the spiritual good of many people, believers and devotees of Saint Gianna from all around the world, and **in service to the Universal Church.**



Gianna and Pietro, engaged, in the living room of their future spousal home, June 1955.

Magenta, Saint Martin's Basilica: Father Giuseppe, Gianna's brother, celebrates the marriage of Gianna and Pietro, September 24, 1955.



Gianna with baby Pierluigi, just a few days old, in her nuptial bedroom, November 1956.

Gianna with Pierluigi in the garden, Spring 1957.

Gianna with Pierluigi and baby Mariolina (just a few days old), in her nuptial bedroom, December 1957.

The second birthday of Pierluigi: Gianna with him, Mariolina and her niece Maria Vittoria, who is sitting down at the table, and a friend, in the living room, November 19, 1958.



Pietro with Gianna and her siblings: Father Alberto, Ferdinando and Zita; Maria Salmoiraghi, Pietro's mother; Adelaide, Pietro's sister, with her husband Vittorio Valenti and their children Gianfranco and Flavio, 1959.

Gianna and Pietro with Pierluigi and Mariolina in the garden, 1958.



The first birthday of Mariolina: Gianna with her in the living room, December 11, 1958.

Page 1: Ponte Nuovo: the small Church of Our Lady of Good Counsel; Gianna's and Pietro's spousal home; Gianna with Mariolina in the garden of the spousal home, 1958.

Gianna with Mariolina, baby Laura (just a few days old), Pierluigi and a friend, in her nuptial bedroom, July 1959.

2. The small Church of Our Lady of Good Counsel

This small church is situated at about 100 meters from the spousal home of Gianna and Pietro.

It was in 1900 that Giacomo DeMedici, the founder of the S.A.F.F.A. Factory, arranged to build a small church for the workers and families of his growing business, along with workers' residences, a nursery, schools, relaxation places and other structures.

In this church, **Gianna went every day to pray and to attend Holy Mass** during her six and a half years as a spouse and as a mother.

Here, Gianna and Pietro wanted their children to be baptized and then consecrated to Our Lady of Good Counsel.

Here, Gianna's funeral was celebrated, on April 30, 1962.

Pietro himself was deeply devoted to this small church. He attributed the grace of meeting Gianna all to his invocations to Our Lady of Good Counsel. In turn, Gianna attributed her meaningful meeting of Pietro to the Virgin Mary of Lourdes; since the day the church was built, **a statue of Our Lady of Lourdes** has always been kept inside.

The small church has always been used for worship. However, the S.A.F.F.A. company constructed **a new and bigger church** when the small church was no longer large enough to hold faithful of Ponte Nuovo. After it was completed, the company donated the property of this new church to the Parish of Saint Martin in Magenta.

The new and bigger church, **dedicated to Saint Joseph the Worker**, was **consecrated by Cardinal Giovanni Battista Montini, Archbishop of Milan**, on May 1, 1963, only about one month before he was elected **Pope** with the name of **Paul VI**.

At present, the small Church of Our Lady of Good Counsel is open every day for the faithful and the pilgrims who wish to pray in the same place where Saint Gianna prayed. Here, the Holy Mass is celebrated on April 28, Saint Gianna's Feast Day, and on other occasions by priests who bring pilgrim groups.

Although it is in good condition thanks to the continuity of its use, it still needs some restoration works to improve it and preserve it in time.



The Church dedicated to Saint Joseph the Worker: its consecration by Cardinal Giovanni Battista Montini, May 1, 1963.



The small Church of Our Lady of Good Counsel.

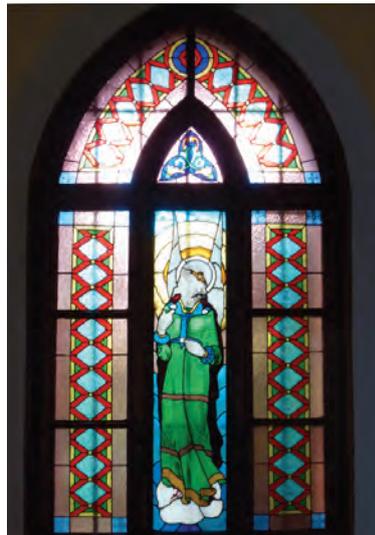
Page 5: Gianna and Pietro with Pierluigi, Mariolina and Laura, Courmayeur, Aosta, Summer 1960.

Gianna's funeral: she is taken from her spousal home to the small Church of Our Lady of Good Counsel; the outside of the church was surrounded by many mourners, April 30, 1962.



The small Church of Our Lady of Good Counsel:

- the front
- the interior (the arrow indicates the pew where Gianna usually knelt down to pray)
- the outside of the apse
- a whole artistic stained glass window of the nave.



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3. The Project

Dr. Pacifico Portaluppi, a very close friend of Pietro, who was a mechanical engineer, worked at S.A.F.F.A in collaboration with him for 50 years. Dr. Portaluppi is qualified in industrial engineering and graduated with degrees in economics and commerce. He has always been close to Pietro, even in the last years of his long life. He went many times to visit him in his house in Mesero - Pietro's birthplace and place where Saint Gianna practiced her medical profession as “Family Doctor”. Mesero is a village about three miles away from Magenta.

Since June 2008, Dr. Portaluppi wanted to work with Pietro and Gianna Emanuela to develop a wonderful ‘Project’ concerning the restoration of the spousal house in Ponte Nuovo. Note that at present the spousal home property is a Red. Im S.r.l Company property (which is a part of the former S.A.F.F.A.), where Dr. Portaluppi still works as a consultant.

Dr. Portaluppi has coordinated the entire Project, and as the project progressed, additional professional skills were needed. Dr. Portaluppi was able to join together to collaborate in harmony **more than ten professionals** to achieve the desired goals. With great generosity, each of them gave her/his time and precious contribution, according to her/his own specific abilities and possibilities, with special appreciation given to the **Architects Paola Spaltini and Marco Marchettini**.

The essential aim of the Project is to honor, to pray to, and to spread all around the world, the figure, the testimony and the spirituality of Saint Gianna in the place where she lived as a spouse, a mother, a doctor and a Martyr to Life, thus keeping alive and perpetuating her memory and her example.

An increasing number of pilgrims and devotees from Italy and from abroad, mainly from the United States of America, where Saint Gianna is much loved and prayed to, **visit Ponte Nuovo**: university students, young people, married couples, mothers, fathers, children, priests and nuns, consecrated laymen and laywomen, doctors and other health care professionals.. all eager to “breathe” Saint Gianna's air in the places where she lived and she died; to learn more and more about her figure and her example; to pray to her and ask for her intercession just in these Holy Places, to overcome their difficult moments, or to find out their own vocation, or for other intentions they have in their heart.

The Project would be completed in three stages, in the following order of precedence:

- 1- the restoring of *the spousal house of Gianna and Pietro*
- 2- the restoring of *the small Church of Our Lady of Good Counsel and the arrangement of the green area that links up the house and the small Church*
- 3- the restoring of *the S.A.F.F.A. Company General Management Building*, providentially situated between the house and the small Church; this is a fundamental stage in order to create, in its completeness, a “*Saint Gianna Beretta Molla*” International Center of prayer, study, spirituality and to welcome pilgrims... in service to the Universal Church.

The Project **provides for every restored building to be completely accessible and available to people with disabilities and people requiring a wheelchair** as well.



A view (also from heaven above) of the small Church, the S.A.F.F.A. Company General Management Building and the spousal home as they appear today.

The front of the small Church and of the house; Gianna with Pierluigi in the garden of the house, Spring 1957.



First "suggestions" and technical papers.

The Three Stages of the Project (in order of precedence):

1- Restoration of the Spousal Home of Gianna and Pietro

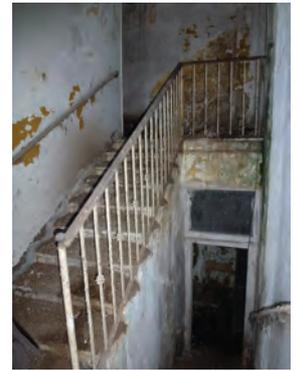
The first stage of the Project provides for restoring of the spousal house, **which was enlarged to answer the family's needs in 1963**, one year after Gianna's death. It consists of **three floors**, and its total surface is **492 square meters**.

At present, the condition of the property is **heavily deteriorated** and worsens with each passing day.

Once restored, the structure will be completely adapted for the access and availability of people with disabilities and wheelchair accessible as well thanks to the installation of an elevator and other necessary adjustments. Inside the house, there will be the following:

- on **the basement floor** (84 square meters):
 - technical room: thermoelectric power station, heating and air conditioning system...
 - services: restrooms
 - archive/storage room
- on **the first floor** (known as the ground floor in Italy) (204 square meters):
 - **the same domestic rooms where Gianna and Pietro lived will be recreated**: the small dining room, the living room, the kitchen; in every room **the original furniture will be returned to their place**. Gianna Emanuela is so very happy to share all of this with her Saint Mother's devotees.
 - **rooms to welcome pilgrims**, with the possibility to show Saint Gianna's photos, films and witnesses about her, and to offer devotional material: holy cards, literature, books, etc. to spread the devotion to her
 - a study
 - a handicapped-accessible bathroom
 - an elevator system
- on **the second floor** (known as the first floor in Italy) (204 square meters):
 - **Gianna's and Pietro's nuptial bedroom will be recreated with all the original furniture**
 - in memory of Gianna's medical profession in Ponte Nuovo, **one of Gianna's "pediatric offices" will be reconstructed** - with the help of the original photos of her pediatric offices situated in the nursery (shown in the photo above), the nursery school and the primary school; in this room her medical books and instruments will be placed
 - museum rooms, with the permanent exhibit of **Saint Gianna's relics** (gloves, scarves, etc.) for the veneration of pilgrims and devotees of Saint Gianna, **with the possibility to touch them**, if someone would like this. A Saint Gianna "photographic exhibition" will be available for viewing as well
 - **an Adoration Chapel for prayer with exposition of The Blessed Sacrament**
 - **Residence for Religious staff**, who will be dedicated to welcoming pilgrims and devotees (offering spiritual attention) and the housekeeping.





South view of the spousal home as it appears today.
Two examples of the widespread deterioration both in the old part of the house and in the extension.
The great deterioration of the stairs between the first and the second floor of the house.

The **living room**; Gianna with Mariolina (a few days old), December 1957.
The **small dining room**; Gianna with Pierluigi and Mariolina, 1959.
The **nuptial bedroom**; Gianna in her spousal bed with Pierluigi, December 1957.

Ponte Nuovo of Magenta can be easily reached by pilgrims:

- it is situated along the **State Road SS 11** (Milan - Novara - Turin)
- it is about two miles away from Mesero/Marcallo tollgate on the **Milan-Turin Motorway**
- it is less than one mile from the Magenta/Malpensa Clearway, and **Malpensa International Airport** which is only 15 minutes away
- there is a **Railway Station in Magenta**, on the Milan-Turin line: there is a train to Milan every 30 minutes; Milan Province has already planned the building of a Railway Station even in Ponte Nuovo.



2- Restoration of the small Church of Our Lady of Good Counsel and the arrangement of the green area that connects the spousal house and the small church

The second stage of the Project provides for the restoration of the small church of Our Lady of Good Counsel, and the arrangement of the green area that leads to the house.

At the present time, the small church is in good condition as compared to the house; however, it needs some restoration in order to improve it, to make it more decorative and comfortable, and to preserve it in time.

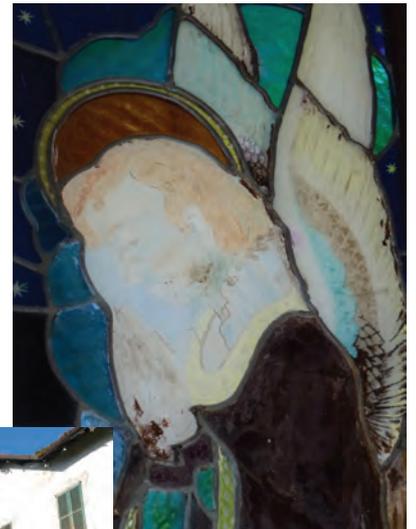
In particular, **the following restoration works are needed:**

- restoration of the **roof**
- restoration of the **artistic stained glass windows**
- installation of a **heating and air conditioning system**
- creation of a **Sacristy inside the adjoining S.A.F.F.A. Company General Management Building**, connecting it directly to the small Church along with a **short covered passage**.

In regards to the arrangement of the green area, the Architect Paola Spaltini planned it as, “**a new path from the house to the small church**”. The following quotes are in her own words:

“... Between the natural elements to preserve and to take care of, **a simple stone path** with a slightly sinuous progression will be created to lead the pilgrims from the small Church to the house; the sacredness of the house will again be highlighted by creating a chapel inside with the most holy presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

This path will not only have a functional purpose, but it will also host **little rest spaces**, in radial position, in order to offer a specific moment of reflection and meditation as well. In addition, the path will be enriched with **panels bearing the values that Saint Gianna expressed in her writings and in her life** that represent the continuation or the introduction to what will be exhibited in the museum rooms in a more complete way. These spaces will be both **an opportunity of additional reflection** and little places to rest”.



The small Church of Our Lady of Good Counsel; a detail of one of the artistic stained glass windows of the apse; a detail of an Angel's face which needs to be restored.

“A new path from the house to the small church”.

3- Restoration of the S.A.F.F.A. Company General Management Building Including the Creation of:

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The third stage of the Project provides for restoring of the S.A.F.F.A. Company General Management Building. This building, which was originally the chemistry laboratory, is providentially situated between the spousal house and the small church; note that **at present** its property is a **Red. Im S.r.l Company property (which is a part of the former S.A.F.F.A.), as the house and the small church.**

This is **the final, but fundamental stage**, in order to create, in its completeness, a “*Saint Gianna*” *International Center of prayer, study, spirituality and to welcome pilgrims* from all around the world, with the presence of dedicated Religious staff, as in the spousal house.

The building has a very solid reinforced concrete structure; which consists of **four floors** connected by elevators and flights of stairs, and its total surface is **3,750 square meters**.

Many years have passed since S.A.F.F.A. abandoned it; and due to this reason, it is **in bad condition** and requires complete restoration and improvement.

Once the building is restored, with all the flexibility necessary to meet its emerging needs, it will include the following:

- on **the basement floor** (1,000 square meters):
 - systems: thermoelectric power station, heating and air conditioning system
 - services: restrooms
 - archives/storage room
- on **the first floor** (known as the ground floor in Italy) (1,000 square meters):
 - reception area
 - **dwelling rooms for Religious staff**
 - **Sacristy** connected directly to the small church (thanks to a short covered passage)
 - kitchens - storeroom
 - **dining hall**: for buffets, complete meals, packed lunches...
 - services: restrooms
 - **dwelling rooms for a housekeeper and his family**
 - **rooms devoted to a permanent charitable activity**
- on **the second floor** (known as the first floor in Italy) (1,000 square meters):
 - **single/double rooms with bathrooms...**
 - **lecture halls** for testimonies, seminars, conferences, meetings...
- on **the third floor** (known as the second floor in Italy) (750 square meters):
 - **Chapel with the Blessed Sacrament** for prayer, Eucharistic adoration even at night, spiritual exercises...
 - **multi-media meeting room** of Saint Gianna’s photos, films and testimonies about her
 - offices
 - services: restrooms-



Gianna with Pierluigi and Mariolina in the garden of the spousal home, 1958.

Fundamental activities of “*The Saint Gianna International Center*”

- **prayer**, personal or in groups, above all, with a large number of pilgrims, since the small church of Our Lady of Good Counsel would be too small; organization of **courses of spiritual exercises**, following Saint Gianna’s example
- **study the person of Saint Gianna including an in-depth study of her life and spirituality**
- **various levels of information and instruction on the figure of Saint Gianna**; the levels depend on:
 - the availability of time the pilgrims have
 - their knowledge of Saint Gianna
 - their vocation (Priests, laymen...)

This activity will be carried out through testimonies, seminars, meetings, conferences, films...

- **pilgrims’ welcome and hospitality area, even at night**
- **a permanent charitable activity**
- **coordination and collaboration with social and religious groups or organizations**: Associations, Societies, Family’s Advice Bureau, Spirituality Centers, Religious Orders, etc., **particularly with those which are dedicated to Saint Gianna in Italy and all around the world.**



Gianna and Pietro on their honeymoon, Taormina, Messina, October 1955.

Gianna with Pierluigi and Mariolina in the garden of the spousal house, 1958.

The S.A.F.F.A. Company General Management Building as it appears today.

First “suggestion” and technical paper.

Estimated costs to fulfill the entire Project

Dr. Portaluppi and his collaborators prepared an estimate of the costs to finish the entire Project:

- for **the first and the second stage of the Project**, which consists of the restoring of the *spousal house*, the *small Church of Our Lady of Good Counsel* and the arrangement of the *green area* that links up the house and the small church, the following will be necessary:

● spousal house masonry works	\$ 945,560
● spousal house plants and fastenings (doors, windows...)	\$ 419,055
● green area arrangement works	\$ 257,880
● small Church roof and conditioning plant (heating and cooling)	\$ 69,842
● specialized costs to restore the artistic stained glass windows	\$ 32,235
● technical costs	\$ 96,705
Total	\$ 1,821,277
● contingent (incidental) expenses (8% of the above total costs)	\$ 145,702
General Total*	\$ 1,966,979

[**Excluding, as usual:** VAT (Value-Added Tax), social security contributions on professional services, any charges, stamps and rights]

- for **the third and final stage of the Project**, which is the restoring of *the S.A.F.F.A. Company General Management Building*, which has a total surface of 3,750 square meters in particular:
 - basement floor: 1,000 square meters
 - first floor: 1,000 square meters
 - second floor: 1,000 square meters
 - third floor: 750 square meters

That would be necessary*:

- 1) **\$ 805,875** to buy the Building (**\$ 214,9/sq**) and the green area adjacent to the building, considering the current probable market value;
- 2) **\$ 5,050,150** to restore the Building - the furniture and the arrangement of the green area adjacent to the building are included.

In particular, these are the costs for the restoration per square meter:

- 2,750 square meters of the Building + green area: **\$ 1,719.20/sq**
- 1,000 square meters (basement floor): **\$ 322.35/sq**

* exchange rate (1 Euro = \$1.075) January 6, 2016.

Daddy Pietro's and Gianna Emanuela's enthusiasm for the Project

Daddy Pietro was enthusiastic of the Project. He told Gianna Emanuela that he was so very sorry about the fact that, because of his older age, he could not dedicate himself to it, and so, with much trust and hope, together with Gianna Emanuela, Pietro put it in the hands of dearest Dr. Portaluppi, who always held this Project very dear to him, because he could help them carry it out.

And now that Daddy, since the 3rd of April 2010, on Holy Saturday, lives forever in Paradise with Mom and Mariolina, Gianna Emanuela feels bound to do anything she can, thus keeping her promise to him, to realize his and their dream, and of all their family as well, in order to keep Ponte Nuovo alive not only in the memory and in the example of her most beloved and Saint Mother, but even of her most beloved Daddy (Mesero, 7/1/12-4/3/10).

Gianna Emanuela's great engagement to make the Project come true

In September 2013, Gianna Emanuela learned from **Mons. Gianpaolo Citterio**, Episcopal Vicar, that the Archdiocesan Curia of Milan - which supports the Project and recognizes its importance - is willing to accept the donation from Red. Im S.r.l. Company of the property of the spousal house, the small Church of Our Lady of Good Counsel and the green area that links up both of them, as soon as she, Gianna Emanuela, is able to raise the funds necessary to cover expenses related to the properties' restoration works. As a matter of fact, the Company has had the desire to make this donation since a long time already, as Mons. Citterio mentioned to Gianna Emanuela.

Immediately, Gianna Emanuela expressed to Mons. Citterio her joy and her great engagement to gradually raise the funds necessary to realize the entire Project, step by step; moved by her deep belief to be only a simple instrument in the hands of Divine Providence to help this Project come true, confiding that really this Project will come true if it is God's will. This both encourages her and gives her strength.

Gianna Emanuela is fully aware of the strong devotion to her Saint Mother in the United States and so she decided to visit **Cardinal Raymond Leo Burke**. Cardinal Burke is very devoted to her Mom and close to her and her family for many years and so she introduced the Project to him and asked for his help. At once, and enthusiastically, his Eminence gave Gianna Emanuela his complete support and promised her his engagement to work hard for the Project's realization and completion.

On March 17, 2014, he wrote a letter to **Cardinal Angelo Scola**, Archbishop of Milan, to inform him about his support to the Project; his Eminence, in his answer to Cardinal Burke on March 24, expressed his deep appreciation for this support and great engagement.

The steps, which have been accomplished up to now:

- The Project has had the complete support of the **Town Council of Magenta**.
- On July 29, 2014, the **Red. Im S.r.l Company** wrote a letter to **Archdiocese of Milan** expressing its availability to donate the property of the spousal house and the small Church of Our Lady of Good Counsel. On August 5, the Archdiocese expressed in writing to Red. Im S.r.l its willingness to accept this donation; the Archdiocese then will donate these properties to the Parish Saint Martin in Magenta, Saint Gianna's Parish. This donation will be formalized as soon as the funds necessary to cover expenses related to properties' restoration will be raised.
- On June 1, 2015, **Mother Maria de Anima Christi**, General Superior of the "*Institute Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matará*" wrote a letter to Cardinal Scola (with a copy to Cardinal Burke and Gianna Emanuela), expressing her availability to send **sisters to Ponte Nuovo**. The sisters belong to a Religious Family with a strong missionary spirit. The Institute was founded in Argentina in 1988, four years after the foundation of the male branch, the "*Institute of the Incarnate Word*". The members of this Religious Family are very devoted to Saint Gianna and have been close to her family for many years.



Mother Anima wrote: "... it would be a great blessing for us to be in service of this cause and to collaborate in keeping alive Saint Gianna's message and spreading it; perhaps today more than ever, she appears as a witness of love of total surrender; able to illuminate the deepest meaning of life and of human existence."

- On July 22, 2015, **thanks to a very generous donation of a big-hearted person**, who is very devoted to Saint Gianna, it has been possible to open a specific fund named "**St. Gianna Restoration Fund**" with the **National Catholic Community Foundation**, a US community foundation contributions into which are tax-deductible.
- The Project has received the complete support of **Cardinal Angelo Comastri**, General Vicar of His Holiness in Vatican City, who is very devoted to Saint Gianna and close to her family for many years; his Eminence is helping Gianna Emanuela.
- The Project is also very dear to the **Pontifical Council for the Family**, whose Undersecretary, Mons. Carlos Simón Vázquez, is supporting Gianna Emanuela.



Gianna with Pierluigi in front of the spousal home, Winter 1957.

Page 14: Mother Maria de Anima Christi with Pietro and Gianna Emanuela, Rome, May 15 (the day before Gianna's Canonization), 2004.

Page 16: Rome, St Peter's Square: the banner with the photo of Gianna with Mariolina displayed on the balcony of St Peter's Basilica; Pietro, with Gianna Emanuela at his side, greeting Pope Saint John Paul II with great love and emotion, May 16, 2004.

Ways to contribute to the Project's Fulfillment:

If you would like to contribute to the Project you can direct your donation to the:

National Catholic Community Foundation

1321 Generals Highway, Suite 202 - Crownsville, Maryland 21032 - United States of America
Telephone: 800-757-2998 - Fax: 410-923-9124 - Email: erobinson@nccfcommunity.org

Account: **St. Gianna Restoration Fund**

- **online at: www.nccfcommunity.org / Donate to a Fund**
Gift Designation: **St. Gianna Restoration Fund**
- **If you are making a cash donation by wire then follow these instructions:**
The wire instructions for the Bank of America is:
Wiring routing number is 026009593, the checking account number is **446008459385**.
The bank is located in Annapolis, MD.
ACH routing number 052001633, the checking account number is 446008459385
- **If you are making a stock donation then follow these instructions:**
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A heartfelt thank you, and may God bless you for your generosity!

Saint Gianna Beretta Molla: A Modern Day Saint

Pope Saint John Paul II beatified her in Rome on April 24, 1994, as “*Mother of a Family*”, and he proclaimed her “*Saint*” on May 16, 2004, in the moved presence of her husband Pietro and their children: Pierluigi, Laura and Gianna Emanuela.

Her Feast Day is April 28.

Saint Gianna is the first Saint of the Diocese of Milan after the Cardinal Saint Charles Borromeo, canonized in 1610.

She is the patron saint for mothers, physicians and unborn children.



She is the patron saint, together with Saint John Paul II, of the VIII World Meeting Of Families in Philadelphia, United States of America, September 22-27th 2015.

«... I think the world today particularly needs my mother life's witness, and perhaps today more than ever.

Her exemplary Christian life's witness, her sacred respect for life, her great joy to live, her courage and spirit of sacrifice, her unlimited trust in divine Providence, her great love for the life, for the Lord, for the Virgin Mary, for her family, for her neighbor and her patients, for my Daddy, her most worthy spouse, for her children, until her greatest gift of love: the sacrifice of her own life giving birth to me. All these aspects are really like a bright light, a safe guide and a great hope for each of us on our journey towards holiness.

Mom and Dad truly lived the Sacrament of Marriage as a vocation and as a path towards holiness.

I pray to them to intercede for all the families of the world, in particular for those who suffer: there is so much joy in the world, but also so much suffering as well, and I am happy to put my prayers in service of all people who suffer».

(Philadelphia, VIII WMOF Congress, September 24th 2015, 60^o Anniversary of her Parents' Marriage)

Written by: Dr. Pacifico Portaluppi, Arch. Paola Spaltini, Arch. Marco Marchettini, Father Giuseppe Marinoni, Parish Priest of the Basilica of Saint Martin in Magenta, and Gianna Emanuela Molla, MD. A heartfelt thank you to Angela Shammo who reviewed the translation, with a great competence and much devotion; to Dianne Ahern and Mother Maria de Anima Christi for their significant editorial suggestions. Graphic designer: Rita Beretta, Saint Gianna's niece. Magenta (Milan) - Italy, January 2016.