

## POINTS OF INTEREST

**Congratulations.** We congratulate Rhea Frangieh, Leah Rafka Akiki, John Floyd Merrifield Jr. and their families who received their first Communion on Sunday May 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Feast of the Ascension.** On May 14, we celebrate the feast day of the Ascension. The **Only** Divine Liturgy on that day will be at **6.30 PM**

**St Ann's Discussion Group.** We will meet on Friday **May 15** for our monthly Bible study in the church hall at 6.30 PM.

**Garage Sale.** Our Garage sale this year will be for two days:  
- **Friday June 5: ONLY** for our **PARISHIONERS.**  
- **Saturday June 6:** the General Public.

**Lebanese Food Festival.** Our *food festival* will take place on **June 13** at the Hudson Shores Park in Watervliet. We are looking for **Volunteers** to help prepare the food, advertise and men to help organize and set up the equipment. **There is a Job for everyone.** For more information call Betty KARRAT at (518) 434-1535.

**Bus Trip** to Yankee Stadium on July 18<sup>th</sup> to attend the New York Yankees v/s Seattle Mariners game. The cost is \$100 per person. For more info, contact Mike Rezey 339-9468; Al Patnode 225-3335 or Richard Peters 272-2934.

**Memorials.** Memorials for the offerings used in the sanctuary as part of the Divine Liturgy are available for a donation of 60\$ / month. You can arrange for a memorial by calling father Elias during the office hours.

**Liturgy Intentions.** If you like to offer a Divine Liturgy intention for your loved ones, call the parish office. In preparing your will, you might wish to arrange for the celebration of Divine Liturgies for yourself and your family.

## Verse Of The Week

"I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you."

*(Psalm 32:8)*

## St. Gianna Beretta Molla 1922-62

Gianna Beretta was born in Magenta, Italy, the tenth of thirteen children. She graduated from medical school in 1949 and set up a practice in pediatrics. In December 1954, Gianna met Pietro Molla, an engineer and was married in September 1955. They welcomed their son, Pierluigi, in 1956, and daughters Mariolina in 1957, and Laura in 1959.

In 1961, Gianna became pregnant again. During the 2nd month, Gianna developed a uterine fibroma. Doctors gave her three choices: an abortion, a complete hysterectomy, or removal of only the fibroma. Gianna opted for the latter, wanting to preserve her child's life. After the operation, complications continued throughout her pregnancy. Gianna was quite clear about her wishes, expressing to her family, "This time it will be a difficult delivery, and they may have to save one or the other - I want them to save my baby."

On April 21, 1962, Gianna delivered her fourth child, Gianna Emanuela, by Caesarean section. However, Gianna continued to have severe pain, and died of septic peritonitis seven days after giving birth. Gianna was beatified by Pope John Paul II on April 24, 1994, and canonized on May 16, 2004. Gianna's husband Pietro, and their children Laura and Gianna Emanuela, were present at the canonization ceremony, the first time in the history of the Church that a husband witnessed his wife's canonization.

## Saint's Quote

"Also in suffering, let us say: Thanks be to God."

*St. Gianna Beretta Molla*

# Spiritual Mothers, Like YOU!

All women have the gift of maternity, and it is lived in two ways: physical motherhood and spiritual motherhood. Physical mothers come to mind most obviously. They birth and raise their own biological children, or raise children as adoptive mothers, stepmothers, or foster mothers.

Spiritual motherhood means nurturing the spiritual, moral, emotional, and cultural life in others. Not all women give birth to children, yet all women are called to exercise a spiritual maternity in the world—giving care and nurture to others through their own maternal gift. (And, of course, spiritual mothering should be part of every physical mother's care!)

Pope John Paul II describes the universal vocation of all women, not just women who bear children. God entrusts all women, by reason of their femininity—their design—to care for humanity. Maternal care, in a spiritual way, is not limited to childcare, but should be active in all phases of a woman's life. Spiritual mothering doesn't smother or infantilize teens or adults but loves and serves them according to the needs of the person one is caring for. It brings a motherly touch to our human relationships, and to our work—especially the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

Blessed Teresa of Calcutta, founder of the Missionaries of Charity, is a powerful example. Mother Teresa displayed spiritual mothering in action. Her words, actions, and prayers mothered millions—not biologically, but spiritually.

## Ten ways you can spot a spiritual mother...

1. She nurtures others to become who they are meant to be in God's eyes.
2. She recognizes, affirms, and protects human dignity.
3. She performs spiritual and corporal works of mercy with maternal care.
4. She helps others by her encouraging words and charitable service.
5. She prays for and with others as an intercessor for them, especially priests.
6. She practices the arts of friendship and hospitality.
7. She passes on what she knows as a mentor when asked.
8. She is a joy catalyst.
9. She keeps Christ close in her heart by imitating Mary.
10. She is a woman of holy influence who helps to give birth to saints.

## Spiritual motherhood is part of the mission of women

The Catholic role of godmothers has something to say about spiritual mothering, especially when viewed as something more than a title—a real ongoing opportunity to help someone grow in their faith. Yet spiritual motherhood suggests that “godmothering” is not limited to a sacramental role alone.

Almost 50 years ago, Pope Paul VI closed Vatican II with this message: “The hour is coming, in fact has come, when the vocation of women is being achieved in its fullness, the hour in which women achieve an influence, an effect, and a power never hitherto achieved. That is why, at this moment when the human race is undergoing so deep a transformation, women impregnated with the spirit of the Gospel can do so much to aid mankind in not falling” (Address to Women, 1965).

God's plan of entrusting humanity to our womanly care means that, as women, we must step up and lead others using this wonderful maternal gift via spiritual and/or physical motherhood. We must become, more and more, women who reflect the love and life of the gospel. We are called to be saints, and spiritual motherhood is part of a woman's path to holiness.

Spiritual motherhood abounds in all women saints, but here are a few you might look up to:

## Spiritual mothers who were married and gave birth to children:

St. Anne, St. Monica, St. Frances of Rome, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, St. Gianna Molla.

## Spiritual mothers who were religious sisters:

St. Clare of Assisi, St. Teresa of Avila, St. Thérèse of Lisieux, St. Marianne Cope.

## Spiritual mothers who were single lay women:

St. Mary Magdalene, St. Agnes, St. Joan of Arc, St. Rose of Lima, St. Kateri Tekakwitha

*Source: catholicdigest.com by Pat Gohn  
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*The Pope Tweets*

“The love of Christ fills our hearts and makes us always able to forgive!.”

@ Pontifex / May 2, 2015