Saint Gianna Molla

- Feastday: April 28
- Patron Saint of: mothers, physicians, and unborn children
- Birth: October 4, 1922
- Death: April 28, 1962
- Canonized: by Pope John Paul II on May 16 , 2004

"Love and sacrifice are closely linked, like the sun and the light. We cannot love without suffering and we cannot suffer without love."

St. Gianna Molla was born in 1922. She was the tenth of thirteen children. Gianna received degrees in both medicine and surgery in 1949. She opened a medical office where she was especially drawn toward the care of mothers, babies, the elderly, and the poor. Gianna hoped to join her brother, a missionary priest in Brazil, where she intended to offer her medical expertise in gynecology. However, her chronic ill health made this impractical. Instead, she found her vocation in marriage when she met her future husband Pietro Molla. Gianna dedicated herself to "forming a truly Christian family" after their marriage in 1955. She soon became a mother to three children.

During her fourth pregnancy, her doctors discovered she had developed a fibroma in her uterus. She was given three choices; abortion, a hysterectomy, or removal of only the fibroma, which could save the life of her baby but could result in further complications. Heroically wanting to preserve her unborn child's life, Gianna opted for the removal of only the fibroma. Gianna pleaded with the surgeons to save her child's life over her own. The surgery was successful and she later delivered a healthy baby after a difficult pregnancy. However, complications soon arose, and she succumbed to septic peritonitis after eight days of painful suffering.

The child she saved, Gianna Emanuela Molla, would go on to become a physician herself.

After her death at age 39, many miracles were attributed to her. The first official miracle that contributed to her cause for canonization occurred in 1977 when a woman in Brazil developed a severe and life-threatening infection following the birth of a stillborn infant. The hospital where the woman was being treated had been founded by Gianna's brother, Father Alberto Beretta. One of the nurses prayed for Gianna's intercession, and the patient was immediately healed.