

“Dearest Father Alberto,

[...] Every day, since Gianna ascended to Heaven, I raise this prayer to the Lord and to Gianna:

“Jesus, You who have called among your Angels and your Saints, my Spouse and the Mother of my children, grant that even today my children may grow up in wisdom and grace with You, with Our Lady, with their Holy Mother, with their loved ones and with men, just as You grew up in Your Holy Family in Nazareth, and just as their Holy Mother knew how to bring them up, day by day. Keep them in health of mind and body, just as their Holy Mother, with Your grace and Your blessing, knew how to preserve them with her wise, very loving care.

Grant that my children may always be worthy, every day of their lives, of the Holiness and Martyrdom of their Holy Mother.

Grant that I may be the least unworthy as possible of the Holiness of my Spouse, and that I may replace her, by Your grace, in the lovingness and guidance of our children.

Grant also to me and my children the grace, the certainty, and the ineffable comfort that made Saint Augustine write of his Holy Mother in Heaven: ‘When you were alive, I saw you where you were. Now that you are in Heaven, I feel you present wherever I am.’

And you, Gianna, help me day by day, to carry my Cross, to accomplish, in a heroic way, the will of the Lord.

May you obtain also for our children and for me the divine grace to make us saints.

Grant that every day may bring us nearer to you, and that every day we may climb a rung of Jacob's mystical ladder, at the top of which you are awaiting us.

And grant that when the Lord will call us to Himself, He may find us worthy to come near, near, near to you forever. Amen.”¹

[...]”

(Pietro Molla’s letter to his brother-in-law, Venerable Father Alberto Beretta O.F.M. Cap.,
Finland, Lathi, Sunday, August 12, 1962)

¹ Valentina Di Marco, *An Exemplary Couple: Saint Gianna Beretta and Pietro Molla. Their Marital Journey and Message Today*, TAN Books, Gastonia, North Carolina, United States of America, 2024, pp. 137-138.