

# Gianna Beretta molla

Wife, Mother, and Doctor

1922–1962

Born near Milan, Italy

Feast Day: April 28

Patronage:

Mothers, doctors, and unborn children

Text by Barbara Yoffie

Illustrated by Katherine A. Borgatti



Liguori

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## Dedication

To my family:  
my parents Jim and Peg,  
my husband Bill,  
our son Sam and daughter-in-law Erin,  
and our precious grandchildren  
Ben, Lucas, and Andrew

To all the children I have had the privilege of  
teaching throughout the years.

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First Edition

## Dear Parents and Teachers:

*Saints and Me!* is a series of children's books about saints, with six books in each set. The first set is titled *Saints of North America*. This second set, *Saints of Christmas*, selects seven heavenly heroes who teach us to love the Infant Jesus. Some saints in this set have feast days within Advent and Christmas time, but others are celebrated within ordinary time and Easter time. We selected these saints based on their connection to the Christmas story and how they inspire us to let the mystery of Christ's birth grow within our hearts.

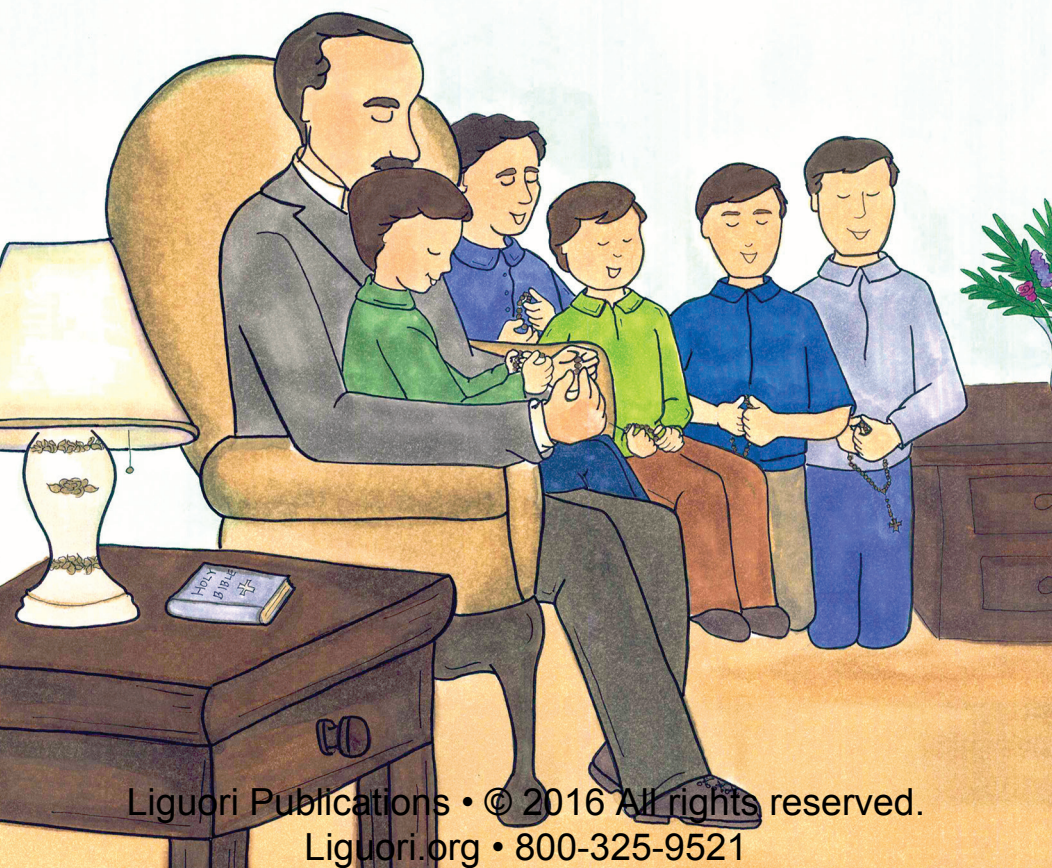
*Saints of Christmas* includes the heroic lives of seven saints from different times and places who loved Jesus. Saints Mary and Joseph witnessed the miracle of God's abundant love for humanity as our Infant Savior entered the world to bring us home to God. Saint Lucy followed Jesus in a time when Christianity was against the law. The story of Saint Nicholas was so incredible that it inspired our secular notion of Santa Claus. Saint Francis of Assisi added much flavor to our current Christmas traditions. Saint Martin de Porres was a biracial saint who taught us about divine love for all people. And a saint of our own era, Gianna Beretta Molla, witnessed a deep belief in the gift of life.

Which saint cared for slaves from Africa? Who became a doctor and mother? What saints were present at Jesus' birth in Bethlehem? Who desired to be a knight? Which saint was a bishop of a seaport city? Do you know which saint's name means "light?" Find the answers in the *Saints of Christmas* set, part of the *Saints and Me!* series, and help your child identify with the lives of the saints.

Introduce your children or students to the *Saints and Me!* series as they:

- READ** about the lives of the saints and are inspired by their stories.
- PRAY** to the saints for their intercession.
- CELEBRATE** the saints and relate to their lives.

Gianna was born in Italy, the tenth of thirteen children. Her parents, Alberto and Maria Beretta, loved their children very much. The Berettas were a happy and holy family.





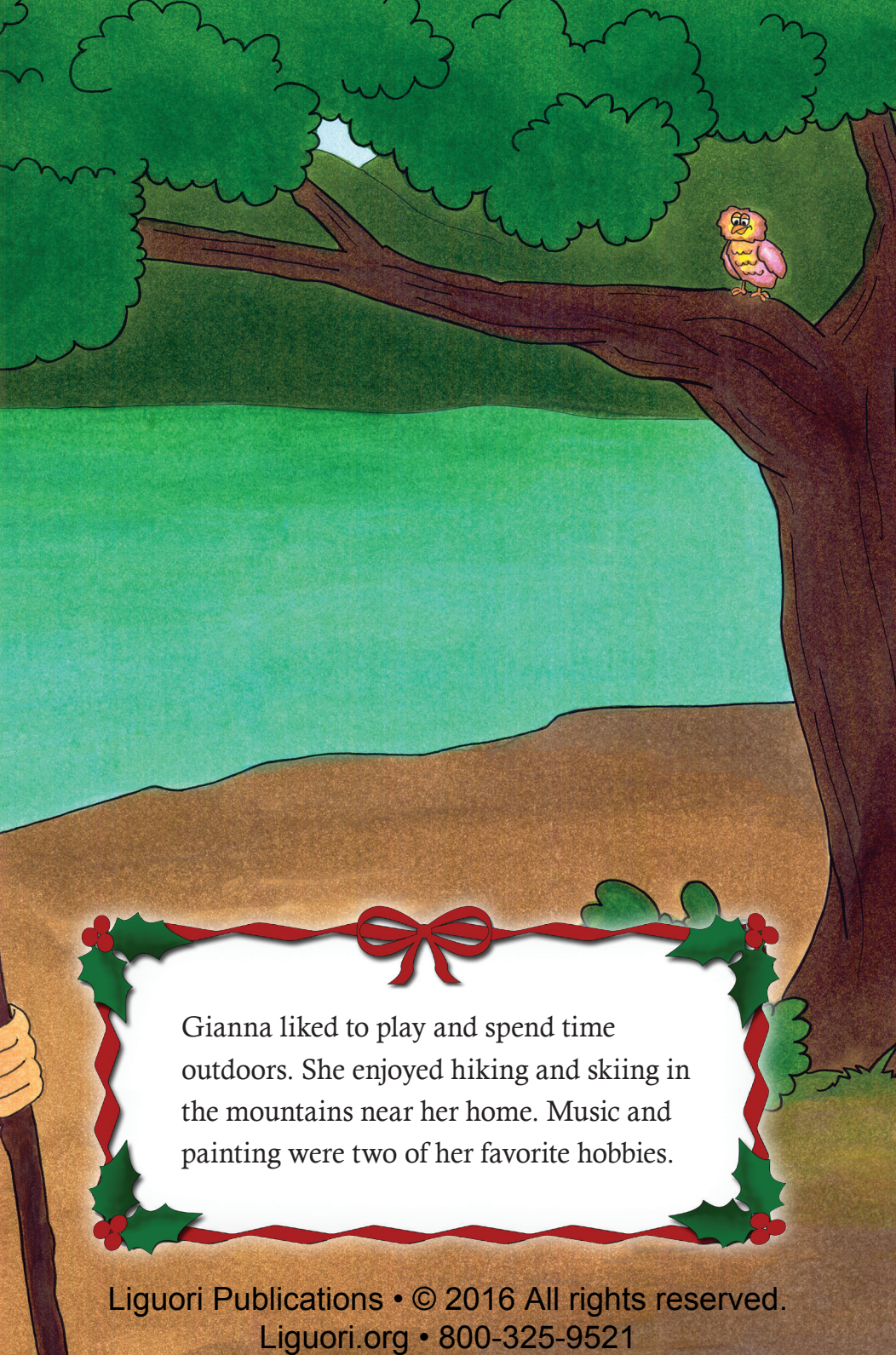
“It is time to pray,” Maria called to her children. Every day they would pray the rosary together. Gianna’s parents taught their children to love God and help others. This was a lesson Gianna would never forget.











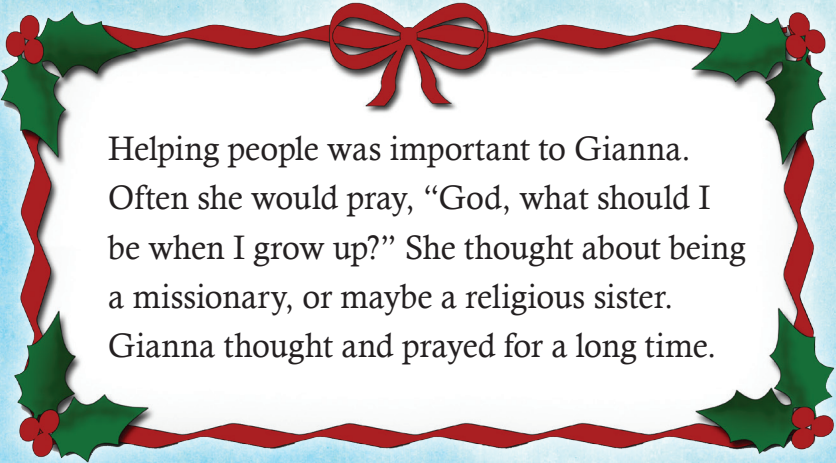
Gianna liked to play and spend time outdoors. She enjoyed hiking and skiing in the mountains near her home. Music and painting were two of her favorite hobbies.





She joined a group of young people who loved God very much. This group, called Catholic Action, taught people about the faith and how to grow close to Jesus. Gianna enjoyed sharing her faith with young girls in the group.





Helping people was important to Gianna.  
Often she would pray, “God, what should I  
be when I grow up?” She thought about being  
a missionary, or maybe a religious sister.  
Gianna thought and prayed for a long time.



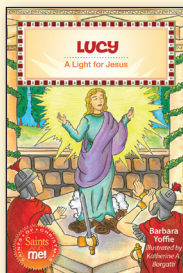


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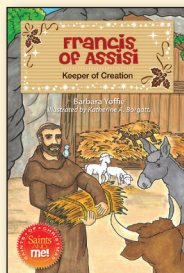
## **saints and me! series**

### **SAINTS OF CHRISTMAS**

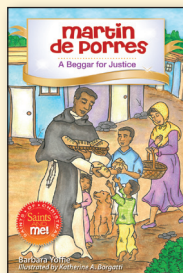
*Collect the entire set!*



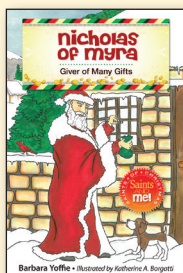
**LUCY**  
A Light for Jesus



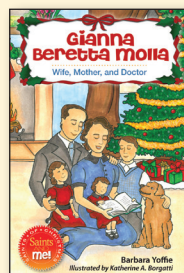
**francis OF ASSISI**  
Keeper of Creation



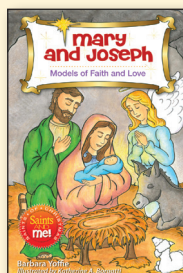
**martin de porres**  
A Beggar for Justice



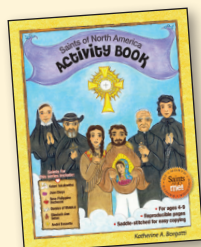
**nicholas OF MYRA**  
Giver of Many Gifts



**Gianna Beretta molla**  
Wife, Mother, and Doctor



**mary and joseph**  
Models of Faith and Love



#### **SAINTS OF NORTH AMERICA Activity BOOK**

Reproducible activities  
for all 6 saints in the series