

# MORNING MEDITATION

Friday, Third Week of Easter

**Dear Lord, grant us the gift of forbearance that we may patiently endure  
our own sufferings, burdens, and shortcomings  
knowing in our weakness Your power is made perfect.**

(2 Corinthians 12)

## **Acts 9:1-20**

Saul was on his way to Damascus while persecuting the Christians. He had a great fall and lost his sight. He heard a voice instructing him to go to the city for further directions. In the city, he met Ananias who prayed over him. With this, Saul experienced a radical transformation of his life and began a new life proclaiming the risen Lord.

## **Psalm 117**

**Praise the Lord, all you nations;  
Glorify him, all you peoples!  
For steadfast is his kindness towards us,  
And the fidelity of the Lord endures forever.**

## **John 6:52-59**

**“If you do not eat the flesh of the son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. He who feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has life eternal.....he abides in me and I in him”. This is the central theme of today’s Gospel reading.**

Jesus said: “This piece of bread is my Body” - this piece of bread is my very self, no longer in type, but in reality. Therefore, when you eat it, you are no longer eating a symbol, a foreshadowing of a future reality. You are eating my very self. Whenever, you eat this, remember that I am truly present in it and therefore in you. I AM REAL - IN YOU, HERE AND NOW. YOU EAT ME AND YOU BECOME MY BODY.

**IN THE EUCHARIST THE CHURCH BECOMES THE BODY OF CHRIST- THE CHURCH BECOMES HIS PRESENCE.**

The Eucharist is REMEMBERING JESUS - His life, death, resurrection - entering into the MYSTERY of His whole being. Eucharist is re-living the MYSTERY - mystery, not in the sense of something mysterious, something that we can not understand - but in the sense of a very PROFOUND REALITY which we can only celebrate, experience and live - a reality that transforms our life as we celebrate it - just as bread and wine are transformed in the celebration, we are transformed. The Eucharist is a redeeming, transforming, life-giving, fulfilling, joy-filled celebration.

**Saint of the Day, April 19 - St. Gianna Beretta Molla and 12 other saints are remembered this day.**

Gianna Beretta was born in Magenta near Milano on October 4, 1922, the 10th of Alberto and Maria Beretta's 13 children. When she was three the Berettas relocated to Bergamo where she grew up. Beretta made her First Communion on April 4, 1928 and received her Confirmation in the Bergamo Cathedral on June 9, 1930. The Berettas moved to Genoa where she attended school and became an active participant in parish life in the parish of Saint Peter. In 1938, she made the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius.

In 1942 she began her studies in medicine in Milan. Outside of her schooling she was an active member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society and a leader in the Catholic Action movement. She earned degrees in medicine and surgery from the University of Pavia, eventually specializing in pediatrics. In 1952, Gianna opened a clinic in the small town of Mesero, where she met engineer Pietro Molla and got married. In the next four years they had three children, two pregnancies following ended in miscarriage.

Early in her sixth pregnancy, doctors discovered that Gianna had both a child and a tumor in her uterus. She allowed the surgeons to remove the tumor but not to perform the complete hysterectomy that they recommended, which would have killed the child. Seven months later in April 1962, Gianna Emanuela Molla was born at the hospital in Monza, but post-operative complications resulted in an infection for her mother. The following week, Gianna Molla died at home in Mesero, where she was buried. Gianna Emanuela went on to become a physician herself. Gianna Beretta Molla was beatified in 1994 and canonized 10 years later.

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