

# RCIA 2017

## Jesus (the) Christ

### His Life, Message & Mission

#### Lesson I-5

## **Saint Gianna Beretta Molla**

**Born: 4 October 1922, Magenta Italy Died: 28 April, 1962 at age of 39**

**Doctor and physician.**

**Married, Mother of four children**

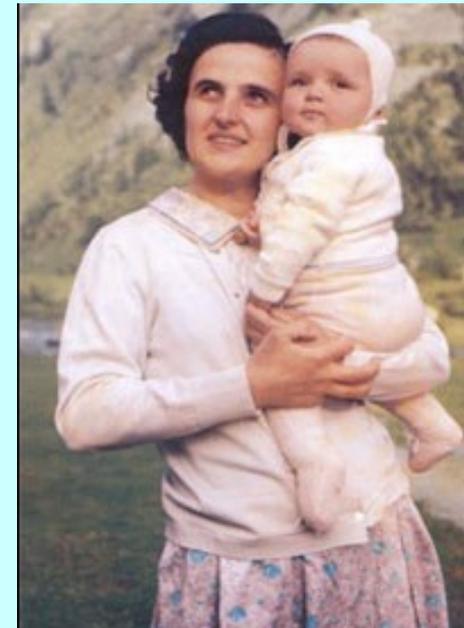
**While pregnant with 4th child, it was discovered that she had a tumor in her uterus.**

**Advised by the doctors to abort the child, she refused, and chose to keep the pregnancy, rather than have an operation on her uterus.**

**Her child was born by Cesarean section.**

**she died 7 days later of septic peritonitis.**

**May 16, 2004 Canonization in St Peter's Square Rome**





**The canonization of Saint Gianna is the first of its kind in modern times. Many mothers have been beatified for their heroic virtues but they entered religious life after becoming widowed.**

**In St Gianna's case, the very condition of her being a spouse and mother is being exalted and highlighted.**

**St Gianna is the first canonized woman physician and professional who was also a "working mom".**



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Roman Catholic Church**

**Yigo, Guam**

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## Focus Word(s)

- **Week 2**
  - **Paradigm**
  - **Sacrament**
- **Week 3**
  - **Faith**
    - **Believing**
    - **Trusting**
    - **Acting**
  - **Reconciliation**
    - **Restoration of intimate relationship**
    - **sharing in divine life**

## Review

- **Week 2**
  - **Church as Sacrament**
  - **Encounter with the Triune God**
  - **Experiencing God's Presence**
  -
- **Week 3**
  - **Salvation History**
  - **God reaches out to heal the rift between God & Man**
  - **Sends His only Son Jesus**



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## Focus Word(s)

- **Week 4**
  - **Trinity**
    - **Three Persons in one Singularity**
  - **Agape**
    - **Unconditional, self-sacrificing, active, volitional, and thoughtful love, willing to overlook faults and flaws, willing to forgive.**

## Review

- **Week 4**
  - **God the Father**
    - **Abba – Father**
      - **Personal Loving God**
    - **Essence of God**
      - **Trinity**
      - **Agape**
  - **God's Name**
    - **Yahweh**
      - **I am Who am**
      - **Source of all existence**



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- **Focus Word**

## **Incarnation**

- **The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.**
- **Jesus, conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, Born of the Virgin Mary**
  - **Both God & Man**
  - **Perfect Mediator between God & Man**

## **I believe:**

...

**in one Lord, Jesus (the) Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten not made, consubstantial with the Father,  
through Him all things were made.**

**For us men and for our salvation,  
he came down from heaven,  
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,  
and became man.**

# **Words of the Creed**

- **Mystery of the union of “divine” and “human” natures of Jesus is the **Incarnation**.**
- **Jesus was and is fully God and fully human.**
- **“True God and True man”**
  - **Perfect mediator between God and humanity**
  - **We are called to be “in the image of God” -- we were so created.**
- **Virgin Birth**



# Incarnation

## Jesus the Christ

- **Jesus - Yeshua in Hebrew - means “God saves”**
- **Christ-**
  - **A Title Not A Name**
  - **means “Messiah” or “Anointed”**
- **“Son of God”**
  - **Describes special relationship with the Father.**
  - **Member of Holy Trinity**
- **“Lord” “Adonai”**
  - **Hebrew word, used to show respect to God**

# Jesus (the) Christ



# What does Incarnation Mean for Mary

## Basics:

**Mary is human, not divine**

**God favored her to be Mother of Jesus**

**Church honors Mary as Archetype of Discipleship**

**Everything the Church says about Mary is reflective of  
& subordinate to Jesus**

- **Theotokos - Greek word for “Mother of God”**
  - **A title reflective of the divine nature of Jesus,**
    - **Reflecting the fact that the child Mary bore was divine as well as human;**
    - **It does not mean that Mary is the source of that divinity. -**
    - **Indeed the Church does not teach or believe that she was the source of his divinity, but only of his humanity.**
- **God's Salvation Plan fulfilled through the free acceptance by the virgin girl-Mary**
  - **Favored by God**
    - **Immaculate Conception**
    - **Sign of God’s “special favor” given to Mary**
- **Her “Yes” becomes the cause of our salvation**



- **The Immaculate Conception**
  - **Mary conceived Free of original sin**
  - **In Perfect state of grace**
  - **Remained without sin her entire life**
- **Apparitions at Lourdes France**
- **Feast Day**
  - **December 8<sup>th</sup>**
  - **Major celebration on Guam**



**Mary, Favored by God**



# Gospels

- **The four Gospels provide the descriptions of Jesus mission, and tell of teachings**
  - **They are not histories as we understand the word history**
- **The Gospels are about “The Kingdom of God”**
  - **Not limited to a time or place**
  - **Jesus calls us to Conversion, that is, to turn toward God - to love God above all things and to Love our neighbor as ourselves.**
  - **And thus bring about the “Kingdom of God”**

## The Gospels tell us very little about Jesus' childhood and early adult life.

- **Jesus early childhood is a mystery, with few exceptions (often called the hidden life of Jesus)**
  - **As a boy in the Temple (Luke 2:41-52)**
  - **About my Father's Business**
  - **Most likely trained in Joseph's trade**
    - **Joseph is described as a "Tekton" in Greek**
    - **Can be translated as "craftsman", 'builder', or 'Carpenter'"**
- **Public ministry**
  - **Began with his baptism by John the Baptist**
  - **Sinless-did not need Baptism, but used this event to identify himself more closely with us, the sinners**
  - **Anticipates taking on sins of the world**



## Teachings about the Kingdom

<b>Old Covenant</b>	<b>New Covenant</b>
<b>You shall not murder.</b>	<b>You should not even hold anger toward someone.</b>
<b>Do not commit adultery.</b>	<b>Do not even “lust” for someone else's spouse.</b>
<b>Love your neighbor and defeat your enemy.</b>	<b>Love our enemies and pray for them. Everyone is your neighbor.</b>

## Teachings about the Kingdom

<b>Old Covenant</b>	<b>New Covenant</b>
<p><b>10 Commandments</b></p> <p><b>Expressed in 613 Precepts Known as “The Law”</b></p>	<p><b>10 Commandments</b> <b>Summed up in the</b> <b>Two Great Commandments:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>1. Love God above all things</b></li><li><b>2. Love Your Neighbor as Yourself</b></li></ol>



# How shall we be Judged at the end of time?

On the Law of **Agape**

See Matthew 25:31-46

Whatever you do to the least of my brothers,  
that you do unto me.

- **Stories told with a “twist”**
  - **You need to understand culture and time to fully understand**
- **They often conflict with Jewish tradition and law**
  - **Parable of Good Samaritan**
    - **Jewish Belief-Samaritans are a despicable people who have polluted Judaism by mixing it with pagan beliefs and practices**
    - **Parable-the Samaritan shows proper Love of Neighbor while the Jewish passer-by refused to help**
  - **Parable of rich man and Lazarus**
    - **Jewish Belief - we receive rewards and punishments in this world. Poverty and disease as a sign of God's disfavor.**
    - **Parable – Blessed are you who are poor for your's is the Kingdom of God. Wealth is to be used to serve those less fortunate. Failure to take care of poor leads to damnation.**

# Parables



- **Jesus shows compassion**
  - **Miracles**
  - **Physical healings**
  - **Exorcisms**
  - **Bringing dead back to life**
  - **Nature Miracles**
- **Jesus provides living examples for us**
  - **Feeding poor**
  - **Forgiving sins**
  - **Healing sick**
  - **Dealing with the “Unlovable” people**

**Think about Pope Francis**



## Who are Jesus' Disciples?

- **Students or followers of Christ**
  - **Ordinary people from different walks of life**
    - **Fishermen**
    - **A Tax Collector**
    - **Not the rich and powerful**
  - **12 special disciples (Apostles)**
    - **Bishops are considered the successors of Apostles**
- **Many other disciples**
  - **Included many women**
    - **Women may have funded Jesus ministry**
    - **Were present throughout his travels**
    - **Witnessed his death and resurrection**
    - **Mary Magdalen - First Person to experience 'Risen Lord'**

# Disciples



## What is expected of Disciples?

- **Jesus teaches us that 'discipleship' requires 'Service'**
  - **Must provide Support and love for each other to be true disciples**
  - **We are called to proclaim the Gospel message to all**
    - **Through Actions**
    - **Through Attitude to Others**
    - **Through Words**
    -
  - **Think about the Catholic – Protestant Split**
    - **Faith alone vs. Faith & Good Works**
    - **The Cost of Discipleship is a call to Service (good works)**

# Discipleship



- **What other names are used for Jesus?**
  - **Son of God**
  - **Son of Man**
  - **Suffering Servant**
  - **Lord of Lords**
  -
- **What does it mean “Jesus Saves?”**
- **Who is Jesus to you?**
- **How do you share in the mission of Christ to give love and support to others?**
- 
- **Think Pope Francis. How is he trying to change the focus and/or emphasis of the Church?**

## Discussion



# Take Aways

**Jesus the Christ**  
**God the Son becomes Man**  
**To Bridge the Gap between God & Man**

**Jesus' Message**  
**2 Great Commandments**  
**Agape**

**Discipleship is a call to Service**



- **Preview – Next Class**

## **Jesus the Christ**

**Mystery of his Suffering, death & resurrection**

**Together – a single act of Redemption**

**Triduum**

- **Reading Assignment**

- **The Privilege of Being Catholic**

- **Chapter Two – Jesus and the Sacramental Principle**