

Gianna Gobbi: A Joyful Servant

*So that they receive their lot and find joy in the fruits of their work. This is a gift from God”
Ecclesiastes 5:18b*

Call to Prayer

Once again, we gather as a community of catechists, to thank God for and to lift up the work of Gianna Gobbi, joyful servant, faithful catechist and observant

Montessorian. She reminds us: *In this we have every reason to be confident, because the environment and the materials help us as well. They provide us with a means of serving the child, while enabling us to maintain an attitude of reverence. They help us to respect the child’s dignity, while encouraging the child’s own activity. Above all, we can go forward on our journey with great confidence because the “power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine” (Ephesians 3:20).* Let us now do what we do in the Atrium, light a candle, and open our ears and hearts to the Word of God.



In His own life Christ Jesus clearly showed us the dignity of work. When he became incarnate, the Word of the Father was known as the carpenter’s son and willingly worked with the tools of His trade. By working with His own hands, He transformed toil from being an inherited curse for sin into a source of blessings. If we do our work well, whatever it may be, and offer it to God, through the work of our hands, our hearts and our minds, we build up God’s creation. Our work enables us to practice charity and to help others, so that joined with Christ the Redeemer, we grow in His love. Let us bless the Lord, then, and pray that He will shower His blessings on all the work we will do today in service of the work of the child. Amen.

The Word of God

A Reading from the book of Ecclesiastes (Ecclesiastes 5:17-19)

Those to whom God gives riches and property, and grants power to partake of them, so that they receive their lot and find joy in the fruits of their toil: This is a gift from God.

For they will hardly dwell on the shortness of life, because God lets them busy themselves with the joy of their heart.

The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 90

R.: Prosper the work of our hands.

Lord, you have been our refuge through all generations. Before the mountains were born, the earth and the world brought forth, from eternity to eternity you are God.

R.: Prosper the work of our hands.

Teach us to count our days aright, that we may gain wisdom of heart. Fill us at daybreak with your mercy, that all our days we may sing for joy. Make us glad as many days as you humbled us, for as many years as we have seen trouble.

R.: Prosper the work of our hands.

Show your deeds to your servants, your glory to their children. May the favor of the Lord our God be ours. Prosper the work of our hands! Prosper the work of our hands!

R.: Prosper the work of our hands.

A Reading from the Holy Gospel According to Matthew.

(Matthew 5:14-16)

You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Silent Reflection

Gianna told us that an important characteristic of the materials “is that the developmental materials must engage the child in appropriate work, that is, they must require the use of motor skills that are appropriate to the child's stage of development. Montessori said that the possibility the material has for holding the child's attention does not depend on its being beautiful or luxurious but on the opportunity, it offers for ordered, controlled movement. The materials must engage the child in a definitive, purposeful and intelligent work.” We will take a short time now to journal what we have heard and what it can mean for us.

Closing Prayer

O Lord, our God, Creator and Ruler of the universe, it is Your Will that human beings accept the duty of work. Lord, we thank you for the work of Gianna Gobbi in helping us to understand the work of the child. As we grow in our understanding of the child, may we come to encounter You more deeply in Your Word and the work you place before us. May the work we do bring growth in this life to us and those we love and help to extend the Kingdom of Christ. Give all persons work that draws them to You and to each other in cheerful service. We unite all our work with the Eucharistic Presence of our Good Shepherd that it may be pleasing to You and give You glory. We ask Your Blessing upon all our efforts. With Saint Joseph as our example and guide, help us to do the work You have asked for Yours is the Kingdom , the power And the glory, now and forever. Amen.