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## I wish that my child should live.

In a world where the unborn have no way to speak for themselves with their voices unheard, St. Gianna Molla's courage to protect the vulnerable and be an upstander for human life portrays her as a beacon of light in a world shrouded by darkness. The story of the sacrifice she made to protect innocent human life and elevate it as the pinnacle of God's creation is one that flawlessly reflects the teachings of Jesus throughout his earthly ministry. Furthermore, despite being questioned by her doctor on her controversial decision, her steadfast and certain statement, "I wish that my child should live," ultimately establishes her character as unwavering in faith. St. Gianna Molla's story, alongside the roles she held during her life, delineate her as a woman of deep love and compassion for the innocent and defenseless. Her unshakable reverence for the gift of life from God further defines her character and legacy.

St. Gianna Molla's dedication to the sanctity and preservation of life was not only displayed through her words, but also exemplified through the roles she held in her life as a protector of the lives of others. As a pediatrician, she ensured that the children under her protection received the medical care necessary to maintain their health. As a mother of four, she held responsibility over the lives of her children, caring deeply for their wellbeing. Her care for her clients and her own children not only strengthened her growth as a Christian but deepened her belief that the blameless and susceptible lives of the young were intentionally created by God to be cherished and protected. Furthermore, when questioned about her decision to sacrifice her

own life for her unborn child, St. Gianna Molla showed no hesitation in her statement of the wish that she had for her child to live. The certainty that she displayed when stating her desire strongly resembles Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. Just as Jesus was steadfast in sacrificing his own life for the salvation of humanity, St. Gianna Molla was firm in sacrificing her own life for the salvation of her unborn child's life.

In Chapter 10 of the Gospel of John, Jesus states, "I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly. I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." Through St. Gianna Molla's love for her children, her protection of the young through medical service, and eventually her sacrifice for her unborn child, it is undoubtedly evident that her life represented the core meanings behind Jesus' teachings on the sanctity of life.