



Today, Tuesday, September 10, 2019 day 97 in our countdown of 100 days leading to the celebration of Gianna Gobbi's Centenary.

On Tuesdays during this countdown we will be sharing pearls of Gianna's joy from catechists reflecting on her life and work.

Today we share a reflection from Sandra Pollastri, a Roman Catechist who knew

Gianna. This reflection was first shared in the August 2019 Foglietto

My memories of Gianna are many, regarding her person, her capacity for relationship with others, and the affection she showed for you, her concreteness and practicality in any situation, and her availability to offer help with generosity and simplicity whenever it was requested.

But above all, I want to remember the Gianna I knew in formation courses, especially the first one I attended in 1977-79 to prepare myself to be a catechist of the Good Shepherd, but also in subsequent courses I attended so as to understand better and improve as a catechist. It would be superfluous to remind us all of her competence, of which we are already familiar; rather I will share that personally what struck me greatly was her joyful simplicity in transmitting the Montessori vision of the child. She was always deeply keen on our keeping in the forefront of our mind the deeper motivations of our work, the doctrinal foundations, along with the psychological and pedagogical underpinnings of our way of doing catechesis; otherwise, she said, "it would become mechanical." What also particularly struck me in the courses, and especially at the International Consiglio gatherings was Sofia's and Gianna's collegial attitude, their way of collaborating in a discussion, whether it was about finding the right word or phrase for something or expressing some reality of the catechesis in the way most suited to the height and depth of a particular theme, while knowing the search would be taken up over and over. We all know what a great harmony Sofia and Gianna experienced in their research and observation of the child, but to see them work together so harmoniously in the moment of transmitting their work to others was, for me, an experience of particular exaltation and joy. It was evident that they communicated all that they had discovered as well as what they were still searching for. Thank you, Gianna; thank you, Sofia.

- Sandra Pollastri

Please join us each day as we post reflections, timelines, images, stories, videos, and interviews revealing the joy of the precious pearl discovered by Sofia Cavalletti and Gianna Gobbi since the early 1950's.

We invite you to share reflections, videos, and stories demonstrating how the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is bring joy to you, the children you serve, your parish, your family, and your friends.

HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT THIS MOST IMPORTANT TRIBUTE?

PRAY!

For the continual seeking and finding of pearls of joy around the world.

REFLECT!

Discern whether you might provide a brief reflection on pearls of joy you have seen in the children, in your life, or in the life of your community.

SHARE!

1. A simple, brief video (cell phone or camera) of atrium sessions, interviews with catechists, and/or parents that shares a favorite work of the child, a presentation, material, or response to a presentation. Show us how the pearls of joy delight your community. This joy maybe found in your personal growth, your family, your atrium, your parish. If you include the work of a child, we will need parental permission, please use the form found on our website here:

https://www.cgsusa.org/wp-content/uploads/Consent-Form_Journal.pdf

2. A reflection we can share on our website and social media sites during the 100 days leading up to Gianna's centenary. Your reflection might be an atrium experience, a favorite presentation, an observation, or insight. Email your submissions to: 100yearsofjoy@cgsusa.org

Thank you for your collaboration!

The Pearls of Joy CGSUSA Team