



DIOCESE of
TRENTON

THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY & SAINT JOSEPH:



A Marriage of Faith and Divine Trust

The marriage of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph stands as a profound example of faith, obedience, and sacrificial love. Though their union was unique—marked by Mary’s perpetual virginity and their shared mission as guardians of the Son of God—it was a true marriage, filled with mutual respect, trust, and unwavering devotion to God’s will.

Joseph, described in Scripture as a “just man,” exemplified humility and righteousness. When he learned of Mary’s

miraculous pregnancy, he initially resolved to divorce her quietly, but upon receiving the angel’s message, he embraced his role as protector of the Holy Family. His obedience and steadfast faith allowed him to guide and provide for Mary and Jesus, despite the hardships they faced.

Mary, full of grace, lived her vocation as wife and mother with perfect trust in God. She supported Joseph in his work and shared in his trials, including their flight into Egypt to escape Herod’s wrath. Together, they created a home where Jesus was nurtured in love and holiness.

Their marriage was a model of divine trust, selfless service, and unwavering commitment to God’s plan. Though Joseph’s earthly life ended before Jesus’ public ministry, his legacy of faith endured. Mary, assumed into Heaven, continues to intercede for all families, making their union a beacon of holiness for married couples seeking to live their vocation with virtue.





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SAINTS ZÉLIE & LOUIS MARTIN:



A Marriage of Holiness and Sacrificial Love

Saints Louis Martin (1823–1894) and Zélie Guérin Martin (1831–1877) lived a marriage rooted in faith, love, and a shared commitment to holiness. Though both initially sought religious life, God had a different plan for them. They met in Alençon, France, and married in 1858, embracing their vocation as spouses and parents with profound devotion.

Their marriage was marked by deep spiritual unity. From the beginning, they dedicated their family to God, raising their children in an atmosphere of prayer, virtue, and charity. Zélie, a skilled lace-maker, managed a thriving business while nurturing their home, and Louis, a watchmaker, supported her work and led their family with wisdom

and gentleness. Together, they endured hardships, including the loss of four children, yet remained steadfast in their trust in God.

Their greatest legacy is their youngest daughter, St. Thérèse of Lisieux, whose “Little Way” of holiness was nurtured by their example. Zélie’s unwavering faith, even in suffering, and Louis’ quiet strength and devotion shaped their children’s spiritual lives. After Zélie’s early death, Louis continued to guide his daughters, offering them a model of perseverance and love.

Canonized together in 2015, they are the first married couple to be declared saints simultaneously, a testament to the sanctity of their union. Their marriage exemplifies the beauty of sacrificial love, faithfulness, and trust in God’s providence, inspiring families to seek holiness in their daily lives.





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**ST. GIANNA BERETTA MOLLA
& PIETRO MOLLA:**



A Marriage Rooted in Faith and Sacrifice

St. Gianna Beretta Molla (1922–1962) was an Italian pediatrician whose life was marked by deep faith, selfless service, and unwavering devotion to her family. She married Pietro Molla, an engineer, in 1955, and together they built a marriage centered on love, faith, and mutual support. Their union was a testament to the sanctity of marriage, reflecting the virtues of self-sacrifice, trust in God, and unwavering commitment to one another.

Gianna and Pietro embraced their vocation as spouses and parents with joy, seeing their marriage as a path to holiness. Gianna, a dedicated physician, balanced her professional life with her role as a wife and mother, always prioritizing the well-being of her family. Pietro, deeply devoted to his wife, supported her in all aspects of life, sharing in her faith and encouraging her mission of service.

Their greatest testament to sacrificial love came when Gianna, pregnant with their fourth child, was diagnosed with a life-threatening condition. She refused medical interventions that would harm her unborn child, choosing instead to give her life so that her baby might live. Pietro, devastated yet steadfast, honored her sacrifice and continued to uphold her legacy.

Their marriage was a beacon of Christian virtue, demonstrating the beauty of selfless love and trust in God's providence. Today, St. Gianna is venerated as a patron of mothers and physicians, and her marriage with Pietro remains an inspiring example of faith-filled love.





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BLESSED CHARLES OF AUSTRIA & SERVANT OF GOD ZITA:



A Marriage of Faith and Duty

Blessed Charles of Austria (1887–1922) and Servant of God Zita of Bourbon-Parma (1892–1989) lived a marriage rooted in faith, duty, and unwavering trust in Divine Providence. Their union, formed in 1911, was not only a bond of love but also a shared commitment to serving God and their people.

From the beginning, Charles and Zita saw their marriage as a path to holiness. On their

wedding day, Charles told Zita, “Now, we must help each other to get to Heaven.” This guiding principle shaped their life together, as they embraced their roles as sovereigns of Austria-Hungary during one of the most turbulent periods in history. Despite the immense pressures of leadership during World War I, Charles remained a devoted husband and father, seeking peace for his people while upholding Catholic principles.

Zita, a woman of deep faith, stood steadfastly by her husband’s side, offering him counsel and support. When the empire fell and they were exiled, she remained his pillar of strength. After Charles’ untimely death in 1922, Zita dedicated herself to raising their eight children in the Catholic faith, never remarrying and wearing black in mourning for the rest of her life.

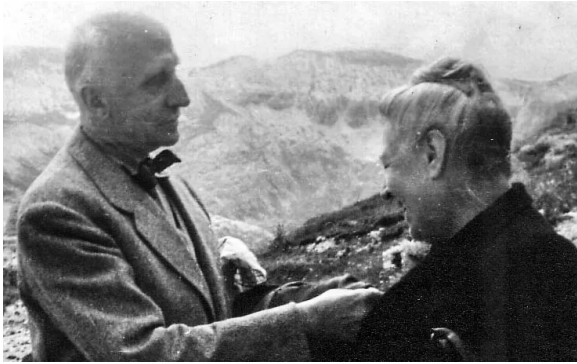
Their marriage was a testament to sacrificial love, fidelity, and trust in God’s will. Today, Charles is venerated as a model of Christian leadership, and Zita’s cause for beatification continues, honoring their legacy as a couple who lived their vocation with profound virtue.





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**BLESSED MARIA
& LUIGI QUATTROCCHI:**



A Marriage of Faith and Holiness

Blessed Luigi Beltrame Quattrocchi (1880–1951) and Maria Corsini Quattrocchi (1884–1965) lived a marriage deeply rooted in faith, love, and service to God. Married in 1905, they embraced their vocation as spouses and parents with unwavering devotion, transforming their home into a true domestic church.

Luigi, a lawyer and civil servant, and Maria, a writer and educator, complemented each other in their pursuit of holiness. Though Luigi was initially lukewarm in his faith, Maria's deep spirituality inspired him to grow in devotion. Together, they cultivated a life centered on prayer, attending daily Mass, praying the Rosary as a family, and consecrating their home to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Their marriage was marked by sacrificial love and openness to life. They welcomed four children, two of whom became priests and one a nun. When Maria faced a life-threatening pregnancy, doctors advised abortion, but she and Luigi courageously

refused, entrusting themselves entirely to God's will.

Beyond their family, they were active in charitable works, offering aid to the poor and welcoming refugees during World War II. Their home was a beacon of faith, hospitality, and service.

Beatified together in 2001, they are celebrated as models of Christian marriage, demonstrating that holiness is attainable in ordinary family life. Their legacy continues to inspire couples to embrace their vocation with faith, love, and trust in God's providence.





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ST. ISIDORE & BLESSED MARIA TORRIBIA:



A Marriage of Faith and Charity

St. Isidore the Farmer (c. 1070–1130) and his wife, Blessed Maria Torribia, lived a marriage rooted in faith, humility, and service to God. Born into a poor but devout family near Madrid, Spain, Isidore worked as a farm laborer, dedicating his life to honest toil and prayer. Maria, equally devout, supported him in his work and shared his commitment to charity.

Their marriage was marked by simplicity and deep trust in God's providence. Though they lost their only child in infancy, they responded not with despair but with greater devotion, taking a vow of continence and dedicating themselves entirely to God. Isidore was known for his generosity, often giving away his own food to the poor, while Maria ensured their home remained a place of hospitality and kindness.

Legend tells of Isidore's miraculous assistance in the fields—angels were said to plow alongside him, ensuring his work was never neglected despite his frequent prayers. Maria, too, was known for her miracles, including the multiplication of food for the hungry.

After Isidore's death, Maria lived as a hermit, continuing her life of prayer and service. Though she was never formally canonized, she is venerated as "Santa Maria de la Cabeza," and her relics are honored throughout Spain.

Their marriage exemplifies the virtues of humility, charity, and unwavering faith, offering a model for couples seeking holiness in their daily lives





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**CHIARA CORBELLA PETRILLO
& ENRICO PETRILLO:**



A Marriage of Faith and Joy

Chiara Corbella Petrillo (1984–2012) and her husband, Enrico Petrillo (b. 1979), lived a marriage marked by profound faith, sacrificial love, and unwavering trust in God's providence. Their journey together was filled with trials, yet they embraced each challenge with grace, transforming suffering into a witness of joy.

Chiara and Enrico met in 2002 during a pilgrimage to Medjugorje, where their shared devotion to God laid the foundation for their relationship. They married in 2008, committing themselves to a life of faith and openness to God's will. Their marriage was soon tested by immense sorrow—two of their children were diagnosed with severe medical conditions and passed away shortly after birth. Despite their grief, they remained steadfast, finding peace in surrendering their children to God.

When Chiara became pregnant with their third child, Francesco, she was diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer. Refusing treatments that could harm her unborn son, she chose to prioritize his life over her own.

As her illness progressed, Enrico stood by her side, offering unwavering support and embracing God's grace in the midst of suffering. Chiara passed away in 2012, surrounded by loved ones, wearing her wedding gown as a symbol of her vocation.

Their marriage exemplifies the beauty of selfless love, trust in God, and the joy found in embracing His will. Chiara's cause for beatification, championed by her husband, continues - and their story remains an inspiration for couples seeking holiness in their vocation.

