

Bl. Maria (Corsini) Beltrame Quattrocchi

(Italy) 1884-1965

Volunteer Red Cross nurse, World War I.¹

First married couple to be beatified.



Blesseds Luigi and Maria Beltrame-Quattrocchi

Maria Luisa Corsini, laywoman, was born on June 24, 1884, in Florence Italy, the only daughter of Army Captain Angiolo Corsini and Giulia Salvi. Her father was an officer of the Sardinian grenadiers. His career caused the family to move frequently. By the time she was nine, Maria had lived in Pistioa, Florence, Arrezo and Rome, Italy. Maria was intelligent, enthusiastic and she studied languages. She also became a prolific writer.

In Rome, Maria met Luigi Beltrame Quattrocchi, a young lawyer who had graduated in July 1902. Maria and Luigi were married on November 25, 1905, in the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome. They had four children. Filippo (in 1906), Stefania (1908), Cesare (1909) and Enrichetta (1914). All their children would later enter religious life. Enrichetta was declared “Venerable” by Pope Francis, on August 30, 2021. Luigi and Maria provided a pious example, regularly receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation and daily Communion and praying the Holy rosary every evening.

Maria served as a volunteer Red Cross nurse during World War I (1914-1918). Together, Luigi and Maria assisted soldiers, the wounded and families in need. In 1919, when it was thought she might die, Maria wrote *Voce di Madre*, about the riches of her faith and her mother’s heart. Maria recovered and lived into her 80’s. During this time, Father Matthew Crawley, the great apostle of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and reparation for sins of the world, enthroned the picture of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in their home and left them a command: “Be apostles!”

On November 5, 1924, the family went to an audience with Pope Pius XI and then accompanied Filippo to the Capranica Seminary and Cesare to the Benedictine Monastery of San Paolo. In October 1927, Stefania entered a convent in Milan, becoming Sister Cecilia. Enrichetta later consecrated herself to God in a secular Institute.

Maria served as a catechist and taught women in the parish. Luigi and Maria were involved in the lay apostolate, Catholic Action, supporting the Catholic University, various initiatives at the service of young people, workers and the poor. During World War II Luigi and Maria sheltered refugees in their home.

Maria (Corsini) Beltrame Quattrocchi died on August 26, 1965, at the age of 81, in the arms of her daughter Enrichetta as soon as the Angelus was recited at noon.

Blessed Maria Corsini Beltrame Quattrocchi and her husband Luigi were declared venerable with the promulgation of the decree on heroic virtues on July 7, 2001, and beatified on October 21, 2001, both by Pope St. John Paul II. Blessed Maria’s beatification miracle involved the healing of a young man with a severe circulatory disorder. He subsequently became a neuro-surgeon in Milan, Italy.²

The Quattrocchis are the first married couple to be beatified together. Their daughter Enrica received the title Venerable Servant of God in 2021. They were beatified upon the occasion of the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the promulgation of the Apostolic Exhortation “Familiaris consortio” (On the Role of the Christian Family in the Modern World). Pope St. John Paul II held them up as a couple who lived an ordinary life in an extraordinary way stating:³

This couple lived married love and service to life in the light of the Gospel and with great human intensity. With full responsibility they assumed the task of collaborating with God in procreation, dedicating themselves generously to their children, to teach them, guide them and direct them to discovering his plan of love. From this fertile spiritual terrain sprang vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life, which shows how, with their common roots in the spousal love of the Lord, marriage and virginity may be closely connected and reciprocally enlightening.

Drawing on the word of God and the witness of the saints, the blessed couple lived an ordinary life in an extraordinary way. Among the joys and anxieties of a normal family, they knew how to live an extraordinarily rich spiritual life. At the centre of their life was the daily Eucharist as well as devotion to the Virgin Mary, to whom they prayed every evening with the Rosary, and consultation with wise spiritual directors. In this way, they could accompany their children in vocational discernment, training them to appreciate everything "from the roof up", as they often, charmingly, liked to say.

The riches of faith and love of the husband and wife Luigi and Maria Beltrame Quattrocchi, are a living proof of what the Second Vatican Council said about the call of all the faithful to holiness, indicating that spouses should pursue this goal, *"propriam viam sequentes"*, "following their own way" (Lumen gentium, n. 41). Today the aspiration of the Council is fulfilled with the first beatification of a married couple: their fidelity to the Gospel and their heroic virtues were verified in their life as spouses and parents.⁴

The relics of Luigi and Maria are in a crypt in the Shrine in Divino Amore (Divine Love) in Rome, Italy.

Maria condensed her whole life with Louis and their children in only three words drawn from the deepest roots of the Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary Most Holy: (Memorial - 26 August)

"Thy Will be done. " "Thy kingdom come. " and
"My soul magnifies the Lord. "
(Fiat, Adveniat and Magnificat)⁵

References:

- 1) "Blessed Maria Corsini Beltrame Quattrocchi". CatholicSaints.Info. 14 January 2018. Web. 8 December 2021. <<https://catholicsaints.info/blessed-maria-corsini-beltrame-quattrocchi/>>
- 2) Hagiography Circle: An Online Resource on Contemporary Hagiography. 1965. 14) 26 August in Serravalle, Bibbiena, Arezzo (Italy). Accessed 8 April 2022. <http://newsaints.faithweb.com/year/1965.htm>
- 3) Paul Zalonski (25 Nov 2016). Blessed Luigi and Maria (Corsini) Beltrame Quattrocchi. Communio. Accessed 8 April 2022. <https://communio.stblogs.org/index.php/2016/11/blesseds-luigi-and-maria-corsini-beltrame-quattrocchi/>
- 4) Pope St. John Paul II. (21 October 2001). Homily upon the Beatification of the Servants of God Luigi Beltrame Quattrocchi and Maria Corsini, Married Couple. Accessed 8 April 2022. https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/homilies/2001/documents/hf_jp-ii_hom_20011021_beltrame-quattrocchi.html
- 5) Maria Di Lorenzo (3 Dec 2016). Santi Beati. Blessed Luigi Beltrame Quattrocchi and Maria Corsini Sposi. Accessed 8 April 2022. <http://www.santiebeati.it/dettaglio/90324>

Note: This biography is particularly for nursing students and nurses desiring to grow in holiness and follow His Holiness Pope Pius XI words to first and foremost bring the Christian supernatural, Christ to our patients. I hope the biographies and references will help you with your Nursing History courses. Source: Diana L. Ruzicka (2022). *The Book of Nurse Saints*. Available at www.lulu.com/spotlight/Ruzicka