

October 13,2008

Dear Friends in Christ,

On October 12, 2008 the Archbishop of Baltimore disseminated a "Pastoral Advisory" to the Christian faithful of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, which is provided as downloaded from the Archdiocesan website. Even though it saddened me to read the "Pastoral Advisory," I am grateful to Archbishop O'Brien for clarifying the many unresolved questions his predecessor left unaddressed in spite of countless correspondences from the Christian faithful. It is unfortunate that this lack of communication caused many hardships, confusion and divisions. So I congratulate Archbishop O'Brien for rising to the occasion to outline his Diocesan desires. To me this shows the quality of a loving and good Shepherd.

From 1994-2000 alone over a quarter of a million pilgrims visited St. Joseph's Catholic Church. Since the reinitiating of the prayer group, over 6 million hits to the website have occurred. In this past 2008 year alone, there were visits from all 50 states and over 140 nations in the world.

My dear friends, it has been a privilege for me to have shared in so many confidential matters and to pray on your behalf to Our Blessed Mother. Know that you will always be cherished in my heart and that I will continue to pray for all of your beloved ones. I now beg all of you to heed the Bishop's cautions. Obedience is the utmost act of authenticity, humility and love. Remember, Jesus did not deem equality with God something to be grasped at. Rather he emptied himself taking the form of a slave...thus he humbled himself even onto death, death on a Cross. (Phil 2:6-7). He learned obedience through what He suffered.

I am certain that the wound in Our Lord's Heart from the persecution He received from the church authorities then was immeasurable. However, He embraced His Cross. It has been my privilege that Our Blessed Lord has shared with me a small portion of His Passion and Cross. All the wealth, honor, scepter and glory could never be compared to the splendor of the Cross.

Our Blessed Mother always encourages us to be forgiving children of Light and Love. She always directs us to her Son. He is a merciful God. We must follow in His footsteps. Remember Our Blessed Mother said, "*I am not leaving*". She is here with us always. Please remain faithful to our Mother Church by living the Gospel message, receiving the Sacraments with fervent love and attending Mass as well as Eucharistic adoration. When or if God deems fit, all could change because the Truth is the Truth. For now be at peace.

Initially when St. Paul persecuted the Christians, he thought he was doing the right thing. Later he realized his ignorance in acting out his unbelief on the Christians. If God converted Saul into Paul, from a persecutor into a great saint, then what would stop Him from doing the same with anyone who cooperates with His Grace?

Please Trust in God and in His Divine Mercy. We must love, forgive and forget. Please do not allow vices or anger to fill your hearts. Evil begets evil. Please pray, and love one another.

In light of the cautions from Archbishop O'Brien specifically addressed to me, I make the following points:

1. The monthly prayer group at the Lynfield Complex will be suspended until further notice. I will not disseminate any information related to or containing any messages written or spoken, electronic or printed within the jurisdiction of the Archdiocese of Baltimore as outlined specifically in the Pastoral Advisory.
2. Neither my husband Michael nor I are members of the Foundation of the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary Inc., and are no way responsible for its future activities.
3. Any written healings and testimonies can be sent to The Foundation of the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary Inc., P.O. Box 505, Fairfield, PA 17320-0505.

Please know I wish you all well in your endeavors. Thank you for your prayers and Masses for our family. Please find an attachment of a poem written by me on October 8, 2000, which I delivered to his Holiness John Paul II in our unscheduled private audience, on October 13, 2000.

I testify that this has been prepared by, me, Gianna Talone-Sullivan, with the approval and discernment from my spiritual director, Fr. Kieran Kavanaugh, OCD, Carmelite mystical and Marian theologian, and Vice-Postulator for the canonization of St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein).

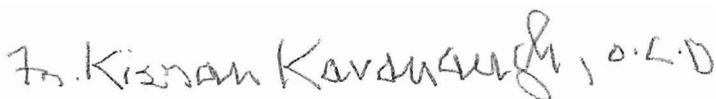
Pax et Bonum,



Gianna

Gianna Talone-Sullivan

Read and approved by:



Fr. Kieran Kavanaugh OCD

OPEN WIDE THE DOORS TO CHRIST

by Gianna Sullivan

Presented to Pope John Paul II in Rome on October 13, 2000

Followers of Christ, be the light of Christ

*Our words and lives show the secret of the simplicity
of **what** it means to look at Christ,
the mystery of **looking** at God by allowing God
to look at us.*

*His dialogue and gaze restore us to the joy
of our original face.*

*Give your **hearts**, followers of Christ,
and let your hearts be **flooded**
with **the** splendor **of** glory.*

*Our nothingness is so great,
yet our greatest resource.*

*Encapsulated within us is so great our God Divine,
our icon of love and radiance.*

Open wide the doors to Christ your hearts, followers.

*He will lead you into the journey
of deeper mystery and greater clarity.*

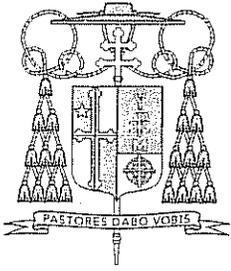
Hold fast to what you hold, followers.

*Never cease **what** you have committed to do.*

*You sustain the members of His Body
who are failing as co-workers of Christ.*

*You will lead them further into **the** beyond of God.*

Open wide the doors to Christ



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PASTORAL ADVISORY

To the Christian faithful of the Archdiocese of Baltimore:

Over the course of several years, information has been made available which suggests that messages and locutions have been given to Gianna Talone-Sullivan by the Virgin Mother of the Lord. These alleged messages and locutions are supposedly to be shared with members of the Christian faithful. Recent messages and activity by those who support Mrs. Talone-Sullivan have created confusion among many and division in our parishes and our Archdiocese.

On more than one occasion, the Archdiocese of Baltimore has conducted investigations into these matters in an effort to protect the faith and good morals of the Christian faithful. Each investigation has concluded that there is nothing of significance to be found in the messages and locutions. Most recently, the results of the investigation were submitted for the consideration of the Holy See's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. After thorough study and careful consideration, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith concluded that the Archbishop of Baltimore was in a position to issue a decree concluding the investigation and declaring that there was nothing supernatural about any of the messages or locutions. The decree further stated that no public activity relating to the alleged apparitions and locutions is to take place on properties of the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

Although my predecessor, Cardinal William H. Keeler, and others in the Archdiocese spoke out clearly, it is now apparent to me that more must be done to protect the faith and good morals of the Christian faithful from possible distortion and harm. In virtue of my office as chief shepherd of the people of the Archdiocese of Baltimore and directed particularly by Canon 823 §1, I seek to protect the faith and good morals of the Christian faithful entrusted to my care so that no harm be done to them. To that end, I have consulted with those entrusted with the pastoral care of all affected by these messages and locutions, and I have listened carefully to those members of the Christian faithful who wished to be heard on the matter and those whose rights could be injured.

The *Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy* issued by Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments offers principles and guidelines for pious practices of the Christian people. Of particular pertinence to this matter is its paragraph 90:

Popular Piety and Private Revelation

90. Popular piety has always been interested in extraordinary happenings and events that are not infrequently connected with private revelations. While not confined to Marian piety alone, this phenomenon is particularly involved with "apparitions" and "messages". In this regard, it is useful to recall what the Catechism of the Catholic Church says about private revelation: "Throughout the ages, there have been so-called private revelations, some of which have been recognized by the authority of the Church. They do not belong, however, to the deposit of faith. It is not their role to improve or complete Christ's definitive Revelation, but to help live more fully by it in a certain period of history. Guided by the Magisterium of the Church, the *sensus*

fidelium knows how to discern and welcome in these revelations whatever constitutes an authentic call of Christ or his saints to the Church" (n. 67).

The alleged apparitions to Gianna Sullivan have not been recognized by the authority of the Church. Studied in detail by experts in theology and other pertinent fields, the investigations have come to the conclusion that the alleged apparitions are not supernatural in origin. This has been confirmed by the authority of the Church.

Therefore, I strongly caution all the faithful regarding these purported apparitions to be guided by the Magisterium which cannot affirm them as authentic. The confusion and division that have come as a result of these apparitions have prompted me to take this public and decisive step.

I also strongly caution Mrs. Gianna Talone-Sullivan not to communicate in any manner whatsoever, written or spoken, electronic or printed, personally or through another in any church, public oratory, chapel or any other place or locale, public or private, within the jurisdiction of the Archdiocese of Baltimore any information of any type related to or containing messages or locutions allegedly received from the Virgin Mother of God.

Further, I strongly caution those who participate in any activity surrounding these alleged apparitions or who seek to disseminate information and promote them here in the Archdiocese. To do so is a great disservice to the Church and creates further confusion and division among the faithful.

It is my hope that this warning will result in greater clarity for the faithful and resolve the divisions created by this situation. May Mary, Mother of the Church, intercede for us, now and always.

Given at Baltimore, Maryland on October 8, 2008.



+ Edwin F. O'Brien,
Archbishop of Baltimore

Witnessed:



(Rev. Msgr.) Robert J. Jaskot
Chancellor