

# Today's Martyrs

*Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom*

## Book Review – Chiara Corbella Petrillo: A Witness to Joy

**The past to mercy, the present to grace, the future to Providence. Let us ask for grace... - Enrico Petrillo**



**Chiara Corbella Petrillo: A Witness to Joy** is the story of the life and death of a young wife and mother in Rome, Italy. In just under five years of marriage Chiara and her husband Enrico lived through the birth of a daughter and then a son who both died of unrelated congenital illnesses. Their third child developed normally, but then Chiara was diagnosed with cancer during the pregnancy. She elected to preserve her son Francesco's life by delaying more radical treatments until after his early delivery. She died in June 2012 at age 28 just after his first birthday.

The photograph on the book cover shows Chiara within months of her death, after the final prognosis was known. She is seen with an eyepatch worn to prevent the double vision that resulted from pressure from one of the many tumors. Throughout the story she showed the normal emotions to be expected in such a time, but also a faith in God and a need to help others that can only be described as transcendental. The sanctity of the vocation of marriage and the true value of loving friendships illuminates the book. This is a book that needs

to be read by all Christians, including those who do not like hospitals or Italian Catholic piety. It is a story that gives thanks for the present moment. It also shows us that at the end, and in the end, all we have is God, and if we are truly blessed, each other.

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For more information please visit our web site at: <https://todaysmartyrs.org/>

or write to:

**2490 Black Rock Turnpike #455**

**Fairfield CT 06825-2400 USA**

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