

# SAINT GIANNA & PIETRO MOLLA Maternity Home

# A Canticle of Praise

Serving the Body of Christ as a Pro-Life Home of Formation for Pregnant Women and their Children Summer 2022 Edition

SAINT GIANNA & PIETRO MOLLA MATERNITY HOME

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT! New Name Shares the Example of Holy Parents

Written by Tanya Watterud

Many of the women who come to Saint Gianna & Pietro Molla Maternity Home do so because they do not have the support of the fathers of the children they are carrying within their wombs. They are alone, or, even if the father or their extended family is present and involved, they feel alone in their unique situation. They need

guidance and help as they look

toward the day when their chil-

dren will be born.

Saint Gianna, the patroness of the maternity home, is an image for these mothers of what it means to sacrifice oneself for the wellbeing of their children, and to place their future in the hands of God, the Creator of every child. Saint Gianna's example, and her intercession,

helps these women to heal, to move forward with hope, and gives them a holy mother to emulate as they learn how to care for their children.



Needed so desperately by these women, as well, is the example of a holy father, one who loves, wants and sacrifices for his children. Saint Gianna's husband, Pietro, was such a father. "Prior to marriage, Pietro prayed to God and especially to Our Lady for a holy mother for their future children," said Father Joseph Christensen, FMI, Spiritual Director and Chaplain for the maternity home. "They were married only six and a half years and conceived six

babies in that time, although two miscarried. So, we see how their love was fruitful, generous and sacrificial."

After Gianna's death, Pietro lived as a single parent, raising their children in a home of love and deep faith in God, turning to God for help as he dealt with the loss of his young wife and, only two years later, the death of their six-year-old daughter, Mariolina.

"Here at Saint Gianna & Pietro Molla Maternity Home, we certainly benefit in helping the mothers who come here to hold up to them the example of Pietro Molla – that here is a good man, a holy man, an example of a man you mothers should look for when seeking a husband and a father for your child,"

Father Joseph said. "Pietro is one who understood single parenting and the many struggles that come with trying to work while parenting children, trying to spend time with each child while busy with life."

"Pietro shows mothers that God will see them through and how to persevere, especially to persevere in grace, passing on the Faith and the love of God so necessary in life," Father Joseph continued. "Pietro also teaches how to suffer loss and what to do with that - keep moving forward, turn to prayer and to God, continue to love those closest, be the person we are called to be, and live the vocation we are called to live."

Pietro & Gianna on their

honeymoon to Taormina,

Messina, October, 1955.



# SAINT GIANNA & PIETRO MOLLA MATERNITY HOME

Serving the Body of Christ as a Pro-Life Home of Formation For Pregnant Women and Their Children

> Volume 20, No. 2 Summer - 2022

#### **Spiritual Director**

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His Eminence Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke

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15605 Country Road 15, Minto ND 58261 701.248.3077

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# Cardinal Raymond Burke and Dr. Gianna Molla Now Officially Part of Saint Gianna & Pietro Molla Maternity Home!

Along with announcing our beloved new co-patron of our maternity home, we are thrilled to also announce that we have added two additional members to our extended board of directors. Both who have been helpful and inspiring in the work of our home and in our faith.

We are humbled that **His Eminence Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke has joined us as an honorary advisor.** We look to him as a spiritual leader and wise counsel and have known him for a number of years. **His voice in the Church is a steady voice of truth and inspiration.** He was an important consult for us before continuing with our official name change. We count on his leadership and his prayers and are grateful for his kindness to us.

**Dr. Gianna Emanuela Molla is a true friend** of ours and beloved member of our (now) Saint Gianna and Pietro Molla Maternity Home family and official representative of the Molla family, as well as someone who lived with her father from her birth until he died in 2010. Gianna has been with us at our maternity home many times in the last several years, and we count on both her memory and counsel in being able to further share the life and wisdom and example of her holy father. We pray for her to be able to return to the United States again soon. **Her work and her mission now is to spread especially the beautiful example of her holy Dad as well as her Saint Mom.** 

Cardinal Burke and Gianna Emanuela are dear friends and both work tirelessly for the Church and for the Gospel of Life. They are pictured above together this past spring on Gianna's 60th birthday, April 21st.



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#### The Presence of a Saint

"I had the great honor of sharing just a couple precious hours in Pietro's company in September of 2002," Mary Pat Jahner, maternity home director, said. "Even though I did not speak a word of Italian, he talked expressively with Archbishop Samuel Aquila and shared many details about his love for his wife, Gianna, and their relationship, as their daughter, Gianna Emanuela, joyfully looked on. When the meeting was finished, Pietro grabbed my arm and pointed out some of the things Gianna had 'touched'; a painting she painted, a piano she had played and the room where the letters she had written to him were neatly archived and organized."

"The thing I remember most," Mary Pat continued, "was how much he still loved, missed and cherished his wife, Gianna, even 40 years after her death. I remember waving goodbye to Pietro and Gianna Emanuela and feeling as though I had truly been in the presence of a saint."

#### **Saintly Parents**

Gianna Emanuela didn't get the opportunity to know her mother. "She died of septic peritonitis one week after my birth. During her pregnancy with me, she had been operated on for a huge fibroma, a benign tumor, in her uterus," she explained. She had been given three options: removing the fibroma and her uterus, resulting in the death of her baby; aborting the baby and then removing the fibroma; or removing the fibroma and accepting the risk of continuing with the pregnancy, which could be gravely dangerous for the life of the mother.

"According to God's will, I couldn't get to know my Mom personally; however, the Lord, in His infinite goodness, granted me the extraordinary grace to live with my Dad for the longest time of 48 years of my life," Gianna Emanuela said. "He became both Mom and Dad to me and my siblings. All these years, I could see his example with my own eyes; this has been for me so very important, a true blessing! While living with him, I completely understood why my Saint Mom took example from him, and learned what it means to be a 'saint of everyday life.' His life and writings reveal that his soul was totally immersed in God; that his unshakeable faith permeated and

strengthened every single aspect of his life."

Countless people have encouraged Gianna Emanuela to prepare Pietro's writings, documents and manuscripts, and to spread the knowledge of and devotion to her father in case the Church would promote the Beatification and Canonization of her holy dad. Gianna Emanuela recalled an email she received from a woman who attended one of her talks in Arizona. The woman wrote, "Our husbands need the example of your dad! . . . He found a balance between his successful career, his family and more amazingly his faith . . . Our families need a saint like your dad. We are blessed with the communion of the Saints. I experience their heavenly help in the different situations of our daily lives. But in my opinion, a Saint from our days, who faced similar difficulties, will bring a new hope to our families, just as your mom does."

It was comments like this, and also the news of the very successful "Giving Hearts Day" for which Gianna Emanuela had prayed a lot to both of her saintly parents, that lead her, inspired by the Holy Spirit, to text to Mary Pat "Maybe you can consider to recall the Home: St. Gianna and Pietro Maternity Home!"

Mary Pat was stunned. "We had never thought of it before," she said. "We love and honor and ask for the intercession of Pietro Molla so much and yet the idea to rename our home had never crossed my mind!" She slept very little that night, the thought racing through her mind again and again. By morning, she was convicted that it was the thing to do. She presented the idea to Father Joseph and "he wholeheartedly agreed as well!"

gianna Read 11:20 PM

Thank you so very much for your messages, Mary Pat, and for everything! Looking forward to talk to you! Now go to sleep! Happy Sunday to you! I am so very happy for your successful Giving Hearts Day!

Maybe you can consider to recall the Home:

St Gianna and Pietro
Maternity Home!

The text that Gianna Emanuela sent to Mary Pat Jahner on February 12th, this year.

"From there, we began to take steps to work towards this change, shocking people initially when we would say we were thinking about changing the name (because everyone knows how much we love Saint Gianna), but then seeing them rejoice with the addition of her saintly husband," Mary Pat said.

Thus, the dear and holy husband of Saint Gianna has become co-patron of the maternity home, now affectionately and formally named Saint Gianna and Pietro Molla Maternity Home.

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# Why Designate a Co-Patron?

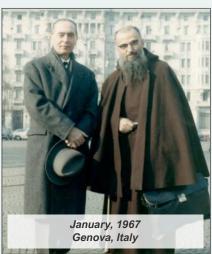


Specific reasons for fully embracing Pietro Molla as a most honored co-patron for the Saint Gianna and Pietro Molla Maternity Home are:

- ♦ He was **chosen and very much loved by Saint Gianna**, who was the first to recognize and proclaim his holy example.
- ♦ The story and virtues of Saint Gianna are intertwined with her beloved spouse, and one may say incomplete without him.
- Saint Gianna and Pietro Molla offer us an **example** of the **beauty of the self-giving sacrament of marriage** and the fruits of building a family upon a foundation of faith.
- ♦ He was an exemplary father, a beautiful inspiration to fathers everywhere. Our work exists because there is a lack of holy and strong fathers for the women and children we serve.
- ♦ We know that in his long life he suffered tremendously and trusted God with his whole heart. Our work at Saint Gianna & Pietro Molla Maternity Home encompasses many areas. We work with and live with pregnant mothers and their little ones, we try to bring the pro-life message to all we encounter, we help our former mothers and their families, and we walk with those who suffer and struggle. This is a deeply spiritual mission a profound one we pray with and pray for those who are in difficulty on a daily basis. Many people who make pilgrimages here are in difficult pregnancies, or trying to conceive, or in real suffering, many praying for miracles and strength and healing. We feel that Gianna, as a physician, is a strong patron for these individuals, but also Pietro, who suffered so much in his long life, will strengthen these individuals and their faith in God.
- He was a single parent and a strong example for the mothers we serve.
- ♦ We would like to be a part of promoting devotion to Pietro Molla in hope that his Cause for Beatification and Canoni-

Pictured to the right is part of a letter written by Servant of God Father Alberto Beretta (Saint Gianna's brother) to Pietro after her death in 1962, and before Christmas of that year.

Pietro and Father Alberto (pictured together below) wrote many heartfelt letters to each other and indeed each letter is a spiritual treasure between these two holy men.



Grajaú, December 5<sup>th</sup> 1962

Dearest Pietro,

May my sincere wishes for a Holy Christmas for you and your dear children happily reach you.

Some time ago I received your dearest long letter, in which you spoke to me at length about poor Gianna, revealing to me what I could never know about her and that made me understand better how she was so dear to the Lord and to you. The last words of those who are about to die are never forgotten.

Thinking about you, I am convinced once again even more that you are not only dear to Our Lord, but very dear, because He has entrusted to you, depriving you of Gianna, the highest and most useful and precious mission to save souls, the mission of sorrow, the apostolate of suffering. Jesus wanted to turn you into an apostle; with your very great suffering, accepted with such disposition of heart, you can do more good to souls than we can with all our sermons.

How many times have I heard in the Seminary that when some soul, that was lost, returns to God with the Sacraments we give him, not to delude ourselves that this is our merit, but we must consider it as fruit of the sorrow of some unknown good soul.

Jesus redeemed us, not by preaching, but by dying on the cross, and He wants this to be our missionary work. Before Jesus you are now a true missionary, rejoice therefore: to save souls is what is most valuable in this world; Gianna is doing it from heaven above, and you by wandering here on earth with the big cross that He gave you.

(...)

Your affectionate Father Alberto Maria







# 🌺 Pietro Molla, Intercede for Us🌿

We ask you to continue to pray the prayer of private devotion to Pietro Molla as was printed in our last newsletter (and reprinted again here) for the complete healing of both Michelle Bianco and Joan Brien. These two beautiful young mothers teach us so much about the love and joy of life and the complete trust in God's plan. We would love if they might be the ones to help Pietro's cause to be opened.

Additionally, many years ago when we visited Gianna in Italy and met her at the cemetery where both of her parents lie together in the beautiful family "little house of gold", we arrived to meet her and the weather which, had been cloudy and rainy, almost instantly cleared and the sun smiled upon us. Gianna graciously thanked her father for making this happen and explained that over the years when she would travel for school or other things he would pray for good weather for her travels and also that she would find a good parking place so that she would be safe.

She says she continues to ask his intercession for those requests as well as many other things. We have truly found Pietro a sure source of helping us with the good parking places. The North Dakota winters have given some challenges to seeing his intercession for our weather, but none the less, we are confident Pietro has always been a strong fatherly protector for us here at the Saint Gianna and Pietro Molla Maternity Home and for the women and children that we serve.



Pietro Molla

July 1, 1912 - April 3, 2010 (Holy Saturday)

Mesero (Milan) - Italy

#### Prayer for Private Devotion

#### God the Father,

I thank You and I praise You for having given us, in Your infinite Love and in Your boundless Mercy, together with a Saint Mother, "a saintly papa, not of gold, but of diamond, the biggest and most precious one there is on this earth!" (Saint Gianna).

Along with his long life, he witnessed to the Holy Gospel in an exemplary way, as a young person, as an engineer and a company executive, as a fiance, as a spouse, as a father and a widower for 48 years. During this long time, he suffered from another huge sorrow, losing his daughter Mariolina at a tender age.

He always fulfilled and humbly accepted Your Holy Will, following the example of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of Saint Joseph, to whom he was so very devoted.

He gave witness to the sacred good of Life until his last breath.

#### Lord Jesus.

with Your Grace and Your Blessing, with which You never cease to fill our hearts from Your glorious pierced Heart, and together with the Heavenly Mother, help us to have the same unshakeable faith of Pietro,

his great spirit of prayer, service and sacrifice, his sacred respect for every human person, his deep humility, piety and confidence in Your Divine Providence.

his great love and charity towards neighbor, his steadfast and unconditional acceptance of Your Holy Will.

even when it is difficult to accept.

#### Holy Spirit,

I implore You to hear and answer Pietro's prayers, "coming from a heart that has always loved You and served You in a saintly way" (Saint Gianna),

Amen.

Our Father • Hail Mary • Glory be

Anyone who wishes to participate in the work of promoting the glorification of this elect soul on part of the Church or who wishes to report graces received through the invocation of his help, may write a letter to: Saint Gianna and Pietro Molla Foundation

4502 36th Ave NW, Reile's Acres Fargo, ND 58102

Email: stgiannapietromollausa@gmail.com

WITH ECCLESIASTICAL APPROVAL

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In the picture:

Saint Gianna with Pietro during their honeymoon at Taormina, Messina, Italy, October 1955.

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- +ABORTED BABIES by Brian Beaton, Duane & Judith Klostreich
- +DUANE ANDERSON by Joanne Anderson
- +FLORIAN & CECELIA BABINSKI, HARRY BLANCHE BABINSKI by Gary & Linda Babinski
- +THEO BAKER by Kelly & Keila Baker
- +MARY JANE SCHILL BOLTE by Helen Carpenter
- +PATRICIA BROWN, JOAN CARTER by Leslie East
- +JAN CARON by Monica Backer
- +CATHERINE CHUIPEK by Dale & Mary Klein
- +ALBERT DEL SANTO by Carol Del Santo
- **+JOHN DINNEEN** by Marie Gibbons, Jodi Laney, Shelley Killen & Dave Peterman, Tom & Kari Stromme, Michele Vecchia
- +FATHER LEONARD ECKROTH by Al Dosch
- **+DOROTHY ENDRES** by Steve & Ellen Wallgren
- +MARILYN ENGLISH, TOM FITZGERALD by Sharon Reidy
- +CHARLES FEENEY, ROBERT STEEN by Ron & Linda Beare
- **+EVELYN FELTMAN** by Marie Bellerud, Merlyn & Dolores Grabanski
- **+MELANIE FITTERER, PHYLISS SALWEY** by Bernard & Bernie Zastoupil
- **+MARVY FRAFJORD, JIM TESKY** by Deacon Tom & Mary Geffre
- **+RAY & MARGARET FUGLESTAD, STEVEN KAINZ, ROBERT MOORE** by Roger & Jill Moore
- +PHYLLIS GANDER by Brian & Kelly Wavra
- +RICHARD GERSZEWSKI by Jennifer Gerszewski, Merlyn & Dolores Grabanski, Ron & Dorothy Koester, Lee & Linda Lessard, Mary Mondry, Alfreda Sauer, Leona Schneider, Ernie & Jane Slominski
- +MIKE GREMBOWSKI, HILARY PIETRUSZEWSKI by Cecilia Grembowski
- +SUSAN GUDAJTES by Ed & Merita Steinbrueck
- **+CARLIE JOY ANN HAGEN (GRANDDAUGHTER)** by Gerald & Carol Olsonawaski,
- +ROBERT HANSON by Adele Hanson
- +CONRAD HAPKA SR., ROSE PRZYBLSKI by Mary Johnson
- **+EMILY HARRINGTON** by Mary Beth Meyer

- +VERONA HEIRAAS by Gail Hasz
- +FRED JAHNER by Richard & Barbara Wagner
- +WILLIAM KOSMATKA by Ross & Colleen Anderson
- +KENNETH KUZNIA by James & Ione Kuznia
- +TINA KUZNIA, MATT NOEL by Philip & Sarah Kuznia
- +CLAYTON KVASAGER by Ray & Kathy Korynta
- +THERESA LOTHSPEICH by Tim & Jane Bittner
- +JEFFREY ALAN MAURER by Brian Beaton
- +JAMES & BILLIE MCCALMONT by Billie Jo Newman
- +LINDA MCCANN by Tom & Mary Dusek
- +JOHN MEETH by J. Donald & Kim Deopsomer
- +KEVIN MINNICH by Avon Lake Woodworking
- **+HARRY MISIALEK** by Delores Burianek
- +MARY ELLEN NAADEN by David & Connie Sprynczynatyk, Randal & Bethanie Christmann, Daniel & Marie Couillard, Jerry & Anita Galloway, Mark Geddes, Sandra Glau, Brian & Audrey Kane, Laurie Miller, April Naaden, John & Lesley Phillips, Colleen Preszier, Alan & Donna Roodhouse, William & Elaine Ryan, Glenaris Sisco, Stuart Tracy, Betty Trzpuc, Joe & Margaret Vetter, David Vinchattle, Weiler Families
- +IRENE NOWACKI by Alen & Gail Szczepanski
- +TED PASSA by Kenny & Evelyn Kilichowski
- **+DR. CHARLES PETERSON, MARK TIBERT** by Craig & Dawn Jarolimek
- **+MARIA POKRZYWINSKI** by Roger & Yvonne Feltman, Cecilia Grembowski, Ray & Kathy Korynta
- **+RON & MARIA POKRZYWINSKI** by Kevin & Rebecca Schuster
- +LOIS REARDON by Terry & Paulette Haman
- +JAMES & ANNE RYAN by Lloyd & Patti Steinmetz
- +JUANITA SCHMITZ by Mark & Cheri Schmitz
- +LIVING & DECEASED LOVED ONES by Larry & Dixie Schulz
- +MAURICE SCHWAN by Mary Frelich
- +JOHN, IRENE, JJ, ASHLEY & MICHELLEY SWEENEY, FRANCES SCHUSTER by Sheila Slominski
- **+VERONICA SCHUSTER** by Delores Burianek, Robert & Elizabeth Schumacher
- +DICK SORENSON by Dick & Peggy Steffen
- +CAROL TUCKER by Ralph Tucker, Delores Burianek, Frederic Daggett, Roger & Sandy Schuster, John & Rosemary Tucker
- +WAYNE VANYO by Sheila Trontvet
- +BECKY WALD by Jacob & Molly Rodenbiker
- **+RICHARD & LUCILLE WEIDMEIER** by Ernest & Barbara Svenkerud
- +LINDA WIGDAHL by Lorr Evert
- +BABY LUCY MARIE by Bryan & Maura Wilburn
- +LEONARD WYSOCKI by Wysocki Family

These intentions are from March 29th - July 31st

## In Honor...

End of Roe vs Wade by John & Rebecca Crooks, Paul & Pauline Savageau

SCOTUS Decision by Kaitlyn Burns, Trish Irvine, Mary Stauffenecker

Jade Jeanie De Mars by Kelly & Keila Baker

Larry, husband & father by Renay Baker

Our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren by Lyle & Phyllis Ellenson

Melissa Haas graduation from college by Tom & Mary Geffre

Connie Brandt by Holy Spirit Catholic Church

Saint Gianna's Feast Day by Anna Morfeld

Mary Ann Gross by Mary Jo Jangula

Clare Jensen & Stephen Laylock's marriage by Steven & Christine Jensen

Jean Eppler's retirement from Nativity School by Ron & Devonne Markwardt

Mothers of the world by Mike & Ann McGovern

Mary Ann McKenna by Michael McKenna

Saint Gianna's Feast Day by Hadley

Jackie & Grant Shaft by John & Joann Muus

Delia Mannix by Sharon Reidy

Mrs. Alfreda Sauer by Galen & Bonnie Scheresky

Father Damian Hils by Mark Silbersack

Allyson Durkin & Kellen by Kevin Torgerson

Rovella Weiland by Mike & Judy Weiland

Bev Schons by Julie Kaspari

### In Thanksgiving...

For prayers answered by Robyn Dion

To Tanya Watterud

## In Celebration...

Stella Blawat's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday by Kenny & Evelyn Kilichowski Bishop Cozzen's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Priestly Ordination by Raymond & Therese Dusek, Jessica Foss, Jim & JoAnne Ranstrom, Arlene Thune

Bernie Marsh's birthday by Angie Marsh

Father Jared Kadlec's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Priestly Ordination by Keith & Paulette Martin

Tom & Corrie Enander's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary by Paul & Pauline Savageau, David & Sheila Hoffman, Roger & Theresa Montag, Ellamae Pasternak

Vern LeBlanc's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday by Hugh & Colleen Carlson

Woody & Chris Westerhausen's 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary by Helen Carpenter

Ted & Lucille Passa's 75<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary by Kenny & Evelyn Kilichowski

Arlan & Marge Vonesh's 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary by Darline Pokrzywinski, Yvonne Green, Robert & Elizabeth Schumacher

Francis & Marian Hoffarth's 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary by Alfreda Sauer

Father Chris Markman's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday by Steven & Annella Winger

Desmond Lako's birthday by Juliana Dahlin

### Prayers/Special Intentions...

For the conversion of poor sinners, end of abortion by Brian Beaton

Healing by Angie Marsh

By Roger & Mary Sayler

George by Kelly & Keila Baker

Robert Sweeney by Sheila Slominski

By Sarah Rhomberg

# So much gratitude...

working to protect the sanctity of life!

In the beautiful month of June, the month dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and on that particular Feast, we were granted the answer to many years of prayers and sacrifices in the Dobbs decision of the United States Supreme Court that overturned Roe vs. Wade. I think all of us in the pro-life movement had reason to rejoice on this blessed day, certainly a day of great hope and joy.

Here at the Saint Gianna and Pietro Molla Maternity Home, our work continues with mothers before and after birth and with their little ones. The state of North Dakota may soon, we pray, be abortion free. However, we know that in many states the work of abortion continues and, in some cases, even increases despite this good news. And so, our gratitude should overflow in the continuation of our prayers and sacrifices to change the hearts and minds of all people to value the unique, precious, and irrepeatable life of each human person. I think the words of Saint Francis of Assisi are appropriate for us,

when after a particularly good day of preaching and ministering to the people, he delivered this sobering line to his followers: "My brothers, let us begin, for up to now, we have done nothing at all." Let us never tire of

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- 1. Members of the Saint Gianna & Pietro Molla Maternity Home family and JMI Summer Camp members attend the ALS Walk in solidarity with our friend Michelle Bianco, and her family.
- 2. Father Joseph Christensen FMI is pictured with Brother Nicholas and Bishop Folda after his 25th Anniversary Mass in May.
- 3. Marie Brien teaching staff and residents how to make fry-bread on the Feast of Saint Kateri.
- 4. We were able to attend the beautiful wedding celebration of Danielle Christensen (former housemother), to Joseph Turchi.
- 5. We traveled to Medora to the musical!
- 6. Our little Bernard holding some fresh produce.
- 7. We were blessed to be able to visit the Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine in La Crosse, Wisconsin.

NEW NAME: SAINT GIANNA & PIETRO MOLLA MATERNITY HOME