

A Canticle of praise



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**Saint Gianna and Pietro Molla
Maternity Home**

15605 Co. Rd. 15, Minto, ND 58261
701.248.3077
www.sgpmollahome.com
sgpmollahome@outlook.com
An IRS 501(c)3 nonprofit organization



**“If a place like Saint
Gianna’s can save even
one mom and child from
being homeless or having
an awful outcome, I think
it’s worth it.”**

— Emily, mother of Enya (pictured)

The Almighty Has Done Great Things for Us

The Almighty has done great things for us in these past 20 years and we are filled with joy!

The picture on the front cover shows Emily with her daughter, Enya, 12 years ago. Now Enya is in 7th grade, and Emily is a very successful social worker. Emily lived at the Saint Gianna and Pietro Molla Maternity Home only 5 or 6 months, but in that time, she left a beautiful mark on our hearts and our work.

This young high school girl chose life and fought hard to be a mother. Now, all the work has come together, and she is able to see the beauty and wisdom of God’s plan. Emily says, “If a place like Saint Gianna’s can save even one mom and child from being homeless or having an awful outcome, I think it’s worth it.”

Emily is treasured and loved— just like every woman who comes through our doors. In these 20 years, over 400 women and children have called the Saint Gianna and Pietro Molla Maternity Home their home.

Women as young as 12 and as old as 39 have lived with us. They have come from nearby—in North Dakota and Minnesota—but also from New York, California, Wyoming, Montana, South Dakota, Georgia, Louisiana, Wisconsin, and even the country of Liberia! Many of our mothers have had the opportunity to continue their education while living with us. Many were baptized or confirmed.

We’ve experienced life as a family with them—attending the March for Life in DC, cooking together, going to Sunday Mass, spending time at the lake in the summer, fishing, biking, baking and caroling, cleaning, and praying. Seeing the mothers grow emotionally, educationally, and in confidence and faith is our greatest joy.

And then there are the little ones who bring delight and hope to their moms. These children are always a blessing, even if the circumstance of their arrival is unexpected. **We have never had a mother regret choosing life**—whether she parents or places for adoption.



God is never outdone in generosity. We see this again and again in each mother who chooses life, even when it is difficult. Indeed, during these past 20 years we have seen God’s blessings overflow in the lives and in the hearts of all who are a part of this beautiful mission. Thank you for your support of this work!

Mary Pat Jahner

Mary Pat Jahner



Father Joseph at the baptism of Fernando and MaryAnn in our chapel

20 Years of Grace

To those who support the Home and its work—
you have made a real difference.

AN ANNIVERSARY REFLECTION FROM FR. JOSEPH CHRISTENSEN, FMI

Twenty years dedicated to life!

I certainly would never have thought I'd be involved in Warsaw, ND, for 17 of the past 20 years. I originally had never even heard of Saint Gianna nor of Pietro, her beloved spouse ... but here I am!

It all began back in 2007. Mary Pat called, asking me to give a Day of Reflection once a month at the Home. She wanted to know if I would be willing to provide the spiritual support needed to carry out this loving apostolate.

After I hung up the phone, I thought to myself, "How could I not help? Here is a concrete way to assist in the pro-life movement, and it is right in our own backyard!" I told her,

"YES! I will come! Yes, I will do my part to promote the dignity of every human life, mother and child!"

I have often said that I believe the Saint Gianna and Pietro Molla Maternity Home is a flagship. What I mean by this is that everyone, especially in the pro-life movement, wants to do something to help the cause. Yes, they can pray, but they want to do something too, especially something hands-on.

We do just that here at the Home. We help—in a real, tangible way—women and children in need. And so, to support the work of the Home with a donation, monetary or otherwise, fulfills people's desire to help.

I thank the Lord for the grace to be a part of this life-giving apostolate. I do not know that I was qualified, but as the saying goes, "God does not call the qualified, but rather qualifies the called!" I am humbled by this call to serve the staff, the women and children, and the many others that come through the Home's doors.

During my time at the Saint Gianna and Pietro Molla Maternity Home, I have baptized many babies and mothers. Many women here have returned to the Church, experienced God's mercy, and received counseling. Many women have seen and experienced—maybe for the first time—what

true fatherhood and wholesome manliness looks like. These mothers hear about the joy of seeking God and living in a closer relationship with Him. They learn about the importance of living the dignity of chastity, purity, and faith.

There have also been times when we've walked with mothers who have placed for adoption. Adoption is one of the most loving, sacrificial decisions a mother could make. It is an act of love that blesses her child with a loving and safe home. It blesses the adoptive couple as they generously share themselves, lavishing this little baby with much love. And of course, it is helpful to the birth mother as she reorients her life moving forward.

Gazing at photos of these 20 years and scrolling through many memories in my imagination, I look forward to "a future full of hope" (Jer. 29:11). I hope that the hundreds of lives impacted by the Saint Gianna and Pietro Molla Maternity Home may continue to be blessed and nurtured. I am so grateful for the office staff and all the women who have served as housemothers. They have touched lives in extraordinary ways. And to those who support the Home and its work—you have made a real difference.

As for the women, the mothers who have come through our doors: You chose life! Thank you! You have given your child a chance, and I am eternally grateful for your courage. My prayer is that—until we establish the Gospel of Life in every heart—the Saint Gianna and Pietro Molla Maternity Home may continue to serve as a "light in the darkness," and a flagship for life.



Father Joseph baking with the little ones at Saint Gianna's

ANOTHER HOLY EXAMPLE
FOR THE CHURCH:

Venerable Alberto Beretta,
OFM Cap.



Pietro Molla pictured with now Venerable Alberto Beretta

On December 14, 2023, Pope Francis announced that St. Gianna's brother—Father Alberto Beretta, OFM Cap.—is now a Venerable.

Father Alberto was a Capuchin priest, a missionary, and a medical doctor like Saint Gianna. He served as both a priest and a doctor in Brazil for 33 years. He began the construction of a hospital and served the poor, the sick, and the lepers until he had a stroke.

At this time, because of his partial paralysis, Father Alberto returned to Italy for the last 20 years of his life. He died in 2001, just three years before his sister was canonized.

Father Alberto was very close to Saint Gianna and inspired her to also want to become a missionary in Brazil. Because of her health, she did not fulfil that desire but instead married Pietro and served the Church as a wife, mother, and physician. It is worth noting, however, that Saint Gianna's miracles for beatification and canonization both took place in Brazil. Father Alberto and Pietro Molla also had a very close relationship with each other and exchanged many deep and spiritual letters after the loss of Pietro's beloved Gianna.

If a miracle were attributed to Venerable Alberto's intercession, the next step would be his Beatification.



My prayer is that—until we establish the Gospel of Life in every heart—the Saint Gianna and Pietro Molla Maternity Home may continue to serve as a "light in the darkness," and a flagship for life.

Meet Our New Board Members



Sydney Shaft

I joined the Board of the Saint Gianna and Pietro Molla Maternity Home in October. My husband, John, and I have two children, John Jr. and Lydia, and we are expecting a baby boy in June! I stay at home with my children, and prior to that I was a registered nurse. My family and I recently moved to Grand Forks after spending the past five years in Madison, Wisconsin. I have been involved in the pro-life movement since college, and I have always felt a calling to help people at their most vulnerable times. I joined the board to help women and children who feel like there isn't much hope. Since joining, I have been amazed and inspired by the care, support, and love that the Home brings to women, children, and countless others. I am excited and honored to play a role in advancing the great mission of the Home in the years to come.



Stephanie Carlson

I am 27 years old and live in Grand Forks with my husband, Jordan, and daughter, Scarlett. Castlewood, South Dakota is my home town. I spent four years working as an ultrasound technologist at Altru in Grand Forks, but now I stay at home with Scarlett—my favorite job! I love a great latte in the morning, and I'm always looking to try new recipes for dinner. As a family, we love going on walks and an afternoon at the gym.

I was connected to the Saint Gianna and Pietro Molla Maternity Home through my husband, whose family has been involved since he was young. After getting married in 2020, Jordan and I experienced four early miscarriages. We went to the home to pray and receive blessings from Father Christensen. Through Saint Gianna's intercession, we were able to conceive Scarlett and have a healthy pregnancy and delivery. The Home provided hope and healing for us in our time of suffering and will always hold a very special place in our hearts.



Sarah Effhauser

I am a wife of 17 years and a mother of 6. Our children are the light of our lives, and we enjoy the adventures that parenting a big family brings!

I have known Mary Pat since I was a junior in high school. During that time, our family walked through a pregnancy amidst a cancer diagnosis for my own mother. Mary Pat introduced us to Saint Gianna, who became a powerful intercessor for our family. As my mother's love and devotion to the Home and their work grew, so did mine. I am so thankful for the opportunity to step into this Board Member position.

When I am not wrangling little ones, watching someone's game, or doing laundry, I am the Communications Director for Sacred Heart Church and run a small cookie business at our home in rural East Grand Forks. I'm excited to be a part of the Saint Gianna and Pietro Molla Maternity Home family and their pro-life mission. It's a blessing to represent a ministry that fights for the dignity of women and unborn children.



Heather Samson

When my husband, David, and I were dating, I remember him talking about the "maternity home" that his mother had helped found when he was a child. He was proud that his mom had helped save many lives and worked with so many women and children over the years.

Many years later, after living around the country as a Marine Corps family, we headed back to David's home town in North Dakota to settle down with our (then) 4 kids. I remember my mother-in-law saying it wouldn't be long before Mary Pat would recruit me to help out!

About a year after moving, I was asked to photograph the ribbon cutting for La Vita è Bella Home, and the rest is history. I saw the great love and community that the Saint Gianna and Pietro Molla Maternity Home has created. I saw how they have impacted so many lives, how they continue to do so, and how people are so greatly moved by the stories they hear—stories of redemption, stories of sacrifice, and stories of love. It is evident from the moment you set foot in the Home that it is a family, and I'm so honored to know and have met so many members of that family.

The selfless and loving nature of Mary Pat, Father Joseph, and all involved with the Home have helped welcome many people to Warsaw over the past 20 years. I feel blessed to be a small part of the Home now, and am grateful to serve as a new member on the Board. I pray the Saint Gianna and Pietro Molla Home will continue to serve for many more years to come—one baby, one mother, one family at a time!



Johnny Holm working the crowd

Johnny Holm Band event kicks off another successful Giving Hearts Day

On February 2nd, we officially kicked off our Giving Hearts Day Campaign with a celebration at the Minto Community Center with very special guests: The Johnny Holm Band.

In years past, we've had an open house at the Maternity Home on the day of Giving Hearts. But given the fact that it is a Thursday ... and we are in Warsaw ... and you never know about the weather in February ... our turnout has typically been sparse. So, in continuing our 20th year anniversary celebration, we wanted to go big and have something the weekend before to begin our celebration.

The evening began with a taco bar, and the band then played for over 3 hours. When the night was in full swing, we looked at our attendance counter which displayed number 374. (Now, the number was probably really a little over 400 because we missed a few people coming in when it was busy, and did not count the many volunteers, and our staff, and the band itself.) What's so special about 374? It is exactly the number of mothers and children who have called this Home their home. And there, too—when you consider the staff members, we've had a little over 400 total people who have lived here in the past 20 years!

To look at that crowd that evening, celebrating and loving life, brought great joy to our hearts. It displayed a beautiful picture of our work with mothers and their little ones. We are grateful to all who came to celebrate life with us, and we have already scheduled the band for February 7th, 2025!

The crowd enjoying the Pre-Giving Hearts Day Event



Giving Hearts Day Results

On February 8th, Giving Hearts Day, we exceeded our goal thanks to the generosity of so many people like you! On behalf of everyone at the Maternity Home, we want to thank each person who helped in any way and who donated to our Giving Hearts Day Campaign.

We also want to express the deepest gratitude to everyone involved at the Impact Foundation, Dakota Medical Foundation, and the Sterns Family Foundation for creating and promoting this platform and training that helps us and helps so many people and organizations in our region.

Our goal this year was \$320,320, and we had raised \$143,400 as our match in advance. With this match and

the generosity of so many people like you, we exceeded our goal! This outpouring of generosity helps to not only care for our mothers and children, but also to make our side entrance handicapped accessible this year. This is a project we have been working toward for a few years and is much needed as it is original to the building (over 100 years old).

Giving Hearts Day, and those who are a part of it, blesses us so much! It is by far the biggest fundraiser of the year and raises almost half of our annual budget. Our hearts overflow with gratitude to you!

In Memoriam

You and your intentions will be remembered in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass offered each First Saturday of the month. These intentions were from November 18, 2023 to February 13, 2024.



In memory of...

- † **Carol Alford** by Jerome Alford
- † **Ava Rose Anderson** by Josh & Sarah Anderson
- † **Benedict & Irene Benz** by Father Gary Benz
- † **Robert Bergseth Jr.** by Cindy Sund
- † **Kelly Breidenbach** by Nick & Laura Breidenbach
- † **Mark Brockhaus** by Brett & Cherie McAtee
- † **Bruce, Guy** by Brian Beaton
- † **Roger Carriere, Donald Denault, Maureen King, Evelyn R.** by Curt & Mary Ellen Kirking
- † **Gayle Clifford** by Cynthia Schreiber-Beck
- † **Nancy Dahl, Donovan Moran** by Jackie Readel
- † **Veronica Dassinger** by Joe & Melinda Fridrich
- † **Eugene Dauksavage** by Gywnndale & Marge Bayne, Steve Novak
- † **Rae Desautel** by Brad & Robin Suda
- † **Ron Disrud** by Bob & Pat Sanden
- † **Rosanna Dullea** by Kathleen Dullea
- † **Steve Eidsness, Joseph Evanstad, Barbara Johnson, Elvin Johnson** by Deacon Wally & Colleen Dalman
- † **Cyril & Jason Feltman, Ann Babinski** by Betty Feltman family
- † **Evelyn Feltman** by George & Georgian Wysocki
- † **Mary Feltman** by Robyn Hoffmann
- † **Sylvia & David Fetsch, Sonia & Bob Heinle** by Steve & Denise Bielejeski
- † **Jody Foy** by Deacon Michael & Coralie Fix
- † **Reina Freeman** by Philp Freeman
- † **James Fruhwirth** by Lowell & Juliann Fruhwirth
- † **Art Gapp** by Carol Gerszewski
- † **Nancy Garbo, Karen Knaus-Pickett, Rosemary Schiller** by Brian & Kelly Wavra
- † **Harriet Hanson, Delores Muller** by Michael & Luann Hanson
- † **Conrad Hapka Sr., Rose Przybylski** by Mary Johnson
- † **Ronnie Heinz** by Carol Gerszewski, Steve Novak
- † **Bertha Hodny, Mary Ellen Larson** by Tim & Laurine Hodny
- † **Dan Hurley** by Steven & Christine Jensen
- † **Henry Johnson** by Marlene Johnson
- † **Marion Kostelecky** by James & Annette Roth
- † **Our deceased parents** by Darlene Kropp
- † **Kenneth C. Kuznia, Arsith Hanson, Tom Rogus** by James & Ione Kuznia
- † **David Lenhart** by Brenda Borowicz
- † **Dennis Lyons** by Holly Lyons
- † **Della Lutovsky** by Charles & Barbara Ruzicka
- † **Rebecca Lutz** by Dennis & Linda Heit
- † **Bob & Teresa Lyons, Haldor & Evelyn Hegg, Elmer & Joyce Ulland** by Tom & Eileen Hegg
- † **Baby Malarkey** by Ken & Vickie Severinson
- † **Carol Mayer** by Ron & Linda Beare
- † **Ray Meyer** by Deacon Tom & Mary Geffre
- † **Jerry Midstokke** by Grant & Jackie Shaft
- † **Carol Mollman** by William Mollman
- † **Emily Joy** by John & Joan Murphy
- † **Sylvester, Lavonne, Donald Narlock** by Darrel & Amanda Narlock

- † **Kyle Newman** by Joni & Gerard Keller, Justin & Caitlin Killoran, Alan & Elysia Libbrecht, Frederick & Elizabeth Wolff
- † **Paul & Randy Nistler** by Diane Kovash
- † **Catherine Nystul** by Kenny & Evelyn Kilichowski
- † **Baby Odgers** by Bill & Jennifer Schmitt
- † **Mary Jo Olson, Jeanette Osowski, Helen Sieben, Frank Suda** by Todd Burianek
- † **Father Casimir Paluck** by Bernadine Jacobs
- † **Rita Peet** by David & Judy Gingrey
- † **Earl & Peggy Proulx** by Rober & Jennifer Proulx
- † **Ray & Regina Ridl** by Diane Kovash
- † **Margaret Riedinger** by Ralph Riedinger
- † **3 unborn babies** by Peggy Roehrich
- † **Sande Sands, Verda Sands, Frieda Walski, Eric Johnon, Jennifer Nesvig, Jason Schatzke** by Jaren & Robbyne Sands
- † **John Sauer** by Gelen & Bonnie Scheresky
- † **Ruth Shephard** by Tanya Wieler
- † **David Slominski** by Deb Slominski
- † **Mary, William, Steve, Joanne, Louie Slominski** by Oscar & Tina Betancourt
- † **Deceased members of Spicer & Thompson families** by Beaner & Susan Spicer
- † **Cecilia Stoltman** by Arlene Thune
- † **Rose C. Stommes** by Catherine Clapp
- † **Becky Wald** by Jacob & Molly Rodenbiker
- † **Steve Webster** by Lynne Webster

In thanksgiving...

- ♦ **Blessings received** by Jeremy & Sara Gusaas
- ♦ **All pro-life prayer warriors** by Judy Joeb
- ♦ **Blessings received** by Russell & Susan Tanner

In celebration...

- ♦ **Lucille Passa's 95th birthday** by Kenneth & Carol Gardner, Kenny & Evelyn Kilichowski
- ♦ **Makenna & Alex Schuelke's wedding** by Kenny & Evelyn Kilichowski
- ♦ **Father Craig Vasek's 40th birthday** by Arlene Thune
- ♦ **Dennis & Vernia Beneda's 70th wedding anniversary** by Ron & Rita Beneda



In honor...

- ♦ **George Loegering** by Joel & Cori Lyons
- ♦ **Bruce & Terri Dahl** by Daniel & Mariko Dahl
- ♦ **Granddaughter Hazel** by Mike & Mary Dvorak
- ♦ **Monica Kerian** by Paul & Chelsea Forster
- ♦ **Kristin Higgins** by William & Julie Grimstad
- ♦ **Karen Gapp, Vernon & Viola Lyons, Coralee Meyer, Randall Lyons, Royce Lyons, Tom & Carmen Rentzios, Beth Mathis**
- ♦ **Rosalie, Renea, Julie, Kathy, Rita** by Glen & Tawnia Heilman
- ♦ **Dr. Casey Ryan's retirement** by Kurt & Jennifer Kelley

- ♦ **Ray & Sandra Klinkhammer** by Teresa & Mark Klinkhammer
- ♦ **Todd & Sue Klocke, Lynae Sims & Kevin Boeder** by John & Jan Klocke
- ♦ **Deacon Allen & Patricia Kukert family** by John & Jan Klocke
- ♦ **Deb Kritzberger** by Noella Kritzberger
- ♦ **Deacon Ron & Sherry Zachmann, Father Nicholas Vetter** by Karen Kryzsko
- ♦ **Saint Gianna** by Michael & Yvonne Kuntz
- ♦ **Virginia Wilson** by CJ & Ellen Rose
- ♦ **Bergseth family, my children & their spouses and grandchild** by Cindy Sund

- ♦ **Al & Lorr Everett (for Christmas)** by Cindy Sund
- ♦ **Alfreda Sauer** by Galen & Bonnie Scheresky
- ♦ **Elwood & Dorothy Schumacher** by Matt & Jami Schumacher
- ♦ **Madeline Running** by Tamara Sogard
- ♦ **Our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren** by Beaner & Susan Spicer
- ♦ **Larry & Diane Martin** by Ryan & Kimberly Wilson
- ♦ **Todd Burianek** by Jon & Stephanie

Prayers / special intentions

- ♦ by Brian Beaton
- ♦ **For the unborn** by Dawn Becker
- ♦ **Family** by Alvin Geist
- ♦ **Sherry Volk** by Joe & Melinda Fridrich
- ♦ **Pat Friedt** by Casey & Jill Gruman
- ♦ **For family, friends, relatives** by Mary Lou Gunther
- ♦ **Elaine & Brian Fergel** by Anne Argenziano Gutowski
- ♦ **Upcoming birth of baby #3 and health of mother** by William & Brooke Larson
- ♦ **Charlene Wisemann** by Angie Marsh

- ♦ **Father Matt Kraemer** by Steven & Marsha Schmidt
- ♦ by Ron & Rita Beneda
- ♦ by Glen & Tawnia Heilman
- ♦ **Koenig family** by Rosemary Koenig
- ♦ **For the unborn** by Darryl & Janice Osowski
- ♦ by Robert & Pat Piere
- ♦ by Sharon Reidy
- ♦ by John & Laurie Santangelo
- ♦ **Marie** by Roger & Mary Saylor
- ♦ **Upcoming birth of baby (& parents) and son's family** by Russell & Susan Tanner

- ♦ **Father Charles LaCroix** by Tanya Wieler
- ♦ **Tyler, Alyssa, Isaac & Leo Aune, Vern & Mary Langaas, John Langaas, Elroy & Debbie Aune & Austin, Justin & Hailey Aune, Deb Efta, Renee & Dave Koski, Clarence & Diane Dahl, Katie, Steven, Marley Hluchy, Leona & Ed Efta, Robyn & George Youak, Violet Langaas Rodney & Vernon Langaas** by Tyler & Alyssa Aune

JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF
THANKSGIVING & CELEBRATION

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS
HIS EMINENCE RAYMOND CARDINAL BURKE
& DOCTOR GIANNA EMANUELA MOLLA

TUESDAY, APRIL 16TH | GRAND FORKS, N.D.

4 P.M. MASS | ST. MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

6 P.M. RECEPTION | ALERUS CENTER

ADULTS ONLY | SEMI-FORMAL ATTIRE

TICKETS: \$100 PER PERSON

TABLES OF 10 GUESTS MAY ALSO BE PURCHASED.

*This is not a fundraising event. No additional request
for donations will be made that evening.*



Scan the QR code or visit
sgpmollahome.com/20th-anniversary/
for tickets or more information.

