

A Canticle of praise



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YOU WILL RECEIVE MORE"



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

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Caliona with Father Joseph



Until adoption *is the choice*, we will not end abortion. And adoption is a beautiful choice!



Baby Jacob being placed in Jen's arms by his birthmother, Sam, thirteen years ago



“Mary Pat connected us with Mariana. She was about seven months pregnant with Teddy at the time. She picked us and our lives have never been the same since. It’s been a great blessing. Teddy celebrated his first birthday September 2nd of this year. And he’s been a joy to us, just a true blessing and we can’t give thanks enough to Saint Gianna’s and ultimately Mariana for deciding to choose life for Teddy.”

A Beautiful Choice

During this Advent season, we have occasion to reflect on God’s abundant love. One of the ways we see that heavenly love most clearly is through adoption.

In his infinite love, God has adopted us as his sons and daughters through Baptism. Earthly adoption is a beautiful reflection of this divine reality. Every time I see a mother place her baby into its adoptive parents’ arms, I am reminded of these words: “See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!” (1 Jn. 3:1)

Here at the Saint Gianna & Pietro Molla Maternity Home, we’ve been blessed to facilitate and witness many adoptions over the years. As part of our 20th anniversary celebration, we had a special event on November 11th reuniting birth and adoptive parents. What a gift it was for these families to come together and celebrate life! On this day we saw the fruits of sacrificial love—the love of the birth mothers who chose life for their children and the love of the families who adopted them.

If we are to build a true culture of life, adoption must play a large role. We need more parents to generously and joyfully welcome little ones into their homes. We need birth mothers to know that they don’t have to feel afraid or ashamed of choosing adoption. Until adoption is the choice, we will not end abortion. And adoption is a beautiful choice!

Your generosity makes it possible for mothers to find loving adoptive families for their children. Thank you for being a part of this life-saving work!

Please pray for all our birth mothers, adoptive parents, and adopted children—and know that we remember you in our prayers and Masses as well. On behalf of all of us here at the Saint Gianna & Pietro Molla Maternity Home, I wish you a blessed Christmas.

Mary Pat Jahner
Director

Crissy's Story



(Left to Right) Gracie, Carla, and Crissy reunite at the Home's 20th Anniversary



Gracie with Crissy's three other children-- Addison, Sawyer, and JoJo

Choosing to give your baby up for adoption is a heart-wrenching decision. It takes courage, trust, and sacrificial love. But mothers who choose adoption can be sure that God has a beautiful plan for their little one: "For I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope" (Jer. 29:11).

Crissy experienced this providential care firsthand. When she was just 15 years old, she came to the Saint Gianna & Pietro Molla Maternity Home, pregnant and looking for help.

Although Crissy chose life for her child, she knew she couldn't give her baby Gracie the life she deserved. She decided to find an adoptive family for Gracie. Little did she know the amazing plan God had in store for her daughter.

With the help of the Saint Gianna & Pietro Molla Maternity Home and an adoption agency, Crissy





Brent and Carla with Crissy, Gracie, and Crissy's three children



Adoption was not [about] me not wanting to be a mom. I wanted to give Gracie the best life. If people truly saw through my eyes the beauty of how [adoption] unfolded for us, maybe then their hearts would be softened and minds opened.

began searching for a family for Gracie. When she saw Brent and Carla's profile, she knew immediately that they were the parents God had in mind. "Their profile was the first adoptive family I looked at," Crissy says. "I said they are the ones (although I was told I should look through everyone before deciding who to meet)."

On the Feast of the Epiphany, Crissy placed her daughter in Brent and Carla's arms. Now, years later, Crissy is a nurse manager with three more children of her own. When Crissy attended our 20th anniversary reunion, she had the chance to spend time with Brent, Carla, and Gracie. She left with a full and grateful heart.

"What a beautiful weekend," Crissy says. "Most special of all is always Gracie! She's grown into a beautiful teenager over the years. She is exactly who I imagined her to be when I placed her in Carla and Brent's arms 15 years ago. To see her love for her mom and dad and theirs for her makes me know for sure that God knew the plan before I did."

Crissy knows there can be a lot of judgment cast on women who give their children up for adoption. But she hopes stories like hers will show what a beautiful, self-sacrificial gift adoption can be for everyone involved.

"Adoption was not [about] me not wanting to be a mom," she says. "I wanted to give Gracie the best life. If people truly saw through my eyes the beauty of how [adoption] unfolded for us, maybe then their hearts would be softened and minds opened."



**“Because you have given,
you will receive more”**

Homily by Father Joseph Christensen, FMI *at the 20th Anniversary
Reunion of Birth and Adoptive Parents*

I welcome everyone here today as we celebrate adoption, celebrate life. It’s interesting that throughout our history as a people of God, the blessings of adoption are displayed many times in the Old and New Testament.

Let’s look at the Book of Esther. Esther’s parents passed away, and her cousin Mordecai adopted her and brought her up. When Queen Vashti was removed, and the king needed another queen, various women were brought before the king. Esther was very beautiful, and he chose her. She became the queen. And because she was the queen, God used that circumstance to save the Jews from destruction. Esther went to the king and pleaded on their behalf, and they were all saved because of her role as queen, and because of the adoption of Mordecai.

And of course, there’s Moses. After three months, he was put in a basket and set afloat in the water. When Pharaoh’s daughter discovered a little baby crying, she pulled him out of the water. Pharaoh was killing little baby boys, but his daughter took Moses and adopted him. That’s what Moses means, that he was drawn out of the water.

Moses was the intermediary between God and God’s people. For 40 years, he led them, helped them, taught them about God, interceded for them, received the Commandments and so forth. He led God’s people out of Egypt, which really meant out of slavery—and especially slavery to sin—to the Promised Land. And so that’s Moses, who was also adopted.

St. Paul, in his letter to the Galatians, also speaks about adoption. “But when the time had fully come,” he says, “God sent forth his son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law so that we might receive adoption as sons” (and of course as daughters).

“Because you are sons and daughters, God has sent the spirit of his Son into your hearts crying out, ‘Abba! Father!’” (Gal. 4:6) Or another translation would be Daddy. We all, through Baptism, have been adopted by God to become part of God’s family, which is tremendous. It goes on for all eternity, that adoption, and the effects are eternal and redemptive and glorious.



Matt adoptive dad of Theodore (pictured here):
“We got married about 13 years ago. But we had our struggles with fertility. We started working with an agency in Fargo and adopted our oldest daughter here, Genevieve, who’s here with us tonight. We wanted to adopt again but we weren’t having any luck at all. Nothing was really working.”

Then one day when I was at work in Fargo, I got a call on my cell phone from our neighbor in Grand Forks. She told us about Theodore and Saint Gianna’s, and so we met Father Joseph and Mary Pat and Theodore. Theodore’s now a little over two years old. Genevieve loves being a big sister. He’s been fantastic. So thank you for everything.”



“You have been entrusted with a human person—a human life that matters, that’s eternal, never ends. There’s nothing more valuable, nothing.”

Sacrificial love

We reflect today on God’s gift of life, the many lives that are here today. And we definitely need to talk about [adoption], we need to celebrate this, we need others to know that there’s options other than abortion, than taking innocent life.

When so many of you want to give of yourselves, want to bring someone into your family and love them, hopefully we can remove that stigma that surrounds adoption and show how beautiful it is and what a gift it is to everyone involved.

Each of you has your own story, with struggles and hardships, but also joys. You see the security of those who have been adopted, their security of being loved and wanted. We all need to be loved and wanted. Every human being has that basic need. And adoption fulfills that need.

We highlight especially the sacrificial love of the birth mother and of the adopted family. There’s no greater love than one who lays down his life for another. Christ did that. He gave us that first example. And that’s the highest form of



Tiffany: *These are all our kids and everything started here at the Gianna home. When Gabriel and Isaac’s birth mom, Leslie, was pregnant with Isaac and raising Gabe, they lived here. We met her through Mary Pat and just developed a personal relationship with her. She wanted us to adopt Isaac. So we of course said yes. We were so excited about it. And at Easter Vigil, Leslie was baptized into the church and confirmed, and Gabriel was baptized and she asked us to be Gabriel’s godparents. And then*

Gabriel joined our family a year later as our son. Then we met Ruth’s mom, Tiffany, who is now in heaven, and we adopted her little Ruth and eventually Caliona her older sister.

Joe: *Our whole definition and understanding of family has expanded. I don’t know what’s coming next! It’s all in God’s hands. It’s been a journey of surrender, and joy, and gifts, just all from saying yes. I can’t believe we went from no kids to a bunch of wonderful, beautiful kids.*



“Our world needs that beautiful example—that display of the divine love, of sacrificial love, of agape love.”

love when we sacrifice ourselves. You spouses do that for one another and for your children. We’re made in God’s image and likeness, so we’re made to be generous. We’re made to give and to share.

That’s all that God does, is give and give and give and give. When you’re tired of giving, reflect on that and draw strength from that and ask the Lord to help you. Mother Teresa was once asked, how much should you give? She said, “Give until it hurts.” And probably many of you have. We pray that that continues because our world needs that beautiful example—that display of the divine love, of sacrificial love, of agape love.

A birth mother’s beautiful gift

The birth mother finds herself, for whatever reason, in a situation she never imagined and just not in the place to be able to give her child what is needed. And yet she loves her child very much and so is willing to place her child in the arms of the adoptive parents. Difficult? Yes, very difficult. Unimaginably so.

Loving? Yes. Again, it’s a sacrificial love that wants the best for her child. A blessing? Absolutely. It’s a blessing for the mother, for the child, and for the adoptive family. We celebrate this love, this respect for life. And we thank the birth mother for giving life and cherishing the life that she gave birth to.

A person trustworthy in very small matters is also trustworthy in great ones. God has entrusted you with great treasures. You have been entrusted with a human person—a human life that matters, that’s eternal, never ends. There’s nothing more valuable, nothing.

We rejoice with you today and ask God’s blessings upon you, that these graces, these gifts, the sharing of lives, will continue and that others will see the joy that you have. Because you have given, as St. Francis said, you will receive more. ■



Father Joseph with Brooklynn



Adoptive mom Kate with Genevieve

Editor’s note

Saint Gianna and Pietro Molla Maternity Home encourages and celebrates adoption as a beautiful choice. We help both mothers who choose to parent and those who consider adoption. However, we are not an adoption agency! All our adoptions go through a licensed adoption agency. If families are interested in adopting, they should work through an agency. When the process with the agency is complete, we would happily accept profiles for our moms to look at if they are interested in placing their child for adoption.

Save the Date!



Giving Hearts Day

Our annual Giving Hearts Day is on **February 8, 2024!**



Giving Hearts Day is our biggest fundraising campaign of the year. This one-day online event raises money to give women and families the help they need to choose life. Every year we choose a family or child to represent our work for Giving Hearts Day.

This year's Giving Hearts Baby is Teddy!

As you plan your giving this year, please consider how you can make an immense difference in the lives of mothers and their children. We are incredibly grateful for the Giving Hearts who donate to support our mission!

God bless you always.

★ **ND residents:**

Significant tax savings for supporting the Maternity Home!

You can save up to \$2,500 on your 2023 (or 2024) state income taxes by making a gift to Saint Gianna and Pietro Molla Maternity Home, thanks to a new North Dakota income tax credit (House Bill 1176). Every dollar you donate is a dollar you save on your state taxes, up to \$2,500 or half the total you owe. This tax credit for our home is available for individuals, businesses, trusts, and estates!

Pray for Housemothers!



We are still searching for housemothers to join our ministry of serving one mother, one baby, one family at a time.

For the month of November, we were joined by our former housemother and dear friend Maddie (pictured above). She traveled out from South Carolina with her little ones to help serve as we await the housemothers that God will send us. We're so grateful to Maddie (and her husband Michael back home), along with Joyce, Kate, Robin, and Geinna and Kassity who have all helped as generously as they possibly can.

Please share this opportunity with any women who might be interested, and remember this special intention in your daily prayers.

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 August 1st–November 17th.

In celebration...

- ♦ **Dennis & Verna Beneda's 70th wedding anniversary** by Ron & Rita Beneda
- ♦ **Katie Dubas birthday** by Deacon Tom & Mary Geffre
- ♦ **Mary Ann McKenna, Carol Rerich's birthdays** by Delores Hackenburg
- ♦ **Delores Hackenberg's 90th birthday** by Terry & Mary Ann McKenna
- ♦ **Shannon & Dena O'Connor's 12th wedding anniversary** by Betty Lou O'Connor
- ♦ **John Shaft, JoAnn Carlson's birthdays** by Grant & Jackie Shaft
- ♦ **Bill Eismann's birthday** by Susan Heenk
- ♦ **Vernon & Liz Hochstetler's 70th wedding anniversary** by Ernest & Rosanne Korynta
- ♦ **Amy Jo Hornbacher's birthday** by Jean Jiskra
- ♦ **Todd Burianek's birthday** by Kevin & Jean Jiskra
- ♦ **Mary Ann McKenna's birthday** by Timothy & Kathleen McKenna
- ♦ **Teddy Rivard's 1st birthday** by Beverly Schons
- ♦ **Juliana Dahlin's birthday** by Randy & Lori Zimprich
- ♦ **Sister Mary Pieta (Mikki Breen) Sisters of Life in New York City** by Wayne & Carol Denault, Jeff, Christy, Amelia, Sam, Isaac & Alex Denault, Amy, Dave, Taylor, Clare & Isabel Overby, Susie, Andy, Rowan & Talus Rising, Allison, Jordan, Ezra & Corinne Dvorak, Jacob, Anna, Gianna, Jacinta, Zelie Denault

In honor...

- ♦ **Grant & Jackie Shaft** by Jack & Joey Muus
- ♦ **Sarah Snyder** by Michelle Snyder
- ♦ **Our grandchildren** by Joseph & Julie Dempsey
- ♦ **Sister Mary Pieta Proof, Final Vows at Sisters of Life** by Deacon Tom & Mary Geffre
- ♦ **All of our Holy Priests** by Bob & Donna Harvey
- ♦ **Audrey Kurowski** by Kenny & Evelyn Kilichowski
- ♦ **Sam Ovsak's Confirmation** by Jay & Erin Ovsak
- ♦ **Ernestine Ebertowski** by Tim & Carrie Shea
- ♦ **Hilary & Casey Odegaard family, Nick & Brienna Dusek family, Ken & Vickie Sims family** by Jan & John Klocke
- ♦ **Aspen** by Mary Kowalski
- ♦ **Our grandchildren** by Curt & Joan Bjertness
- ♦ **Eli & Juliet Koppenhaver** by Jeffrey & Caroline Koppenhaver
- ♦ **Terry & Mary Ann McKenna's wedding anniversary** by Timothy & Kathleen McKenna
- ♦ **Chad Wardner** by Allen & Lisa Tucker
- ♦ **E.J. Welle & Jane Welle** by David & Caitlin Stromberg
- ♦ **Fred Jahner** by Ken & Betty Lasneski
- ♦ **Father Riley Durkin** by Roger & Mary Saylor
- ♦ **Barb Munro** by Greg Lapp
- ♦ **Our ten grandchildren** by Steven & Annella Winger
- ♦ **Sister Mary Pieta (Michaela) Breen's Profession of Final Vows to the Sisters of Life** by Frank & Susanne Argenziano
- ♦ **Deacon Wally's 12th anniversary to the Diaconate** by Colleen Dalman

Prayers / special intentions

- ♦ **Holy souls in purgatory** by Brian Beaton
By Grant & Jackie Shaft
- ♦ **Merlot Fogarty** by Jeanne Walker
By Fred Bittle
By Brian Beaton
By Angie Marsh
- ♦ **Healthy birth of grandchild** by Roger & Sandy Schuster
By Roger & Mary Saylor
By Mary Ann Wanner
By Thomas & Mary Bloomer
By Vicki Horiuchi
By Darryle Carlson
- ♦ **Hilary & Evelyn Feltman family** by Mary Gerszewski
By James Savageau

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE Canticle of Praise Banquet



Cardinal Burke and Gianna Emanuela

Join us **April 16** for a very special celebration with His Eminence Cardinal Raymond Leo Burke and Dr. Gianna Emanuela Molla. *More details coming soon!*

In memory of...

- ✦ **RHONDA ANDERSON** *by Paul & Pauline Savageau*
- ✦ **PEGGY BAHR, EDDIE & JANICE BOROWICZ, MARY NORMANDIN** *by Keith & Gina Mykleseth*
- ✦ **GARY BARCLAY, MIKE CALLAHAN, DEAN EBERTOWSKI, TONY EBERTOWSKI, BRIAN MISIALEK, DEBORAH ZIKMUND, RON NOWACKI, SAM THIEL** *by Sam & Mary Mondry*
- ✦ **LENORE BEAUCHAMP, JOYCE DUBOURT, ART GAPP, JOSEPH GEIER, AL JOHNSON, DAYTON KORNKVEN, DONALD LIENAN, DON MURRAY, BETTY NEELS, LYLE & LOIS PICOTTE, ROBERT WENDT** *by Curt & Mary Ellen Kirking*
- ✦ **BONNIE BENZ** *by Keith Benz*
- ✦ **BABY BITZAN, IRENE NOLAN** *by Randy & Lori Zimprich*
- ✦ **FRANCES BJORNSTAD, FATHER BUS BROOKS, LEE KELLER, FATHER SCOTT SAUNTNER, JOHN SCHMIDT** *by Deacon Wally & Colleen Dalman*
- ✦ **FRANK BOROWICZ** *by Bernadette Borowicz*
- ✦ **BOB BUTH** *by Rilie & Ashley Morgan*
- ✦ **FRANK & MARIE BYZEWSKI** *by Michael Byzewski*
- ✦ **WILLIAM & EVELYN CAMPBELL** *by Daniel Campbell*
- ✦ **KIM CASEY, CARRIE KRAFT, EARL REDMAN** *by Deacon Tom & Mary Geffre*
- ✦ **JAMES CLARYS** *by Sheila Trontvet*
- ✦ **ROLAND COLLETTE** *by Lee & Linda Lessard*
- ✦ **MARY ALICE CORAH** *by George & Georgian Wysocki*
- ✦ **HELEN DAUENHAUER** *by Brenda K. Rohrich*
- ✦ **ROSIE DEMEYERE, ROSEMARY SCHILLER, DARLENE WESOLOWSKI** *by Kames & Ione Kuznia*
- ✦ **MICHELLE DENANCOURT** *by Brian Beaton*
- ✦ **JEFF DIFFERDING, ROBBYN LABARRE, KAY LUTZ** *by Wayne & Carol Denault*
- ✦ **OUR MOTHERS, LUCILLE DOLAN, KAY KROVLIK** *by Thomas & Avis Dolan*
- ✦ **LOIS DURKIN** *by Stan & Peg Greicar*
- ✦ **MARY JANE EISMANN, DAVID H. EISMANN** *by Wilbert Eismann, Susan Heenk*
- ✦ **DECEASED FANKHANEL & NICKLAY FAMILY MEMBERS** *by Marvin Nicklay*
- ✦ **REINE FREEMAN** *by Philip Freeman*
- ✦ **ART GAPP, ROSEMARIE MYRDAL, CYNTHIA SCHIERNBECK** *by Ron & Rita Beneda*
- ✦ **GRACE GIAQUE** *by Grant & Jackie Shaft*
- ✦ **KIM GIBBENS, MAJOR MIKE SMITH, USMC** *by Roger & Mary Saylor*
- ✦ **EDWARD GOLDADE, KEN KUYLEN, GERALD PERDAEMS, JOE WANNER** *by Angie Marsh*
- ✦ **IMOGENE GREER** *by Gordon & Rose Greer*
- ✦ **SUSAN GRZADZIELISK** *by Mary Kowalski*
- ✦ **PETER J. GRZESKOWIAK** *by family*
- ✦ **ROBERT & SONIA HEINLE** *by Raquel Heinle*
- ✦ **PENNY HERZOG** *by Dan & Dee Ann Magrum*
- ✦ **DONNA HOWE** *by Margaret Norrell*
- ✦ **GARY HULTGREM** *by George & Faye Moen*
- ✦ **JUDY IRGENS** *by Donna Mrozla*
- ✦ **JOHN JANDA** *by Craig & Dawn Jarolimek*
- ✦ **DR. SAMY KARAZ** *by David & Karen Kamrowski*
- ✦ **MARILYN** *by Dale & Mary Klein*
- ✦ **FAMILY & FRIENDS** *by John & Jan Klocke*
- ✦ **RAMONA KLOCKE, DAN MACK, JOHN SJOQUIST** *by Steve & Annette Hoornaert*
- ✦ **PETER & ROSEMARY KOCHER** *by Gerald & Joyce Krebs*
- ✦ **MARSHALL KUKOWSKI** *by Carol Kukowski*
- ✦ **DEB KUNTZ** *by Charles & Barbara Ruzicka*
- ✦ **TERRY KUNTZ** *by Peggy Mondry, Janelle Schanilec, Suzie Spicer*
- ✦ **JILL B. KUZNIA, TRACY LEE WILD** *by Brian & Kelly Wavra*
- ✦ **THOMAS & GRETA KUZNIA** *by Kevin & Brittney Kuznia*
- ✦ **JAMES VINCENT LAMPL** *by John & Venita Lampl*
- ✦ **OUR PARENTS & FAMILY** *by Ken & Betty Lasneski*
- ✦ **GREG LOTYSZ** *by Pat & Rita Lauer*
- ✦ **LEO JOHN MARTINSON** *by Krisa Martinson*
- ✦ **ANGELA MASTEL, JOHN, IRENE, MICHELLE, JJ, ASHLEY SWEENEY** *by Sheila Slominski*
- ✦ **FLORENCE MAURER** *by Ruth Geske*
- ✦ **ADELINE MAYGRA, JOANN THIBERT, CHARLES ZAMMERT** *by Robert & Jennifer Proulx*
- ✦ **PAT & BARB MILLER** *by Francis & Teresa Jahner*
- ✦ **JERRY MUNCH** *by Maureen Munch*
- ✦ **KYLE NEWMAN** *by Paul & Heather Belzer, Clemens & Connie Clooten, Nancy Conway, Deacon Tom & Mary Geffre, Rollie & Jane Golay, Michael & Kristin Higgins, Robert & Stephanie McMillan, Frank & Jeannette Redlin, Paul & Colleen Samson, Jason & Candace Smith, Edward & Nicole Snyder, Kevin & Jennifer Sortland, Patrick & Marla Walter, Justin & Caitlin Killoran, Alan & Elysia Libbrecht, Jeffrey & Danyel Johnson*
- ✦ **ISABEL NISWONGER** *by Todd Burianek*
- ✦ **MARY JO OLSON** *by Roger & Yvonne Feltman*
- ✦ **CHAN WAH ON & LAI KWAI HO** *by May Fuka*
- ✦ **2 BABY GIRLS** *by Gerald & Carol Olsonawski*
- ✦ **JEANETTE OSOWSKI** *by Lee & Lori Osowski*
- ✦ **RON OSOWSKI** *by Genny Osowski*
- ✦ **ZIA FRANCESCA PACE & ZIO ROSARIO PACE** *by Robert Pace, Rosetta Pace*
- ✦ **GRETA PASCHKE** *by David & Karen Kamrowski*
- ✦ **DEPARTED SOULS OF FAMILY** *by Clayton & Lillian Pokrzywinski*
- ✦ **PRED PRIBULA** *by Gwyndale & Marge Bayne*
- ✦ **TOBIN PRIGGE** *by Pauline Osowski*
- ✦ **JUDI BELFORD RATZLAFF** *by Rodger & Celinda Wetzel*
- ✦ **SUSAN RICHARD** *by Ron & Linda Beare, John & Rebecca Crooks, Deacon Wally & Colleen Dalman, Thomas & Elizabeth Diperna, Paul & Pauline Savageau, Randy & Lori Zimprich*
- ✦ **JUANITA SCHMITZ** *by Mark & Cheri Schmitz*
- ✦ **HELEN SIEBEN** *by Todd Burianek*
- ✦ **HENRIK & BERNIECE SKONSENG** *by Michael & Lynette Bunn*
- ✦ **JUDITH R. SMITH** *by Theodore & Lorien Smith*
- ✦ **PAUL SPOONLAND** *by Rod & Joan Schanilec*
- ✦ **STAN A. STANCYK** *by Marci Franson*
- ✦ **ANN M. THOMPSON** *by Dale & Judy Plutowski*
- ✦ **LISA THOMPSON** *by Richard & Mary Lou Thompson*
- ✦ **NORRIE THUNE, BETTY KEZAR, FAMILY MEMBERS, FAITHFUL DEPARTED** *by Arlene Thune*
- ✦ **BECKY WALD** *by Jacob & Molly Rodenbiker*
- ✦ **JEAN WANNER** *by Kirk & Leann Ripplinger*
- ✦ **FRANCIS CELESTINE, WILLOW LAUREN, AVA ROSE** *by Steven & Annella Winger*
- ✦ **MARYANN WOLF** *by Gary Littlefield*
- ✦ **NICHOLAS WUOLU** *by Robert & Anne Wuolu*

20 years of joy

Thank you for helping mothers
courageously choose life!



Jacob

"We waited for four years for this day through different things. We were on the list in another adoption agency for so long, and everything was hard. A friend told us about Saint Gianna's, so we contacted Mary Pat and we just thought, okay, if it doesn't work this time, then we're done. We're just going to be happy with the two of us. I remember getting a phone call about meeting Jacob's birth mom. We met her in the Green Mill in Grand Forks and we didn't know if she was going

to pick us or not. And so we went out, and Mary Pat came running out of the Green Mill and waving her arms and relayed that she (Jacob's birth mom, Sam) picked you! Then we waited and waited some more and got a phone call at 4:00 in the morning that Jacob was coming. We drove in a snowstorm up to Grand Forks and he was born on the way. And everything was easy from that point on. It was hard, but it all worked. Jacob has been the biggest blessing for our lives."



Brooklynn

Ryan and I were married in the fall of 2016 and we knew right away that we would want to start a family. I had a known fertility condition, and Oliver here was our little miracle. But when I was 10 weeks pregnant, I was hit by an oncoming semi. And so he endured two rounds of general anesthesia and reconstructive surgeries for my legs while he was in utero. And then my body shut down at 25 weeks. So he was born at one pound, and he's a little miracle. After that experience, we were pretty scared about trying to conceive again, so we put it in God's hands and we just prayed that if it's meant to be, it'll happen on its own. But when we became pregnant again, our second-born son was stillborn in the hospital.

After we lost our little guy, I'm no longer able to carry children. And we've put our names down for traditional adoption and we've been on a wait list for over four years and we're still on the wait list to apply. So about two and a half years ago, we decided to become a licensed foster home. Through foster care, we've been blessed to have two little beautiful baby girls. The second we had from when she was newborn till just over a year old. We were devastated when she was reunified very unexpectedly, but then extremely blessed when we got her back along with her big brother. And then four months to the day after getting those two sweet peanuts, we had our adoption ceremony here for little Brooklyn. So we are extremely blessed and praying hard that we can keep all four.