

# A CANTICLE OF PRAISE

CHRISTMAS 2024



La Madre de Dios | © Raul Berzosa

  
SAINT GIANNA &  
PIETRO MOLLA  
Maternity Home

03 | To be Known  
is to be Loved

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Our Housemothers



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

Volume 23, No. 3, Christmas 2024

Cover painting: La Madre de Dios | © Raul Berzosa

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Hayley Kaffar

**Saint Gianna and Pietro Molla Maternity Home**

15605 Co. Rd. 15, Minto, ND 58261

701.248.3077

[www.sgpmollahome.com](http://www.sgpmollahome.com)

[f @sgpmollahome](https://www.facebook.com/sgpmollahome)

[sgpmollahome@outlook.com](mailto:sgpmollahome@outlook.com)

An IRS 501(c)3 nonprofit organization



*Baby boy due in March!  
Baby girl due in May!*



**GIVING  
HEARTS  
DAY**

**Giving Hearts Day is our biggest  
fundraiser of the year!**

This online event raises money for our pregnant moms  
and their children on their journey to choose life for  
their unborn children.

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 always so grateful  
and feel incredibly blessed by your generous support!

**ND TAX INCENTIVE  
benefits maternity homes**

Take advantage of a 100% tax credit when you give to our  
Home. The State of North Dakota recently passed a special  
tax credit (House Bill 1176) for in-state ministries like Saint  
Gianna and Pietro Molla Maternity Home!

It means you can save up to \$2,500 on your state taxes by  
making a gift to our Home. Every dollar you give to our  
maternity home is a dollar you save on your ND income taxes  
– up to \$2,500 or half the total you owe (whichever is lower).



# to be KNOWN is to be LOVED

- Geianna Meade



Dear Friends of Life,

As we begin another liturgical year with this Holy Season of Advent and anticipate the celebration of Christmas, we have much to look forward to and be grateful for. We focus our attention on a tiny Babe Who forever changed the course of human history. As we kneel before the manger each year, hopefully we know Him more. And in knowing Him more, love Him more. And in loving Him more, love and serve others more.

While pondering the Christ Child and His beautiful Blessed Mother, we also naturally ponder each mother and baby who have entered our Home. Each mother has a story, and it is truly a tremendous gift that she is sent to us by that tiny Babe. He ordained us to be the ones who have room for them – in this Home and in our hearts.

It is in this Home that we get to learn our mothers' stories and get to know them very well. We enter into the difficulties that they experience, especially their obstacles to choosing life. It is the gift of new life that brings these moms to us, giving us a chance to know them and love them. We glimpse what God sees in them, and we help these moms see the hope and future that He has in store for them and their precious little ones.

Geianna Meade, the first child born here 20 years ago, repeatedly says "to be known is to be loved," and that is truly the greatest gift of our work at the Home – that these mothers know that God has entrusted them to our care and love. We tell them and show them how loved they are, not just by us but by an ever-loving Father. Their Father sees them and knows the deepest desires of their hearts. He wants to lead them into a relationship with this tiny Babe Who makes all of these things possible this Christmas and always.

And to each of you, our faithful friends – I want to express my deepest gratitude to you for your support of these mothers who you don't get acquainted with the way we do. It's a beautiful act of "believing without seeing" when you support our moms and children. You help us immensely with your spiritual and financial generosity. Your support does change lives – one mother, one baby, one family at a time.

Wishing you and your loved ones the Merriest Christmas and many blessings in this New Year!

With gratitude,

Mary Pat Jahner, Director





## Housemother [hous-muhth-er], *noun*:

a woman who lives in a home or group residence, typically one for young people, and looks after the general welfare of the residents.



Current housemothers: Sophia, Lauren, and Maria

## Meet Our Housemothers

### SOPHIA Dzikowski

- born and raised in Columbus, Ohio
- recent high school graduate
- her parents sparked her desire to work in the pro-life movement
- attracted to the close-knit, family-oriented atmosphere at the Home and felt a strong desire to contribute to that sense of community
- loves spending time with residents and housemothers by playing cards and cooking meals together
- Her parents are the most influential people in her life because they've taught her the value of kindness and hard work while following God's will.
- one of her life goals is to hike through the Alps





“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.” -1 Peter 4:10

## LAUREN Ludwig

- grew up in Grand Rapids, MI
- originally thought she'd work at a Catholic Summer camp and discovered our Home's housemother openings
- earned an associate degree at Ferris State University in MI
- began her pro-life work at a pregnancy help center in high school and pro-life group in college
- inspired by her time spent with pro-life organizations to pursue a housemother position at our Home
- her favorite part about living at our Home is that each moment and each task make daily life feel so meaningful
- hopes to visit all 50 US states by age 25 (North Dakota is state #33!)

## MARIA Larsen

- came from Andover, MN
- learned about our Home through her siblings who attended Fr. Joseph's JMI summer camps
- felt a desire to help mothers and babies from a young age, partly due to her own mom losing 11 children to miscarriage
- the sorrow from the loss of her siblings compelled her to pursue a job that gives moms the opportunity to bring new life into the world
- desired to become a missionary and felt that God was calling her to bring Christ to others by walking with mothers on their journey
- inspired by her miscarried twin Grace, who gives her hope in the joy of heaven and intercessory prayer
- as a kid, she put on pop concerts using plywood for a stage and a golf club for a microphone







Mass in the Visitation Chapel



Former housemothers



Father Joseph delivering a homily

# Mother & Housemother CELEBRATION

## Mass

"It's so beautiful that we honor you mothers and housemothers as part of our 20 year anniversary. [...] It's important to celebrate motherhood and those who have helped mothers. God the Father has ordained this. Each of us that are here, God has ordained." - Fr. Joseph's homily

## Sharing

At the conclusion of Mass, all were welcome to come forward and share how the Home has impacted them as mothers, housemothers, volunteers, children, and so on. Housemother Maria shared, "It's not just a Home for people to come and stay, but everybody here is part of an enormous family where lots of love is shared."

## Meal

Everyone who attended Mass was then invited to join us in FMI's St. Joseph Hall where we shared a meal, enjoyed conversation, and played games. We praise God for our beautiful mothers and housemothers!



Food prep with Aubrey





Former and current moms and housemothers at our Home in October

## Bl. Carlo & Bl. Pier Giorgio to be canonized in the spring

Carlo Acutis died after a short struggle with acute leukemia. He faced death with great courage, as did his parents. Though they prayed for the miracle of his survival, they all came to realize that while God doesn't always save us from death, he saves us in death. Since Carlo's beatification in 2020, there have been countless witnesses who testify to his intercession and to the amount of good that continues to pour from this young man's life. He is a prime example of how living a life of joyful faith takes nothing away from our desire to be free and happy.

Pier Giorgio Frassati was an Italian man who was affectionately called the "Man of the Beatitudes" by Saint John Paul II for his exemplary work of bringing comfort and happiness to those who were poor, suffering, meek, hungry, thirsty, and in need of mercy, and who was himself clean of heart, a peacemaker, and persecuted for the sake of the Gospel (cf. Mt 5:3-10). He died at age 24 while in charitable service to the people who were sick and dying in his community.

## my gift to the CHRIST CHILD



Lord Jesus,  
 I give You my hands to do Your work,  
 I give You my feet to go Your way,  
 I give You my eyes to see You as You see,  
 I give You my ears to hear as You hear,  
 I give You my tongue to speak as You speak,  
 I give You my heart that You may love in me  
 Your Father and all mankind,  
 I give You my spirit that it may  
 be You who prays in me,  
 I give You my whole self, Lord, Jesus,  
 that it may be You who grows, works,  
 loves and prays in me. Amen.



# HAYLEY KAFFAR

## *Communications Director*

Hi! My name is Hayley Kaffar and I am the communications director at Saint Gianna & Pietro Molla Maternity Home. I feel immensely honored to be included in this family. To me, it's not a job; it's an opportunity to evangelize.

I was in high school just down the road when the Home opened over 20 years ago. I witnessed the concept of a maternity home take shape. I marveled at the determination of Mary Pat Jahner, Colleen Samson (my aunt), Fr. Damian Hils, and the board. My own mom has been a board member of the Home since the beginning.

In 2019, I designed the Home's website and began promoting the Home on social media. Five years later, I'm involved in the creation of many other materials: newsletter design, printed promotional materials, advertising, whatever Mary Pat wants! :)

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***"To me, it's not a job; it's an opportunity to evangelize."***

-Hayley

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As a mother of five, cherishing new life and promoting a culture of life has always been a high priority. I am thrilled to contribute to the Home's mission of serving "one mother, one baby, one family at a time." It's a dream come true.

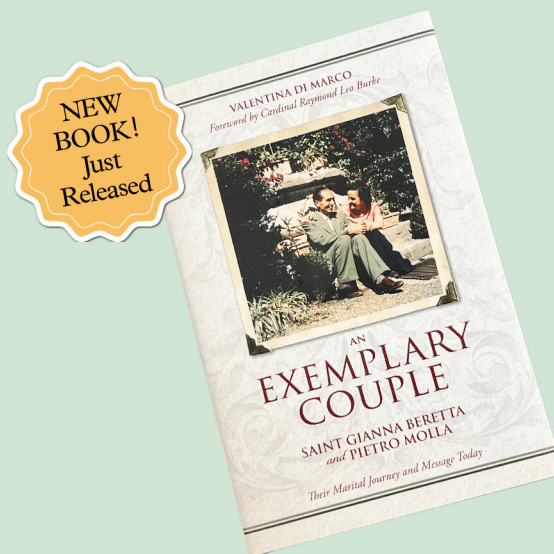
Hayley resides in Devils Lake, ND, with her husband Dan and their five precious children. She enjoys creating and designing in her little home office. When she gets out, Hayley loves to ski, e-bike, fish, and play volleyball.



## ***The love story, struggles, and path to holiness for Saint Gianna & Pietro Molla***

"The author illustrates the couple's struggles, their genuine human fears and challenges, and their blessings—Pietro's as an engineer and Gianna's as a medical doctor—and their strengths derived especially from their communication with God through prayer, devotion, and the Sacraments, and from their heartfelt communication with each other."

- Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke





# Christmas: Mother Mary and Child Jesus

## *Meditating on Mother Mary with the Child Jesus*

As we meditate on the image of Mary, Mother of Jesus, tenderly holding Her little Child, we can likely feel and experience Her immense love and affection toward Him, Who is the Son of God the Most High. He marvelously lays upon Her breast with the neediness of an infant, and at the same time, filled with the Presence of God! What a marvel, what a great mystery!

## *Our humble lowliness represented by the Child Jesus*

One can imagine, as the Child Jesus rests humbly in Her arms, He represents us. In our lowliness and sinfulness, we need a motherly embrace and a mother's care. Just imagine, Jesus, All-powerful God and Creator of the universe, relied solely on Her for His every need. We too should rest confidently in Her safe care!

## *Stay close to Mary & always be close to Jesus*

Reflect further, now, just how Jesus and Mary were always connected. So then, if we stay close to Mary, we will always be close to Jesus. Following through the example of their lives, we will be graced as we begin the New Year of Faith and make our Consecration to Our Lady of Guadalupe on Her Feast, December 12th. After that we celebrate Christmas, and we observe and learn from Mary's virtues. She most ardently lived both with humility and deep devotion to Her Son, Our Lord.



Painting: La Madre de Dios | © Raul Berzosa

We express our deepest gratitude to painter Raul Berzosa for allowing us to print his beautiful painting of Our Mother Mary and the Christ Child in our newsletter. The image allows us to meditate upon the great mystery of Mary, the Mother of God, tenderly caring for her Child.

With that same tender love between them, we can participate in that beautiful Mother and Child's loving embrace too, receiving Her nurturing care like the Infant Jesus lying in Her arms. I invite all of us to pray with this image: not only will we celebrate a Holy Christmas but will also be blessed in our daily lives throughout all the holy seasons, trustingly with Jesus and confidently with Mother Mary.

By Father Joseph Christensen, FMI

# In Memoriam

You and your intentions will be remembered in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass offered each First Saturday of the month.

## In memory of...

+CAROL ALFORD by Jerome Alford  
+JOANNE ANDERSON, LARRY HOUSER, MARIE RUSSELL by Rod & Joan Schanilec  
+BABY ARLO by Shirley Kern  
+BABIES NEVER BORN by Richard Kurtyka  
+BLANCHE BABINSKI by Gary & Linda Babinski  
+PAUL BEATON by Brian Beaton  
+KEVIN BELL by Jeff & Rita Mootz  
+BONNIE BENZ by Keith Benz  
+DIANE BINSTOCK, JOE CLARYS, RUTH SPATGENS by Bernard & Bernie Zastoupil  
+ROBBI BIRKELAND, GERALDINE PAVLICEK by Joe & Melinda Fridrich  
+PAUL BREEN, DUWAYNE ELLISON by Wayne & Carol Denault  
+RUDY & ARLENE BRANDT, SONNY & JERRY RYAN by Dr. Casey & Bev Ryan  
+MY MOM & DAD by George Burny  
+EDWARD R. & REGINA BUZA by Richard Buza  
+MARGIE CLARK by Janet Griffith  
+TABITHA DALMAN by Ben & Juliana Dahlin, Randy & Lori Zimprich  
+CANDACE MARIE DIETZ by Con & Clara Dietz  
+HARRIET DIMMER by Helen Carpenter  
+MARY JANE DUBAS by Deacon Tom & Mary Geffre  
+BABY ASANTE ELIAS EARL by Bill & Jennifer Schmitt  
+LEONA EBERTOWSKI by Karen Anderson & Ron Gerig, Deb Slominski  
+LARRY & LYNN EISENHAEUER by John & Lauren Harrington  
+ANASTASIA MIRACLE FORTNEY by Aaron & Lisa Fortney  
+DARRYL E. FRANK, ALBERT KOVASH, BERNICE SUPERCYNSKI by Angie Marsh  
+DANIEL GONSOROWSKI by Jay & Erin Ovsak  
+JOHN & EMILIA GOROSKI by Gary & Stephanie Goroski  
+BRYAN GRABANSKI by Jill Quarry, Timothy Higgins  
+JOANIE GRONSO by Aaron & Janae Alton, Jean Anderson, Robert & Kathleen Anderson, Brian & Marilyn Bjoralt, Michael & Katherine Bruckbauer, Kirk & Babette Carr, Christopher & Erin Danduran, Kevin & Karen Donahue, John & Kimberly Dooley, David & Debra Dornfeld, Paul & Marlys Dotzenrod, Andrea Eaton, Shelley Finney, James & Mary Jane Foley, Jill Graveline, Sara Kantor, Cynthia Ketterling, John & Jan Klocke, Deborah Korstad, Kristi Lang, Robert & Cheryl Link, JoAnn Mason, Ralph & Mary Matter, Judith McDonald, Sonia McManus, Mark & Vicki Melius, Michael & Kathy Mertz, Joseph & Beverly Miranowski Jessica Mesna, Moen family, Nativity Catholic Church, Maureen Nikolas, Pat & Brenda Nistler, Steven & Cindy Noack, Matthew & Susan Noah, Elizabeth Peschong, Michelle Powers, Mark & Stacy Rolland, Margaret Saunders, Paul & Pauline Savageau, Patrick & Donna Schwan, Darwyn & Wendy Smith, Deann Stanley, Randall Sunne, Rosemary Thomas, Anna Welder, Phil & Mary Williams, Charlie & Desiree Wilson, Kevin & Brenda Wolf  
+MILDRED L. HEFTA-HENRICKSEN by Jeff & Joann Kitchens  
+KEITH HOVLAND by Donna Mrozla  
+FATHER PETER HUGHES by Roger & Mary Saylor  
+SEAN WILLIAM HUNT by Deacon James Hunt  
+ROBERT E. HURLEY by Steven & Christine Jensen, Stephen & Clare Laylock  
+FRED JAHNER by Ken & Betty Lasneski  
+AARON JELINEK by Wayne & Carol Denault, Deacon Tom & Mary Geffre  
+FRANK & MABEL KOVAR, WILLIAM & BERTHA SCHNEIDER by Duane & Brenda Kovar  
+MARSHALL KUKOWSKI by Carol Kukowski  
+LEONARD KUZNIA by Janet Kuznia  
+MIKE KUZNIA by Lillian Kuznia & family, friends, Stan & Gloria Gostanzik, Kurt & Carmen Harmoning, Jerry & Marilyn Kuznia  
+ROSEMARY LACROIX by Tim & Fran LaCroix family, David & Janel Agnes family, Tim & Penny Boese, Anthony & Angela Deplazes, Barbara Diebold  
+DONALD LANGE by Arlynn & Cheryl Hefta  
+CINDY LUTTER by Ellen Schulte  
+NANCY MAESE by Michelle Snyder  
+LAVERNE MAHAR-COSTELLO by Rod & Joan Schanilec, Deb Slominski  
+FRANK MARVIN by Margaret Marvin  
+LINDA MAYHEW by Kurt & Jennifer Kelley  
+EDGAR MILLER by James & Jocelyn Dahlstrom  
+JAY & JUDY MONDRY by Paul & Jackie Welle  
+SYLVESTER & LAVONNE NARLOCK, DONALD NARLOCK by Brian & Diane Rokke  
+JULIE LYNN NOTTINGHAM by Judy Gabriel  
+DUANE J. OGAARD by Eleanor Ogaard  
+TOM & MARY JO OLSON by Anonymous  
+VALOIE OLSON by Arthur Olson  
+MARTHA I. OTT by Bonnie Gassmann  
+FATHER WILLIAM OVSAK by Monica Gonsorowski  
+MARGARET PEGGY PUETZ by Todd Jackson  
+GRANDSON, AARON RADWICK by Alice Radwick  
+LYNDALOU RAUMIN by Kurt & Jennifer Kelley, Todd & Janice Mortimer  
+JERRY & ROSE REDMOND by Tim & Gail Dancer  
+FRANCIS REIDY-EWALT by Sharon Reidy  
+COLLIN RICHTER by Patrick & Jamie Richter  
+MARGARET M. RIEDINGER by Ralph Riedinger  
+ALLEN ROBINSON by Deb Slominski  
+NICHOLAS RUHLAND by Florence Ruhland  
+JEREMY RYBASKI by Frank & Janene Rybaski, Alen & Gail Szczepanski  
+J. WENDELL SANDS by Nick & Lynn Lane  
+HARRIET SCHARMER by Sheila Trontvet  
+ANNE SCHLESSELMANN by Paul & Pauline Savageau  
+MARLIE FAITH SCHMIDT by Brenda Borowicz  
+JUANITA SCHMITZ by Mark & Cheri Schmitz  
+RAY SCHMITZ by Steve & Annette Hoornaert  
+ANDREW SCHWEITZER by Travis & Trina Schweitzer  
+JEFFREY SIKORSKI by Francis & Catherine Rubish  
+VIONNE SIVERSON by Mike & Michelle Such  
+DIANE SLOMINSKI by Ken Slominski & family, Tom & Judy Osowski  
+KIRK & JOAN SMITH by Paul & Terri Clark  
+MARY SMITH, DONALD SNYDER by Mary Ann McKenna  
+GAYLORD SOLUM by Willie & Kathy Bayne  
+BETTY SOUKUP by Ron & Rita Beneda  
+PAUL & JUNE STAFKE by Bonnie Kingsley, Angi Hansen  
+CECILIA STOLTMAN by Carl Bruzek  
+ROSE C. STOMMES by Catherine Clapp  
+ANETTA "ENI" SVALDI by Paul & Colleen Samson  
+LORRAINE TIBERT by Kevin & Jean Jiskra, Rod & Joan Schanilec, Sheila Trontvet  
+ED URIELL by Denise Uriell  
+BECKY WALD by Jacob & Molly Rodenbiker  
+AUBREE WAMPLER by Blaine & Melinda Wampler  
+ALVIN WANNER, DIANNE BINSTOCK, CHARLES FORSTER, IRENE A. MESSER, MARY ROSE RICHTER by Mary Ann Wanner  
+CONNIE WOLF by Michael Wolf  
+RAYMOND & CAROLINE WYSOCKI by Mike Wysocki

## In honor...

All mothers who choose life by Merton & Judy Beaudrie  
Priests, Deacons, Seminarians, Religious by Tim & Laurine Hodny  
All Veterans/Military and their families by Roger & Mary Saylor  
Becky Sims, Chris & Jessica Sims, Will & Lea Shulstad by John & Jan Klocke  
Randy Paul Ewalt, Dr. John McInnis by Sharon Reidy  
The new families by Bernadine Carney  
Maryann Wolf by Gary Littlefield  
Roxane Beauclair Salonen by George & Pauline Economon  
Mary J. Alexander by Amy Ledom  
Gianna Ganyo by Terry & Mary Jo Schmitz  
Jill Quarry by Tim Higgins

Of God by Marsha Reiter  
Rachel O'Neill by Jeanne Krill  
God's gift of life by Anthony & Marcia Baures  
Michelle Altobelli Bianco by Sara & Scott Bleth  
Thaddeus Zaharia by Mark & Joanne Zaharia  
Aborted children by Ken & Betty Lasneski  
Margaret Peggy Puetz by Todd Jackson  
Father Joseph Christensen, FMI by Andrew & Mandy Wiener  
Deacon Ken & Vickie Severinson by Carol Kuntz  
Twin great grandsons, Edmund & William Wavra by Ron & Kathy Wavra  
Marge Schweitzer by Travis & Trina Schweitzer



## In celebration...

Eleanor Narloch's 90th birthday by Rod & Joan Schanilec  
 Rick Kilichowski's 80th birthday by Kenny & Evelyn Kilichowski  
 Joan Schanilec's 70th birthday by her Family, Kurt & Jennifer Kelley, Mary Mondry, Paul & Colleen Samson, Ed & Merita Steinbrueck  
 Merita Steinbrueck's 70th birthday by Rod & Joan Schanilec  
 Margo Haut's 60th birthday by Deacon Tom & Mary Geffre  
 Dennis & Verna Beneda's 71st wedding anniversary by Ron & Rita Beneda  
 Merlyn & Dolores Grabanski's 65th wedding anniversary by David & Karen Kamrowski  
 Mary Ellen & Cliff Kropp's 60th wedding anniversary by Ron & Kathy Wavra  
 Gil & Linda Becker's 50th wedding anniversary by Mary Ann McKenna  
 Floyd & Chris Ney's 50th wedding anniversary by Jackie Readle

Paul & Colleen Samson's 50th wedding anniversary by Rod & Joan Schanilec  
 Our 40th wedding anniversary by Steve & Ellen Wellgren  
 Patrick & Grace Kappel's 10th wedding anniversary by Brian & Ev Kappel  
 Birth of Owen White (Kristine & Taylor) by Wilbert Eismann  
 Delores Hackenberg's birthday by Mary Ann McKenna  
 Ben & Betty's birthdays by Father John Kleinwachter  
 Father Rick Lambert by Arlene Thune  
 Vida Carroll's birthday by Mike & Michelle Such  
 Diane Mortenson's birthday by Joe & Melinda Fridrich  
 Tony & Barb Braun by Bill & Jennifer Schmitt  
 Teddy Rivard's 2nd birthday by Beverly Schons  
 Julia's birth by Brenna Jane Peterson  
 Joanna Kingsbury Etzler birthday by Jay & Erin Ovsak

## Prayers/special intentions

Philip Grant Shaft might become a great saint by Christian & Lydia Young  
 Fridrich family by Joe & Melinda Fridrich  
 By Mary Stapleton  
 By David Geer  
 Family by Bernadette Yambar  
 By Derich & Christine Tabin  
 By Teresa Rivera  
 By Edward Ilano & Kris Balestros Ilano  
 Florian Supercynski, Bea Thomas by Angie Marsh  
 By Tom & Diane Mertens  
 Grace Rerick Lavandowska by Con & Clara Dietz  
 Andrew & Iris by Josephine Iris de Leon



**Joan Gronso**

We remember our long-time friend and supporter of Saint Gianna & Pietro Molla Maternity Home.



**Deacon Howard & Hertha Hunkler**

We are grateful for the generosity of the Hunkler family again this year through their Catholic Extension endowment. For many years, we have been blessed by their financial support as well as their prayers for our women and children.



**Bianco Family**

As this newsletter goes to print, our dear friend and supporter Dr. Michelle Bianco has entered eternal rest into the merciful care of God our Father. In the spring newsletter, we will share more details.



### Get in touch!

15605 County Road 15  
 Minto, ND 58261

701.248.3077

[www.sgpmollahome.com](http://www.sgpmollahome.com)

f @sgpmollahome

[sgpmollahome@outlook.com](mailto:sgpmollahome@outlook.com)



### Pray at our Saint Gianna shrine

The Shrine of Saint Gianna Beretta Molla is open for private veneration. Call or email to schedule a visit. It is available according to the schedule and availability of our Home and staff. Because it is a home for our moms and their little ones, we are not always open to the public.



CHRIST IS BORN



## MERRY CHRISTMAS!

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! May the Christ Child be ever present in your heart during this season.

