



Summer Update & A Story of God's Grace

Dear Friends,

I had to pause and reflect on where to begin, because sharing how I became an employee of St. Gianna's Place is not simply a career update—it is a story of God's will unfolding in my life.

This "employment opportunity" did not happen by accident. In truth, nothing in my life ever has. God has always had a plan for me, and the sooner I learned to recognize that, the fuller and more meaningful my life became.

My journey with St. Gianna's Place began in service. I first volunteered on the Finance Committee, then was honored to join the Board of Directors. As a board member, I became deeply invested in the needs of the house and had the privilege of getting to know some of the residents, walking alongside them, helping with budgeting and financial guidance, and witnessing their strength and resilience firsthand.

Yet, with every meeting, every conversation, and every encounter, a quiet but persistent feeling grew within me: there was more I was meant to do. At first, I pushed that feeling aside. But the more involved I became, the louder that calling grew.

I began to bring these thoughts to prayer—long, heartfelt conversations with God and with the Virgin Mary, my source of comfort, protection, and guidance. I surrendered those thoughts again and again, yet they kept returning, gently but insistently.

Though I studied psychology, I spent 25 years in banking, with 15 of those years in leadership. I loved that career, not for the bank itself, but because it allowed me to help people succeed, especially those who felt overwhelmed by the financial world. Helping others brought me deep personal joy.

But by 2025, I noticed something had shifted. That sense of fulfillment was no longer there. I found myself questioning a career I had loved for so long, while my heart kept returning to St. Gianna's Place, its mission, its women, and its growing needs.

As the organization experienced significant growth, it became clear that St. Gianna's Place was ready to take the next step—to build structure, define staffing roles, and strengthen the foundation needed to continue this ministry. I found myself contributing ideas and helping shape what those immediate needs looked like. Behind the scenes, the Board was also developing a strategic plan for 2026, which included staffing.

And that calling, the one I had tried to silence, became impossible to ignore.

I prayed deeply and earnestly. I prayed with my whole heart and soul. And one night, after asking God with complete surrender, *"You have blessed me abundantly. What can I do for You?"* I received an answer, clear and unmistakable.

In my sleep, God spoke to me with the clarity of a bird singing and said: *"You be that staff member they need."*

I woke up with my heart racing, fully aware that I had heard Him. There was no longer any question in my heart or mind.

I entered the interview process, followed the protocols required for such a role, and by the grace of God, I was selected to serve as Executive Director of St. Gianna's Place.

Today, I am humbled to help build the structure, guidelines, protocols, and best practices needed to support this ministry and ensure its future. But the blessings do not flow in only one direction. Every day, I am deeply moved by the women of St. Gianna's Place; their stories, their courage, and their trust. I am changed by walking beside them and witnessing lives transformed.

I am beyond grateful to God for quite literally pushing me into this ministry, to serve His people and His mission.

Thank you, from the depths of my heart, for walking alongside St. Gianna's Place. Your prayers, generosity, and continued support make this work possible. As we move through the summer months, your partnership allows us to keep saying "yes" to women in need, offering shelter, support, dignity, and hope.

May God bless you abundantly.

-Silvia