

# THE UNIVERSITY OF MARY



*“We find Heaven through our daily tasks.” - Saint Gianna*

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The University of Mary intends to grow our School of Health Sciences to meet the needs of our nation, even as we thoughtfully name it in honor of one of the great saints of our time, Saint Gianna Beretta Molla. In this way, we will signal both our commitment to providing exceptional health sciences education and our profound respect for medical ethics and the dignity of every human person, especially those in need.

## NARRATIVE:

St. Gianna Beretta Molla was an Italian pediatrician who was especially drawn to the care of mothers, babies, the elderly, and the poor. Gianna considered the field of medicine to be her mission in life and treated it as such. Gianna married Pietro Molla in September 1955. They had four children along with two pregnancies that ended in miscarriages. During her last pregnancy, her doctors discovered she had developed a fibroma in her uterus, meaning she was carrying both a baby and a tumor. They gave her the options of having an abortion to save her own life or removing only the fibroma, which could save the life of her baby but put her own life at risk.

Wanting to preserve her child's life, and willing to give her own life to save the life of her child, Gianna opted for the removal of only the fibroma. After the operation, complications continued throughout her pregnancy, but Gianna braved the remainder of her pregnancy with unparalleled strength and consistent dedication to her calling as a wife, mother, and doctor.

### CONTRIBUTORS:

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A few days before the baby was to be born, she recognized she might lose her life during delivery, but she was steadfast. Gianna remained clear about her wishes, expressing to her family, “If you must decide between me and the child, do not hesitate: choose the child. I insist on it. Save the baby.” On April 21, 1962 – Holy Saturday of that year – her fourth child, a daughter, was successfully delivered. The doctors tried many different treatments and procedures to ensure both lives would be saved. However, on April 28, a week after the baby was born, Gianna passed away. Her husband named his new daughter Gianna Emanuela (after her mother), and she is now herself a medical doctor and a dear friend of the University of Mary. Saint John Paul II canonized Gianna Beretta Molla as a saint on May 16, 2004. Her legacy of sacrificial love and dedication to the sanctity of life has been a source of comfort and direction for countless people ever since, especially in our troubled times.

The University of Mary is poised to initiate the vital project of expanding our School of Health Sciences under the name of Saint Gianna, honoring the courageous legacy of our founders, the Benedictine Sisters of Annunciation

Monastery. When they arrived in Bismarck in 1878, those first Sisters set out to meet the needs of Dakota Territory by immediately establishing a school and, in 1885, the first hospital in the region. In 1959, they established Mary College for the training of nurses and teachers, and in the years since, education and health care have developed into our premier programs, with our graduates providing the same service and stability our Sisters provide to the communities they came to serve. ***Mary's nursing program was ranked #1 in the nation by Mountain Measurement in 2021, and we want this most vital program to continue to grow.***

It is out of this beautiful, historic, and life-changing heritage that the University of Mary seeks to expand our current School of Health Sciences to meet a growing need in today's society – for health care practitioners and administrators who are servants of Truth, compassionate in their care, and impressively prepared for the complexity of modern medicine. It is no secret that there is a vital need for health care providers who grasp the consequences of new medical technology and treatment. By expanding the School under the patronage of Saint Gianna, and through new programs and state-of-the-art facilities, the University of Mary will profoundly deepen our impact on the world of both Catholic and secular health care. ***We endeavor to be the best School of Health Sciences in America for the education of competent and compassionate health care leaders of moral courage.***

The University of Mary seeks to strengthen a School of Health Sciences that already attracts the best and brightest students from across the nation and around the world. By growing the School of Health Sciences and naming it in honor of Saint Gianna, we will expand our capacity not only to educate our students, but also to connect them to the North Dakota community through meaningful relationships and internships, thereby meeting both regional and national needs.

Quality health care is an extraordinary blessing, but the stakes are high as we debate what that means. As the pace of technological change accelerates, there is greater need than ever for solid intellectual, ethical, spiritual, and human formation for the nurses, therapists, doctors, and administrators who work in our hospitals and clinics. We're facing questions that affect the well-being of our society and of humanity itself, and the University of Mary – with Saint Gianna's intercession – will rise to the challenge with courage, creativity, and innovation.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

### 1. **Why name the School of Health Sciences after Saint Gianna?**

Saint Gianna's noble work as a doctor as well as her incredible sacrifice of love – to not only save the life of her child, but also witness to the dignity and sanctity of every human life – set a radiant example for how those in health care ought to live their lives. By naming our School of Health Sciences after her, the University of Mary intends to hold up Saint Gianna as the standard for the kind of courageous and compassionate professionals we hope to produce.

### 2. **How does raising funds to name the School of Health Sciences advance the strategic vision of the University of Mary?**

The University of Mary's *Vision 2030: Education for Life* strategic plan outlines the creation of Centers of Distinction that will foster leadership, research, service, and academic programming, to reflect the school's distinctive character. A critical part of the overall *Vision 2030 Capital Campaign*, the vision for the Saint Gianna School of Health Sciences at the University of Mary includes a large-scale renovation of parts of our main campus that brings all traditional classes back to campus, a plan for the optimal utilization of a new Downtown Campus, and groundbreaking new programming.

### 3. **Does the University of Mary's vision for the School of Health Sciences align with the strategic goals of the City of Bismarck?**

Already offering premier bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees, our School of Health Sciences advances the aspirations of the Bismarck-Mandan region and North Dakota to be a nationally recognized destination for health care, business, and education professionals.

### 4. **What capabilities should current and future Saint Gianna School of Health graduates possess?**

The mission for our School of Health Sciences is to prepare competent, caring, and ethical health care professionals who will be virtuous servant leaders to their clients and professional constituencies. Our vision is to be known as the premier academic institution in the nation for preparing health care professionals who have both impressive training and the capacity to think and act with moral courage. They will be the champions and witnesses in our time to a new Culture of Life.

(reference: [www.umary.edu/academics/health-sciences/index.php](http://www.umary.edu/academics/health-sciences/index.php))

# PROJECT DETAILS:

The Saint Gianna School of Health Sciences (SGSHS) project will focus on four areas of growth and development:

1. **Main Campus:** In keeping with the University of Mary tradition of wisely utilizing existing spaces, the main campus renovations will focus on remodeling central university buildings to bring all our health sciences classes back onto campus, re-integrating our rapidly growing student body.
2. **New Downtown Campus:** With the newly acquired land in the heart of the city of Bismarck, the university plans to build state-of-the-art facilities to train health care professionals and to partner with premier hospitals and clinics nearby.
3. **Programming:** Revised and new programs will be designed to deepen faculty, student, and community understanding of Christian, Catholic, ethical teaching in respect to the future of health care.
4. **An Endowment to Support Further Innovation:** By aggressively endowing the SGSHS, the University of Mary will be able to continue innovating and improving our ability to prepare competent, caring and ethical health care professionals – while still remaining affordable. Through the endowed funds we will continue to provide life-changing and life-affirming opportunities for our students and faculty.

Project Name	Project Details	Space Allocation/Cost Analysis
Main Campus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lower Levels of University Hall, Chick's Place, and the LVUC</li> <li>• Harold Miller Center</li> <li>• Casey Center for Nursing Education</li> <li>• A Display and Reliquary of Saint Gianna</li> </ul>	<p><b>Faculty Offices</b> – 540 square feet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bioethics Offices (2)</li> <li>• RT/ BSRT Offices (2)</li> <li>• ELA Coordinator (1)</li> <li>• Research Coordinator (1)</li> </ul> <p><b>Administration (4)</b> - 530 square feet  <b>Nursing</b> – 17,602 square feet  <b>PT/OT/SLP/AT</b> – 27,391 square feet  <b>SUBTOTAL</b> = 46,384 square feet            Cost/square foot = \$250</p> <p><b>TOTAL: \$11,596,000</b></p>
Downtown Campus Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• World-class medical simulation center, fully staffed and for rental, to provide a significant portion of clinical education and to increase our caps on SGSHS programs</li> <li>• Upperclassman housing, with preference to students in clinicals and graduate students in SGSHS</li> <li>• High-quality tenants</li> <li>• Pro bono clinics for physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech language therapy, and athletic training in service to our community</li> <li>• An NFP clinic staffed by trained and certified nurses</li> <li>• Crisis pregnancy center</li> <li>• Catholic bookstore</li> </ul>	<p>The University of Mary is looking to partner with a mission-oriented developer that will work with us to utilize the <b>99,000 square feet</b> of real estate.</p>

Project Name	Project Details	Space Allocation/Cost Analysis
Endowed Programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Catholic Bioethics Convention for health care professionals on campus</li> <li>Institute for Bioethics</li> <li>Grow MS Bioethics program for increased enrollment and national contribution</li> <li>Dignity of the Human Person formation pilgrimages to Dachau, Mesero, Lourdes</li> <li>Expanding March for Life participation</li> <li>Priest Chaplain/Professor for SGSHS</li> </ul>	Annual Bioethics Convention – \$50,000 Endowing Institute for Bioethics – \$1,000,000 Endowing MS Bioethics program – \$250,000 Endowing Dignity of the Human Person formation pilgrimages – \$2,500,000 Endowing participation in March for Life - \$1,000,000 Endowing Priest Chaplain/Professor for SGSHS – \$1,500,000 <b>Total: \$6,300,000</b>
Endowing of the School of Health Sciences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides consistent and sustainable income for innovation and growth</li> </ul>	Endowing the Chair – \$3,000,000 Endowing the School – \$3,000,000 <b>Endowment Goal = \$6,000,000</b>
Naming of the School of Health Sciences		Facility/Space Cost: \$11,596,000 Endowed Programming: \$6,300,000 Endowment Goal: \$6,000,000 <b>Overall Total: \$23,896,000</b>

## STARTUP:

The University of Mary is seeking to advance our School of Health Sciences. Entities or persons funding the facilities and spaces will be given naming opportunities for the funded portion as agreed upon by the University of Mary. Those funding the endowed chair of the school will also be given naming opportunities for the funded chair as agreed upon by the University of Mary.

## TIMELINE:

At the fourth annual Candlelight Gala on November 1, 2019, the University of Mary will publicly announce the launch of this project, including our hope to name the School of Health Sciences in honor of Saint Gianna.

## #1 NURSING PROGRAM IN 2021:

The University of Mary was ranked #1 in America by nursing's national benchmark service, Mountain Measurement. The yearly rankings report is based on Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) graduates who took the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN).

## YEAR-ROUND CAMPUS:

The University of Mary's innovative Year-Round Campus provides our students with the opportunity to have a full university experience, while still reaching their goals of graduating in less time, with less cost and less debt, and beginning their careers earlier.



The information provided in this document stems from the Academic Excellence Committee of the Vision 2030 Strategic Planning Process.