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The House That Doesn't Give Up

Written by Stacy Trasancos

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Do you know about the Visitation House? It is a house that offers help, a home, meals, health care assistance, and spiritual guidance, to women in crisis pregnancies. It is a Catholic home, staffed by Catholics, funded by Catholics, with a Chapel where the Blessed Sacrament is always present. I'll never forget the story of a baby girl who didn't give up because the people in the house didn't give up, and neither did her mother. It was a miracle of perseverance.

There was once a mother who was told that her baby had Down Syndrome. Well over 90% of those babies are aborted in the US today because of early genetic testing. The mother refused to abort her child, and when the father turned her away for that decision, she and her young son sought solace at the Visitation House. During her pregnancy, she had complications and was put on bed rest and care was provided not only for the mother to avoid miscarriage, but also for the little boy. People in the community prayed. The baby girl was born prematurely, weighing only two pounds, and to everyone's surprise, she did not have Down Syndrome.

The Visitation House also provides help for the mothers after the baby is born and helps them transition to independent living. They don't just care for those in need, they help them become able to care for themselves in dignity. The little family eventually found a new home and the means to provide for themselves. I don't know about the father, but it is nice to think he was given a second chance at love. Many people need that at times in life.

That's as it should be. You see, Visitation House was envisioned out of love, too, by Mrs. Ruth Pakaluk, a mother of seven who died at age 41 after a long battle with breast cancer. Even though she didn't see the house open, her wish did come true. Because of her and the people that made the Visitation House a reality, there is a place for women to go when they want to embrace life in our community. The house has had to establish a waiting list at times, which is sad because pregnancies don't wait. Join me in prayer and assistance for the house that, in the spirit of Elizabeth, who welcomed her cousin the Virgin Mary with awe-filled joy and true hospitality of heart, doesn't give up on life.