

Merry Christmas 2013 from the Soley Family!

Dearest family and friends,

We had another fun and exciting year and have so much to be grateful for. We enjoyed spending time with family and friends throughout the year. Crowd favorites for the year: boating, camping in the rain, Tuesdays with my Mom and the annual 4th of July at her home, visits with Nana Speikers and Nana and Grandpa Soley, road races, reading, fishing, snowboarding, and cuddling and loving the newest little Soley, Mary Frances.



Nate – This has been a busy year for Nate, as he continues to dedicate himself to his faith, family, and building the business. He had lots of camping opportunities with our scouts and has bravely agreed to be a den leader as well as other leadership responsibilities within the scouts. He is loving and generous, and his acts of love have reduced me to tears many times throughout the year. God spoils us all through him. He loves us so much! Nate impressed us all with his water sports abilities and his willingness to try new things (wake board, wake skate, wake surf, and the standard... knee boarding.)

Andrew, 12 - He placed third in the rain gutter regatta for Cub Scouts and graduated to the Boy Scouts in late winter. He passed his baby-sitting certification this year. He continues to perfect his flips / twists on the trampoline in anticipation of next summer's wake boarding fun! He keeps his guardian angel busy – he is a bit *too* brave. He tried snowboarding this winter and loved it! This was his first year of altar serving, and enjoyed a trip to Valley Fair with his friends sponsored by our Church. He enjoyed Mine Craft on the server Nate set up for our family and the boy's troop. Andrew loves to help with his younger siblings; they all adore him. He is a hard worker and is growing into a fine young man indeed!



William, 10 - He can be found working on his six-pack or some sort of strength-enhancing endeavor. He is growing his hair, to achieve the "surfer look." He has been creating some really cool and creative Lego gadgets; the skee-ball and a working safe with a color-coded locking mechanism top the list. He too enjoys his allotment of video game time, playing Mine Craft. He placed fourth in the rain-gutter regatta for scouts in late fall. William loves to play with little Ms. Mary and is an expert at making her giggle. It brings joy to us all! He is always ready to help and is a kind and loving young man.

Libby, 8 –Such a help with her little siblings! She is affectionately known as "Bibby" to Patrick and she loves to give him "Bibby Back Rides." When she first came to the hospital to meet her new little sister, she asked, "May I have her?" I assured her, we would share. She spends about one-half of the days in a handstand and the other half, dancing.☺ She and her book club friends put on an American Girls play for our home-school group last summer. She performed the lead role as Josefina. It was adorable. She loves to draw, finger-knit, color pictures, make bead jewelry, and is very generous and thoughtful in her gift giving.



Charlie, 6 – Charlie's new love is basketball. He points out every basketball hoop on our travels; "Did you see how nice their hoop is, it had a light?" His dream was realized when we bought the children a hoop this fall... and if Charlie is awake, he is outside shooting hoops! He is very thoughtful; one day we were disappointed that plans had changed, he said, "It's okay it didn't work out. I am really looking forward to some quality family time - oh and I made your bed." He loves drawing and will challenge anybody in an arm wrestling match, including grandparents. He likes to break dance and sings rap music, all day long. After his little sister Mary was born, unbeknownst to Charlie, I captured him on video singing the 'Hail Mary' to her and then lovingly kissing her on the forehead saying, "I love you Mary!" It was... priceless. That is our Charlie.



Thomas George (T.G.), 5 – Thomas loves to draw pictures for the fridge. He has confirmed that he wants to be a doctor some day. He does “experiments” at the kitchen counter. He took us all by surprise when belly boarding, he was able to navigate outside the wake. The wake was the size of Mt. Everest in contrast to his little, four-year-old body. I prayed, the *entire* time... He is our little fisherman, and is completely self-sufficient. He has a tough-looking scar under his chin from his attempt to fly from one trailer to another at his cousins’ house. He is afraid of nothing. When Thomas smiles, it makes our hearts sing. Every piece of him smiles.



Patrick, will be 3 in January He, very often, raises his hand and when called on and says, “Jesus died on the cross.” At the Fourth of July family campout, he asked EVERYBODY their name, about twenty times each. His favorite words are “What’s this?,” “Actually,” and “He did it!”☺ He loves his little sister and is quite protective of her; when he is not hugging her to death, that is. If he is near her and somebody else approaches, he is sure to inform them, “This is *my* sister, Meawy!” His giggle and smile are heartwarming, and our cheeks hurt from smiling and laughing as he give a guttural laugh and says “Come and *get* me!”



Mary Frances, will be 1 on January 2nd - Love, Love, Love... Mary Frances is affectionately known as ‘All Things Pink and Gushy’ or A.T.P & G, for short. She *is* a little princess! When she is excited, she flashes the most endearing smile and kicks her chubby little legs, while her outstretched arms open and close in fists. She waves and says “Ma” and “Daddy.” Her first tooth came in at seven months, at which point she became mobile. She took her first steps on December 12th, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe!!! We have been blessed with really beautiful clothes (hand-me-downs and gifts) for Ms. Mary and the children love to pick out her clothes. She is their little doll.



All is well with me. As I look back at the last year, I wonder what good I have done to deserve all the blessings God has spoiled me with, yet again. ☺ Nate is my best friend and we have so much fun together. We love our dates, and still do a fair share of dancing; only the club is our living room nowadays. The children get such a kick out of us, and typically join us in the fun! I took Andrew snowboarding with the scouts this winter, and learned the hard way that it maybe *isn't* such a good idea to switch from skiing to snowboarding at the age of forty-two; so fun, but the falls hurt more at this age. The children keep asking for another little brother or sister, for now, we are just grateful for our current blessings. ☺ Outside of being a wife and home-schooling-Mom, I run when I can, read when I can, and blog when I can... not often, but often enough! ☺



We are thankful for family and friends like you and any part you may have played in the above!

God’s blessings to you all! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

The Soley Family – Nate & Kristen, Andrew, William, Libby, Charlie, Thomas-George, Patrick & Mary-Frances

