



Its about time for another update about what has been going on with the France family. When I last wrote about my daughter, Madeline, (in early March) she had just turned six weeks. Now we are quickly approaching six months. Wow. Its not only difficult to believe but also a reminder that I have dropped the ball on keeping up with ordering pictures, updating blogs and doing just about everything else to chronicle the journey. Its all there (somewhere) just not as organized as I had envisioned.

This year has obviously been all about firsts: first Easter, Baptism, first Mother's and Fathers day and Madeline's own personal milestones and moments as she grows.

Of course for her first Easter, Kristin had all kinds of ideas about how Madeline needed to be dressed. She sported a pretty polka dotted dress and half a garden on her head. Well, that's what I called it. In actuality it was a headband full of flowers. I'll admit she looked pretty cute. To "practice" ahead of time, Kristin got her all dolled up to take some pictures. They turned out hilarious and precious at the same time. We were fortunate to be able to share this Easter with both of our families, including Kristin's sister (and family) who recently relocated back to Texas. After Mass we had a nice brunch at my parents house. The picture to the right is of Madeline in the swing at Nana's house. It just so happened that the swing is a bunny swing and provided a perfect Easter photo op.



For Mother's Day, Madeline surprised Mommy with a bouquet of tulips and a couple of gift cards to "treat herself" since she spends 99% of her time catering to Madeline at all hours of the day. We went to church early and then I had to go coach a baseball tournament so Maddy and Mommy hung out for the rest of the day. Fortunately (at least in this instance) we lost out early so I was home earlier than expected.



Madeline was baptized on May 28th at St. Theresa's church where both my sister, Gretchen, and I were baptized. It was a very nice ceremony attended by close family.

I was looking forward to sharing Father's Day with my munchkin and having a low key relaxing day. The day before we took a day trip to San Antonio to celebrate my nephew, Evan's, birthday. It was a fun but long day. We met my side of the family for a Father's Day breakfast the next morning and Madeline had some nice gifts for me including a picture book Kristin had made full of photos of the two of us from her first 5 months. It was a great gift.

However, the day quickly turned south. As the afternoon approached, Madeline started to get very sick. Sick enough that Kristin and I did not want to risk sticking it out overnight, so we headed to the emergency room. We stayed until almost 4am as they tried to diagnose the issue and find a way to keep her fever down. Fast forward 2 more days and we found



out that somehow she contracted salmonella. Shocking to say the least. Due to her age, there was nothing that they can prescribe, so we have been playing the waiting game as it runs its course. Really, it took her about a week to fully regain her appetite and to get back on a semi-regular schedule. At this point she seems to be back on track. Needless to say that was not the Fathers Day that any of us envisioned.

In mid-June, Kristin and I got a chance to spend 2 nights at the Hyatt Lost Pines resort as part of a sales incentive trip for Taylor Morrison, Kristin's company. We had a great time. Our first afternoon there we sweated our you-know-whats off as we played 18 holes. The next day we woke up early, had a nice breakfast and rented some bikes to ride through the resort grounds. We fooled around with various games around the complex and spent the better portion of the afternoon at the "waterpark." We stood in line with all of the kiddos to use the large waterslide and lounged in the lazy river. Then we had a nice dinner with the rest of her team. It was a great little break from the every day routine. Madeline stayed with Mimi and Poppy while we were away and had a great time. However, I'm not sure who was happier to see us when we picked her up, Madeline or the grandparents. Caring for a 5 month old 24/7 is no easy feat.

Madeline will be 6 months old on July 18th and aside from the one weekend episode she's a healthy, growing girl and loving life. She is stubborn as can be, sharp as a tack, has quite the voice and loves to be on the move. But, she could not be a more loving and happy baby. She sits up on her own now and is starting to "play" more independently which is nice. Kristin and I are extremely blessed.

It was a shame to not be able to really "celebrate" the 4th of July. Since Kristin and I purchased our house 3 years ago, we have made it a tradition to attend the 4th of July celebration and fireworks show in our area. This year because of the fireworks ban we spent the entire weekend working on projects around the house that had been indefinitely delayed since Madeline arrived. It might have been a challenge anyway to entertain and appease the little one during a late fireworks show, so it probably worked out for the best. We are renting a lake house for a couple of days in the near future to "get away." I always have the itch to go on a little vacation this time of year. Kristin and I will not be taking our traditional Labor Day weekend trip this year since we are a party of three. So, the only option was to do something somewhat locally. Im looking forward to it.

That's the latest. I hope this letter/newsletter finds you and your family doing well. Its been a fantastic 6 months for me personally and professionally and I look forward to an even better second half. Take Care.

