



Between Friends

A publication for the Friends of the Society of

the Little Flower, Darien, Illinois and Canada

www.littleflower.org

Spring 2013

Little Flowers: Ambassadors of **HOPE**

by Father Bob Colaresi, O. Carm.



❖ HOPE FOR THE FUTURE ❖



Great Hope

>> Father Bob Colaresi, O. Carm., Director

It is good to be in your hands again as spring renews our spirits. In this Year of Faith, we are called to be people of great hope. The darkness of fear, insecurity, and stress seems to be everywhere, and yet Thérèse's greatest teaching – "everything is grace!" – speaks of hope. Speaking at the darkest time of her life, she realized that God was working in hidden and mysterious ways. Like the dormant plants, spring celebrates rebirth. God is always calling us to greater, fuller, and freer life as His beloved daughters and sons. Hope empowers us to see the light and not fixate on darkness.

In this edition of *Between Friends*, we want to share with you many good and hopeful things. You help make them happen. Please enjoy articles about the Carmelite ministries of spirituality, deepening our spiritual identity, and drawing us into closer intimacy with God Who loves and dwells within and among us. We feature another "little flower," Matthew; the programs of hope celebrated at Thérèse's National Shrine; and the blossoming project to renew her Shrine and make it more interactive for her friends.

Hope trusts. Thérèse teaches us "to go to Him with confidence and trust." As you read and reflect on *Between Friends*, please know that the Carmelites trust, rely on, and are inspired by your friendship to help us fulfill the Gospel mission and dream of St. Thérèse "to go to the ends of the earth to make God known and loved."

You are our hope – God and St. Thérèse work powerfully and well in and through you. We remember you daily in prayer, with gratitude. 🌹

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>> FATHER BOB COLARES, O. CARM.



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A publication for the friends of the Society of the Little Flower

Spring, 2013

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Blossoming New Hope For the Future

>> Mary Therese Lambert is Editor of *Between Friends*



As we come out of the winter months, we feel the blossoming renewal of hope entering into our souls that Mother Nature gifts us with this time of year.

The trees and flowers may have gone dormant, but I can honestly say that hasn't been the case for us here at the Society of the Little Flower. We have been working very hard at being Thérèse's hands here on earth. She wanted to go to the ends of the earth to make God known and loved – and we are trying to do the same in many ways.

The Carmelites throughout the world are doing so much for people who can't do for themselves, along with helping us to spread devotion to Thérèse. I want you to understand the impact you are making with your prayers and support, as well as share what the Carmelites are doing throughout the world, with your help.

They are working for justice, as well as helping people absorb and live the spirituality of St. Thérèse and other great Carmelite saints, who show us the way to draw closer to God and be more alive.

A theme that gives me new hope and energy are the upcom-

ing projects. As you know, we completed phase one of our many projects in June, 2012. We had the opening dedication to the replica of her monastery cell at the National Shrine of St. Thérèse in Darien, Ill., with the hopes of bringing more people to her National Shrine to learn about our dear Thérèse.

Our next exciting phase is a total renovation of her National Shrine, which has the largest collection of relics, memorabilia, and artifacts of St. Thérèse outside of Lisieux itself. The renewed Shrine will be a more interactive experience and more deeply engage people in her life and spirituality. It also will feature other Carmelite saints who highlight the 800-year tradition of Carmelite spirituality and service in the Church.

The Carmelite Provincial, Very Rev. Carl Markelz, is encouraging us to expand the Shrine Chapel into a much larger worship space to honor her. He sees the many times the Shrine chapel is overcrowded and wants all of St. Thérèse friends to have room to worship.

I look forward to coming to work each day to open my mail and read your personal letters of petition, encouragement, advice, and hope. You give me strength – your devotion, interest, and generosity are like the blossoming renewal of hope each day.

I truly feel I am among a family of friends. I am grateful to all of you. 🌹



>> We welcome your comments or questions. Please write to Mary T. Lambert:
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Carmelite Spiritual Center

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Retreats 2013

Retreat for Men: The Challenge of God

Father Bob Colaresi, O.Carm. and
the Men of St. Thomas

Friday, January 25 - Sunday, January 27

Breathing Under Water

Father Richard Rohr, OFM

Tuesday, February 12 - Wednesday, February 13

A Retreat for Women: Beauty Reflected: Energy for Wholeness

Father Bob Colaresi, O.Carm. and the Women of St. Thomas

Friday, February 22 - Sunday, February 24

Serenity Retreat for Women

Friday, March 15, at 7 p.m. until Sunday, March 17,
at noon.

Lenten Programs 2013

Ash Wednesday: A Journey of Faith

Sister Jane Schlosser, R.S.M.

Wednesday, February 13, 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

An Armchair Pilgrimage: The Holy Land

Father Bob Colaresi, O.Carm.

Tuesday, February 26, 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Come Back to Me: Lenten Reconciliation

Father Bob Colaresi, O.Carm. and

Father Bernie Bauerle, O.Carm.

Wednesday, March 20, 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Palm Sunday: Lenten Sacred Concert

Sister Jane Schlosser and

Mrs. Julie Mckee

Sunday, March 24, 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Remember Me: A Seder Meal

Father Bob Colaresi, O.Carm. and

Sister Jane Schlosser, R.S.M.

Tuesday, March 12, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. (note: a daytime
option) OR Tuesday, March 26, OR
Thursday, March 28, 6 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Journey with Jesus: A Holy Week Retreat

Father Bob Colaresi, O.Carm. and

Sister Jane Schlosser, R.S.M.

Thursday, March 28 at 5:30 p.m. until
Saturday, March 30 at 11 a.m.

Good Friday: A Solemn Day of Prayer

Father Bob Colaresi, O.Carm. and

Sister Jane Schlosser, R.S.M.

Friday, March 29 at 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Spring / Summer Programs 2013

Our Faith: A Journey to God

Father Bob Colaresi, O.Carm.

Tuesday, April 23, from 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

The 'Mary' Month of May

Sister Jane Schlosser RSM

Monday, May 13, 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Our Faith Journey: Ascending the Mountains of God

Father Bob Colaresi, O.Carm.,

Father Bernhard Bauerle, O.Carm. and

Sister Jane Schlosser, R.S.M.

Sunday, June 9 - Friday, June 14, OR
Sunday, June 16 - Friday, June 21, OR
Sunday, June 23 - Friday, June 28

Pilgrimages of Faith 2013

Led by Father Bob Colaresi, O. Carm.



Carmelite & Colonial Spain: April 7 - 19

>> Follow the footsteps and spirituality of Carmelite Saints Teresa of Avila and John of the Cross. We visit Madrid, Toledo, Granada, Cordoba, Seville, Segovia, Salamanca, Avila, Alba de Tormes, and Fontiveros. Spain is a wonderful country, rich in history and heritage. It hosted the golden age of enlightenment, when Christianity, Judaism and Islam co-existed with a great sense of peace, wisdom, and mutual respect. Parallel schools of mysticism and spirituality mutually enriched each other. Reactionary Catholicism, manifested in the Inquisition, eventually destroyed this time of enlightened peace when the Jews and Muslims were expelled from Spain in 1492.

Pilgrimage through France, following the life and spirituality of St. Thérèse: July 7 - 16

>> We begin at Lourdes, the most powerful of Marian Shrines, with the issue of healing, living water and hope. Then we fly north to Normandy, the homeland of St. Thérèse, visiting Lisieux, her Carmelite convent, her childhood home, Les Buissonnets, the Basilica and the Cathedral. Then we travel to the Normandy Beaches of Omaha and Utah, and the powerful American Cemetery; to Alençon, where St. Thérèse was born and her parents met and lived, until the death of her mom; and finally to Paris, where we will experience this magical city with all its historical and beautiful sites, including Versailles.

Holy Land Pilgrimage: November 10 - 21

>> A biblical journey to where God's revelation happened. The faith experience of a lifetime – a journey of the heart and spirit. In Jerusalem, we see the Mount of Olives, Gethsemane, Way of the Cross, Western Wall; then on to Bethlehem, where Jesus was born; Ein Karem, place of the birth of John the Baptist and the Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth; Zion Hill, where the Last Supper, Pentecost and the imprisonment of Jesus took place; to the Judean desert, the Dead Sea, Massada, and Qumran. Then driving north, we visit Emmaus, Jaffa, Caesaria, Mount Carmel, the Galilee, Nazareth, Cana, Capernaum, Mt. of Beatitudes, Sea of Galilee, Tabgha, River Jordan, Mt. Tabor, Beit Shean, and so much more. Highlights include a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, St. Peter's fish lunch, baptismal renewal in the River Jordan, biblical Passover meal, an Israeli/Jewish biblical guide and teacher, and biblical reflections and Mass daily at holy sites.

For more information, full brochure or registration form, please contact:

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*"What matters in life,
is not great deeds,
but great love."*

Saint Therese of Lisieux

Carmelite Carefree Village is a Senior Living Community located next to the National Shrine of St. Therese in Darien, IL. In the spirit of St. Therese, we've been advancing quality lifestyles for older adults since 1979.

Our Community offers Independent Living, Assisted Living, & Memory Loss Care in private apartments. Maintenance, housekeeping, 3 daily meals, 24 hour staffing, all utilities including phone, personal care alarm, shopping, planned social programs, activities, banking & Health Care Services are provided for an affordable monthly fee. No Membership Fee required.





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RETREATS - 2013

Celebrating the Sacred Days of Holy Week led by the Centre Staff - 27-31 March - Wednesday to Easter Sunday

Dreams: Seeking your truth through God's forgotten language led by Diana McKendree 17-19 May

Remember to Live! led by Fr. Thomas Ryan, CSP 16-21 June

Icon Workshop - Writing Mary Magdalene or Christ with the Woman of Samaria guided by Phillip Zimmerman 16-22 June

Nurture your Soul: A Women's Retreat led by Jeannie Campannelli, Ed.D. 28-30 June

Preached Retreat: "I AM....." John's Portraits of Jesus Centre Staff 30 June-06 July

St. Thérèse: A Gift to be Simple led by Fr. John Comerford, O. Carm. 19-21 July

Carmel's Martyrs: The Challenge to Authentic Living! led by Fr. John Comerford, O. Carm. 09-11 August

Icon Workshop - Writing St. Kateri Tekakwitha guided by Phillip Zimmerman 11-17 August

Summer Stillness: A Retreat for Women 50+ Spirituality: Regression or Transformation Kathryn McMorro 12-16 August

The Spirituality of Imperfection: The Joy of not being Perfect led by Kathryn McMorro 16-18 August

12-Step Spirituality from a Woman's Perspective led by Kathryn McMorro, 23-25 August

DIRECTED RETREATS - led by Centre Staff - Flexible dates 16-23 June; 30 June-07 July; 19 July-30 August

SPECIAL EVENTS

Finding Meaning: Opening the Heart led by Sebastian Fazzari, Ph.D., Saturday, 30 March, 9:30 AM -3:30 PM

Christian Seder Meal - Holy Thursday with Fr. Craig Morrison, O. Carm., Thursday, 28 March at 5:30 PM

Haunted Niagara - Legends, Myths and Hoaxes led by Peter Sacco, Ph.D., Saturday, 27 April 9:30 AM -3:30 PM

Learning to Help Ourselves by Being Prepared to Help Others Sebastian Fazzari, Ph.D., Saturday, 25 May 9:30 AM -3:30 PM

Carmel Fine Art and Music Festival - 30 August-02 September

Mount Carmel
An oasis where one can renew,
refresh and replenish oneself

St. Joseph,

the Model of Faithfulness

Little is recorded of this patron of the universal Church. In fact, everything we know about St. Joseph – that he was a carpenter, a husband and foster father – comes to us from Scripture. And yet, his important role cannot be ignored. If St. Joseph had not said, “Yes!” to God in taking Mary for his wife, she might very well have been stoned to death for adultery. She would have died, as would have the Word of God whom she carried within her womb.

Sin Is Forgetting About God

Now, sin has been described at various times as a type of forgetfulness of God; a forgetting that God is both the source of our life and our life's greatest good. In this way, sin can be understood as an act of infidelity, or unfaithfulness. Why?

The Importance of Faithfulness

In Genesis, we are taught that at each phase of creation, God issues a command to “Let there be ...” and it comes to pass. It is, in a sense, the verbal manifestation of God's consent to the existence of that which is to be created.

In fact, at each moment, God holds creation in existence through affirmation. Without this continuous commitment to affirmation, without this faithfulness, creation would simply pass away. The story of Noah's Ark and other biblical accounts illustrate the destruction that results when this affirmation is taken away.

This same faithfulness is necessary in our relationships with God, neighbor, self, and creation. These relationships must be continuously affirmed! This need for constant attentiveness is modeled by God in maintaining creation

and is the very act of love. Hence, infidelity can be viewed as any act of inattention, any act of forgetfulness, as it regards our relationships in favor of a more narrow focus limited only to the needs of the individual self, in which the existence of God and the other is neither recognized nor affirmed.

It's About Saying, ‘Yes’ to God!

The life of St. Joseph teaches us precisely this: What it means to be faithful. First, he was faithful to God. He said, “Yes!” to God in both taking Mary as his wife and leaving everything to flee to another country in order to save Mary and Jesus. He was faithful to Mary, caring for her and protecting her. He was faithful to Jesus, going to great lengths to guard Him from harm, even to the point of searching for Him for three days before finding Jesus in the Temple. In each of these relationships, St. Joseph thought of the other's good rather than his good. In each, St. Joseph said, “Yes!” – and he said it continuously. 🌹



Little Flowers: **Ambassadors of** **HOPE**

Our heavenly friend and mentor, St. Thérèse, lived in hope. Despite disease, trials, darkness, and challenges, this hyper-sensitive woman always suspected and secretly knew there was more. Hope always believes there is more blossoming. As the “Little Flower,” she knew life had purpose and promise, even when she did not understand its possibility. Hope trusts! “Go to Him with confidence and trust” was her mantra!

Trying to embrace her life here on earth, she knew she was in exile – that she belonged to heaven. To God! Even the struggles of the blossoming process of her life did not diminish this hope. Isn't this one of the great gifts she gives us: unshakeable trust in God's love, presence, and promise!

Just as a seed needs to be planted and surrender to the process, we need to surrender our fears and hopefully trust in the God of Life and Love. This is how we blossom and flower. It is all about hope – in God, in others, and in ourselves.

Hope is the grace of heroes and saints who risk the impossible and surrender in love!

One of the great blessings of being Director of the Society of the Little Flower is reading people's letters, petitions, and stories. It is humbling to see how good God is, how responsive St. Thérèse is, and how hope-filled her friends are that they can even pray and trust in divine possibilities. It is awesome to see her spirituality reflected in her friends and followers.

I want to share with you another "Little Flower." Matthew was nicknamed "Little Flower" by a family friend who experienced the contagious smile and unshakeable faith he had amid a fatal disorder. His faith and tenacious hope helped others blossom, even as he was blossoming into eternal life at a young age.

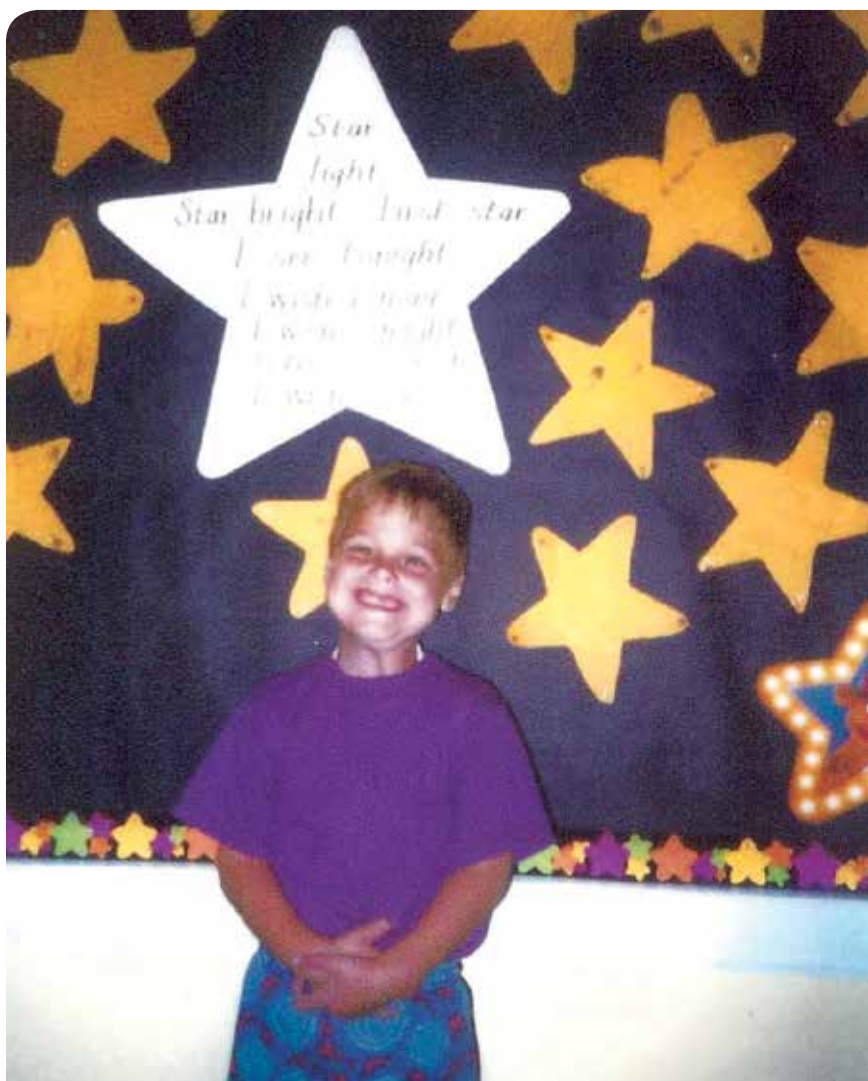
Matt was born with a gastro-intestinal disorder that only allowed him to be fed intravenously for his six years of life. Yet, he was an "ambassador of love." As the Bishop shared at Matt's funeral: "His adoptive parents, Ron and Mary, taught him to love, to be happy, and to smile. I have known lots of children, healthy children, and they all seem to cry, throw temper tantrums, say 'No!' constantly and



“Despite his constant sufferings, nearly 30 surgeries, his inability to eat or drink, his confinement to a wheelchair, permanent tubes in his tiny, fragile body, he was the most cheerful, happy, smiling child I have known – always concerned about others, smiling, hugging, loving, hoping for tomorrow, looking for life, for love, for a cure.”



>> Father Bob Colaresi, O. Carm., Director



whimper. Not Matthew. Despite his constant sufferings, nearly 30 surgeries, his inability to eat or drink, his confinement to a wheelchair, permanent tubes in his tiny, fragile body, he was the most cheerful, happy, smiling child I have known – always concerned about others, smiling, hugging, loving, hoping for tomorrow, looking for life, for love, for a cure.”

Everyone who knew Matt has witnessed that he never collapsed into self-pity. He had a smile that touched and grabbed people's hearts. He was a true evangelist who changed the lives of people he came in contact with. He had an unshakeable faith – he saw life as a blessing from God and knew more was blossoming.

He was so much like St. Thérèse, with childlike innocence and simplicity – filled with joy and radiating love. He loved Mary and roses. The only food he was ever able to eat was Holy Communion, which he received almost daily the last few weeks of his life. Jesus was his strength and source of joy and hope. The local Bishop who had celebrated the Sacrament of the Sick with Matthew, also confirmed and gave him his first Holy Communion. He gave Matt a picture and prayer card of St. Thérèse because he saw the reflection and inspiration. Even as Matthew knew he was dying at the tender age of 6, he predicted the day of his homecoming and said: “I’m going to heaven to see

Jesus and I’m going to eat a taco and my birthday cake.” Wow! Isn’t that the spirit of Thérèse!

Thérèse’s reflection facing imminent death was, “I’m not dying, I’m going to Life!” She promised to spend her heaven doing good on earth – and I suspect that Matthew is working with her trying to radiate God’s love and presence in the lives of people who trust, who hope, and who don’t collapse into the cynicism of disappointment. Miracles are worked by heroes and saints like Thérèse and Matthew for people who still hope – and trust God.

Thérèse spent her life seeking to find the face of Jesus in every person and experience of her life. She hoped

"Miracles are worked by heroes and saints like Thérèse and Matthew for people who still hope – and trust God. Thérèse spent her life seeking to find the face of Jesus in every person and experience of her life. She hoped and trusted He was there, hidden but present. So she knew life would blossom beyond imagining with goodness and blessing."

and trusted He was there, hidden but present. So she knew life would blossom beyond imagining with goodness and blessing.

I do wonder, as Thérèse embraced Matthew, what they actually ate for his first meal. On her relic visit in 1999, the few private moments of communion I had with her was driving the "Thérèsemobile" to different places with her large reliquary. One morning, I was rushing her to the next site, but we got there too early. So I stopped at a McDonald's to grab some coffee and breakfast. Going through the drive-thru, I asked her if she wanted a breakfast plate, which I actually bought for her. Somehow in the silence, I heard her French sophistication whisper, "No way!" She did not like American fast food. I ate both breakfasts. So I wonder about the tacos for Matthew.


Thousands, no millions, of people give witness to her power in heaven: how she has helped them, healed them, taught them to accept things they could not change, and to be at peace with what happens and believe that good will come of it because God is there.

I'll never forget my recovery from spinal surgery 11 years ago. I was

so frustrated and scared that I would never walk again. I couldn't not pray because of my anger, depression, and cynicism. My faith was shaken.

Asking Thérèse how she got through dark times, I listened, but all she ever whispered was, "Trust God!" I did snap back: "That is easy for you to say – look where you are!" But that was all she would ever say. She gave me hope that I would walk again. And it only happened when I surrendered my fear to hope and trust. Without it, even God seemed crippled to move in my life.

As her friends, reflecting on her life and spirituality and that of young Matthew, let us look at the areas where we need hope. Look where unshakable faith in God and others can free and uplift us. Where are those areas in my life? When is the expectation of failure self-fulfilling prophecy in my life? You and I need the gift of hope – so that God's presence can blossom and flower. Does our disillusionment with the past and present prevent a more hopeful and beautiful future?

"Little Flowers" such as Thérèse and Matthew show us the way – the way of Jesus to God. It is a legacy of faith and joy! Hope trusts and miracles happen! 



Celebrations of Hope



>> Father Bob Colaresi, O. Carm., Director

Our biblical and Catholic tradition remind us to tell the story of God's activity in our history – with rituals, sacraments, and celebrations. “Do this in memory of me,” Jesus says. “Tell your children,” God says.

By telling and retelling the great story of God's presence in our lives, we replay the ritual and presence happens. In the speaking and doing, we own our past and are rooted in our present reality, from which springs hope. Knowing where we came from and who we are is the key to the future, what hope is truly all about.

In writing her reflections on the mercy of God, Thérèse came to own and be more grateful for all God had done and was doing – helping her understand even more deeply the Divine Presence in her life so that she could say “Ev-

everything is grace,” even amid the darkest of times.

Even nature, as the first revelation of God, speaks to us of the movement of Life – the seasons of God's love affair with us – and spring speaks of rebirth and renewed possibilities blossoming. So Easter is so appropriately celebrated in spring in the northern hemisphere.

For this reason, the Carmelites and the Society of the Little Flower continue to create celebrations to highlight and immerse us in the message of hope.

Coming Home to Family - Christmas Event

"Coming Home to Family" was celebrated here at the National Shrine in Darien, Ill., on December 15. Hundreds of people gathered with their children around the life-size Nativity to reflect on the mystery of God's love. It was a heart-warming experience of hope. Our Christmas reading started: “A people who walk in darkness have seen a great light.” The day before, the terrible killing of innocent children and teachers in Connecticut cast a dark cloud. Yet, gathered around the Christ Child, Mary, and Joseph, we felt solidarity and hope. Darkness would not rule the day for God's family of faith.

Father Bob started the celebration with a reflection on Thérèse's Christmas eve conversion, how she had to let go of childhood abandonment issues, hyper-sensitivity, and a willful spirit to trust Jesus, whom she had just asked to make her wholehearted in her love. Hers is an amazing story of transformation from darkness to light.

Then with the help of children, Father Bernie led the retelling of the Christmas story, reflecting on each of the characters in the manger scene, while singing Christmas carols. At the end, 20 children brought up candles to lay before the Child Jesus, in memory of the innocents who had died. The candlelight reflected in their eyes spoke loudly and gently.





During Eucharist, celebrated before the large manger scene, one small boy gasped in awe as the consecrated host was raised – the Divine Presence was among us – and Jesus is our hope. The celebration ended with hot cocoa and Christmas cookies – and a renewed belief that darkness would not rule our hearts nor our world. Jesus is born and God is being reborn in people who love and give of themselves, as God has done for us. We were celebrating Thérèse's conversion as well as our own – the innocence of the children of God will not die.

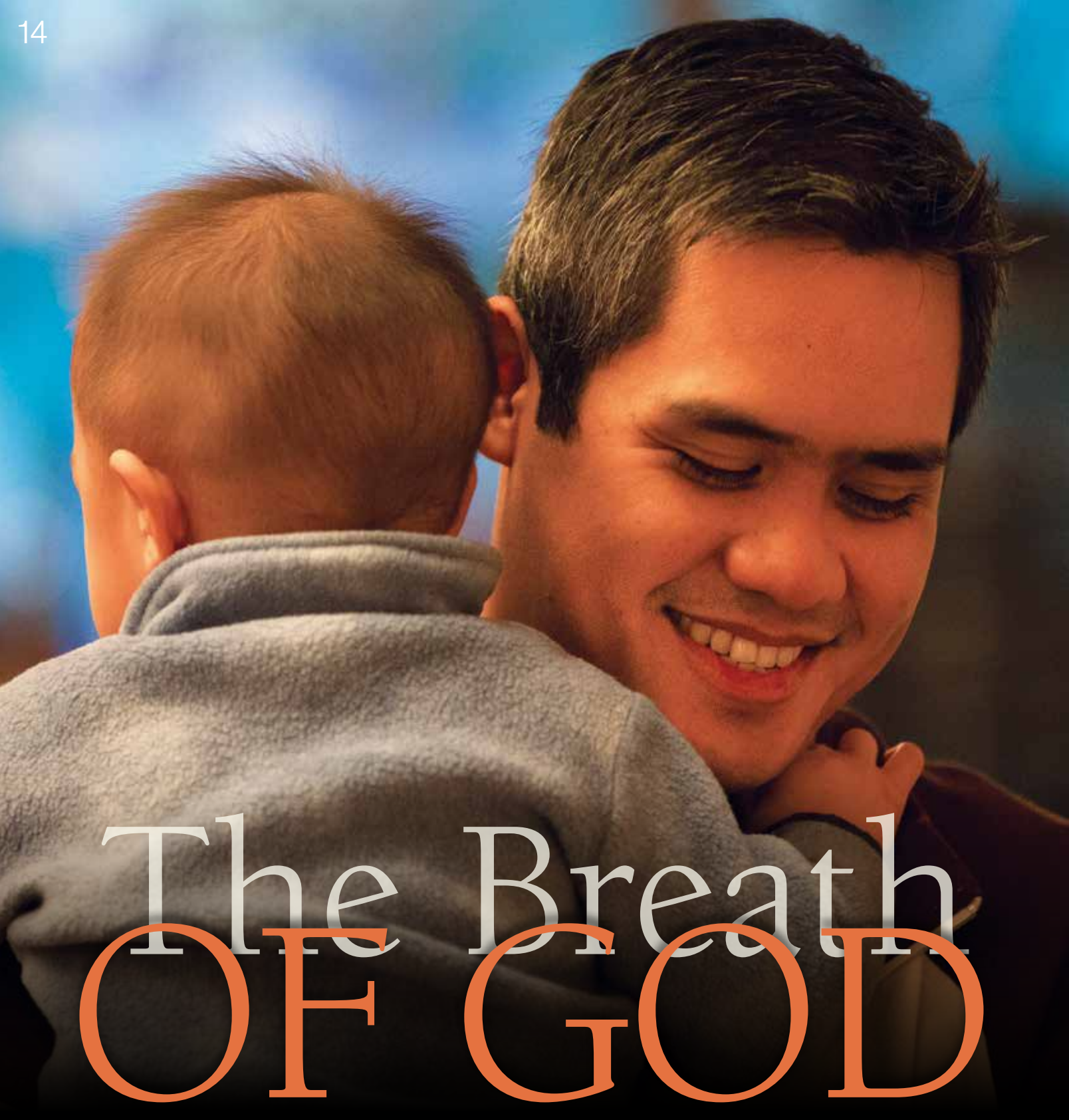
Stations of the Cross: Journey of Hope

We finally have new outdoor Stations of Cross here on the Darien Carmelite campus, thanks to the generosity of the friends of St. Thérèse. The old stations had decayed due to weather. Built near the National Shrine and next door to Carmelite Carefree Village, these new Stations of the Cross provide a place of prayer and reflection, as well as public witness to the journey we are all called to: Jesus' surrender to God – to life, for love of us.

On March 22, these new stations will be dedicated in a formal ceremony as we walk the way of Jesus. It is called the Way of Sorrows (*Via Dolorosa*), but it is really a journey of hope. Jesus trusted that God would save him,

even as he experienced being the Suffering Servant of God. The pettiness, sinfulness, and blindness of people, including both civil and religious leaders, killed Jesus because his message is threatening. Yet, in faith, we know that Jesus embraces all aspects of human evil into his body and person, and offers it to God so that it has no more power. This really is a journey of hope and freedom. So we will walk the stations, as so many Catholics do on the Fridays of Lent, to retell and relive the story of this great self-emptying love, so that God's children might be holy and free.

As we do in Jerusalem of the Holy Land, we walk the stations reflecting on the stations of our lives as we follow Jesus in surrender to Love. We walk in His Love, remembering that He saved us and all humanity – that we are children of the Resurrection. In sorrow and grief, we celebrate God's great mercy. We hope that a large community of the friends of St. Thérèse will be present on March 22. 🌹



The Breath OF GOD

Babies generally get a lot of attention. At the family Christmas celebration we hosted at our Shrine, a 9-month-old baby caught my attention – and made an impression that will last a lifetime.

Our Director, Father Bob Colaresi, was celebrating Mass. At the Consecration, he elevated the host and said, “This is my body.” At that very moment, the baby exclaimed, almost on cue, “Ahhhhh.”

His timing couldn’t have been better. And almost immediately it struck me, his response was the best of all responses



>> Daniel Pritchard is the director of planned and major gifts for the Society of the Little Flower

to this holiest part of the Mass. No pious utterance, no memorized devotional prayer could match the simple expression of awe that this baby offered.

Ahhh. It was the breath of God that came forth from this beautiful child.

Can you imagine the delight our Lord must have felt when he heard that baby? Can you imagine how touched He must have been? What parent wouldn't rejoice upon hearing such a greeting?

St. Thérèse taught us to be childlike in our faith. Her "Little Way" was the way of spiritual childhood. She once said, "I pray like children who do not know how to read. I say very simply to God what I wish to say, without composing beautiful sentences, and He always understands me."

Thérèse was proclaimed a Doctor of the Church. Why a Doctor? She prescribed a way to spiritual health. It was a way – because of its incredible simplicity – that brought others to the Heart of God. And it was a way that could be walked by anyone.

But what does it mean to be childlike in our faith? How do we become trusting children who surrender to God's will when we are faced with all the worries of this world?

How do we become trusting children, children to whom the kingdom of heaven is promised? In the same way Arthur Rubinstein advised when asked how to get to Carnegie Hall: "Practice, practice, practice."

Sadly, this treasury of Thérésian spirituality is being lost to generations who sometimes find her wisdom quaint or irrelevant. We are living in a time in which the spirit of self-reliance has been elevated to God-like status.

What can we do to ensure that St. Thérèse's Little Way endures and is made known to the ends of the earth?

Of course, there are many things we can do. We can, and should, tell the story of this wonderful saint. We should

tell that story to our children and grandchildren. If you are concerned that they might "turn you off," just look into their eyes. Talk with them about what they value. You will quickly learn that they are searching. And you have an answer to share.


The Society of the Little Flower does the same thing.

We tell her story, we encourage, we try to show the way. And we do it not just for the sake of keeping a devotion alive, as important as that is. We do it because the devotion to this Carmelite saint is allowing today's Carmelites to feed the poor, educate the illiterate, and heal children who are desperately ill. The "Good News" is being proclaimed to the ends of the earth, and corporal works of mercy are being shared in more than 50 countries around the world. All because of our dear St. Thérèse.

But we can't do this alone. We need your help, and not just for today. We need you to ensure that the hope that is offered in the name of St. Thérèse can be proclaimed for years to come.

With that in mind, we humbly ask that you consider remembering the Society of the Little Flower in your

estate plans. A bequest of any size would be most appreciated. Whether it is a specific amount or percentage of your estate, whether you make us a beneficiary of a life insurance policy or an IRA, or even if you designate your savings bonds to help our spiritual work, we would be forever grateful.

To help you in your planning, don't hesitate to call me or my colleague, Janice Rutecki, at **888.996.1212** to request a free copy of our booklet, "Planning Your Bequests." And please, if you have already made such a generous gift, let us know. It would be our honor to enroll you in the Rose Garden of St. Thérèse, with its many spiritual benefits. 

"How do we become trusting children who surrender to God's will when we are faced with all the worries of this world? ...

How do we become trusting children, children to whom the kingdom of heaven is promised? ... Practice, practice, practice."

Secure your future with a Gift Annuity through the *Society of the Little Flower*



For over 80 years, annuities through the Society of the Little Flower have been safe and secure. With our excellent rate of return, you can be assured knowing that you will receive income for the rest of your life.

Your annuity enables the formation and education of Carmelite seminarians and their worldwide ministries of faith, prayer, charity, and education. Your financial support continues St. Thérèse's mission of "making God known and loved to the ends of the earth."

Sample One-Life Gift Annuity Rates*

<u>Age</u>	<u>Rate of Return</u>
72	7.7%
75	8.1%
80	9.3%
85	11.0%
90+	13.8%



Society of the Little Flower
Office of Planned Giving
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