

Between Friends

A publication for the Friends of the Society of

the Little Flower, Darien, Illinois, and Canada

www.littleflower.org

Spring 2014



**Through
the eyes
of a child**



Through the eyes of a child

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

Dear Friends of St. Thérèse,
Our hearts are united in the child-like heart of the Little Flower. It is good to be in your hands again, for we are among and between friends who experience her "little way" spirituality as important in our faith life.

The only audio-visual aids Jesus ever used were little children. When the apostles got confused or complicated, Jesus always brought in a

child and said: "Unless you become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven." Isn't that why St. Thérèse appeals so much to us?

In this edition of *Between Friends*, we focus on seeing life *Through the Eyes of a Child*. We all long for the innocence and wonder we had as children, and which we see in today's children. Isn't that why Jesus came to us as a baby, to reignite the child in us?

Enjoy this edition of *Between Friends* – and let the Little Flower help us access the inner child who still lives in us. It is "God with us" – Emmanuel. 🌹

Father Bob Colaresi, O. Carm.

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On the Cover: ANNA MARIE

Anna Marie is the picture of child-like innocence. Dressed like St. Thérèse, she radiates the wonder, awe and innocence we all are born with. Just seeing the look on her face melts my heart.

Anna Marie's parents met later in life and were so thrilled when they were gifted with her. They were determined to pass on our Catholic faith and devotion to St. Thérèse, because Anna Marie is a beloved daughter of God. They did not want her to ever lose that radiance of the Divine Presence. She really is a little St. Thérèse, who is the patroness of this devout Catholic family.

Her picture on our cover says it all, and tugs at our longing hearts.

– Father Bob Colaresi, O. Carm.

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Eyes of Innocence

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



Share your **story**

>> I look forward to hearing from friends of St. Thérèse! Please take time to send me your story of how our Little Flower has touched your life.

Mary T. Lambert

Society of the Little Flower
1313 N. Frontage Rd.
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I recall when I first brought my son, Joey, to the offices of the Society of the Little Flower. He was around 3 years old. He took in the experience like a sponge. His hand tightly squeezed mine, but he wanted to explore everything – with me at his side, of course. I can still remember his eyes as he saw everything for the first time.

Wide eyes ... eyes of innocence that soak up the world in all its wonder – these are the eyes of a child. It's no wonder St. Thérèse told us that the quickest way to God's heart is to behold Him as a child would. He wants us to soak up His love with complete

confidence and trust.

This issue of *Between Friends* encourages us to look at life once more through the eyes of a child. It encourages us – just for a while – to cast away the protective defenses we have built through years of dealing with life's

bumps and bruises and see the world as a child would.

If only we let Him, God can continue to amaze us. Even in the midst of terrible struggles, we can experience the beauty of His creation, the gentleness of His touch, and the faithfulness of His love – if we behold Him once more through the eyes of an innocent child.

I invite you to spend some time with this issue. Be amazed at the work of the Carmelites. Learn how lives have been transformed.

It is your generosity that makes all these things possible. We are forever grateful. 🌹



Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre GOES SOLAR

>> **Father Stanley E. Makacinas, O. Carm.,** Director of Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre

It has been a dream of mine since I was Prior back in 1978," mused Father Stan Makacinas, now the director of the Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre in Niagara Falls, Canada. In 2010, the Ontario Provincial Government introduced a grant program to boost alternative energy sources. Mount Carmel was the 23rd applicant. The government would fund 90 percent of the necessary studies in order to connect the Centre to the existing power grid. Rick Vanderkuip, energy consultant for RV and Associates, and Belinda Anderson, consultant to Father Stan, guided Mount Carmel through all the regulatory requirements and agencies. This three-year process will end in early November when permission will be given to throw the switch to connect to the grid.



Mr. Rick Vanderkuip of RV and Associates and Fr. Stan Makacinas, O. Carm., stand in front of Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre Chapel, where a bank of solar panels were recently installed on the rooftop.

The panels on three roofs of the Monastery complex will produce 75 kilowatts per hour, which will be sent to the grid. The Ontario Power Authority entered into a 20-year contract to buy the electricity from the Monastery. This is one small effort in caring for the environment, and lessening the carbon footprint of the Monastery. Also, this effort will provide an ongoing revenue stream to help sustain the Monastery in the future. 🌹

TERESIAN PILGRIMAGE TO SPAIN

In honor the 500th Anniversary of the Death of St. Teresa of Jesus, St. Therese's namesake, Fr. Bob will be leading a **Pilgrimage to Carmelite & Colonial Spain in April 2015.** The focus of this pilgrimage is on **Teresa of Avila and John of the Cross**, the great Carmelite Doctors of Spirituality, as well as the history and heritage of Spain, including the Islamic and colonial elements.

INCLUDES: Granada, Cordoba, Toledo and Seville, along with Madrid, Toledo, Salamanca, Avila, Alba de Tormes, and Segovia. Details forthcoming.

ST. TERESA OF AVILA

500th Anniversary Celebrations

IN PLANNING STAGE

>> **Father Patrick McMahon, O. Carm.**, President of the Carmelite Institute, Washington, D.C.

Half a millennium and a quarter of the Church's history is a long time for a woman to have had a major influence over innumerable Catholics – and, of late, many outside the Church – but that only demonstrates the importance of the upcoming celebration of the 500th anniversary of the birth of St. Teresa of Avila.

Born March 28, 1515, to a wealthy merchant family who were secretive about their Jewish origins, Teresa would normally have been fated to the rigid social protocols of gentlewomen in Habsburg, Spain, but she demonstrated early in life that she was not one who colored inside the arbitrary lines of social convention. Having no interest in subjecting herself to the authority and power of a husband, Teresa entered the religious life somewhat reluctantly. She chose the relatively lax monastery of Carmelite Nuns in Avila known as *L'Encarnación*. Though for a long while she was spiritually restless, it took a mid-life crisis to shake her out of her complacency and set her on a path of her own conversion, which resulted in the foundation of an energetic and profound reform of Carmelite life.

To celebrate the influence of this remarkable Carmelite who became the first woman Doctor of the Church, the Carmelite Institute is planning a number of events for 2015, including a symposium on Teresa and her influence, as well as a "traveling seminar" that will bring scholars and participants to the sites in Spain associated with Teresa's life.

Most Reverend Fernando Millán Romeral, Prior General of the Carmelite Order, has committed to speak at the symposium and Father Saverio Cannistra, the General Superior of the Discalced Carmelites, has expressed his hope to participate. The Institute is investigating sites for the conference, which will be held in mid-June 2015, in hopes of keeping costs sufficiently reasonable to permit a wide lay Carmelite participation alongside Carmelite nuns, sisters, hermits and friars.

"Another event is a traveling seminar to Spain, an excep-

tional opportunity to see the Spain of St. Teresa," said Fran Horner, the Executive Director of the Carmelite Institute. "We will have a thorough introduction to Teresa and her world – not only by visiting the places where she lived and prayed, but by having some great Carmelite scholars along with us to make Teresa come alive for us in all these wonderful places." Fathers Daniel Chowning, OCD, Steven Payne, OCD, and Patrick McMahon O.Carm., will accompany the participants as they visit Avila, Salamanca, Toledo, Seville, Alba de Tormes and other sites associated with the saint. "This is an opportunity not to be missed. We plan on going at the end of October 2015, to miss the crowds of the summer and her feast day and so have more direct access to Teresa and her sites," Horner said. 🌹



For more information on the celebrations connected with the Teresian centenary and for updates on the symposium and the traveling seminar, check the Carmelite Institute website: **carmelstream.org**



CARDBOARD CITY

**Bringing awareness to youth
at two Carmelite parishes**

After almost 20 years in youth ministry and with many “Cardboard City” events under my belt, I still find it never gets old watching teenagers as they experience what it might be like to be without the comforts of home for just one night. However, it is more about seeing how their hearts change. This event, in a wonderful way, teaches them the true spirit of caring for our neighbor, as Jesus taught us to. It also helps shape them on their young journey of faith. That is always the greatest witness to us all.



On an autumn Friday night, the teenagers and I, along with Father Sam Citero, O.Carm., and Father Patrick McMahon, O.Carm., of St. Thérèse Parish in Cresskill, N.J., and Father Tom Schrader, O.Carm., from Our Lady of Mount Carmel, headed out on a “midnight run” to feed our homeless brothers and sisters right on the streets of New York City. We brought along with us more than 600 lunch kits made with love by the very

gracious parishioners of both St. Thérèse and Our Lady of Mount Carmel. It was a great example of how, as Catholics, we are able to serve as both the hands and feet of Jesus by reaching out to those most in need! We could not have fed so many without the work of their hands or their feet that night.

One of our teens, Molly Thomas, shares a little about what took place on that chilly fall night at “Cardboard City.”

“... it never gets old watching teenagers as they experience what it might be like to be without the comforts of home for just one night. **However, it is more about seeing how their hearts change.**”



>> Immaculate Conception High School, Lodi, New Jersey; alumnae of Academy of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

"On the night of Oct. 22, 2013, our BRANCHES High School Youth Group from Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Thérèse slept in cardboard boxes. We were raising awareness for homelessness. The teens were told to bring enough cardboard and duct tape to build their "houses" on the grounds of St. Thérèse. We finished in time to attend 5 p.m. Mass. After Mass, we went to the St. Thérèse Youth House, where we listened to young adults from the Covenant House of Newark, an outreach ministry to homeless youth. The Covenant House visitors talked about their personal experiences being homeless. The teens and visitors spoke with each other for about two hours and we found out that amazing

talent can come from anywhere. The visitors were bright and talented, with several of them playing more than two musical instruments, all self-taught.

After the Covenant House visitors left, our BRANCHES Youth Group crawled into their makeshift homes for the night. No dinner was served. It was cold. There were no comforts of home. There was no home. It was very quiet. There was a lot to think about as we pulled our blankets and sleeping bags around ourselves. The night was long. And chilly. The Knights of Columbus stood watch over our "homeless community" until the morning finally came.

When the sun rose on a bright, crisp day, all the teens and I were greeted by families arriving for Mass. We talked with the parishioners about why we slept out, and what our experience taught us. We were then served by our Junior High youth group, "T.W.I.G.S.," from Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Thérèse. Hot, homemade chicken soup (thanks to Father Sam Citero, O.Carm., the pastor of St. Thérèse) awaited us in a makeshift "soup kitchen," which was set up in the school gymnasium. It was our first meal since lunch the day before.

Gabrielle Rodriguez said, "You don't think of teenagers as being homeless, but, for lots of different reasons, there are many teens in that position."

Our T.W.I.G.S. and BRANCHES youth groups have many other service projects planned for the future in which we will travel into Irvington, N.J., and New York City, feeding and bringing clothing to the homeless. As St. Teresa of Avila said, "Christ has no body now on earth but yours ... yours are the hands with which He is to bless the world now." 🌹



>> **By Gina Marie Loiacono**, a certified Youth and Young Adult Minister who currently works as the Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry and 8th Grade Faith Formation and Confirmation Director at both St. Thérèse, Cresskill, and Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Tenafly, in northern New Jersey. Loiacono also serves as a professional worship leader, lead vocalist, songwriter and business/creative director for the contemporary Catholic Christian rock band Moving Faith. She is very passionate about sharing God's unchanging truth within an ever-changing culture!

An ethical will: A personal message to your loved ones

Everyone reading this article needs a will, and everyone should have a “living will” (or other health-care directives) as well. In recent years, many people also have begun creating “ethical will” – statements of their beliefs, values and ideals that they wish to leave behind for friends and family. This personal communication can be a most satisfying addition to your other estate planning.

Ethical wills aren’t legal documents, and they are not made for the purpose of distributing estate assets – although one could argue that they leave behind the most valuable of all assets: the wisdom and knowledge drawn from a lifetime of experience.

Ethical wills are usually written statements, but video or audio recordings of one’s thoughts and experiences are sometimes used. The content, not the form, is what’s most important.

What do people put into ethical wills?

- **Expressions** of faith and beliefs and the role such convictions have played in their lives – perhaps a testament to your love for St. Thérèse, the Little Flower;
- **Lessons** learned during life, including the impact of specific events and experiences;
- **Personal messages** of forgiveness, apology and reconciliation that were left unsaid during life; and
- **Messages** of hope and inspiration for those who carry on.

As you make or revise your will or living trust, your thoughts about personal values and experiences may lead you to contemplate the people and institutions that have been important in your life. A bequest to the Society of the Little Flower may be the most logical idea in the world for someone who cherishes all that we do to further the work of the Carmelites and to promote love of St. Thérèse and her “Little Way.”

Including an estate gift to benefit the Society of the Little Flower is easily accomplished through a codicil to your will or amendment to your living trust. Simpler yet is to make the Society a beneficiary of life insurance, financial or retirement accounts. Please call Dan Pritchard in our Planned Giving Office for details: **888.996.1212**.

Do I really need estate planning?

“I don’t need estate planning; I’m not rich enough to own an estate.”

Estate planning professionals suggest that anyone who has some investments, savings, a home, retirement accounts, and life insurance and personal belongings needs estate planning. Most people want to make the most efficient use of their assets during life and protect their families in the event of premature death. In addition, most people wish to pass those assets on to heirs or worthwhile organizations at death, at a minimum of shrinkage from taxes, probate costs and other expenses.

Maximizing these objectives requires a plan – a written plan – that generally would include:

- **An up-to-date will** that becomes the cornerstone of your estate plan. A will gives form and substance to a person’s concern for the future of family and other beneficiaries.
- **A trust**, created during life or in a will, may figure prominently in your estate plan. Through a trust individuals can provide income for family, transfer investment worries to a trustee of their own choosing and perhaps even save on federal estate taxes and estate administration costs.
- **A living will** or health care power of attorney (proxy) should be part of estate planning, providing doctors and family members with guidance in making health-care decisions if

an individual is incapacitated.

- **A personal affairs record** that provides detailed information about an individual’s finances, location of wills, insurance policies, online financial accounts and trust documents, and explains funeral and burial preferences, will prevent confusion and save time for family members.
- **Total coordination of all estate assets** – life insurance, jointly owned property, retirement plan benefits, everything people own – is absolutely vital to a smooth-working estate plan. Remember that life insurance and jointly owned property usually will pass independently of a will.
- **Charitable legacies** to the Society of the Little Flower and other causes you care about can be a deeply satisfying part of your plans – easily accomplished through a will, trust or through beneficiary designations. As the Society looks forward to an exciting future, such legacy gifts help us plan for the years to come with confidence. 🌸

To help you with your estate planning needs, we are offering our friends a free copy of our booklet, the **Personal Affairs Record Book**. To request your copy, call Dan or Janice in our Planned Giving Office at **888.996.1212**.

Witness Firsthand

Since I joined the Society of the Little Flower in April 2013, I have had the privilege of speaking with many friends of the Society on the phone, as well as meeting several in person on visits throughout the country. I have been deeply moved by those who have shared their spiritual experiences as a result of praying to St. Thérèse. My faith has grown, and I have been truly humbled, as I listen to stories of healing from physical ailments, of help in finding employment and of finding consolation in dealing with financial and personal problems – all through the intercession of the Little Flower.

Over the past year, I have witnessed firsthand how St. Thérèse continues to fulfill the promise she made shortly before she died when she said, “I feel my mission is about to begin, my mission of making others love God as I love Him,

my mission of teaching my little way to souls. If God answers my requests, my heaven will be spent on earth up until the end of the world. Yes, I want to spend my heaven in doing good on earth.”

It is a great privilege to represent

this wonderful mission of the Society of the Little Flower and the works of the Carmelites throughout the world. I look forward to continue getting to know the loyal and faithful friends of St. Thérèse in the coming year. 🌹



Before joining the Society of the Little Flower in 2013, Joe

Voss spent his life

serving the Church in various capacities. In the coming years, he is determined to meet as many friends of St. Thérèse as he can, learning of their spiritual journeys and sharing stories of the impact of their support.

Joe can be reached at **888.996.1212**.



Recently, I had the privilege of seeing two old friends reunite – St. Thérèse and a long-time friend of the Society of the Little Flower. And what a glorious reunion it was!

A few months ago a letter came across my desk that was written by Virginia. She had made a kind gift to the Society of the Little Flower, and a letter was enclosed with her gift. Father Bob had read her touching letter and asked me to

reach out to Virginia on his behalf.

In the letter, Virginia explained how she came to know St. Thérèse. At 7 years old, she lost her father. His funeral Mass was held at St. Clara's Church in Chicago, which, at that time, was the location of the National Shrine of St. Thérèse. After the Mass was over, Virginia remained in the church for a short time. The lights were turned off, yet, all of a sudden, Virginia noticed this bright light to the right of the altar. She walked over to it, and there she was! A statue of St. Thérèse holding a cross and a cascade of roses all lit up. Virginia said St. Thérèse seemed to be looking right at her and she felt an overwhelming feeling of peace come over her. She never forgot that moment.

St. Thérèse always has been a part of Virginia's life – praying to her, seeking her intercession and living a life devoted to her.

In my conversation with Virginia, I realized that the statue of St. Thérèse that Virginia saw 86 years ago is the one in our National Shrine here in Darien, Ill. I invited her to visit the shrine, and she gladly accepted my offer. It was to be a grand reunion.

The photograph with this article is of Virginia and the original statue of St. Thérèse. For her visit, Virginia

brought along 15 family members and friends to experience and enjoy the private tour. It was a wonderful gathering led by Father Bob. His talk on the life of St. Thérèse was an inspiration to all.

Part of my work at the Society is visiting with friends of St. Thérèse and the Society of the Little Flower on behalf of Father Bob. Without a doubt, the most touching part of this work is meeting wonderful and very special people like Virginia.

In the years to come, my goal is to reach out to as many friends of the Society as I can to express Father Bob's appreciation for their support. I also try to visit people as my travels take me across the country. The purpose of these calls and visits is simply to thank folks for their kindness and update them on our work. Don't be surprised if, one day, I call you, or perhaps even offer to stop by to say hello! 🌹



Mary Zacharias

is a member of our gift planning office and has been on staff at

the Society of the Little Flower for more than 30 years. She welcomes your calls, and can be reached at **888.996.1212**.

Society Corner



Grandmothers have a way of influencing children like no other person can. Such was the case with Ray Weeks. Ray, who was born in Jersey City, spent a good part of his childhood in his grandmother's home in Brooklyn, and it was there that he began a lifelong journey with one of his closest friends, St. Thérèse of Lisieux.

Ray's grandmother had a picture of St. Thérèse hanging in her piano room. She had become quite devoted to the saint who, at that time, was fairly new to the rolls of sainthood. Even at a young age, something about Thérèse caught Ray's heart, and she's held a special spot ever since.

Over the years, the friendship between Ray and St. Thérèse grew, and her responses to Ray's prayers always seemed instantaneous. Ray will quickly point out that the Little Flower has that way about her – not just for him, but for all her friends. After Ray got married and had two children, he had to find a new job, so he turned to St. Thérèse. Shortly thereafter, he found employment

“Even at a young age, **something about Thérèse caught Ray’s heart**, and she’s held a special spot ever since.”

at the “Little Flower House of Providence” in Brooklyn. He was hired for a job he had absolutely no experience with, but it was clear that was where he was needed.

After retirement, Ray felt he needed to ensure others knew more about this powerful saint. He regularly passed out literature about the Little Flower and started prayer groups in his local parish. During one of the novenas Ray was leading, he received another clear sign that his beloved saint was still watching over him.

Ray had been searching and searching for a special prayer booklet that was out of print, but he had no luck getting a copy. After the weekly novena, he went up to retrieve the St. Thérèse statue he always brought along and, sure enough, under that statue was the prayer booklet he was looking for. Ray was in the chapel the entire time, and no one in the prayer group had any idea where it came from.

His life experiences have led Ray to say he no longer has faith; instead, he has knowledge. In gratitude for all that he has been given, Ray has created a gift annuity to benefit the Society of the Little Flower. The main reason he did that, he said, was not so much for the income or the tax benefits he receives, but because of the good feeling he gets knowing that, even after God calls him home, he will still be doing some good for his saint and for the Carmelites – particularly Carmelite seminarians. In many ways, creating a gift annuity has some of the benefits of a bequest – remembering the Society in one’s estate plan.

The Society of the Little Flower is extremely grateful for Ray Weeks and the example he has shared with the Society and with others throughout his life. We look forward to many more years of that friendship. 🌹

To learn more about the Society of the Little Flower’s charitable gift annuity program, simply turn to the back cover of this issue of *Between Friends*.



2014

PILGRIMAGES

OF FAITH
WITH FR. BOB
COLARESI,
O. CARM.

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Visit this enchanting and wonderful country, which some people call "*the other holy land!*" We will visit the Ring of Kerry, Killarney, the Dingle Peninsula, Kinsale, Blarney (*you've gotta kiss the Blarney Stone*) Cobl, Cashel, Dublin, Glendalough, Knock, Connemara and Galway.

There is something mystic, earthy and magical about Ireland and its people. It's tragic history has deepened their faith and ennobled them as a joyful, courageous, story-telling people. There is a charm that is hard to explain and yet so contagious to experience. We will celebrate Celtic spirituality, which embraced the beauty of all God's creation.

HOLY LAND

PILGRIMAGE

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Mt. of Beatitudes, Sea of Galilee, Tabgha, River Jordan, Mt. Tabor, Beit Shean, and so much more.



Highlights include boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, Biblical Passover meal, St. Peter's Fish Lunch, Baptismal renewal in the River Jordan, with an Israeli/Jewish Biblical guide and teacher. Biblical reflections and Mass daily at holy sites; a biblical journey to where God's revelation happened – faith experience of a life-time.

For further information, brochure or registration form, please contact:

Darlene Jindra, (630) 969-4141

Carmelite Spiritual Center / 8433 Bailey Road / Darien, IL 60561

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The body of Christ



>> **Daniel Pritchard** is the Director of Planned and Major Gifts for the Society of the Little Flower



The body of Christ." How many times have we heard those words? And how many times have we responded with little more than the usual "Amen"?

Last November, at the end of his general audience, Pope Francis taught us another way to respond to encountering the body of Christ. You may know the story.

In the crowd, he saw a man who was afflicted with a severe skin condition. The condition was so advanced that it was clear most people would shrink at the sight of him. The pope's response? He went into the crowd and embraced him with a heart that knew he was beholding "the body of Christ."

Jesus lives in each of us, but, too often, we are blind to Him, even when we look within ourselves. Indeed, that may be the best place to begin beholding the body of Christ: within ourselves. Each day, we should seek Him and then listen to the Christ who became one with us. If only we did, how different our lives would be! To that, I believe Jesus would say, "Amen."

Of course, the revelation of God's presence doesn't stop there. Our daily encounter with Jesus demands us to ask,

"What's next?" St. Thérèse had an answer to that question: "Holiness consists in being just what God wants us to be."

What does God want you to be at this moment? How are you dealing with the circumstances of your life, and how are you responding? The answers to these questions define where you are on life's journey. Thérèse's words seem so simple, yet the path to holiness is anything but.

One of the reasons the Society of the Little Flower exists is to help smooth that path to holiness. In the National Shrine of St. Thérèse, we have relics and artifacts and paintings that recall her life and "Little Way." They are beautiful. But they also must *inspire*.

The truth is that any visitor to our Shrine can attest that they truly do inspire. There is a peace found here that only heaven can offer. Written on the faces of those who visit is a visible connection with someone who consoles, who heals and who can make all things new. Such is our mission.


We have chosen this moment in our history to ensure that the Society of the Little Flower is strong and vital for years to come. We need to reach out to future generations, while providing an experience that allows all generations to connect in the most special of ways with the One who consoles, heals and makes all things new. And we need to do this in a way that

lets people experience the unconditional love of a God who wants us to see Him through the eyes of a child. This is the heart of the message of the Little Flower.

We have laid the groundwork to renovate and expand our National Shrine. The project is about to begin in earnest. The purpose is to help people grow in their faith, while preserving the sacred heritage of St. Thérèse of Lisieux. Once it is completed, we will be able to display many more artifacts of St. Thérèse's life, and do so in a way that is interactive. This will allow people to visit at their leisure and learn of the difference St. Thérèse can make in their lives through self-guided tours. We are also renovating the Spiritual Center, where, each year, hundreds participate in retreats and days of recollection. And because of the deep devotion to St. Thérèse, we must expand our chapel. We need the help of all of the friends of St. Thérèse to help make these things happen.

If you are able to make a gift – of any size – use the envelope provided in this issue of *Between Friends*. At certain giving levels, recognition and memorial opportunities are available. Some will want to participate out of a sense of gratitude, others out of devotion and still others to honor someone dear to them. Whatever the reason, for years to come, people's faith will grow, lives will change and hearts will be made whole – all because of your sacrifice.

Today, many struggle to see themselves as part of the body of Christ. They are hurt or lost or have simply given up hope. They need to find a place to belong. Jesus' heart is ready to embrace them, but they need to find the way. St. Thérèse's "Little Way" is an incredibly powerful compass, lighting the path to His Sacred Heart – and to faith, hope and love.

Please, join us in making this vision for the future a reality. 

from the director of planned and major gifts

Dan Pritchard is the Director of Planned and Major Gifts for the Society of the Little Flower.

He can be reached at **888.996.1212**, and would be happy to help you plan a meaningful gift to support this effort.

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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
1313 N. Frontage Road
Darien, Illinois 60561

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Please call 888-996-1212 regarding the rate that applies to your situation. Don't hesitate to request a free illustration for a one-life, two-life or deferred gift annuity. *Rates are subject to change. For U.S. residents only.