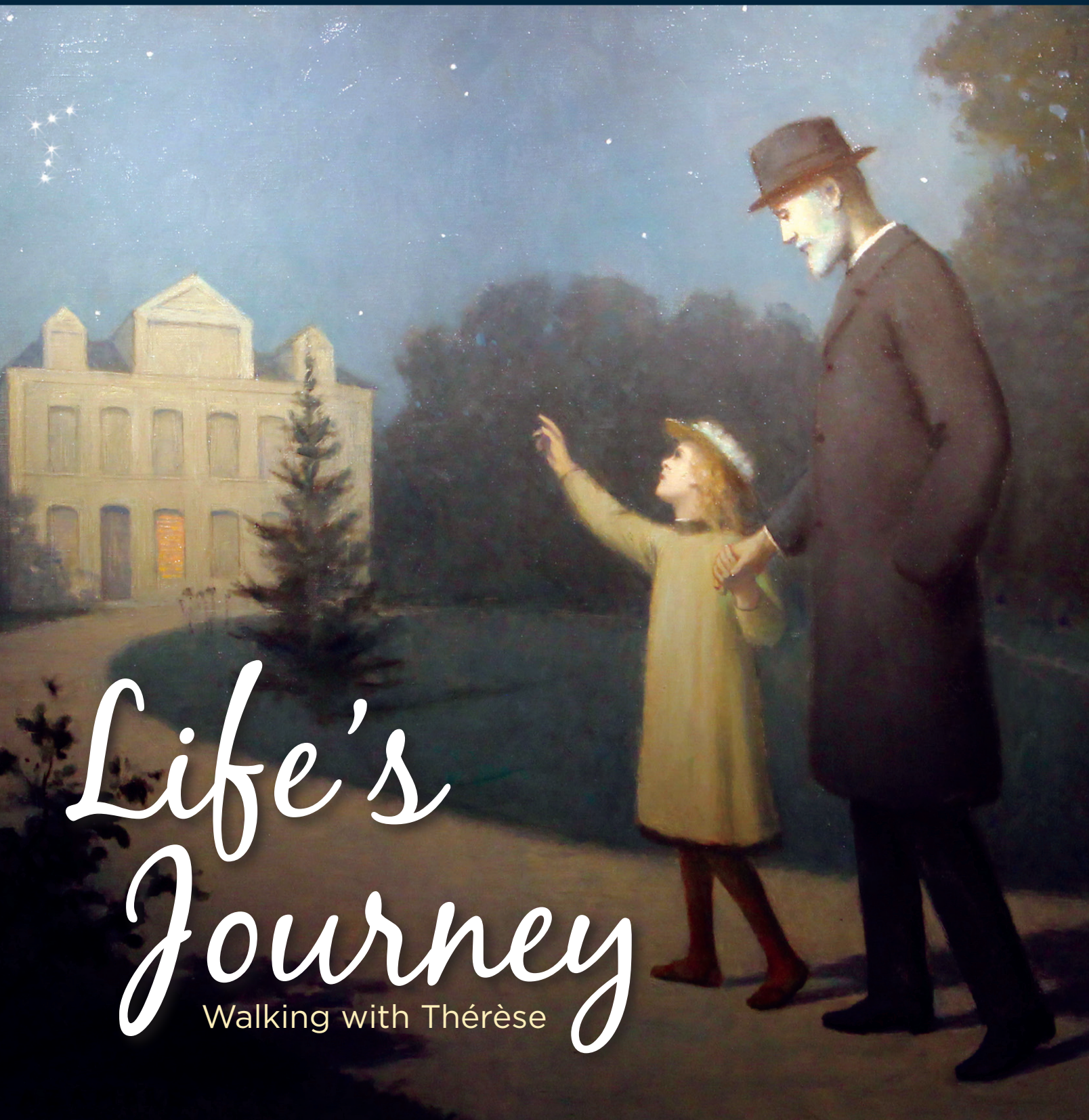


# Between Friends

A publication for the Friends of the Society of the Little Flower, Darien, Illinois, and Canada



*Life's  
Journey*  
Walking with Thérèse





# Life's Journey – Walking with Thérèse

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

## Friends of St. Thérèse,

**It is good to be with you again. We are among Friends. I hope you enjoy this edition of *Between Friends* as we feature “Walking with Thérèse” as the model of our life’s journey. Her life and spirituality have so much to teach us as we follow in the footsteps of Jesus to our heavenly destiny.**

We also feature testimonies from the friends of St. Thérèse, opportunities to help continue her mission, events in the life of the Carmelites, and the Prophet Elijah,

founding spirit of the Carmelites and inspiration to us all.

The Carmelites and the Society of the Little Flower are so grateful for you. Your devotion and generosity

make such a big difference in so many people’s lives throughout the world. We experience the generosity of God and Thérèse’s Shower of Roses through you. We truly are Between and Among the Friends of God and Thérèse. 🌹

**God bless you,  
Father Bob Colaresi, O. Carm.,  
Director**

## IN THIS ISSUE



- 2 From the director  
Life's Journey –  
Walking with Thérèse
- 3 From the editor  
Cherishing Memories
- 4 Saint of the month  
Elijah, the Prophet of God
- 5 Carmelite giftshop  
Discover the Carmelite Gift Shop
- 7 From the office of  
planned and major gifts  
Charitable Gift Annuities:  
An Attractive Option
- 8 Feature story  
Life's Journey –  
Walking with Thérèse
- 12 From the office  
of gift planning  
Making A List And Checking It  
Twice: Tax-saving Ideas to Consider  
Before the End of the Year
- 13 From the office  
of gift planning  
Each Day is a Gift
- 15 From the director  
of planned and major giving  
It's All About You!

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the Little Flower

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Father Bob Colaresi, O. Carm.  
**DIRECTOR/PUBLISHER**

Mary Lambert  
**EDITOR/DEVELOPMENT  
DIRECTOR**

Father Bob Colaresi, O. Carm.  
Mary Lambert  
Dan Pritchard  
Joe Voss  
Mary Zacharias  
**CONTRIBUTING WRITERS**

Dan Pritchard  
**PLANNED AND MAJOR GIFTS**

**Society of the Little Flower**  
1313 N. Frontage Rd.  
Darien, Illinois 60561-5340  
**800.621.2806**  
www.littleflower.org

**The Monastery of Mt. Carmel**  
Society of the Little Flower  
7020 Stanley Ave.  
Niagara Falls, Ontario  
L2G 7B7

**800.922.7622**  
ca.littleflower.org

**FAITH CATHOLIC**  
Patrick Dally  
**GRAPHIC DESIGNER**



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## Cherishing Memories

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

***“Backward, turn backward, O Time, in your flight,  
Make me a child again just for tonight!  
Mother, come back from the echoless shore,  
Take me again to your heart as of yore;  
Kiss from my forehead the furrows of care,  
Smooth the few silver threads out of my hair;  
Over my slumbers your loving watch keep;  
Rock me to sleep, mother, rock me to sleep!”***

These first lines of the poem “Rock Me to Sleep” by Elizabeth Akers Allen echo a longing for days long gone, days when life was simple and safe and problems could be kissed away. The poet’s words capture the hopeful heart that every child nurtures as they begin their earthly journey.

When we are young, we are filled with hopes and dreams. But life isn’t so simple, and our optimism eventually yields to the occasional disappointment and heartache. My mother, like yours, just couldn’t be there forever to kiss away the “furrows of care.” It’s part of every human journey.

Nonetheless, we should never allow our childlike innocence to pass away. No matter how long ago it was, there is something very important about clinging

to what we had hoped for so many years ago.

Each of us has a unique journey. This issue of *Between Friends* encourages you to examine that journey. What were the grace-filled moments? What were the moments you regret? And what are the moments you wish you could relive ... just one more time?

I am confident that you, like me, benefitted greatly by having St. Thérèse be part of your journey. For me, she has been like a second mother. Leaving home at age 15 was one of the most difficult decisions of my life, but it was something I needed to do. I couldn’t have made it without her. I’ve lost count of the number of times Thérèse has “rocked me to sleep.”

How I wish I could relive certain moments of my life! There are people I desperately wish I could be with just one more time. My memories, though bittersweet, are ones I hope to relive many times more in the years to come; they are memories I will cherish forever.

Of course, life’s journey is as much about looking ahead as looking behind. Wonderful things await us all! But as you page through this issue of *Between Friends*, I particularly urge you to recall those special moments that were part of your life’s story. They formed who you are today. And be sure you look for the grace that was part of those moments. For, as Thérèse once wrote, “Everything is grace!” 🌹





SAINT OF THE MONTH:

# ELIJAH,

## the Prophet of God

■ *Elijah in the Wilderness* by Washington Allston

**T** HE 1ST AND 2ND BOOK OF KINGS in the Old Testament tell the story of the prophet Elijah. A ninth-century, BC, prophet in the northern Israel, Elijah's name means "Yahweh is my God!" His role was to call people back to faith in the true God and eliminate false gods.

Elijah is a dramatic and fiery character. He makes his presence felt amid a time of severe drought. People suffered. Thirst and hunger and famine were everywhere. We cannot live long without water. Elijah's message to the people of the north, and especially to King Ahab and Jezebel, his queen, was that God was withholding the rains because of their lack of faith in Yahweh as the true God of life. Jezebel had installed the cult of Baal as a god of fertility.

His prophetic teaching was that the long, deep drought was symbolic of their dry and empty faith. Elijah called for a dramatic showdown on Mount Carmel where prophets would bring down fire from heaven to consume their sacrificial offering. About 450 prophets of Baal prayed and chanted and beat themselves, while Elijah taunted them. Nothing happened after a long, hot day. In the evening, Elijah took his turn and with confidence prayed: "Let it be known this day that you, and you alone, are God in Israel." God came from heaven and consumed the sacrifice. The people believed.

Jezebel was furious at this defeat and sent her

army to kill Elijah who fled to the desert. He became depressed that his victory did not last long and started running for his life. God called him from his encaved depression and self-pity. Elijah looked for God in whirlwinds, earthquakes and fire – something dramatic – but he was told to be still and silent until he heard "a tiny whispering sound." He had experienced God.

Elijah was taken to heaven in a fiery chariot with the tradition that he would return to announce the Messiah. Thus John the Baptist is proclaimed as coming in the spirit of Elijah, and Elijah appears with Moses at the Transfiguration of Jesus.

Elijah speaks to dramatic and significant action and deep inner contemplation. He is father of the Carmelites who see themselves as sons of the prophet Elijah. Carmelite spirituality is about contemplation in action. All of us need to be still and silent to hear the divine whisper and experience the divine presence which ignites fire and the divine spark within us to transform our world.

Elijah's feast is celebrated on July 20. 🌹





## Carmelite Gift Shop

8501 Bailey Road, Darien, IL 60561

630-969-0001 • [carmelitegiftshop.org](http://carmelitegiftshop.org)

Located on the Carmelite Campus in Darien, Illinois, the Carmelite Gift Shop is your source for a wide variety of statuary, religious items, gifts, and books.

Open Monday through Sunday, 10AM to 4PM CT

Visit us online at [carmelitegiftshop.org](http://carmelitegiftshop.org)

# DISCOVER THE CARMELITE GIFT SHOP

**H**ello! My name is Rebecca and I have been blessed to be a part of the Carmelite Gift Shop here on the Carmelite Campus for the past five months. Taking this position was a big step for me. Since I came with more than 15 years of experience in retail sales, Father Bob Colaresi was confident that I could make an impact as we move the Carmelite store into the future.

The Gift Shop has a very small, but dedicated and friendly, staff that will help you find that perfect gift. Patti has been with us for more than 18 years and can help you find the perfect item for that special occasion. Laura, with her very welcoming and bubbly personality, has been at the Carmelite Gift Shop for more than 13 years; she loves getting to know each customer to ensure she is helping them in the best way possible. Our newest gift shop member, Reem, started just a few weeks before I did and has a wealth of knowledge about Catholic saints. If you are looking for a particular patron saint, talk to Reem – she will lead you towards what you need. As for myself, if you have an item that you are looking for, I'm your person! As the manager of the store, I can work with you on special orders and even help with special rates for larger purchases for parishes or schools.

We have big hopes for the store. We are working hard at updating the assortment of products that we have; if there is something that you don't see, please don't hesitate to ask. We will do our very best to try and accommodate.

One of the new areas we are creating is a teen/young adult section to give a voice to our younger customers. We are working with new vendors who have great new products. If you haven't been here in the past few months, make sure to stop by. We have a lot of great new products and are getting more all of the time! We also will be starting a book club in the shop later this fall and plan to have author visits, as well.

This is a very exciting time at the Gift Shop and the entire Carmelite Campus. We hope you will plan a visit soon! 🌹



“

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# Carmelite Holy Land Pilgrimage

**Join us for the Faith Experience of a Lifetime!**

**February 27 - March 10, 2017**

**with optional Petra extension through March 15, 2017**

#### Features Included

- Roundtrip Flights from Seattle to Tel Aviv
- Hotels, Four-Star and Kibbutz lodge
- Daily Mass and special Biblical reflections
- Pilgrim Liturgy Book specially prepared
- Licensed Israeli Guide and driver
- Paid Entrance Fees to all site on tour
- Israeli Breakfast & Dinners daily
- Biblical Passover Lunch
- Boat Cruise on the Sea of Galilee
- Transportation in private air-conditioned bus
- Home hospitality with a local Israeli family

*Visit Bethlehem, Nazareth, Jerusalem, and many of the historical sites of the Carmelites such as Wadi ein Siah, Mount Carmel, and Elijah's cave and spring. Scripture comes alive in unbelievable ways when we walk in the footsteps of Jesus with Fr. Bob Colaresi, O. Carm.!*

#### Pricing

For the **Holy Land Pilgrimage**, \$4,675 (double occupancy) or an additional \$998 for single occupancy (subject to availability). For the **Holy Land and the Petra Extension**, \$5,670 (double occupancy) or \$7,053 for single occupancy (subject to availability). Includes air transportation (Seattle-Tel Aviv), hotel accommodates, all breakfasts and dinners, two lunches, private bus transportation and driver, local Jewish Biblical Israeli guide, all sightseeing entrance fees, taxes, and portage.

**Contact Fr. Bob Colaresi, O.Carm.,  
for more information and a detailed itinerary.**

Holy Land Pilgrimage  
Fr. Bob Colaresi, O.Carm.  
1313 N. Frontage Road  
Darien, IL 60561

(630) 852-7179





GETTY IMAGES

## CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES: WATCHING OUT FOR YOU!

**D**oes this sound familiar? “I really wish I could do more to help, but I’m worried about the future. What if I live into my 90s ... or beyond? I’ll need to provide for myself, and with bank accounts and CDs paying next to nothing, what can I do?”

For many friends of the Society of the Little Flower, the solution to that problem is creating a charitable gift annuity.

Gift annuities have a twofold benefit: they provide income for life to you (and/or someone you love), and they help the Society plan for its future needs. A gift annuity is simply a contract in which you exchange a gift of cash or securities for a fixed stream of payments each year for the rest of your life (or lives). When the annuity

ends, the balance of the funds is available to support the Carmelites and the mission of the Little Flower.

It’s important to keep in mind that a gift annuity is an irrevocable agreement. But rest assured, we also make an irrevocable commitment to you: to pay you for the rest of your life.

Gift annuities can be funded with cash or with appreciated stock that you have owned more than one year. For those who don’t need the income right away, gift annuity payments can be deferred until a later time, such as retirement. Both the charitable deduction and the annuity payments are larger for deferred gift annuities.

Friends who own securities that have grown in value can cash in on their investment success, minimize taxes, and increase their annual income in the bargain. Your annual payments likely will be higher than your current dividends, capital gains taxes will be reduced, and you will receive a large charitable deduction as well.

## SEND FOR YOUR FREE BOOKLET: 20 Timely Tips for Retirees

■ Making the most of one’s retirement years requires careful planning and the ability to take advantage of opportunities that present themselves.

The Society of the Little Flower has a new booklet, “20 Timely Tips for Retirees,” that will be of great benefit to people who are retired or who expect to retire shortly.

If you would like 20 ideas for maintaining – even improving – your financial security, and for dealing with personal and estate planning concerns that arise as one grows older, call our planned giving office at 888.996.1212 to request a free copy of our guide, “20 Timely Tips for Retirees,” or return the response card that is included with this issue of *Between Friends*.

Some people have used a gift annuity to provide financial support for a parent or other family member, especially since gift annuity rates are higher for older annuitants (8.1% at age 75, increasing to 13.8% for those age 90 and older). The donor is entitled to the charitable deduction, while the parent receives payments that are largely tax-free.

Savings bonds can provide yet another option to fund a gift annuity. If you own savings bonds that have fully matured and no longer earn interest, you can’t reinvest without paying income tax on the interest. You can, however, redeem the bonds and use the proceeds to fund a charitable gift annuity. The charitable deduction may offset most or all of the income tax that you will owe by redeeming the bonds. 🌹

■ To learn more about a Little Flower gift annuity, including our rates and the tax and financial benefits, please feel free to contact our planned giving office at 888.996.1212, or visit our website at [www.plannedgiving.littleflower.org](http://www.plannedgiving.littleflower.org).









# Life's Journey

## Walking with Thérèse

BY FATHER BOB COLARESI, O. CARM.

**“To walk with Thérèse is journeying through life with confidence and trust. It is tasting heaven now in such a way that God breathes in every step and transforms my life so that I am worthy of heaven, here and hereafter.”**

**O**NE SUNDAY EVENING, while walking home with her dad in the cathedral gardens, our young Thérèse gazed at the stars twinkling so peacefully in the dark sky. With the innocence of a child, she noticed one cluster of “golden pearls” (as she called them) that particularly attracted her. They brought joy to her heart because they were in the form of a “T.” She pointed them out to Papa and told him, “My name was written in heaven.”

As a child, Thérèse knew she was destined beyond – that there was more than this dull earth. The star-studded firmament spoke of a bigger world and universe that she belonged to. She asked Papa to guide her steps on this journey to glory. Her experience, like ours, is that life is a journey, through and beyond.

Only a child could imagine that the Creator of the Universe moved the stars to make a “T.” Her childlike innocence and faith are awesome. She knew she belonged to and was destined for heaven! How much do you and I believe that? Sometimes when I feel down, inadequate, lonely, stuck, detoured, or just not good enough, I love to read that story or turn to Thérèse in the hopes of igniting that sense of being special in God’s eyes, and still on the journey.

To walk with Thérèse is journeying through life with confidence and trust. It is tasting heaven now in such a way that God breathes in every step and transforms my life so that I am worthy of heaven, here and hereafter.

Because you and I are so situated in the here and now, we can easily forget that life is a journey. Our Church, in the Vatican II documents, talks about life as a pilgrimage – that we are pilgrims, coming from God and journeying in return to full union in God. Pilgrims are always moving forward – to a special destination, a holy destination – and good pilgrims enjoy the ride and observe every aspect and moment of the journey.





■ *Abraham's Journey to Canaan*, by Pieter Lasman

**L**IFE IS NOT STATIC, even if we seem to get stuck in the status quo. Life insistently grows and develops. I recently witnessed it in plants and weeds coming up in the cracks in our paved parking lots and concrete walkways. Life is a gift from God to all creation – and it has an indomitable energy to grow, blossom, connect, and reach out. Life, as a gift of God, pulsates with expanding possibilities.

Life truly is a gift from God, the Source of all Life. It is precious and holy in all of its manifestations. And human life, with our ability to reflect and make free choices, is especially precious and holy as we are made in the image and likeness of God.

Our biblical story highlights many journeys – holy journeys of faith and trust: Abraham moving his whole family to a new land; Moses leading the people from the oppression of Egypt into the land of promise despite their grumbling; the Children of Israel led into exile and then returning to freedom; Elijah fleeing from persecution, getting lost in his self-pity, and being called to be still to listen to the whisper of God. Always trust. Always have faith. Always be confident that God is leading and calling.

Jesus in His public ministry was always on the move, traveling around His native Galilee and to Jerusalem several times a year. He is extending the outreach of the Good News and the kingdom of God. The journey was never easy as the Temple priesthood was threatened, merchants were upset, Roman and Jewish royal authority were threatened. People rallied with Him and then walked away. I'm sure Jesus was lonely after hosannas and hallelujahs quieted and people walked away because He did not

fulfill their false messianic expectations. There were detours on His journey, and it ended in suffering and a humiliating death. But the journey had a surprise ending in glorious resurrection. It is all about trust, faith, and confidence that God is present, leading, and calling, even when the destination or direction isn't clear.

The Holy Year of Mercy featured Holy Doors – the call to walk into liminal space and across thresholds of greater possibilities. Yes, life is a journey of growth, development, and destiny. Hopefully, you each had an opportunity to mindfully walk through a Holy Door in your diocese or in Rome. Were you drawn to something beyond, something within, something new, or something to cast aside in order to move forward to freedom and glory? Liminal space and Holy Doors are always about transformation and steps forward.

It is very interesting that Thérèse's teaching on holiness is called "the Little Way" – a journey. In fact, it is called "the little way of spiritual childhood." She understood the words of Jesus: "Unless you become like a little child, you will not enter the kingdom." The spiritual life is a journey – steps of transformation, just like our stages of human growth and development.

The image of the child or childhood has an important place in the religious experience of Thérèse in two fundamental ways: She cultivated a personal relationship to the Child Jesus; and she

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employed the image of childhood or littleness as one construct in communicating her own spiritual journey. Relationship to the child Jesus emphasizes the humanity of Christ and suggests a sense of dependence, poverty, trust, and wonder. It leads to the star-studded universe where “everything is grace” and God is all in all. She knew and teaches us that we are so little before the awesomeness of God. The Child of Bethlehem mirrors the child of wonder in us all. We may not see “Ts” in heaven, but we experience a presence and guidance from deep within.

Other Carmelite saints like Teresa of Avila and John of the Cross, use journey images for holiness of life. Teresa refers to journeying the “Interior Castle” in search of God within – the sparking diamond. John of the Cross uses the image of the Ascent of Mount Carmel. These journeys of the soul involve death and life, faith and trust, and transformation to glory. These journeys are always a call from God, drawing us onward, inward, and upward.

As much as I try to walk in the footsteps of Jesus, I often find myself on detours. At those moments, I need divine help and guidance, even if to just know I am lost or off target. St. Thérèse, like Jesus, makes the journey human. Most of us have turned to or been inspired by Thérèse because she is so human and real. As we understand her humanity, we come to appreciate our own and God’s mercy bathing and leading us. She has helped so many of us through dark times and strange detours. She is the light of hope when the journey seems dark and hopeless.

Thérèse could overcome anything because she believed that God is always with us, even when the Divine Presence seemed invisible or hidden. Faith knows and trusts. So many of you give witness to how she has given you courage to face challenging times of painful or frustrating darkness.

An important aspect of this journey with and to God is a prayer relationship – an intimacy with God Who is walking with us. We can honestly walk and share with God our anger, frustration, hurts, and disappointments, knowing we have a Friend Who understands. This is a huge part of journeying with Thérèse – honest intimacy in prayer. God already knows and loves us even more as we embrace the reality of our lives.

Thérèse was blessed with saintly parents who taught her that God was present in everything – in all aspects of our lives. She was taught and practiced a sense of listening presence and obedience to the Divine Whispers, like Elijah, our Carmelite founding spirit.

These days, we use a GPS for guidance on journeys. We can safely say that the Holy Spirit, God’s Breath and presence within us, is like a GPS – an inner instinct that guides us to truth, freedom, goodness,

and more. It is like our conscience which is bigger than our self-centered ego. It calls us to higher ground and more loving standards. This Divine GPS, which is what Thérèse experienced when she looked to the heavens, helped enlarge and guide her life. She learned not to judge others but rather to love and honor Jesus in every person she met and dealt with, even when Jesus seemed hidden. Those “golden pearls” were twinkling in her heart as she came to appreciate that God, the Creator Artist of everyone, liked to have His artwork praised and appreciated.


This inner instinct or Divine GPS helps us see the possibility of something better and more and draws us there – to the more of who we are as individuals and as a people.

Walking with St. Thérèse affects our behaviors toward others. We respect life in all its forms, cherish family, and live with forgiveness, inclusivity, patience, and love. Our life’s journey has a moral compass that guides us to be and live like God in Whose image and likeness we are created. This sees our spiritual life as more than just going to Church and saying prayers – it is life of service, unveiling God’s presence by the way we treat others and God’s creation.

Walking with Thérèse and in her footsteps, we live from God’s mercy which makes us patient and less judgmental with imperfection in ourselves and others. Our walk is gentle as we seek to be like God and live from the glory within. We understand God is love and are

not afraid of God. We walk the steps of intimacy with a God Who surrounds us with love. Negative and haunting images of God melt before the revealed God of Love. Thérèse had to struggle with the rigors of Jansenism which made God more of a judge punishing people for sins. The journey

was more about reparation, mortification, and prayers of atonement. Thérèse reinforces the Scriptures that God is love. “God was pleased all through my life to surround me with love, and the first memories I have are stamped with smiles and the most tender caresses. But although He placed so much love near me, He also sent much love into my little heart, making it warm and affectionate.”

So in order to walk our life’s journey with Thérèse, we have to keep our eyes on heaven, not just in the self-serving approach that I have to earn heaven, but to live and walk in such a way that all people experience heaven here in this world: with justice, peace, and the fulfillment of basic and profound needs that lift us beyond small lives, by God’s grace and mercy. Like St. Thérèse, we come to understand that, like those “golden pearls,” we are truly stardust which connects us with God and every aspect of God’s creation. The Divine Spark within us guides our every step, journey, and destiny. Our name is written in heaven! 



“  
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GETTY IMAGES

## Making a List and Checking it Twice:

### TAX-SAVING IDEAS TO CONSIDER BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR

**B**Y SPENDING A BIT OF TIME NOW, you might be able to enjoy some significant tax savings when April 15 rolls around next year. Read on to review our list of practical tips.

**1. Take out a copy of the tax return you filed for 2015.** Did you itemize your deductions? Look at the deduction categories in Schedule A with an eye to maximizing those deductions before 2016 comes to an end. If you used the standard deduction, make it your goal to pile up enough deductions to itemize for 2016. Consider “bunching” some 2017 deductible expenses with this year’s deductions. You may be able to prepay 2017 real estate and state income taxes in 2016, for example. It’s possible that making both your 2016 and 2017 gifts to the Society of the Little Flower in 2016 will allow you to itemize.

**2. Take stock of your stocks ... and other investments.** Ask your investment adviser about harvesting gains before year’s end. Stock held more than one year that has gone

up in value is also an excellent choice for making a year-end gift to the Society. You can even retain payments for life from your gift by creating a charitable gift annuity. If the market hasn’t been kind to your portfolio, consider selling some losers. Capital losses are fully deductible against capital gains, and excess losses can be deducted against ordinary income up to \$3,000, with carry-overs to subsequent years. If you sell loss stock and give the proceeds to the Society of the Little Flower, you get two deductions – one for the capital loss and another for the charitable gift.

**3. Contribute the maximum to your qualified retirement plan or IRA.** Eligible taxpayers can contribute up to \$5,500 to an IRA in 2016, with an additional \$1,000 catch-up for those ages 50 and older. The contribution limit is \$18,000 for 401(k) plans, with a \$6,000 catch-up.

**4. Take required minimum distributions from retirement plans.** Those age 70½ or older are required to take withdrawals

each year from IRAs and 401(k) plans (except Roth IRAs). A more attractive option might be to tell the custodian of your IRA to send all or part of your required minimum distribution to the Society of the Little Flower, up to a maximum of \$100,000. There is no charitable deduction, but you’ll save – even if you don’t itemize – by avoiding the income tax you would otherwise owe on the distribution.

**5. Postpone some income into 2017.** Unless you expect to be in a higher tax bracket in 2017, try deferring receipt of 2016 investment income. Postponing sales of profitable stocks until 2017 will put off the tax.

**6. Review your estate plan.**

Updating your will or living trust won’t have an impact on your 2016 income taxes, but it’s a good idea to revisit your estate documents annually to see that they still reflect your wishes regarding the disposition of your estate. If you want to continue the gifts you have made during your lifetime, a simple and inexpensive codicil (amendment) to your will may be sufficient. Another option is to name the Society of the Little Flower the beneficiary of an IRA or a life insurance policy.

**7. Consider “hidden” assets for making year-end gifts.** If you own U.S. savings bonds that no longer earn interest, redeem the bonds and give the proceeds to the Society. You’ll owe income tax on the interest, but the deduction should offset most or all of the tax. You can even use the proceeds to fund a charitable gift annuity that will give you a charitable deduction and a lifetime stream of payments. Do you own a life insurance policy that is no longer needed for family security? A gift of the policy will entitle you to a charitable deduction and you’ll have the satisfaction of knowing you are providing important support for the mission of the Carmelites and the Society of the Little Flower. 🌹





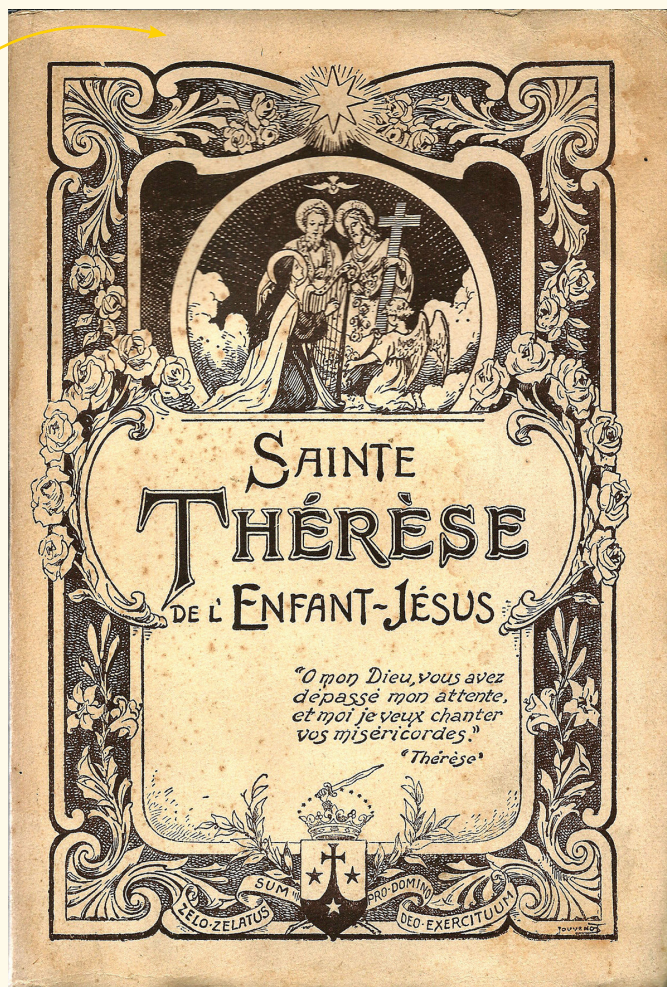
# EACH DAY IS A GIFT

**I T WAS AN EXCITING DAY FOR ME** when I joined the staff of the Society of the Little Flower in early spring of 2013. I have known Father Bob and many other Carmelites through the years and had visited the Shrine chapel on a number of occasions; I am thrilled to now be part of this wonderful community of persons dedicated to the mission of furthering the cause of St. Thérèse, and supporting the many Carmelite ministries here in the United States and worldwide.



Soon after joining the Society, I read **St. Thérèse's autobiography, *Story of the Soul***. After reading this book, I was moved by her genuine love for Jesus, and her profound ability to trust in Him. This led me to begin praying to her more each day, and I, too, have experienced her presence leading me closer to Jesus.

The most rewarding thing I do here at the Society is speak with and visit the supporters of this great mission. In the past three years, I have spoken to and visited many. Every person I have visited, without exception, has welcomed me like family, and has shared inspiring stories of how influential St. Thérèse has been in their lives. Some have shared healing stories, others stories about children rediscovering God, and still other stories about finding employment or being able to buy or sell their homes. The privilege of listening to these stories has had a




Cover page of *The Story of a Soul (l'Histoire d'une Âme)* by Thérèse of Lisieux, édition 1940.

great influence in my life, as well. It is clear that St. Thérèse continues to send

showers of roses to this very day.

When not visiting

our friends in person, I am here at the Society calling and thanking donors, and answering questions about the shrine and Carmelite ministries. Here on the campus of the National Shrine, I have witnessed the effect on people's lives when they gather for daily Mass, attend a retreat at our Spiritual Center, pray as they walk the outdoor Stations of the Cross in the Carmelite Meditation Garden, or visit the museum that is filled with the art and artifacts that chronicle the life and spirituality of St. Thérèse.

Each day presents itself as another reminder of why I do what I do. I try to remain open to God working through me to reach people who want to learn about St. Thérèse and the Carmelites. There is no doubt in my mind why I do what I do each day: God has sent me here for a reason, and I am so grateful for the opportunity to be part of the Society of the Little Flower. 



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**.





CATHOLIC NEWS AGENCY

# A Great Blessing

**T** HIS MAY SOUND STRANGE TO SOME, but I had never even heard of St.

**Thérèse until I applied for a position with the Society of the Little Flower.**

Little did I know then that it would be the beginning of an amazing life journey!

The journey started 33 years ago when I applied for a position at the Society to help process mail. Over the years, I answered the phone, welcomed people to our office as a receptionist, and served in many other capacities. As I worked in each of these positions, I found St. Thérèse welcoming me more and more into her heart. My spiritual connection and devotion to her grew stronger. I loved my work and felt I was doing what St. Thérèse wished – “reaching to the ends of the earth”.

Three years ago, our director, Father Bob Colaresi, asked me to serve in yet another capacity: reaching out to our donors on his behalf and learning more about the relationship, friendship, and partnership our friends have with the Society and with the Carmelites.

Blessed with this opportunity to talk with and meet face-to-face with so many friends of St. Thérèse, I continue to be inspired and humbled by their love for the Little Flower. After all these years, I am still amazed at her powerful intercession in so many people's lives.

**My passion for the work I do is deeper than ever because I can ...**

- **Witness, in partnership with you,** how the Carmelites are able to bring God and hope into the hearts and lives of so many; provide for the thirsty and hungry, the forgotten, the aged, and the lonely; and truly fulfill the mission of our dear St. Thérèse in reaching to the ends of the earth.
- **Get to know you, our donors.** It is a true blessing as I hear about your incredible faith, devotion, and love for St. Thérèse. You are the heart and breath that enables the Carmelites to touch lives, and spread the Gospel of God and the mission of St. Thérèse throughout the world. You are the most brilliant roses in full bloom.
- **See firsthand the work the Carmelites are doing here on the Carmelite Campus,** and the lives they touch through their ministries. I want to help them (through you) to continue in this work for generations to come.
- **Experience the roses St. Thérèse graciously showers on me time and time again.** My devotion to her encourages me to spread her “Little way” as far and as much as I possibly can! I love her!

In short, I do what I do because I want to give back to God, to St. Thérèse, and to the Society of the Little Flower, in gratitude to Father Bob and the Carmelites – and to YOU – for this amazing life journey. 🌹

“

**Blessed with this opportunity to talk with and meet face-to-face with so many friends of St. Thérèse, I continue to be inspired and humbled by their love for the Little Flower.”**



**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 would be honored to visit with you and hear the ways St. Thérèse is a part of your life. Call her anytime at **630.719.2230** to talk or arrange a time to get together.





GETTY IMAGES

# It's All About You!

**YOU ARE THE REASON** the poor in Peru, El Salvador, and many other parts of the world are able to drink clean water, eat a nutritious meal provided by a Carmelite-run soup kitchen, and receive agricultural training so that they can become self-supporting.

You are the reason youths are being rescued from the hands of ruthless gang members in Torreon, Mexico.

You are the reason the lives of high school students from across the United States are being transformed ... forever.

You are the reason thousands of people are able to visit the National Shrine of St. Thérèse each year to deepen their faith through retreats, days of recollection, spiritual direction, and daily Mass.

You are the reason.

Have you ever wondered how your gifts to the Society of the Little Flower are making a difference? These are just a few examples of how you are saving the lives of people you will never know – people who are nonetheless dependent on your kindness and generosity.

Sometimes, the life-saving you make possible is physical; at other times, it is spiritual. Both are important.

In a materialistic world that is crying out for direction, we are able to show the way – because of you. And as we look to the future, we

know that a hunger for things that last will only grow. We know it's not only because of the ever-increasing numbers of people we touch, but also because we see it in the depth of their prayer. People want a foundation and they want direction. They want to know what they can count on. They know there is more to life, and they come to us to find the answer.

They find it here. Because of you.

A comment we often hear from our friends is, "I wish I could do more to help." Interestingly, there are many creative ways to deepen

your support of the Society of the Little Flower – ways that you might not have thought of, and ways that could also help you. During this period of renovation and expansion here on the campus of the National Shrine of St. Thérèse, these gifts can be particularly helpful to us.

For example, many people have heard about our charitable gift annuity program. The details of this program are spelled out on page 7 and summarized on the back page of this issue of *Between Friends*. In a nutshell, creating a gift annuity helps us plan for our future, while also providing income to support your future. We are told that we have some of the best payout rates around!

Others have included the Society of the Little Flower in their estate plans. Such a gift ensures that the support you have offered during your life will continue on thereafter. Our benefactors tell us that it gives them great comfort to make such a gift, and, in a way, it is offering back a rose to the one who promised to send a shower of roses to those who call upon her.

There are even other ways to help. Gifts through an IRA, a life insurance policy, appreciated stock, and saving bonds can yield tremendous rewards to both you and the Society. Be sure to read the article on page 12 to learn more.

Some worry about the future, some wonder about it, and still others hope for it. Whatever the case may be for you, be sure you take some time to consider your planning options. And if circumstances allow you to include the Society of the Little Flower in those future plans, we would be forever grateful. Our future? Truthfully, it's all about you. 🌹



**Daniel Pritchard**

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



# Society of the Little Flower Charitable Gift Annuity

*The Gift Of A Lifetime*



## Provide for your future and touch someone's life.

When you create a charitable gift annuity with the Society of the Little Flower, you will receive a fixed income for the rest of your life and give life-changing help to those in need through Carmelite mission work and education programs.

### *Why create a gift annuity?*

- Lifetime payments - at a rate that will never change
- Charitable tax deduction
- Service that is second to none

### Sample One-Life Rates\*

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



\*Rates are subject to change. Minimum age 60. For U.S. residents only.

Please call 1-888-996-1212 for the rate that applies to your age, or if you would like information about two-life or deferred gift annuities.



**Society of the Little Flower**  
Office of Planned Giving  
1313 N. Frontage Road  
Darien, Illinois 60561

Toll Free: 888-996-1212  
[www.littleflower.org/plannedgiving](http://www.littleflower.org/plannedgiving)

☐ **YES!** Please send me my personalized gift annuity package.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Being Considered \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date (For Single Life Annuity) \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date (For Joint/Survivorship Annuity) \_\_\_\_\_

***Don't hesitate to request a free illustration for a one-life, two-life or deferred gift annuity.***