

# Between Friends

A publication for the Friends of the Society of

the Little Flower, Darien, Illinois, and Canada



You're making a  
**DIFFERENCE**





# You are making a difference

>> Rev. Thomas Schrader, O. Carm. Director

**Dear Friends of the Little Flower,**

**As I begin my ministry as Director of the Society of the Little Flower, I am impressed with the wonderful devotion and generosity of so many of you. The members of the Society supported my Carmelite formation, and I have always been grateful to you for the gift of helping me to serve God's people. I remember you and your intentions in prayer each day. I especially ask you to remember me in prayer so that together we may inspire others to follow St. Thérèse's Little Way and support the Carmelites in carrying out her missionary spirit throughout the world.**

This *Between Friends* issue is about making a difference. Jesus empowered us, as members of His Risen Body, to make a difference in the world. St. Thérèse makes a big

difference in the way we experience God's mercy and presence. You make a difference in so many people's lives throughout the world through your prayers and support.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of *Between Friends*. It includes ways you are helping others through Carmelite ministries, examples of how we can work together to continue the Gospel outreach, and a reflection by a special friend about why she loves St. Thérèse and supports her mission. You are remembered daily at Mass and in prayer by the Carmelites here and throughout the world.

**In Carmel,  
Rev. Thomas Schrader, O. Carm.  
Director** 🌹

## IN THIS ISSUE

### 2 From the director

You are making a difference

### 3 From the editor

Celebration of you

### 4 Feature story

She made a difference – Ann Gudas

### 7 Seasons of Life

'What Happened to Father Bob?'

### 8 Cover Story

You're making a difference

### 12 The Canadian Corner

You're making a difference!

### 14 From the office of special gifts

My first year with the Society of the Little Flower

### 15 Feature story

Finding meaning



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# Celebration of you

**AT FIRST, THERE WERE THE NAGGING DOUBTS; the goal seemed almost impossible. But faith won the day and four years later the finish line is in sight!**

The renovation of our Carmelite campus in Darien is almost complete, and it is truly a sight to behold. When people set foot on the grounds, many are awestruck. Their most common reaction? Inspired.

This project was not really about buildings, statues, or the beauty of nature. Of course, integrating those pieces into our plan was important. But the real purpose of it all – the reason we had no choice but to forge ahead – was knowing we needed to create something that would bring people closer to St. Thérèse and other Carmelite saints in a way that would touch their hearts and souls in a deeply personal way.

From all accounts, we succeeded because of you.

I hope you will come for a visit. And please, don't let distance be an obstacle. Although our campus is tucked into a quiet suburb of Chicago, people from every corner of our country and beyond find us, because they are driven by love and a need to come closer to the Lord.

It is actually a time of many new beginnings for us, including the transition from Father Bob Colaresi to Father Tom Schrader as Director of the Society of the Little Flower. Father Tom has hit the ground running, and we are so happy to have him lead us into this new chapter of the life of the Society.


New life is blessing us around every corner that we turn these days, and this issue of *Between Friends* is a celebration both of those blessings and you, our dear partners in this beautiful mission. Together, we are making a difference for generations to come!

As you turn the pages of this issue, you find information about a number of our new ventures, including the renovated and transformed Carefree Village, the retirement home that was once part of our Carmelite campus. It is now the home of our Carmelite Spiritual Center, giving us a revitalized space to host larger groups of youths, teens, adults, and religious men and women who come for spiritual direction, retreats, and other opportunities for spiritual growth.

As you know from past issues of *Between Friends*, we also recently renovated the National Shrine Museum of St. Thérèse, which is devoted to the legacy of our beloved saint. This Shrine Museum houses one of the largest collections of Thérésian artifacts in the United States.

We also built a new Shrine Chapel, which allows us to accommodate the growing numbers of people who visit us for daily Mass and other spiritual celebrations throughout the year. To make this dream possible, in addition to your generosity, we received heaven-sent support from the Margie and Robert E. Petersen Foundation. Margie, who sadly passed away in 2011, was a devoted friend to St. Thérèse. Our new National Shrine of St. Thérèse will stand as a lasting tribute to their friendship, inviting our visitors from across the world to invoke the intercession of the Little Flower.

Finally, I'm sure you will be glad to know that Carmelite vocations are once again on the rise, both in the United States and throughout the world. Be sure to check out the article about how our Carmelites are making a difference throughout the world.

I encourage you to sit back and take a look inside. New life abounds; and more is yet to come! 



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







# She made a difference

## Ann Gudas

**THE ADAGE** “good things come in small packages” is so appropriate!

Ann Gudas has been with the Society of the Little Flower for 36 years. A dedicated and conscientious worker, Annie, as we all call her, worked in many facets of the Society. She started just as the Society was moving from Roseland to its present location in Darien, Illinois, in 1984. She helped us move in. She started on the telephones, then moved into the Fulfillment Department, where we respond to people's requests. As a meticulous person with beautiful handwriting, she wrote out all the personalized Mass cards. Her great attention to detail kept mistakes to a minimum, which is so important.

Eventually, with her conscientious nature, excellent organizational skills, and attention to detail, Annie moved to data entry, where she worked until her retirement in August of this year.

Asked if she got bored doing the same thing, Annie, lights up and explains: “It was never a job. We are a family here. We take care of each other. The Society certainly became my extended family away from home. I felt cared for and respected.”

Why did you stay so long here? “The unwavering faith of our donors, St. Thérèse's friends, inspired me. Reading their letters and listening to their deep faith and trust really inspired me. I enjoyed every day. It was never a job – it felt more like a Church. Religious faith permeates the Society and our interaction with donors and friends.

“And St. Thérèse! She is amazing. She brings people close to Jesus. They love God through her. They count on her intercession. She is like a ‘security blanket’ for many people, and in these days, we need security of heavenly friends.”

“I so enjoyed the people I worked with. We got along well and supported each other. We had some fun times. The annual ‘white elephant’ Christmas party was so much fun. Administration let us off early to start holidays. We felt respected and they were sensitive to our needs. We were expected to give our best, and we did because they cared.

“Among the ways we were appreciated is that we became eligible for some of Father Bob's pilgrimages. I had the privilege of going to France – seeing Lisieux,

Lourdes, and Notre Dame Cathedral, and then to Egypt with my husband Jim, (where we took a 2.5-hour camel ride up Mt. Sinai). Last was my ancestral homeland, Ireland, which touched my heart.”

When her co-workers describe Annie, the words spoken are: “always positive”; “sees the good in every person and situation”; “very compassionate and organized”; “extremely conscientious”; “most helpful”; “always had a silly joke, and some were funny”; “loves baseball and actively follows

Chicago sports”; and “OMG, who's going to make the coffee in the morning”; “She is a small woman with a huge heart”; and “good things come in small packages, and Annie is a great example.”

Besides her regular responsibilities, Annie took personal interest in the dining room. She cleaned it every morning and several times a day. She came in early (to avoid driving home in the darkness) and always had coffee brewing when we came to work – and throughout the day.

Her spirit of dedication and caring permeated the office. She will be deeply missed (and not just in the morning

when people are looking for coffee).

“Annie really lives the ‘Little Way spirituality’ of St. Thérèse,” says Father Bob. “She does the little, ordinary things with extraordinary love, and with a smile. We had our own Little Flower in our midst! Ann Gudas will be greatly missed by the Society of the Little Flower. We wish her a wonderful retirement. We know that no grass will grow under her feet – she will keep busy serving others.”

God and St. Thérèse blessed us with Ann Gudas! 



**St. Thérèse! She is amazing. She brings people close to Jesus. They love God through her. They count on her intercession. She is like a ‘security blanket’ for many people, and in these days, we need security of heavenly friends.”**



# 2020 PILGRIMAGES

*of FAITH* Led by Father Bob Colaresi, O. Carm



## Carmelite and Colonial Spain

**April 26-May 7, 2020**

The focus of this pilgrimage is on Sts. Teresa of Avila and John of the Cross, the great Carmelite Doctors of mysticism and spirituality. We will visit Avila, Alba de Tormes, Salamanca, Fontiveros, and Segovia. We also include history and heritage of Spain, including the Islamic and colonial elements. Thus we've included Granada, Cordoba, and Seville, plus Madrid and Toledo. If you are interested or seek further information, please contact the Carmelite Spiritual Center, 630.969.4141 or [retreats@CarmeliteSpiritualCenter.org](mailto:retreats@CarmeliteSpiritualCenter.org). \$4,500 (double occupancy).

## Oberammergau Passion Play

**August 31-September 11, 2020**

This trip includes Budapest, Vienna, and a cruise on the Danube River. The once-a-decade Passion Play is awesome. We experienced it in 2000 and 2010 and I knew I'd return. There are limited places, because the Passion Play tickets had to be purchased and guaranteed ahead of time. The Danube River cruise includes stops at Bratislava, Slovakia, Vienna, Durnstein, Linz, Passau, Regensburg, and Bavaria, which are delightful and historic. First come, first served. Price of \$4,500 to \$5,600 (double occupancy) depending on categories of suites desired on cruise ship.



## Holy Land

**November 1-12, 2020**

We return to our spiritual home and reflect on the Scriptures. Starting in Jerusalem, we visit the Mt. of Olives, Bethlehem, Ein Karem, Way of the Cross, Western Wall, Massada the Judean Wilderness, Ein Gedi, Emmaus, and then to Galilee, where we visit Mt. Carmel, Jaffa, Nazareth, Cana, Caesaria, Sea of Galilee, Capharnaum, Mt. of Beatitudes, Caesaria Philippi and Mt. Tabor. This is a powerful experience into the heart of Christianity, the life of Jesus, and our Jewish heritage. Price of \$4,500 (double occupancy) is being finalized. Call us for details.



**For further information, full brochure, and registration form, please contact:  
Carmelite Spiritual Center, 8419 Bailey Road, Darien, Illinois 60561 - 630.969.4141**





## 'WHAT HAPPENED TO FATHER BOB?'

**OUR BELOVED FRIEND St. Thérèse of Lisieux beautifully talks of the seasons of nature being a reflection of the seasons of God's love affair with us. I love reflecting on this powerful image – and I believe it is true. Experiencing God in nature, as it affirms and confirms our being with and in God, is an area I've been drawn to in prayer. Nature speaks and reveals a profound truth as we watch, listen, participate, and are embraced by her! I've learned some profound lessons from being out in nature.**

Of course, we all react differently to the different seasons and transition. I actually enjoy the cold of winter – time for cuddling and keeping warm. I grew up in a northern climate. As an overheated Sicilian, I'm always hot and keep windows open to enjoy the crisp, cold air. Spring is always a time to watch seeming death give way to new life re-emerging. The flowers peek through, the buds emerge, and leaves reappear to bring hope. Summer is welcomed as a vibrant time of warmth, relaxation and beauty – although when it gets too hot and sweaty, as it did this past summer, it is oppressive. Fall is always beautiful, as the leaves transform and the vibrant colors delight. The weather here in the Midwest is awesome and so comfortable. But then the leaves fall to the ground. And sunshine is shorter, nights longer.

We are to embrace it all. I've lived a rich and wonderful life. God has been good to me in so many ways. I've tried to make a difference in the 59 years as a Carmelite religious and 52 years as a priest. The Carmelites have trusted me with many different responsibilities and ministries. I've tried to give my best and empower others to work as teams to fulfill our Gospel and baptismal mission. Like you, life has had its ups and downs and challenges, but I must say that the lows were few and the wonders were many. So many people have touched my life, challenged and activated my gifts. I've been blessed by the good Carmelites I have lived with and the people I have worked with and served. They have mostly been an inspiration. In fact, I've probably enjoyed the ride too much. God has been so good.

So it was a shock when I was suddenly asked to retire as Director of the Society of the Little Flower. A succession plan was in place involving very competent staff here. I know our Provincial's concern was that I was aging and had experienced some health setbacks in recent years. The future of the Society of the Little Flower is such an important priority. Another Carmelite, whom I did not know well, had been appointed to

replace me. Fr. Thomas Schrader, I have learned, is a good man, with a good heart for St. Thérèse, a keen mind with new ideas and possibilities, and a deep desire to serve the mission of the Society and the Carmelites.

But I must admit that I did not accept the transition and decision well – it was like all the leaves fell off the trees at once. It began a dark night for me as I dealt with being mortal. There has always been an eternal child in me, approaching each day with enthusiasm and possibilities. So this transition has been a death and grieving experience for me, with stages of anger, resentment, darkness, forgiveness, and acceptance. As many of you know, growing old is not easy and surrender is tough, especially when I've been in charge of whatever ministry I was in since I was 33 years old. Forty-four years of leadership responsibility spoiled me. I'm embarrassed to admit that the future looked bleak and I walked through some deep depression. I often looked to St. Thérèse, my longtime friend and boss, for help. I so identified with her intense dark night during those last 18 months of her life. God was leading me into a new season of trust again. Fr. Tom has been very sensitive to my situation. Mary Lambert, our Development Director, who has been my heart and support these many years, helped and challenged me to walk with hope.

The future looked dark because I was looking at myself and my pain, and not at God. But seasons continue to evolve into each other, and I'm now becoming comfortable. Fr. Tom invited me to stay in some capacity to help continue relationships built over many years. That has eased my transition. I will continue to serve as Director of the Carmelite Spiritual Center, as well as help with pilgrimages to the new National Shrine and Museum of St. Thérèse here on campus. I'm thrilled with the possibility of remaining in touch with many of you who inspired me these last 28 years of service. Your faith, devotion, and generosity brightened every day for me.

I'm incredibly grateful to the Carmelites who allowed and empowered me to serve in this privileged capacity for 28 years. I'm incredibly grateful to St. Thérèse who taught and inspired me so much. She has been a good friend! Please pray for me as I enter this new season of life – there are new possibilities and surprises here. I hold you close in my heart and prayer.

God bless you and may Thérèse continue to smile on you! 🌹



**Fr. Bob Colaresi, O. Carm.**



# You're making a **DIFFERENCE**

BY FATHER BOB COLARESI, O. CARM.

■ Our Carmelite Province of the Most Pure Heart of Mary serves in El Salvador, Mexico, and Peru. You can see the faces of people whose lives you enrich and ennoble with grace.







### **YOU ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE**

**Y**OU ARE POWERFUL AND SIGNIFICANT! Each of you and all of you! Does that surprise or shock you? Do you believe this? Or are you in disbelief! As people of faith in God's Indwelling Presence within and among us, we do not live in false humility. Humility is truth! And the truth is that God makes you significant and important, and you are making a big difference in the world!

As a friend of St. Thérèse, you know that her awesome "Little Way" is a spirituality of brightening the world - making a difference in other people's lives! Despite living in a small, cloistered community in Lisieux, France, she embraced the world in her heart and continues to make a huge difference in millions of people's lives. She gives us a "Shower of Roses" and makes us "a shower of roses!"

Isn't God's plan awesome?!? Despite how we feel sometimes, each one of us is significant and important. None of us is a mistake. God breathes us into life to make a difference! Each one of us is a precious piece of this puzzle and mystery of life. The beautiful world would not be the same today if we were not here. Imagine that! It is a great truth to reflect and pray on.

In ways we don't understand, other people's lives and human experience would be different if not for God placing us here in this place and time. We are connected and responsible to and for each other.

Our beloved St. Thérèse reminded us to "bloom where we are planted!" This means: Make a difference! Use who you are and what gifts you have been given to love others and improve their life's journey. ►





Some people think they are lost in the vast universe of humanity – as if God is too busy to notice, empower and pay attention to them. God is not that small and limited! While God's all-knowing presence and grandeur embrace everyone and everything, God also pays personal attention to each

person. God is so vast; He is beyond our understanding.

We are never to shrink God, as if our Triune God has the limited capacity of the human heart and brain. The awesome vastness of God's personal presence is breath-taking and beyond our imagining. Only in faith can we

accept and appreciate this divine reality, even though we don't comprehend it. We are not alone! God is always with us and within us, paying personal attention. Don't we remember Jesus saying: "I am always with you"? Jesus is Emmanuel – "God with us!"

Let me help explain ways in which you are making a difference in many people's lives as Friends of St. Thérèse and the Carmelites.

You know the Little Flower dedicated her life as a Carmelite Cloistered Nun to pray for priests to serve the Church. She had been scandalized by some of the clericalism she experienced when her Dad took her to Rome and she made her appeal to the Pope to enter Carmel. This moved her to help priests to be faithful to their ordination call to humbly serve people – like Jesus – by washing feet and not being taken up with power, prestige, and position. You can see this in her letters to Maurice, the young seminarian she wrote to as he became a missionary priest.

You and I live in a Church today that has been shaken by clerical abuse and hierarchial mismanagement. We are called to trust that Jesus is reforming our Church – and wants us to be holy, just, and honest people. He wants us to have priests and bishops as humble servants and companions. The Carmelites share St. Thérèse's concern.

You would be proud of the 56 young men the Carmelite Province of the Most Pure Heart of Mary have in formation. You support their education and formation. We make sure these men are committed to serving God and God's people, and not become "self-referential and self-serving," as Pope Francis challenges us. These young men in formation in our Province are from Canada, El Salvador, Mexico, Peru, and the United States. They impress all of us with their commitment to lives of holiness and service, especially to the poor. Some of the work we Carmelites do to empower people to become self-sufficient, to experience their dignity as God's beloved, to work for justice and inclusivity, must make your heart proud. You have invested in us. You are making a huge difference in these



young men's lives. They know you are challenging them to make a Gospel difference in the places they now serve or will serve.

We are making a significant difference in the lives, culture, environment, Church, and economy where we serve. The young men in formation in our many Carmelite provinces throughout the world, numbering more than 300 men, are in the same process. They are committed to a Church of service, holiness, and justice. And you are making this possible by your prayers and financial support. God is working wonders though you.

Besides the young men in Carmelite formation, you are making a huge difference in helping us take care of our senior Carmelites who poured out their lives in service.

Our Province also serves and inspires thousands of young people in seven Catholic high schools. The students are challenged not only to grow in knowledge and faith, but also to serve their communities as a constitutive element of Catholic identity and faith. The universal outreach of God is critical to our identity as a Catholic, Christian people. The seven high schools of our Carmelite Province are in Tucson, Arizona; Encino, California; Lima, Peru; and Chicago, Joliet, and Mundelein in Illinois. These young people, because of the support we are able to give because of you, move on in life with a deeper sense of their Catholic identity as beloved of God, but also of their responsibility to make a difference in our world. St. Thérèse's mission was "to make God known and loved to the ends of the earth." You are helping to make this happen through the people you are supporting as faith-filled and generous members of the Society of the little Flower.

You have supported the Carmelites in parishes around the U.S. and Canada, as well as our missions. Because you educate and inspire us, we are able to open the Word of God and celebrate Eucharist, helping people understand and embrace the Presence of God in their daily lives. As hospital and prison chaplains, pastoral counselors, and spiritual guides, Carmelites continue to walk with people,

opening them to the powerful Presence of God and how to make a significant difference in announcing the kingdom of God in our world.

Another way you are making a difference is through our Carmelite Spiritual Centers. Our Carmelite charism in the Church is to teach people to live in God's Presence; to pray more contemplatively; to understand, as St. Thérèse so powerfully teaches us, that "everything is grace." God is present and involved in every detail and experience of our lives. We need to be alert and awakened to the Divine Presence. Our centers invite people to take time away to listen to God and deepen our awareness of God's Presence and activity in our lives. Our Carmelite Province supports Spiritual Centers in Darien, Illinois; Niagara Falls, Ontario; Lurin, Peru; and Scipio, Kansas. Programs of spirituality are hosted and offered. Recently, we had several weeks of programs on Carmelite spirituality, focusing on St. Thérèse of Lisieux, St. Teresa of Avila, and St. John of the Cross. We invited people to deepen their understanding of the Divine Indwelling and how to cooperate with God, transforming us and our world.

#### ■ Some comments from recent program participants:

- "Deeply touched by the messages given in presentations which were 'right on' to what we have to hear. We cannot hear enough that God

is within us and is seeking us out because He loves us no matter what."

- "Great depth of knowledge and wisdom presented in a very understandable way."
- "I feel like Thérèse and Teresa are now real people for me ... before they were 'other worldly' and way beyond me."
- "You opened new vistas for me ... re-introduced me to a greater depth of the interior spiritual journey."
- "So encouraging that an interior life is attainable - received a deeper appreciation for Thérèse, Teresa, and John of the Cross, for which I am deeply grateful."

You have touched the lives of so many who you will never meet this side of heaven. Such is the reality of the Body of Christ in communion. Such is the Carmelite mission of St. Thérèse. Grace moving through us makes us more generous and generative, working for the justice of God's kingdom for everyone and sharing God's mercy with all.

We are all here to make a difference - in small and significant ways. St. Thérèse smiles on you, her friends, as she sees you fulfilling your baptismal mission and becoming her "Shower of Roses," glorifying God by making God's kingdom real in our world.

May gratitude and generosity continue to fill your heart, as God's Presence and love continue to make a big difference in your lives. 🌹







**BEING AN AVID GARDENER,** I recall back in the spring waiting for the first June roses to bloom at St. Patrick Church. On June 1, normally, the trellises and bricks are dancing with roses. The first week came and went, and nothing! But the second week came: a few buds, but no blooms! Finally, on June 15, we were blessed with our first June rose! And once they started, they kept coming – and coming. The abundance was great. It was a cold and wet spring, so everything was late.

There's something about roses that brightens our day, lightens our heart, and raises our spirits. God's created beauty is giving us that extra lift and touching the human spirit in a deep way. When I look at a mass of roses in bloom, I always think of St. Thérèse and her beautiful promise to us: "I will let fall from heaven a shower of roses." And may we never forget that she also promised to "spend her heaven in doing good upon the earth." Her shower of roses and her doing good upon earth can take many forms in our lives. Everyone has a story of how St. Thérèse has touched them. She continues to make a difference in so many lives.

We are so blessed here in Canada, and those blessings are spread around the world, because of the generosity of so many devotees of St. Thérèse. Her shower of roses continues to fall and bloom for so many people. The Society of the Little Flower in Canada has been able to do some marvelous work because of the sacrifice and love of our donors.

Each year, the Society of the Little Flower is able to assist in the funding of our Carmelite Formation Programs throughout the Province of the Most Pure Heart of Mary in North and South America. These include our Carmelite Novitiate at Brandsma Priory in Middletown, New York; Carith House Pre-Novitiate Program in Chicago, Illinois; Centro Xiberta Formation House in El Salvador; Casa del Carmen Formation House in Mexico City; our Novitiate in Lurin, Peru; and Whitefriars Hall/Catholic University of America Formation, Washington, D.C. These programs are forming young Carmelites for the next generation. And it gives us great hope that the stories and spirituality of the great Carmelite saints, like St. Thérèse, will be passed on for years to come. You, our faithful donors, are making this happen. You are making this difference. Thanks so much.

#### **LITTLE FLOWER PRAYER CARDS AND MASS ENROLLMENT CARDS**

■ When someone has a devotion to St. Thérèse, it is most often as a result of St. Thérèse touching their lives in some small or big way. Last year, I sat in my mother's home in eastern Newfoundland, looking through some of the Mass Cards my family received at the time of my brother's death in 1988. My mother has kept these cards for some 30 years! Mothers who have lost a child know why! It still brings her consolation. She has so many of the Society of the Little Flower Five-year Memorial Enrollment Mass Cards, Perpetual Memorial Enrollment Mass

Cards, and Living Mass Enrollment Intentions. I remember how much those cards meant to my parents, to know that their son would be perpetually remembered in Masses and prayers by the Carmelites. St. Thérèse's healing "Shower of Roses" has touched my mother and our family for many years.

I keep reminding people in our parish that when we use these cards, we are also assisting in the education and formation of our Carmelite seminarians. Every day, our Carmelite communities across North and South America, pray in thanksgiving for the friends of the Little Flower Society who continue to make a difference. At our parish

office in Niagara, these St. Thérèse Mass cards are still made available, and they are used in abundance by our parishioners. So many people come in asking for the Society of the Little Flower Mass Enrollment Cards. Every time a member or a family member of the Knights of Columbus passes away, you can be sure that a card will be presented to the family at the funeral home. Our Catholic Women's League always use the Society of the Little Flower Enrollment Cards to bring comfort to families after a death or to comfort someone during an illness. Thérèse's "Shower of Roses" continues to comfort so many people.



## MONASTERY OF MOUNT CARMEL IN NIAGARA FALLS

■ One of our wonderful gems in Canada is our Carmelite Monastery and Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre in Niagara Falls. The Society of the Little Flower offices are located within the monastery. Some of our buildings date back to 1894. The Monastery Chapel has the great honour of being the home of the Canadian Shrine of St. Thérèse. Over the past few years, there has arisen a desperate need for some major renovations and upgrades to our buildings. The Society of the Little Flower, through our generous donors, has helped fund some of these projects. For that, we are deeply grateful.

Because of your kindness and charity, we have completed a refurbishment of the foundation and stonework of the main building; the replacement of our heat plant with high-efficiency, modulating boilers; the replacement and decontamination of our west parking lot; the construction of stone entry walls; the replacement of windows; the replacement of air conditioning units; construction of a storage barn; refurbishment of our slate roof; and conversion of the chapel lighting to LED, among many other projects. The people who come to St. Thérèse Shrine or to the Spiritual Centre can readily see these improvements and marvel in the beauty of the Monastery. The Society of the Little Flower in Canada is surely making a tremendous difference! Thank you so much. 🌹



### ■ **Father Gerard Power, O.Carm.** is the new Director in Canada of the Society of the Little Flower.

Father Gerard was born in St. John's, Newfoundland, and raised in St. Mary's Bay. He joined the Carmelites in Washington, D.C., in 1993, professing his simple vows in Middletown, New York in June 1995. He professed his Solemn Vows at Mount Carmel Monastery Chapel in Niagara Falls in 1998 and was also ordained to the priesthood at the Monastery Chapel in 1999. He was the last Carmelite ordained in the last millennium. Father Gerard currently serves as Pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Niagara Falls. He also serves on several boards and commissions within the Province of the Most Pure Heart of Mary. He has been a Civilian Inspector and Auxiliary Chaplain with the Niagara Regional Police Services since 2009.



**Fr Gerard Power, O.Carm.**





“

Every day at the  
Society of the Little  
Flower, we are  
fortunate to witness  
your outpouring  
of support for St.  
Thérèse and her  
Carmelites.”

# My first year with the Society of the Little Flower

## Elizabeth Wesel, Director of Special Gifts

**A** **S MY FIRST ANNIVERSARY** with the Society of the Little Flower nears, my gratitude for working on behalf of St. Thérèse and the Carmelites continues to grow. Over the past several months, I have been blessed to talk with many of you. In our conversations, you have shared what it means to have St. Thérèse in your life and why supporting the organization dedicated to continuing her legacy is so important to you. You are truly inspiring.

Over the past year, I have also learned about the history of the Carmelites and the ways in which they continue their 800-year-old tradition of service to God and humanity. Each of you, through your gifts, is a part of this work. Every day at the Society of the Little Flower, we are fortunate to witness your outpouring of support for St. Thérèse and her Carmelites. Thank you, on behalf of the Society of the Little Flower, for all you do to continue St. Thérèse's legacy. May God bless you for your kindness!

### What is the Rose Garden of St. Thérèse?

■ Did you know that all friends of the Little Flower who include a gift for the Society in their estate plans become members of the Rose Garden of St. Thérèse? These individuals, in recognition for providing for the Society's

future, are forever remembered in the daily Masses and prayers of Carmelite priests throughout the world.

Since our founding in 1923, hundreds of St. Thérèse's friends have made provisions for her through a bequest in their will or other type of estate gift for the Society of the Little Flower. These heartfelt legacy gifts provide vital resources for the formation of Carmelite priests and brothers, mission work in poor countries, and spreading devotion to St. Thérèse through her National Shrine and the entire Darien Carmelite campus.

If you have already provided for St. Thérèse and the Society of the Little Flower through your estate plans, thank you most deeply! For information about legacy giving and becoming a member of the Rose Garden of St. Thérèse, please call Elizabeth Wesel, Director of Special Gifts, at 888.996.1212.

### Year-end giving ideas in new booklet

■ As the traditional season of giving begins, friends of St. Thérèse may find our new booklet a valuable resource for planning year-end charitable gifts. A Special Gift Planning Guide for Friends of St. Thérèse provides an overview of the many ways that friends of the Little Flower can support the Society's work on her behalf. It includes information about gifts that you can provide during your lifetime, as well as legacy gifts. Please request your copy by calling the Office of Special Gifts at 888.996.1212. 🌹



# Finding meaning

Corazon shares about Thérèse, who she turns to during life's challenges



**IT WAS IN 1998** that Corazon first learned about St. Thérèse. Having recently retired as a nurse educator, she was looking for meaningful ways to spend her time and inquired about volunteering at the National Shrine on a friend's recommendation. More than 20 years later, Corazon remains an active volunteer at the National Shrine of St. Thérèse. During this time, she has grown very close to Thérèse, who has become her patron saint.

"She is like a mother and friend," Corazon shares about Thérèse, who she prays to each day and who Corazon turns to during life's challenges. Several years ago, Corazon visited Thérèse's Carmel and the Martin home in Lisieux. One of the most meaningful parts of her visit was seeing and touching some of Thérèse's relics, including a length of her hair. The experience made Thérèse's humanness more tangible and deepened Corazon's connection to her.

Most weekdays, Corazon can be found at the National Shrine of St. Thérèse before and during Mass, serving alongside a corps of other devoted volunteers. She describes her work at the Shrine as a privilege, and is grateful to have learned from four Shrine Directors over the years.

Corazon's devotion to St. Thérèse inspires her financial support of the Society of the Little Flower. In addition to providing resources for the National Shrine, she is pleased that her gifts help Carmelite ministries throughout the world. Corazon also participates in the Society's gift annuity program. Her annuity payments are a benefit, and Corazon also appreciates that after she passes she will forever be remembered in the Masses and prayers of the Carmelites. 🌹



# A gift for your future & theirs

**Make a gift — Receive fixed payments for life!**

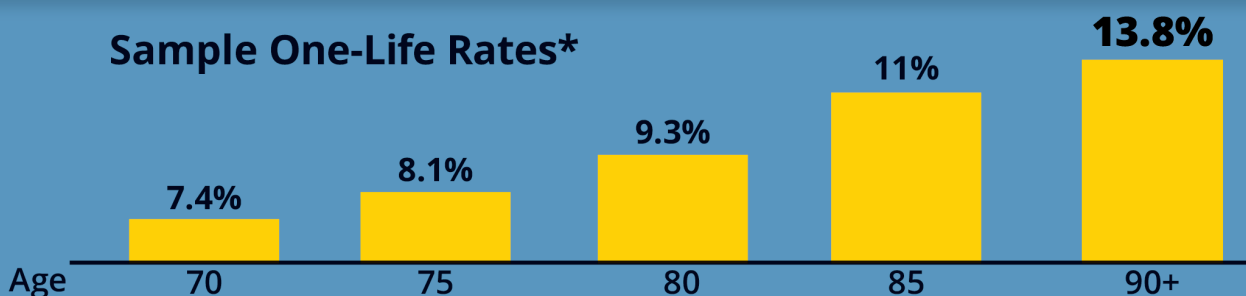


When you create a charitable gift annuity with the Society of the Little Flower, you will receive fixed payments for the rest of your life and continue St. Thérèse's legacy by helping those in need through Carmelite ministries and education.

Our donors have counted Little Flower gift annuities for over 60 years.

Call to request a **free** proposal:  
**1-888-996-1212**  
[littleflower.org/specialgifts](http://littleflower.org/specialgifts)

## Sample One-Life Rates\*



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

☐ **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) \_\_\_\_\_



Society of the Little Flower  
Office of Special Gifts  
1313 N. Frontage Rd.  
Darien, IL 60561

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