

AND RENEWAL

"I received a grace which I have always looked upon as one of the greatest in my life ... I considered that I was born for glory." - st. Thérèse as a teenager



New Hope and Renewal

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

Friends of St. Thérèse,

It is good to be in your hands again. After a cold, grey winter, spring is renewing life and hope. With longer days of light, it feels good to be alive again. Having gone through some dark days myself after major spinal surgery right after Christmas, it is refreshing that the pain is receding and I'm learning to walk upright again. How we learn to appreciate the little things and how life and our bodies renew us.

In this Spring Edition of *Between Friends*, we focus on our own need to experience hope and renewal in our hearts and lives as beloved daughters and sons of God. St. Thérèse is such a great model and teacher for us. We

share news of some projects which you support through the Carmelites as we continue to share the good news of God's kingdom, joy and justice. Life continues to happen because God dances in our lives and through your faith and generosity.

There are articles on how you can continue to make a difference in people's lives and reveal God's glory and presence within and among us.

Your friendship is a precious gift to the Carmelites and a sign of God's presence. You are our hope and possibility to renewal! Thank you!

Blessed Holy Week and Easter as we walk, die and rise with Christ!

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

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Between Friends

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

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Father Bob Honored by National Catholic Development Conference

>> Mary Therese Lambert, Editor of Between Friends



ATHER BOB COLARESI, O.CARM., was honored this past fall by the National Catholic Development Conference (NCDC), the largest membership association of charitable religious fundraisers in the United States. Father Bob received the prestigious Bishop Robert F. Morneau Award for Distinguished Service, honoring his 25 years of leadership to the Society of the Little Flower, as well as for the pivotal role he has played in offering wise counsel to religious organizations across the country. As part of his commitment to the field of Catholic philanthropy, Father Bob also served as President of the Board of

NCDC, adeptly guiding the organization in the midst of dramatic change to the development field.

Criteria for receiving the Bishop Morneau award include:

- A minimum of ten years of service in Catholic fundraising;
- A minimum of seven years of membership in NCDC;
- Evidence of research, writing, or public representation of the fundraising profession;
- Tireless and devoted service to his/her religious or charitable institution.

In his remarks at the Conference where he received this award, Father Bob paid particular note to the extraordinary sacrifices made by the friends of the Little Flower, sacrifices which enable the Carmelites to bring St. Thérèse's spiritual message to millions around the world.

We salute Father Bob on this occasion, and look forward to many more years of his leadership. We are indeed blessed to have such an inspirational priest at our helm!



The Carmelites Bring Hope

Through mission projects around the world, the Carmelites bring hope of better lives through education, family housing, community-building social events and many other important outreach efforts.

In El Salvador, the Carmelites sponsor programs such as the Family Chicken Industry, Family Vegetable Farms, Scholarships for Needy Students, and the Saturday Hospitality gathering pictured here. Strong community bonds help lift young people out of the violence and gangs that so plague this country.

You make this and so much more happen with your generous heart. St. Therese wanted to be a missionary. Surely she is smiling upon you for enabling the Carmelites to carry out her mission.



BRING NEW LIFE TO YOUR ESTATE PLANS

WHEN THE JONQUILS AND TULIPS START EMERGING, it's a sign of renewal after a long winter. Spring may also be a time to breathe new life into your estate plan. There's really no "estate planning season," but thoughtful people realize that wills, living trusts and other documents need to be nurtured in order to blossom. Personal changes such as births, deaths, relocations, retirement or marriage may make your estate plan overdue for some sprucing up. What should you consider when you see your attorney for a thorough review of your estate plans?

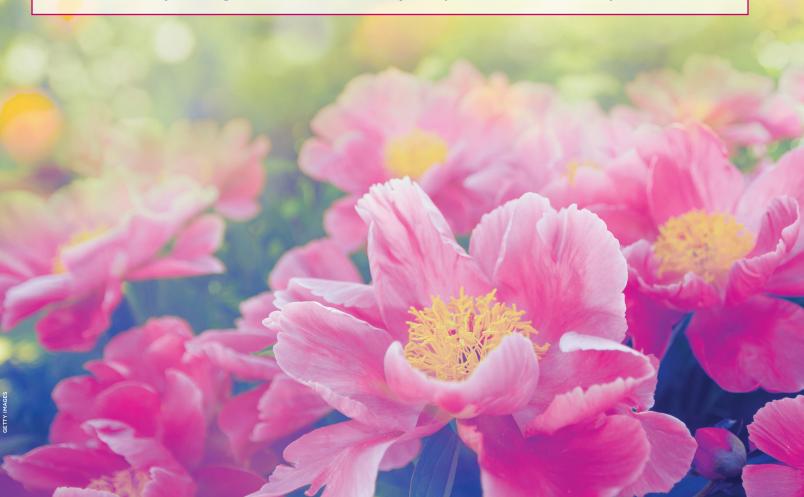
- **Your will -** A will is the cornerstone of your estate plan.
- A revocable living trust A trust can lower the cost of probate, provide for quicker distribution of assets, keep details of your estate private, and consolidate the distribution of your assets.
- A letter of instruction This can express your wishes regarding items of personal property and may help avoid disputes among family members.
- A living will/power of attorney for health care - You can express your preferences regarding medical treatment and name someone to make

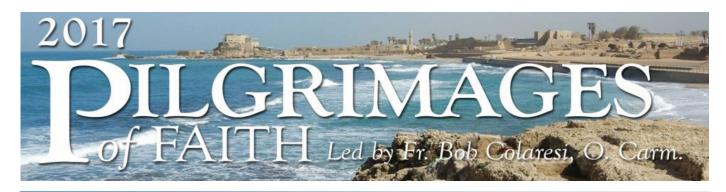
health care decisions on your behalf.

- A durable power of attorney A friend or relative can handle financial affairs in the event of a disability.
- Beneficiary designations Certain assets such as life insurance, IRAs and financial accounts may pass by beneficiary designation. It's important to coordinate these with the rest of your planning to achieve a thoughtful estate plan.

We hope, as you refresh your estate plan, that you remember the importance of the Society of the Little Flower in your life. It's easy to include a gift in your will or living trust. Even smarter may be to name the Society as a beneficiary of a retirement account and avoid income taxes that would otherwise be owed. We'd be happy to offer ideas for estate gifts that provide you with the satisfaction of knowing that you will be part of our future.

■ Call our office at 1-888-996-1212 to request your free copy of our "Personal Affairs Record Book," a handy asset organizer that will consolidate your important information in one place.





IRELAND, The Emerald Isle

July 5 - 15, 2017

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 Cobl, Cashel, Dublin, Glendalough, Knock, Connemara and Galway. There is something mystic, earthy and magical about Ireland and its people.

\$3,975, double occupancy



POLAND & PRAGUE

August 31 - September 10, 2017

A special emphasis on the Shrines of Poland, so beloved to Pope John Paul II - as well as the Infant of Prague in the Czech Republic. We will visit Warsaw, Niepokalanow (St. Maximilian Kolbe), Czestochowa (Black Madonna) Krakow, where John Paul II was Archbishop and studied, Wadowice, Lagiewniki (St. Faustina, Divine Mercy), Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration Camp, and Prague. Cost \$4,100 double occupancy



HOLY LAND

November 5 - 16, 2017

Visit Jerusalem, the Mount of Olives, Gethsemane, Way of the Cross, Western Wall, Bethlehem, Mount Carmel, the Galilee, Nazareth, Cana, Capernaum, Mt. of Beatitudes, Sea of Galilee, Tabgha, River Jordan, Mt. Tabor, Beit Shean. 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. \$4,470 double occupancy



For further information, brochure or registration form, please contact: Carmelite Spiritual Center, 8419 Bailey Road, Darien, IL 60561, or call: 630-969-4141 - retreats@carmelitespiritualcenter.org

Stocks for a Gift Annuity: A Great Trade

he stock market has been soaring in recent months, providing an opportunity for friends of the Society of the Little Flower who own stock to cash in on their investment success, minimize taxes and possibly increase annual income. How? Just contribute shares you have owned more than one year in exchange for a charitable gift annuity.

Consider the case of Karen, a retiree who is thinking about selling some stock. Unfortunately, Karen will owe significant capital gains tax when she sells. But if she gives the stock to Little Flower to fund a gift annuity, she can reduce capital gains taxes, receive annual payments between 6.6% (at age 65) and 13.8% (at age 90+) and qualify for a sizable charitable deduction. (For many, using cash to fund a gift annuity is a great idea, offering most of the same benefits, but for Karen, using the stock made even more sense.)

In Karen's case, let's assume she is age 78 and bought the stock for \$6,000 many years ago. It's now worth \$20,000 and selling would cost her \$2,100 in capital gains tax. But look at the results if she gives the stock to Little Flower for a charitable gift annuity:

 We will pay her \$1,760 (8.8%) annually for life, no matter how long that may be;



- She receives an income tax deduction of \$5,735;
- Karen avoids tax on a significant portion of her capital gain and the rest is reportable in small installments over her life expectancy; and
- Part of Karen's annual payments is tax-free through her life expectancy.

Most satisfying to Karen, however, is that her gift supports the work of the Carmelites and helps promote

devotion to the Little Flower. For a free, no-obligation gift annuity illustration showing your exact rate and tax benefits, simply call our office at 1-888-996-1212.

Society of the Little Flower Sample Gift Annuity Rate Chart*

| Age | Rate | Age | Rate | | | | |
|-----|------|-----|-------|--|--|--|--|
| 65 | 6.6% | 80 | 9.3% | | | | |
| 70 | 7.4% | 85 | 11.0% | | | | |
| 75 | 8.1% | 90+ | 13.8% | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |

*rates are subject to change

"I received a grace which I have always looked upon as one of the greatest in my life ... I considered that I was born for glory."

- St. Thérèse as a teenager





SPRING IS A TIME OF HOPE. God is our God of Hope. The Gospel is about Hope – Renewed Life. The celebration of the death and resurrection of Jesus speaks to the human drama of dying and rising – always rising to new possibilities, sometimes beyond our imagining.

As I was wallowing in hopelessness, it struck me how many people seem immersed in hopelessness. I spent more time praying for them than I did for myself. If they'd wake up, maybe I would!

Life is a pilgrimage - it is a central theme of our Christian journey - of the Gospel - always a

on what we need to let go of so we can be alive with God's grace, possibilities and freedom.

movement forward to freedom and joy - to glory to God's Glory. That was the secret that Thérèse knew and never forgot. It gave her hope even as she experienced

that she was living in painful exile from her true home and center. She knew she was born for glory!

Christian pilgrimage is always about hope – it leads us into a inward place of contemplation and centeredness, but also to a deeper awareness that we are bound to God, by God's choice, and therefore we are bound to each other. Pilgrimage leads us to the more- the bigger picture seeing what God sees.

Sometimes we feel trapped. People give up on themselves - we get caught in a rut and become too patient with the status quo, unable or unwilling to take the risk of new growth and possibilities. Life can become an endurance journey, not a pilgrimage of exciting or emerging possibilities. We are afraid to blossom. Don't we see it at times in the blank stares in people's eyes?

You and I know it takes courage to hope, when we get overwhelmed by so much. We can view life from our inner darkness or woundedness and see the world from a defensive viewpoint. Hope demands new

life - we need to forgive and be free. Spring is a time to reflect on what we need to let go of so we can be alive with God's grace, possibilities and freedom.

I recently had two powerful examples of hope and renewed life. My friend Katrina was a vibrant woman, 52 years of age and battled cancer for 20 years. She always had such a positive attitude - never a moment of self-pity. Always there for others. She was the rock of her family and very creative and involved in our parish. Just before Christmas, the chemo had so worn her down that pneumonia was killing her. I anointed her with the Sacrament of the Sick, her eyes opened at times with the radiant goodness always there. But shortly after, the doctor informed the family that there was nothing more they could do for her. She told them she was not afraid to die, because she knew where she was going. Such faith! I wept at the news, and wept through her funeral. But we knew she was alive in God's embrace - she lived as a daughter of the resurrection.

One of our SLF employees of several years, Darline, had lung disease and needed a double lung transplant. She was near death - the transplant list was long. Throughout the struggle she seemed calm and always trusted God. Her faith was amazing and contagious. Eventually she received the double transplant and as she slowly recovered, the first thing she did was go to Mass to thank God. She is alive and smiling

and buoyant with new life. The breathing struggle went on for years, but her faith told her that God would do what was best. She was and has been an inspiration for us all. Both these women of faith have been powerful examples of how faith and prayer are effective.

Our beloved Pope Francis is challenging us to explore the ways God works in the real lives of people, not just in academic and legalistic formulas and ideas. He is inviting us as people of faith to be as big and inclusive as God's heart - to reach out in new ways to God's children on the edges and peripheries of our lives and countries.

Some beautiful examples of new hope and renewed life are ones you support, as members of the Society of the Little Flower. Our Carmelites in El Salvador, amid a violent society, are serving people with self-sustaining projects like buying 100 young chicks and after some weeks giving them to poor people in the area for food and income. All people have to do is share their growing coop of chicks with others. Some earn enough money to buy a cow – and now their kids have milk.

Another powerful Gospel example is trying to bridge the gap of mistrust between the police and the people – they still suffer the ravages of the terrible civil war. The Carmelites provide materials for people to build homes, and involve

the police in building these homes for people who see them as an enemy. This is peacemaking at its best.

Similar programs are happening with the Carmelites in Mexico and Peru – with education, helping the elderly poor, cultivating vegetable seeds for distribution for family use and income. What is overwhelming is that what little these people have, they are very generous in sharing. This is the message of Jesus at its best, and you are helping make this all happen.

These are great signs of hope, renewal and resurrection. Slowly the Kingdom of God is breaking out - the glory of God is being revealed in all people. St. Thérèse, as patroness of the missions, is so proud of what you are doing to help her Carmelite brothers and sisters unveil the dignity of people whose glory is hidden.

So we renew our faith in God Who is present and acting in our lives and in our world - Who gives us hope that darkness will never have the final word. God took the risk of becoming one of us in Jesus, knowing that we could ignore, resist and even kill Him. But Jesus came, He lived our human journey and in His suffering and death,

God learned why we so easily can feel threatened, aggressive, judgmental and exclusive. What is so critical is that in His Resurrection, God

awakened us

of new and hope and renewed life are ones you support, as members of the Society of the Little Flower.

to the fact that nothing is final or absolute except unconditional and ever-present Divine Love and Presence - which fills us with possibilities.

Our beloved St. Thérèse rightly taught us that: "everything is grace!" God and life are not static, but God is dancing and energizing and moving through us all into joy and justice – filled with hope and renewed life!

NEW INITIATIVES

■ New life is happening here on the Carmelite Campus in Darien, the home of St. Thérèse's National Shrine and Museum and the Society of the Little Flower. For several years, we have been working on a new National Shrine to hold the large crowds that come to be with St. Thérèse and even the daily Mass community. While one very generous donor is funding this project, we are at the end of the long process of the design and the permits from so many governmental agencies. That process is just about complete and soon the earth movers and builders will be starting this exciting new project.

As you may know, the Carmelites for 35 years sponsored a senior residence for independent persons. While it was successful, we could not keep up with the huge growth in regulations and changing customs. In the meantime, the Carmelite Spiritual Center was way too small for the people wanting to come here, after 56 years of ministry. So the Carmelites decided to convert the former Carmelite Carefree Village into a retreat facility. It was a risk; four or five retreat houses in the area had closed for financial reasons. It was a beautiful transformation that now has three times the space and rooms as the old retreat facility. The good news is that we are packed – larger groups can come and are using our spirituality facility. It is a miracle of renewal and transformation and it is so good to see so many people coming to the new Carmelite Spiritual Center, especially high school students for Kairos. These are testimonies that people's hunger for God and meaning in life are still strong.



GET PACKING! (We Can Help!)

TAKING A TRIP OF ANY SIZE usually requires a bit of planning and packing. No one wants to arrive at their destination only to discover they forgot something important.

The final journey of our lives also calls for some planning and packing. Consider those who don't do so, leaving things undone to be handled by those left behind, making them guess what our intentions were?

Some find it startling to learn that most people do not have a will or estate plan. The excuses are many: some don't want to think about that final journey, others perceive the cost of planning to be exorbitant, still others don't know where to find a

trusted attorney, and most, I believe, don't even know where to start.

Preparing for that final trip calls for some strategic thinking, and the Society of the Little Flower can lend a hand. By planning ahead, your loved ones will one day sincerely appreciate the time you took to help them administer your affairs. This truly is an act of love.

Here at the Society we have put together a few helpful items that will assist you in getting the ball rolling, and you can request them without obligation by calling our Planned Giving office at 888-996-1212. We will send you a free Will Kit that includes:

- 1. The 2017 Personal Planning Guide;
- 2. An Asset Organizer the "Personal Affairs Record Book"; and
- **3.** The popular guide "Techniques for Planning a Successful Will."

Once you have completed the tasks outlined in each of these publications, you can pack them away in a safe location (to be reviewed every year), confident that you will be well on your way in preparing for that distant day that awaits all of us.

Don't forget: call Dan or Janice in our Planned Giving Office at 888-996-1212 to receive your free Will Kit today.



ONE OF THE GREAT HONORS I have as a staff member of the Society of the Little Flower is travelling across the country on behalf of Father Bob to thank people for their friendship with us. I am humbled by the stories I hear and by the sacrifices that are made so that we may spread devotion to St. Thérèse and support the work of the Carmelites.

One of the people I have gotten to know over these years is a woman by the name of Theresa. I first met her through a phone conversation when I called to thank her for one of her many donations she has made to the Society.

Theresa is the eldest of 10 children, married for 47 years to Patrick and a widow for the past nine years. She worked

for 29 years as a secretary for a religious order. A constant during all that time is the deep love and devotion she has for St. Thérèse of Lisieux. Our friend was named after St. Thérèse at the suggestion of her grandmother who also had a deep devotion to St. Thérèse.

Theresa got to know St. Thérèse better when a parish priest gave her a first class relic of our patron saint when Theresa was in high

school. Many years later, she received a Christmas card from her uncle and on the back of the card was the name "Society of the Little Flower," with an address and phone number included as

it's important to pray because you learn about God's love and His mercy. It gives me strength to go on ... I thank God for the good and the bad and for where I am today."

well. She called the number and asked to be placed on the mailing list and she has been donating to the Society ever since.

Since that introduction in high school, Theresa has been praying to St. Thérèse fervently and trying to live a life based on her example. Theresa stated that "Love is very important. Even though I live in a small condominium, I try to reach out to people and just smile. And in turn, most people respond with a smile." Her strength in her role as an "ambassador of love" comes from a strong and regular prayer life.

That prayer life, and her devotion to St. Thérèse, has sustained Theresa through four battles with cancer. As she notes, "It's important to pray because you learn about God's love and His mercy. It gives me

strength to go on ... I thank God for the good and the bad and for where I am today."

With such a wonderful attitude, it is no wonder that many are still learning about St. Thérèse through Theresa's infectious smile and deep devotion to this great saint. We are blessed to count her as a friend.



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**.

There's Always Hope

AST FALL, I had the privilege of visiting one of the Society's good friends. Rebecca shared with me some of her life experiences and the hope she has received through her timeless devotion to St. Thérèse. Her story follows.





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.

"Many years ago, my grandmother introduced my mom to St. Thérèse and, in turn, when I was a child, my mom introduced Thérèse to me. As a third-generation St. Thérèse devotee, I am fortunate to have the love of a passionate, spiritual, and inspiring woman surrounding me. I can't imagine my life without her!

"One of St. Thérèse's quotes inspires and gives me strength daily: 'I am your sister, your friend, I shall always be watching over you.'

"I will never forget a particularly stressful time when my friend, St. Thérèse, came to my assistance. I had received word that my mom had stopped breathing during a stress test. The doctor who was treating her did not want to take the risk of losing her during surgery, so he declined to perform the surgery. He told us to "make arrangements." I prayed to St. Thérèse to bring us a doctor willing to take a chance on mom.

"St. Thérèse did intercede, and five days later Mom underwent triple bypass surgery. She was in ICU for two weeks. She stopped breathing three times during that stay. I would visit her from 6am to 6pm, sitting next to her praying to St. Thérèse to help guide her to what she needed to do next: to fight and live or

give in and pass on peacefully. After a monthlong stay in the hospital, my mom recovered. We brought her home and spent an extra special Mother's Day together. St. Thérèse had interceded with God and gave my family and me renewed hope.

"The following year, my mom had yet another health scare. After a month of coughing, I took her to the doctor and she was diagnosed with lung cancer. She underwent and endured four months of grueling chemotherapy and radiation to help beat this terrible disease. Some days it was too overwhelming to deal with and all I could do was cry and pray. St. Thérèse carried all of us during that time. Some days I would smell a strong scent of roses. I would look around and not see any flowers, but would smile and know St. Thérèse was with me. In October of 2015, Mom successfully completed her cancer treatment and she has been cancer-free since. We are blessed.

"My 'sister, my friend' continues to watch over my mom and me. She will watch over you, too. Just turn your eyes to the heavens and invoke her sweet name."



ONE MORE STEP

Y GRANDMOTHER WAS THE ONE.

My sisters and I loved to sleep over at

"Gram's." Her love for us was unconditional – just
what a child needs. When she hugged you, you
knew you were being hugged; perhaps "enveloped"
might be a better description.

But when I think back on those days, another memory comes to mind: her whispers.

When the lights were out and everything was still, I could hear her whispers, words coming from her bedroom and uttered like a chant.

Every night was the same, just like clockwork. She was saying her prayers.

My grandmother passed away almost 50 years ago. But to this day, when I think back, it's so clear that her greatest gift to me was the influence she had on my faith. The whispers "took hold," and today it's me ... lying in bed, whispering away.

Late at night several years ago, my son passed by my room, peeked his head in and asked who I was talking to. When I explained, he simply nodded.

I can only hope that one day it will be my whispers that inspire him.

Reflect for a moment: Who had the greatest influence on your faith, the person who gave you that most precious of all gifts? And then consider that their gift carries an obligation: it is meant to be shared.

Sharing can be a challenge, especially living in a

world that often rolls its collective eyes when one talks about matters of faith. Judgments frequently follow: how quaint...how childlike... how insecure.

How does one pass on the gift of faith to those who desperately need it? We confront that same question here at the Society of the Little Flower. How do we ensure that our faith and St. Thérèse's message of childlike trust in the Lord are proclaimed for generations to come? In essence, how are

we doing our part? How are we fulfilling the obligation that was handed down to us from Thérèse: to make God known and loved to the ends of the earth. Without question, the Society takes that charge quite seriously.

For the last couple of years, we have been planning for the future with confidence. We have enlarged our Spiritual Center to accommodate growing numbers of retreatants, updated the National Shrine Museum with interactive features particularly appealing to younger generations, and created an outdoor Meditation Garden for reflection. The centerpiece of this renovation will be the creation of a new Chapel that will welcome pilgrims from around the world to the National Shrine of St. Thérèse.

Why are we doing these things at a time when it appears that faith is becoming less and less central in people's lives? It is precisely for that reason that we are embarking on these projects.

Won't you join us? Won't you take one more step to share the gift of faith that was given to you so long ago? Your support in helping us complete the final aspects of our renovation will truly make a difference for years to come. Your generosity will help ensure that "God is known and loved to the ends of the earth."

To learn more about the renovation and expansion of the National Shrine of St. Thérèse, or to offer your financial support either now or through your Will, contact our office of Planned and Major Gifts at 888-996-1212. Every gift matters.



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

Consider a Charitable Gift Annuity

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 by supporting Carmelite mission work and education programs.



Sample One-Life Rates*

| Age | 72 | 75 | 80 | 85 | 90+ |
|----------------|------|------|------|-------|-------|
| Rate of Return | 7.7% | 8.1% | 9.3% | 11.0% | 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.

| ☐ YES! Please send me my persor | • | ackage. | |
|--|--------|-------------|--|
| Address | | | |
| City | | 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 Planned Giving 1313 N. Frontage Rd. Darien, IL 60561

Toll Free: 888-996-1212

Don't hesitate to request a free illustration for a one-life, two-life or deferred gift annuity. BF2017A