

Between Friends

A publication for the Friends of the Society of

the Little Flower, Darien, Illinois, and Canada

*"I'm not dying.
I'm going
to life!"*

- St. Thérèse of Lisieux

SPRING —

New Life



Spring – New Life

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

It is good to be in your warm and friendly hands after the long cold winter. We celebrate life as God continues to breathe life into us and all creation at this springtime.

In this edition of *Between Friends*, we want to focus on the newness and recreation of life. We experience this in our personal lives, in our relationships with others, and with God. St. Thérèse loved the

cycles of life in nature and invites us to reflect on its invitation to embrace life in faith.

New growth and life are happening within the Carmelites and here on the Carmelite campus in Darien. We want to share the good news with you, as well as ways you can continue to partner with us.

So much happens because of your faith and generosity. The friends of St. Thérèse are making

such a big difference in the lives of people in need around the globe. You help the Carmelites fulfill the mission of Jesus, and the vocation of St. Thérèse “to make God known to the ends of the earth.” We are so grateful and constantly hold you in prayer.

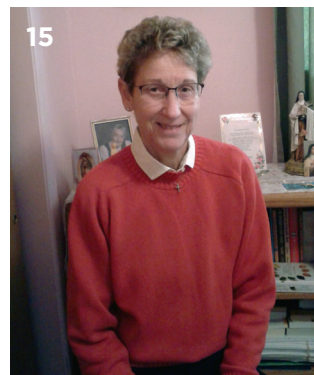
Enjoy this spring edition of *Between Friends*! 🌸

**In her love,
Fr. Bob Colaresi, O. Carm.,**



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the Little Flower

SPRING 2018

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Finding NEW HOPE

BY THE TIME THIS REACHES YOU, the winter months will have started to loosen its grip as we see signs of new life around us.

It is finding renewed hope in life that is at the core of my faith. As each year passes, life can find a new way to challenge us, but hope is what drives us to keep moving forward. Hope inspires me to trust that there will always be signs of new life to inspire me. Whether the day presents challenges or promises, we must stay focused on the fact that God never lets go. He is the reason for our hope and the inspiration of our faith.

Loyal readers of *Between Friends* know that I have had many challenges in my life, challenges that have called me to find a way to bounce back - a way to find the light in the darkness and to keep moving forward.

I have found that through faith, prayer, and my responsibilities here at the Society of the Little Flower, I continue to find light in the darkness. New hope empowers me to know that all will be well.

When I was asked to help develop the Carmelite Campus as a destination place for pilgrims to come and experience the spirituality of St. Thérèse and the Carmelites. I was thrilled to do so. We initially updated St. Thérèse's National Shrine, which is now

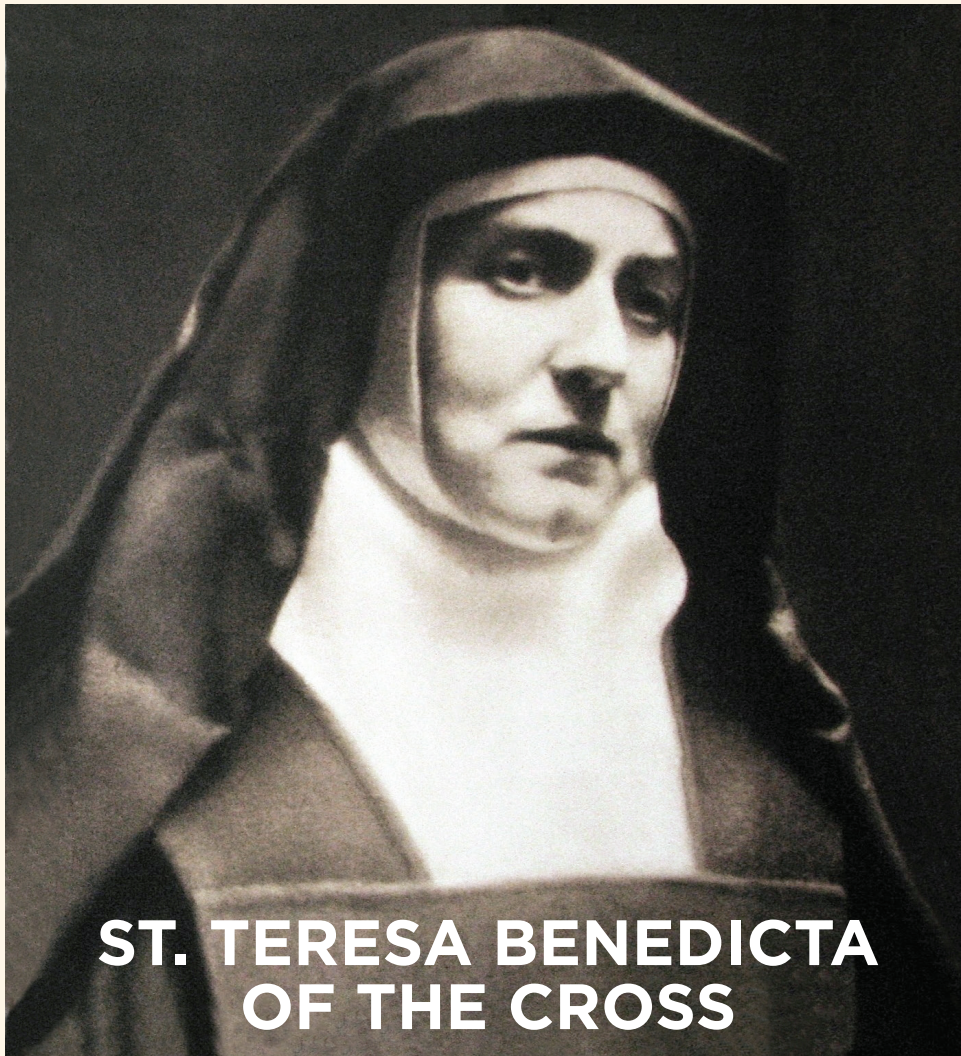
a learning and interactive museum with a replica of St. Thérèse's cell in France. This project was followed by the expansion of the Carmelite Spiritual Center, the creation of an outdoor Meditation Garden with the Stations of the Cross, and the development of a prayer space with a reflection pond. All these places serve pilgrims on their spiritual journey to help deepen their faith.

Now we are in the process of building the new National Shrine of St. Thérèse to hold more than 650 visitors at one time. But our work is not done. We have more than 40 acres that we would like to continue to develop to enhance people's faith journey to an even deeper level.

In this issue of *Between Friends*, I hope you will find ways that will challenge you to be a part of this wonderful journey of "Lighting a Path to Faith, Hope, and Love" by contacting us at 888-996-1212. Be assured that we pray for you each day. It is you who make our work possible. It is through you that many find their own path back to the Lord. 🌹



Mary Therese Lambert is
Editor of *Between Friends*



ST. TERESA BENEDICTA OF THE CROSS

ST. TERESA BENEDICTA was born Edith Stein on The Day of Atonement, October 12, 1891, into a traditional Jewish family in Germany. Her early life was that of a dutiful, beloved daughter in a large family devoted to scholarship and respect for their tradition. She earned her doctorate in 1916. Edith achieved success, especially in her philosophical studies, focusing on the topic of “Empathy.” This included a pursuit of the true meaning of this virtue and how it manifests itself in human lives, for instance: can we feel the pain of the world; how does this pain manifest itself; is there a standard of empathy we can achieve, and act upon. Edith longed for answers, but found only emptiness in her own faith.

■ On August 9, we celebrate her Feast Day.

Furthermore, to her mother’s great distress, this beloved young woman became an atheist, but discovered some solace in Christianity.

Moved by the devotion of Catholics in her city, especially in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, Edith declared, “I want that too.” Thus her studies began in

Catholicism. After discovering a book about St. Teresa of Avila’s life, the new, young Catholic exclaimed, “This is Truth!” So she was baptized Roman Catholic. Her journey from Judaism to atheism to Christianity to Catholicism ultimately led her to a curiosity about a future in the Carmelite Order.

The Carmelite Nuns in her

convent in Cologne were in awe of this celebrated scholar, yet found Edith to be kind, shy, and most approachable. Though she had difficulties in mastering basic housecleaning skills in the convent, her spiritual depth grew with nights spent before the Blessed Sacrament in chapel. Here she found all for which she had searched for intellectually.

Fearing for her safety in war-torn Germany, the Mother Superior in Carmel decided to move Edith, now Sister Teresa Benedicta, and her sister Rosa, also a Carmelite, to another convent in the Netherlands, safe from Nazi terror. Soon, however, Nazi soldiers came for the two women, placing yellow stars on their brown habits. Teresa Benedicta faced her captors bravely, saying, “Come, let us go for our brothers and sisters.” She had become a 20th century Queen Esther.

On the train journey to the death camp at Auschwitz, Teresa Benedicta was a source of consolation to those with her, and often slipped notes of love and affirmation through the slats of the train cars for others to find. In just 40 hours of reaching the destination, Teresa and her sister Rosa, died in the gas chamber on August 9, 1942. August 9, we celebrate her Feast Day.

Pope St. John Paul II beatified her in 1987 and canonized her in 1999. The haunting beauty of Teresa’s face seems focused in her eyes—in a world of madness, she embraced the Cross that had become her name. Her profound teachings, like St. Thérèse of Lisieux, can be summed up in the simple message: “Learn to live at God’s hands.” 🌹

CARMELITE NEW GROWTH

God continues to call young men to serve the Church as Carmelites. The Order of Carmelites is growing throughout the world, and much of this is because of your prayers, faith, and support.

Our own Carmelite Province of the Most Pure Heart of Mary has celebrated several milestones of growth.

Fr. Matthew Gummess, of Joliet, Ill., was ordained to the Priesthood on January 20 at St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Chicago and celebrated his first Mass at his home Parish of St. Patrick's in Joliet, Ill. Fr. Matt will be assigned to St. Raphael's Parish in south-central Los Angeles.

Rev. Luis Jesus Paz Acosta (known as Chuy) was ordained in early January to the diaconate in El Salvador, where he serves and studies. He was ordained in the very chapel where Msgr. Oscar Romero was assassinated. Our Carmelite brothers in El Salvador are doing incredible ministry among the poor there.

Three men made their simple profession of Carmelite religious vows there in El Salvador in the same week. Our Carmelite Provincial, V. Rev. William Harry, was present at these special events of the new springtime in the life of our Carmelite Province. 🌹



“The Order of Carmelites is growing throughout the world, and much of this is because of your prayers, faith, and support.”



2018 PILGRIMAGES

of FAITH Led by Fr. Bob Colaresi, O. Carm

IRELAND, The Emerald Isle

April 18 – 28, 2018

Visit this enchanting and wonderful country, which some people call “the other holy land”! We will visit the Ring of Kerry, Killarney, the Dingle Peninsula, Kinsale, Blarney (you’ve gotta kiss the Blarney Stone) Cobh, Cashel, Dublin, Glendalough, Knock, Connemara, and Galway. There is something mystic, earthy, and magical about Ireland and its people.

Cost \$3,975, double occupancy.



FRANCE

July 10 – 18, 2018

Pilgrimage through France, following the life and spirituality of St. Thérèse; we will begin at Lourdes, the most powerful of Marian Shrines. Then we fly back north to Normandy, the homeland of St. Thérèse to visit Lisieux, her Carmelite convent, her childhood home, the Basilica, and the Cathedral. We will drive north to the Normandy Beaches of Omaha and Utah, and the powerful American Cemetery – to Alençon, where St. Thérèse was born and her parents met and lived, until the death of her mother. Then we will go to Paris to experience this magical city with all its historical sites, including Versailles. Mass daily at holy sites. **Cost \$3,900, double occupancy.**



HOLY LAND

November 4 – 15, 2018

Visit Jerusalem, the Mount of Olives, Gethsemane Way of the Cross, Western Wall, Bethlehem, Mount Carmel, the Sea of Galilee, Nazareth, Cana, Capernaum, Mt. of the Beatitudes near Tabgha, River Jordan, Mt. Tabor, Biet Shean. Highlights include boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, Biblical Passover meal, St. Peter’s First Lunch, Baptismal renewal in the River Jordan, with an Israeli/Jewish Biblical guide and teacher. Biblical reflections and Mass daily at holy sites. **Cost \$4,300 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**



SIMPLE ESTATE GIFTS OUTSIDE OF YOUR WILL

ALMOST ANY ARRANGEMENT that provides for a death beneficiary can be made payable to the Society of the Little Flower. For example, you can make us the beneficiary of IRAs, retirement accounts, commercial annuities, or deferred compensation and save income tax. If estate taxes are a concern (only estates in excess of \$11.2 million in 2018), anything we receive qualifies for an estate tax deduction, too. Other ideas:

■ **Financial accounts** – People who have financial accounts at banks, savings and loan associations, and credit unions generally may direct that their deposits (checking, savings, certificates of deposit) be paid on death (POD) to a particular individual – or to the Society of the Little Flower. The designation can be changed any time prior to death and in no way affects the depositor's control over the funds in the account. Consult the manager of your account for details on how these gifts can be arranged.

■ **Brokerage accounts** – If you own stocks, bonds, or mutual fund shares in a brokerage account, you can name Little Flower as a TOD (transfer on

death) beneficiary. You would maintain full control over the account during your life.

■ **Life insurance** – One of the easiest and most cost-effective ways to include the Society of the Little Flower in your estate plans is through life insurance. For example, you might make us the beneficiary or alternative beneficiary of an old policy that is no longer needed for family security. Simply ask the insurance company for the forms necessary to change the beneficiary or to transfer ownership in the policy to our name.

■ **Revocable living trusts** – Many people who have living trusts don't realize that it's also possible to make gifts

to Little Flower through their trusts. During your life, the trustee can be directed to pay a portion of the income to us each year, giving you an income tax charitable deduction. A gift to Little Flower at your death entitles Your estate to a charitable deduction.

■ **Helping loved ones and Little Flower** – It's possible, with all of the ideas we've discussed, to also provide lifetime income to family members before assets pass to Little Flower. For example, life insurance proceeds can be used to fund a trust that makes payments for life to a spouse or children. When the trust ends, the remaining assets will come to Little Flower, to be used as you have directed. 🌹

GET CREATIVE! ESTATE PLANNING IDEAS FREE BOOKLET OFFER

■ Having a will that reflects your personal intentions is a must. Without one, the state will decide how many of your assets will be divided.

However, there are estate planning options to be considered that, unlike a will, avoid the probate process.

Among those options include naming beneficiaries of a life insurance policy, a retirement account, a donor advised fund or a bank account.

Our new booklet, *Beyond Wills: Creative Estate Planning Ideas*, details these various ways. They can also present a great opportunity to support the Society of the Little Flower. Call our Planned Giving Office at 888-996-1212 to request your free copy of this publication.

DID YOU KNOW?

■ You can make the Society of the Little Flower the beneficiary of IRAs, retirement accounts, commercial annuities or deferred compensation and save income tax.



SPRING – *New Life*



*"I'm not dying.
I'm going
to Life!"*

- St. Thérèse of Lisieux

AFTER THE HARSH WINTER, it is exciting to see buds appear. Living here in the upper Midwest, the frigid cold made everything look lifeless. I wondered sometimes if the beautiful trees would ever leaf again.

Amid the terrible trial of the dark night and ill health our beloved St. Thérèse experienced the last 18 months of her life, it is amazing that she looked at her imminent death as the elevator to new life – the fulfillment of eternal life and love she longed for. The struggles of emptiness, physical pain, abandonment, and inability to receive Holy Communion, did not squelch her spirit and faith. The winter of her dark night became a blossoming of her love affair with Jesus.

Thérèse loved nature and saw the cycles of the seasons as the metaphor of God's love affair with us. And don't we all love the spring as nature is reborn, buds blossom, leaves spread and embrace the sunlight, and flowers brighten and delight our senses. The first robin sighted makes my heart jump – and then the birds start chirping in the morning, and I await the brilliant red cardinal who has been a special sign of life, healing, and hope for me for many years. They all suddenly reappear.

It is like experiencing the glory of God!



Here on the Darien Campus, we have been watching the construction of the new National Shrine of St. Thérèse. From tons of dirt being moved, a large hole, and dust blowing around, this beautiful edifice is reaching to the sky in a way that is changing the landscape and marking this place as her special place. The frigid weather tried to stop construction, but the crews continued, losing only a few days of work because of the below-zero cold.

A dream of many, many years is being realized. This blossoming National Shrine is a sign of rebirth and new life! I was assigned to Darien 27 years ago, as Director of the Society of the Little Flower. I had to step through my cynicism of youthful suspicion of St. Thérèse, the Little Flower. As a young man in novitiate, I was turned off when I read her *Story of a Soul* by her over-sentimentality and hyper-

sensitivity. As a teenager, I had decided she needed a shrink, and wasn't a saint I would try to model myself after as a Carmelite.

In the discussion with my Provincial about taking this ministry assignment, he challenged me to learn to love her. That was a great awakening in my journey of spirituality. From a cold rebuffing of her as a novice, the middle-aged man in me was deeply touched as I read her life at age 50. The frozen soil of my soul was awakened to her powerful spirituality. It was like springtime to experience her strong confidence and trust in God. Working here at the Society and in the Shrine, I learned why people loved her – and their faith was contagious. They helped blossom my love affair with Thérèse, who is my boss and close friend. She has guided me through many dark winters of health issues and other challenges.

My life has been enriched by her friendship and powerful spirituality. She has re-awakened my inner child, which I experience as the Divine Presence within me.

I'm always touched by the people who come to the Shrine, for Mass, for quiet time, to learn more about her – and just be with her. The prayer and presence are awesome and soul-touching. There are surprising times. I recently had a good friend from Texas visiting. He is an ecumenical pastor of a different faith tradition. Very unfamiliar with the Catholic emphasis on saints, he wanted to see the new construction – and then asked about the present smaller Shrine and museum.

He started to ask me questions about the beautiful stained-glass window and then Thérèse's life carved into the largest religious wood carving in North America. I was amazed as he listened. I



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“
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even offered to stop as not to bore him. Fascinated he pleaded with me to continue. Eventually he was crying – Thérèse’s life and spirituality was touching issues deep within him. We spent five hours there. The next day, he asked to spend time in her room here – and journaled for three hours in the replica where “holiness found her voice.” He had fallen in love with her. Thérèse continues to work her wonders of grace. My Protestant pastor friend could not stop taking about her. Yes, it was a new springtime!

St. Thérèse is about springtime and new life.

I am always amazed at that last picture that her sister Celine took of her right after Thérèse died so young – that gaunt face ravaged by tuberculosis became eternally young. She had blossomed into eternal Life and Joy. The Little Flower was a heavenly blossom! And her ongoing shower of roses touches us all.

New life speaks to me in a deeper way these days.

I recently suffered a heart episode that resulted in my receiving a pace maker. It was frightening when I could not breathe – only the quick response of my Carmelite brothers and the local fire department saved my life. The doctors almost lost me twice, but with this newly implanted pacemaker, there is oxygen flowing throughout my body. I have more energy than I’ve had for years. It is a new springtime for me and I need your help to complete our mission here.

The Carmelites are rebuilding this Darien campus because we know and believe that everyone seeks a deeper spirituality. All the Carmelite saints lead us toward a deeper inner life and intimacy with the God Who is passionately and unconditionally in love with us. The Carmelite gift to the Church is prayer – deep contemplative prayer that listens to God working and whispering amid the experiences of our lives, especially being

reborn in the hard soil of life’s disappointments and darkness.

I’ve seen tremendous changes on this Carmelite Campus. The National Shrine was moved here in 1984, because of the generosity of large and small gifts. Then the Carmelite Spiritual Center was expanded because of people’s thirst for God and deeper faith and meaning in life. After St. Thérèse’s relics visited in 1999 and 2000, the crowds expanded – we doubled the size of the National Shrine to accommodate the daily Mass community, as well as the big events that gathered our friends. She is so popular. Her friends crave her presence and spirituality.

Our museum holding the largest collection of her relics and artifacts outside of Lisieux was renovated, and we were able to build a duplicate of her Lisieux Carmel room when the nuns gave us the door to her room, the floor tiles, and window. It is a popular pilgrimage

place where people can come and share her presence and spirituality.

The Carmelite Spiritual Center was expanded a few years ago, when Carefree Village closed, to address the spiritual thirst of so many people. Then the Carmelite Meditation Garden was developed on unused land as a place of peace and prayer, including the Stations of the Cross. An empty lot birthed a place of prayer and reflection.

So much was done because of the generosity of the friends of St. Thérèse and her Carmelites. People wanted to memorialize loved ones – a place where they are remembered in prayer. Many people simply want to keep Thérèse's legacy alive and help us build this Carmelite Campus as a destination place of pilgrimage and sacred presence.

Recently, St. Thérèse inspired the very generous gift that is making the new National Shrine possible. I cried when the Petersen Foundation chose to

honor Margie and Robert E. Petersen, who had a great devotion to St. Thérèse, by funding a new National Shrine. Thérèse was obviously at work. We now have this new building arising, announcing a new place to honor and be with St. Thérèse. It addresses the needs of the ever-enlarging group of her friends who come here for Mass, pilgrimage, or quiet time.

As part of the emerging spring here on campus, we are developing prayer spaces, smaller shrines, and grottoes, to not only St. Thérèse, her parents, and family, but to many Carmelite saints and devotions like Mary, Our Blessed Mother, St. Joseph, the Infant Jesus of Prague, Sts. Teresa of Avila, John of the Cross, Elijah the Prophet, the Holy Family, Titus Brandsma, etc. This will be a place of presence, devotion, and deepening our experience of God's love.

Now that it is spring, just as I need to go out to plant, dig the earth, replant, weed,

and develop the garden, we still need friends of St. Thérèse to fund the rest of this huge project – this tribute to St. Thérèse. The new National Shrine is funded, but all the enhancing places of quiet, prayer and devotion still need sponsors. This place of pilgrimage and prayer will be here for generations to come as we hand on this rich Carmelite heritage of St. Thérèse to the next generation. Please call the Society of the Little Flower if you wish to help make this holy place blossom with legacies, gifts, or memorials to the saints of your life. For more information on how you can be a part of Lighting a Path to Faith, Hope and Love, please contact us at 888-996-1212.

Yes, new life is happening in many ways in people, in nature, in our world, and on this Carmelite Campus. Just as God raised Jesus to life after He was buried in the tomb, God calls everyone and everything to new life. 🌹



“This place of pilgrimage and prayer will be here for generations to come as we hand on this rich Carmelite heritage of St. Thérèse to the next generation.”



7 REASONS

Why a Little Flower Gift Annuity Could be Right for You

Many friends of the Society of the Little Flower have chosen to participate in our gift annuity program. There are 7 popular reasons why they do so. But before we explain those reasons, here's how a gift annuity works – it's as easy as 1-2-3:

1. You make an irrevocable gift of \$1,000 or more to the Society of the Little Flower;
2. You (and/or someone you love) will receive fixed payments for life at a rate that is based on your age;
3. A portion of your payments will be tax-free, while you receive a tax deduction to boot.

Without question, our payout rates are among the best you will find. (You can find sample rates on the back cover of this issue of *Between Friends*; call us at 888-996-1212 to find the rate that applies to your age.)

Let's examine seven reasons why you might consider creating a gift annuity with the Society of the Little Flower.

1. You (and/or someone you love) need a way to supplement your income at an attractive, fixed rate that you know will never change.
2. You would like to enhance your Social Security payments with partially tax-free income.
3. You own a soon-to-expire Certificate of Deposit and want a better return than what banks are offering.
4. You love St. Thérèse and the Carmelites and would like to make a significant gift to support our seminarians, retired religious, and our missionaries serving throughout the world – while helping yourself as well.
5. You want to provide a regular stream of income for someone you love, perhaps even through your will.
6. You have savings bonds that are no longer earning interest and want to bring new life to those bonds.
7. You would like to redeem shares of stock (or a mutual fund) that are paying a low dividend, but want to avoid some of the tax on the capital gain – and get a better income as well.

We would be happy to send you a free, personalized illustration so that you can see if a Little Flower gift annuity is right for you. Please call us at 888-996-1212 or visit our website: plannedgiving.littleflower.org 🌸

Looking Toward the Finish Line

■ “She’s been good to me.”

That comment has been uttered countless times as people share why they support the Society of the Little Flower.

Listening to the stories that accompany those words can either break one's heart – or move it profoundly. When your life has been touched by St. Thérèse, you never forget. And you are eager to tell the story.

And although the stories are uniquely personal, they almost always end with the words, “She’s been good to me.”

There is no end to Thérèse's goodness – nor to her compassion – for those who turn to her. She died in 1897, and for the last 120 years she has showered her roses across the globe. That was her promise.

How does one begin to thank the Little Flower for all she has done? As is so often the case when someone has humbled us with their kindness, the words “thank you” seem so inadequate.

The greatest compliment we can pay another is to try to be like them. That is worth a mouthful of thank yous. So what does it mean to be like St. Thérèse? Here are a couple ideas.

We can be patient with those who are trying our patience. We can trust God even in the most difficult of situations. We can be determined, even bull-headed, when we are standing up for something that is right. We can be a person of prayer – throughout the day. We can be devoted, humble and compassionate. And we can be joyful knowing that the Lord never lets go of our hand.

There's yet another way to say thanks to St. Thérèse. We

can share her life and her spirit with those around us. People need to know her – especially with the struggles that are part and parcel of today's world.

We are approaching the finish line of our renovation and expansion efforts here at the National Shrine of St. Therese. People might wonder why we are investing so much in those efforts. The answer is simple: we want to say thanks by sharing who she is and what she stands for so that future generations can embrace her “Little Way” of knowing and trusting the Lord.

If you would like to help us get to the finish line, please join with us. Join with us in prayer. And if circumstances allow, join with us by making a gift so that we can reach our goal. Giving opportunities remain, and with those opportunities come recognition possibilities.

Below is partial list of the giving opportunities that remain:

- The Clock Tower
- Fountains and Bridges on the Paths
- Trees and Outdoor Benches
- Shrine Museum Entrance and Martin Hall
- St. John of the Cross Prayer Station
- St. Therese of Lisieux Prayer Grotto
- Infant of Prague Prayer Grotto
- Carmelite Spiritual Center Chapel Renovation

She really has been good to us. A gift of any size helps. Please search your heart, and then give us a call: 888-996-1212 (U.S. residents only). 🌸



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



Center. Finally, over the last year, we have witnessed the construction of the new Shrine Chapel, which is scheduled to be completed by October 1, 2018. With the new Shrine and surrounding campus renovations, this will be a center of spirituality for years and years to come.

My main objective when I arrived at the Society was to visit as many of our friends as possible. During this time, I have visited more than 200 people, either in their homes, after Mass at their parishes, or at a local restaurant. I truly appreciated the hospitality that was extended to me and was moved as people shared their deep devotion to St. Thérèse and their life stories with me. I will forever treasure each visit and will never forget those whom I met in person (or on the phone). Many times I have shared how they enriched my faith in the Lord and deepened my devotion to St. Thérèse. As I now begin another chapter in my life in retirement, I look forward to more time for reflection and prayer, exploring some

areas of the country I haven't experienced, and spending more time with my family and my new grandchild, Ryan Richard.

To all the members of the Society of the Little Flower, thank you for all you do to support the Carmelites, helping them to continue their many missions throughout the world, maintaining and managing the Society of the Little Flower, the National Shrine of St. Thérèse, and the Carmelite Spiritual Center. Our spiritual works can only continue with your prayers and financial support. God Bless you all and farewell. 🌸 - JOE VOSS

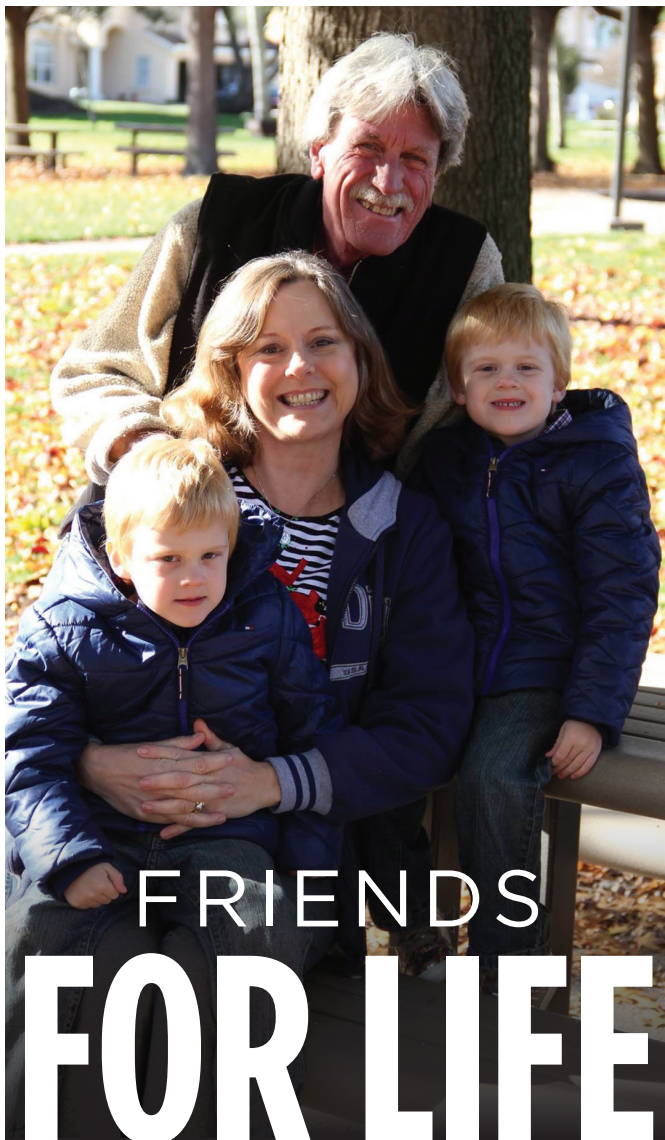
A NEW BEGINNING

ALL GOOD THINGS must eventually come to an end.

In January 2018, I retired from the Society of the Little Flower. This short reflection is about my years at the Society.

It all began on April 1, 2013, when I arrived at the Society and was given a tour of the campus; it made a lasting impression! Seeing the National Shrine Chapel and museum

dedicated to St. Thérèse was just the beginning. Over the past three years, the renovation of the St. Thérèse museum and the Carmelite Spiritual Center have resulted in two great improvements to the campus; these improvements allowed more people to learn of St. Thérèse's life and teachings while throngs of retreatants drew closer to our Lord by taking advantage of the retreats and spiritual direction opportunities offered at the Carmelite Spiritual



FRIENDS FOR LIFE

ALICE THERÈSE AND JOE are wonderful friends and supporters of the Society of the Little Flower. Alice Therese recently shared how she came to know St. Thérèse, her faith, devotion, and stories of her relationship with the Little Flower. Her words follow. What a profound impact and inspiration Thérèse has been in her and Joe's life! Alice and Joe are partners with the Society of the Little Flower in ensuring that the profound message of St. Thérèse remains alive for generations to come.

■ *"Jeremiah 1:5 (NASB) 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you.'"*

I was born on St. Thérèse's Feast Day. Knowing that, my birth mother named me after her. While preparing for Confirmation, my adopted mother suggested I research St. Thérèse. I fell in love with her simplicity, her roses, and her promise to spend heaven doing

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Practicing Thérèse's decision to do small things with great love has sustained me through the challenges of daily life when the routine can be so difficult.

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good upon earth. Thérèse has been around me and with me my entire life.

I have found comfort and inspiration in reading her autobiography and really understanding her Little Way. Practicing Thérèse's decision to do small things with great love has sustained me through the challenges of daily life when the routine can be so difficult. Thérèse has graced me with her presence



on many occasions. The most special encounter occurred when visiting a namesake church shortly after my father passed away. I prayed before her that God would welcome both my parents to heaven. My eyes were closed and I heard a voice telling me that

“today they are together with God.” I looked around and saw no other person in the church. I looked at Thérèse and she seemed to be smiling at me. I felt the Spirit of God surround me and knew without a doubt that my parents are in heaven.

Thérèse joined my husband, Joe, and I in our faith walk through marriage, gracing Joe with the scent of roses. Joe has come to embrace the gifts that God provides through our sweet Thérèse's intercessions. Together, we honor her earthly work by supporting the mission of the Society of the Little Flower. It is our hope and prayer that our financial support will allow more people, particularly the young, to know Jesus and God through the example of St. Thérèse. 🌹



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.

A Thoughtful Remembrance

CHARMAINE HACKER was introduced to St. Thérèse at a very early age. She vividly recalls her mother making a novena to our beloved saint. It was the dead of winter when her mother received an extraordinary confirmation that her prayer was answered. There was a sign that just had to be shared, and so, taken by the arm, little Charmaine was directed to look out a window to behold, in the midst of a blanket of snow, a beautiful blooming rose. It's a memory that has stayed with her ever since.

Charmaine taught music for years, and is presently a special education teacher in Colorado. She is devoted to guiding children who find it difficult to learn in traditional ways. She makes a particular effort to discover the gifts each child has been given by God and to encourage her young students to celebrate those gifts.

Now teaching in a Catholic school, Charmaine looks for opportunities to share the message of St. Thérèse with the students in her care, letting them know they have a friend in heaven who is eager to watch over them. Charmaine regularly rewards her children for a job well done by giving them prayer cards, rosaries, and other religious articles. She has even created a small altar dedicated to the Little Flower.

In thanksgiving for the friendship St. Thérèse has shared with her, Charmaine has named the Society of the Little Flower as the beneficiary of an annuity she created with an insurance company. She wants to ensure that future generations will continue to know of the great love and intercessory powers of St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face. Truly, the friendship between Charmaine and



“Charmaine looks for opportunities to share the message of St. Thérèse with the students in her care, letting them know they have a friend in heaven who is eager to watch over them.”



St. Thérèse is one for the ages.

Through estate plans, there are many ways our friends can honor their friendship with the Little Flower. A gift of any size through one's will would make an enormous difference to us. Through your estate plan, you can also designate your savings bonds for the benefit of the Society; it's both a creative and tax-wise idea. Finally, making us the beneficiary of an IRA, a life insurance policy, or a savings account are yet other options.

Please let us know of your intentions; we can be reached at 888-996-1212. We would be honored to enroll you in our Planned Giving Society, The Rose Garden of St. Therese, with its many spiritual benefits. 🌹

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.



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