

# Between Friends

A publication for the Friends of the Society of

the Little Flower, Darien, Illinois, and Canada

A New  
Home For

# Thérèse







# A New Home For Thérèse!

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

**It is so good to be in your hands again. Between Friends like us there is a bond of prayer – and love connection. We share our common love of the Little Flower and work to share God’s Kingdom with everyone, especially by living Thérèse’s “little way” of doing ordinary things with extraordinary love.**

In this edition of *Between Friends*, we focus on the new National Shrine of St. Thérèse built here on the Darien Carmelite Campus. It is breathtaking and a special sacred place which captures her spirituality. Pictures tell the story. We are also

introducing Fr. Thomas Schrader, O. Carm., the new assistant Director of the Society of the Little Flower. Additional articles feature the ministries of the Carmelites which you support and make possible, as well as new opportunities to help make

this Carmelite campus and the Kingdom of God real in many people’s lives.

Your friendship with St. Thérèse is the foundation and fountain that makes so much possible. I know she smiles in your hearts and lives, and through you, she smiles on the ministries of Carmelites in more than 50 countries throughout the world. Thank you for your friendship, faith and generosity. 🌹

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

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## Between Friends

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friends of the Society of  
the Little Flower

**WINTER 2019**

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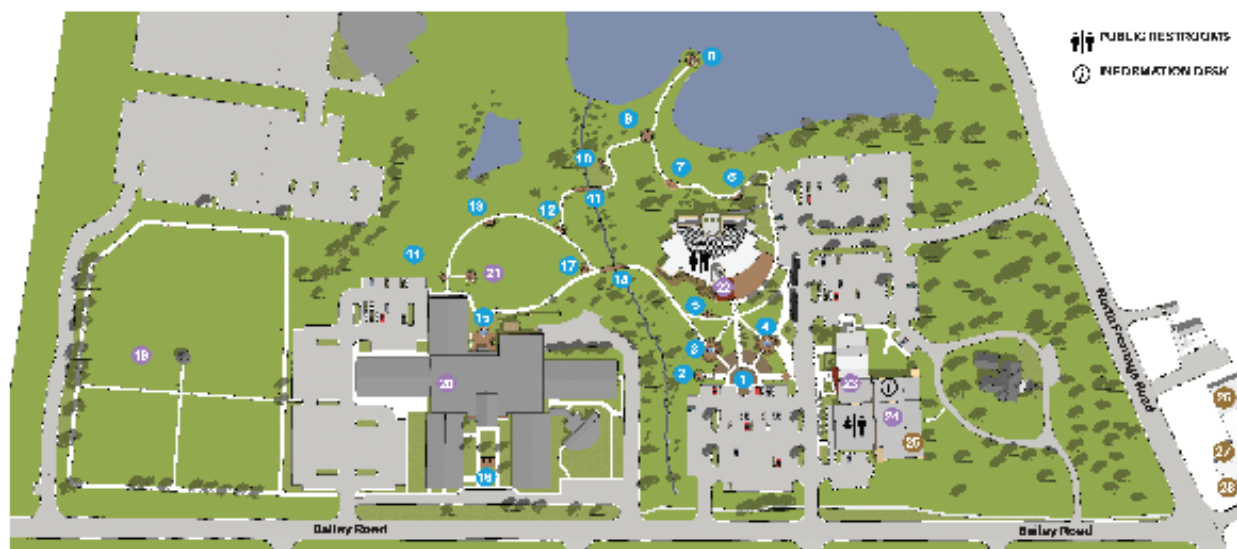
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# Continuing the journey

## DEAR FRIENDS OF LITTLE FLOWER,

**W**e have been very busy since we were last in touch!

We completed and dedicated a new Shrine to our beloved Thérèse, including making the National Shrine of St. Thérèse grounds a "must-see," to come and spend the day, walking the prayer paths and visiting the many sacred places.

There were also a few changes in our Little Flower family. Mary Zacharias, Officer of Special Gifts, will be leaving us to pursue a new chapter in her life. We welcomed Fr. Tom Schrader, O. Carm., as our Assistant Director, Elizabeth Wesel as the Director of our Special Gifts Department and Mary Pat Bannon as an Officer of Special Gifts. Some of you have already met Mary Pat; she and Fr. Tom have been busy visiting friends of St. Thérèse and the Society.

I'm sure you're also aware of the important role that the Society of the Little Flower plays in helping people whose lives are supported by the missionary work of the Carmelites around the world, providing clean water, creating self-sustaining food projects, opening food pantries and educating seminarians. Of course, at the heart of this missionary work is the spirituality of St. Thérèse, so that

those we serve might be inspired by her life and her trust in the Lord. This important work is made possible by the support of generous donors like you, as you so generously share your gifts with us. The sacrifices you make on our behalf allow the Society of the Little Flower to not only continue providing much needed services to the poor, but also helping to build the National Shrine of St. Thérèse here in Darien, Illinois. This beautiful Shrine will serve as an inspiration to many future generations, as they seek a place to pray, worship and journey with the Lord.

But work is yet to be done on our campus; this project is not yet complete! Without the continued support of generous donors like you, these needs will likely go unmet. I am praying that we can continue to rely on your support as we put the finishing touches on our renovation and expansion effort. I am truly grateful for your consideration and continued support. 🌹

**Regards,**  
**Mary T Lambert**  
**International Development**  
**Director**



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



SOMEONE YOU SHOULD KNOW:

## Father Thomas Schrader, O. Carm.

“  
The beautiful  
Carmelite  
Campus  
with its lush  
foliage and  
enticing  
walking paths  
appealed to  
my desire to  
be one with  
God and  
nature.”



### I ARRIVED IN DARIEN, ILLINOIS

on June 30, 2018 to begin my new assignment, serving with Fr. Bob Colaresi, O.Carm. as Assistant Director of the Society of the Little Flower. The community was very welcoming and I found myself totally entering into all the tasks that needed to be completed for the dedication of the new National Shrine of St. Thérèse. The Shrine was appropriately dedicated on October 1st, the feast day of the Little Flower.

The beautiful Carmelite Campus with its lush foliage and enticing walking paths appealed to my desire to be one with God and nature. I spent quiet time each afternoon with the Lord as I walked along the paths of the campus before we prayed evening prayer at the Carmelite Community of St. Simon Stock, of which I am a member.

I quickly became accustomed to the grounds and



walking paths that led through the Carmelite Meditation Garden. I quietly prayed the Stations of the Cross as I walked by each station and reflected on the life of Jesus. A holy reminder of the suffering and death of our Lord but also the recognition of the Resurrection of Christ and the Paschal Mystery which each of us is called to imitate in the daily experiences of our life.

The Meditation gazebo and pond were a welcome place to seek shelter if there was a passing rain shower or to appreciate the beautiful flowing waters. There were other pilgrims who also took the opportunity for prayer and reflection each day. On many days I noticed people in prayer quietly seated on the benches.

Each day as I walked the Carmelite Campus, I noticed that the new walking and prayer paths around the Shrine continued to take shape. The landscaping evolved and transformed the Shrine with beautiful plants and statues. As the statues were put into place I discovered there were even more ways to enjoy my prayer time. **This was especially true with the installation of St. Thérèse's parents Saints Louis and Zellie Martin and St. Teresa of Avila, another Carmelite Doctor of the Church.**

Soon on the picturesque lake a lovely new feature appeared, a statue of St. Thérèse of Lisieux. There were benches that provided pilgrims with a place to sit and reflect and notches for the faithful to place a St. Thérèse prayer candle. The ducks and Canada geese could be seen paddling across the water enjoying the setting that God had provided for them. I had a new path to add to my afternoon prayer walk.

Each day was a new adventure. I began to notice the name plaques of the donors who had given generously to the creation of this lovely prayer space. As I saw their names, I remembered them in prayer as I walked the campus. Every day was filled with a new discovery because the campus became more beautiful as each feature was completed. As autumn arrived the colorful leaves, the blooming of new flowers and the growth of new plants added to the meditative experience.

Winter is in full force, and I see this time as an opportunity to experience the beauty of another season with the ground covered in snow, the bare trees as a gentle reminder of those times of slumber that even the Carmelite Meditation Garden will experience as we all await the coming of spring and the new life it promises to bring to us. 🌸

## SOMEONE YOU SHOULD KNOW: Elizabeth Wesel

■ Elizabeth Wesel joined the Society of the Little Flower in Fall 2018 as Director of Special Gifts. A native of the Chicago area, she comes to the Society with a 20-year fundraising career in higher education. Elizabeth is grateful and excited to be working to advance devotion to St. Thérèse and the work of the Carmelites. She learned recently that her maternal grandparents, who had French-Canadian ancestry, held a devotion to St. Thérèse that they shared with their children, and that one of her aunts was named for the Little Flower.

Elizabeth loves working in fundraising because of the opportunity to work with, and get to know, the dedicated individuals who support important charitable causes. She is looking forward to meeting many of the Society of the Little Flower's members and friends in the U.S. and Canada as together we spread devotion to St. Thérèse and support the work of the Carmelites around the world.



## SOMEONE YOU SHOULD KNOW: Mary Pat Bannon

■ Mary Pat Bannon started at the Society of the Little Flower on May 14, 2018. From the minute she walked in the door she has expressed she felt at home. "I have always loved St. Thérèse and her little ways because I believe that is truly how each of us can make a real difference in the world". Her mother always told her growing up that the one thing that we could do for each other was to practice random acts of kindness like St. Thérèse.

She has worked for many other religious organizations but is sharing her first time with our beloved Saint. Mary is a natural at engaging people and enjoys building lasting and meaningful relationships. "There is a sense of fulfillment when you connect with people and they connect with you. No two days are the same in Development and that appeals to my free spirit".

"They say that if you love what you do then you never work a day in your life and if you love whom you work for then you are twice blessed. I am twice blessed"! She looks forward to getting to know all of you in the future and is grateful that she has been given this incredible opportunity to work with a wonderful group of individuals for an extraordinary saint! 🌸



# 2019 PILGRIMAGES

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

## Greece: In the Footsteps of St. Paul

**June 21 - July 1, 2019**

Following the footsteps and biblical message of St. Paul; visit Philippi, where Paul first entered Europe, Thessaloniki, Veria, Mt. Olympus, Meteora, Delphi, Athens, Corinth, cruise the Greek Isles in the Aegean Sea, visiting Mykonsos, Patmos, Santorini, Crete and Kusadasi in Turkey, the ruins of Ephesus. A walk through history, heritage and an ancient culture, as well as our New Testament. Cost: \$4,750 - double occp.



## Holy Land

**November 3 - 14, 2019**

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, Judean Wilderness, Ein Gedi, Emmaus and then to the Galilee, visiting Mt. Carmel, Jaffa, Nazareth, Cana, Caesaria, Sea of Galilee, Capharnaum, Mt. of Beatitudes, Caesaria Philippi, Mt. Tabor. A powerful experience into the heart of Christianity, the life of Jesus and our Jewish heritage. Cost: (aprox:\$4,350 (double occp) -cost to be finalized soon.

For further information, full brochure and registration form, please contact:  
Carmelite Spiritual Center, 8419 Bailey Road, Darien, Illinois 60561 ~ 630-969-4141

**Other Pilgrimages for 2019 & 2020 are already filled by word of mouth**

**Egypt** - March 28 - April 5, 2019  
and

**Oberammergau PassionPlay, Budapest & Cruise on Danube River** - August 31 - September 11, 2020



# Mission works around the world

**S** **T. THÉRÈSE WANTED TO BE A MISSIONARY:** “to make God known and loved to the ends of the earth!” Health issues prevented her from going to the foreign missions. But her Carmelite brothers continue her missionary outreach and vocation, by serving in more than 50 countries of the developing world. 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.





A New  
Home For

# Thér

BY FR. BOB COLARESI, O. CARM







Thérèse

**“WOW! I CAN FEEL HER SPIRIT HERE!” expressed the diocesan deacon as he entered the newly completed National Shrine of St. Thérèse.**

**He came to prepare for the Feast Day Mass at which the Shrine would be dedicated and the altar anointed with chrism. He was the first guest to enter once we received the occupancy permit.**

“Wow! I can feel her spirit here!” – it became a mantra as thousands of people came to the Dedication of this beautiful new Shrine to our heavenly friend and patron. It has been repeated so many times as people come for Mass and prayer.

It started with a dream. St. Thérèse, the Little Flower, has so many friends. When the Carmelites first moved the Shrine to Darien from Chicago in 1984, it was small and modest – the Mass Chapel area had 85 seats. During the time of her Relic visit in 1999, 50,000 people came over three days to honor and venerate her. I remember being overwhelmed by the crowds and the age span of people. Their devotion was heart-tugging. The Darien police were not happy as the traffic backed-up the interstate highway and the local neighborhood. Who had ever seen a crowd like that!

In 2002, We expanded that Shrine, doubling its size and capacity. But Thérèse has so many friends! We upgraded the National Museum, also which has the largest collection of Thérèse artifacts and relics outside of Lisieux, including a replica of her convent room with her actual door, tiles, window, water jar and a lap desk of her time. Her friends continue to come. There is a heartfelt connection.

The daily 11:30 Mass attendance grew. Many days it was filled to capacity and during Lent more than 100 people were standing. For our big events and celebrations on campus, we had to use Our

Lady of Mount Carmel Church nearby, because we could not accommodate the crowds that came for the Lenten Stations of the Cross, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Feast, Christmas at the Crib, and St. Thérèse’s actual October 1st Feast Day.

Honoring Thérèse’s role as Co-Patroness of the Missions, there are so many more urgent needs, like serving the poor in developing nations around the world. The Carmelites and I could not even think of another expansion. But on crowded days, the dream arose that we needed a much larger space. Pilgrims and pilgrimage groups kept coming from around the area and the country. The heart-felt connection the Little Flower has with people is amazing.

The Carmelite campus here in Darien was undergoing needed renovation. The Carmelite Spiritual Center was inadequate. Carmelite Carefree Village for seniors had outlived the growing needs of senior citizens. We developed a large piece of our property to become a Meditation Garden, with a water feature and new Stations of the Cross.

The Carmelites had to close Carmelite Carefree Village in 2013. The decision was made to renovate that spacious building and make it the new Carmelite Spiritual Center. The new retreat center is much larger and is being well used. One wing is home to retired Carmelites. Works of spirituality are at the heart of our Carmelite vocation.





**The faith and generosity of friends of St. Thérèse had made a miracle happen – her new home! “**

I suspected St. Thérèse, who always had a playful and mischievous trickster in her, was up to something. Miracles of grace never cease. Her “Shower of Roses” took a new twist.

A wonderful and passionate friend of the Little Flower, Margie from California had contacted us about more prayer cards, which she passed out regularly to all her friends. She had a deep connection with Thérèse. Then we did not hear from her. In mid 2014, her assistant of over 40 years contacted us to help with the renovation of the Shrine Museum. In response to her initial generosity, I wrote her a

heartfelt letter of gratitude and how she was opening doors to new possibilities here.

About two weeks later she called and wanted to know what I was talking about. Being away on a spiritual retreat and out of phone contact, she could not reach me. St. Thérèse is determined. The message was relayed to me by our staff late one night.

Upon returning, I contacted her and we had a great talk. She told me how her boss and friend Margie had loved St. Thérèse with great passion – and had recently died. The Foundation which Margie and her husband had left behind wanted to do

something in their memory. She inquired about what “new possibilities and dreams” I had been referring to in my initial response.

When I mentioned a much larger National Shrine, she got excited. When I humbly informed her of the estimated cost, she did not back off. She seemed more excited and said it was doable. She assured me that the Foundation might be very interested in funding such a project in honor of Margie and Robert.

Thus began a four year adventure – architects, brainstorming of just what we wanted, capacity – where on the property – endless meetings and planning – we had to demolish the old spiritual center – and then get permits, hire a construction company – ideas began to take shape, every detail planned – documents signed – trying to remain within the target goal despite an ever rising price tag. We tried to keep it simple to reflect Carmelite and Thérèse’s spirituality. After cutting many aspects of the project, we still needed several million dollars more. My estimate had been too low.

Timidly I asked the Foundation





if they were willing to give an additional large gift. I almost fell off my chair when they agreed. They really wanted to honor and do this for Margie. I promised not to ask for another nickel! We had just received the largest gift ever in the history of the Carmelite Province.

Amid construction professionals and an excellent architectural firm, supervised by our project manager, our Carmelite Campus became a construction site – lots of mud! Dealing with different governmental agencies with permitting responsibilities was a real challenge. I never realized how complicated it could be and was! There were a few days I sat before St. Thérèse and said: “why?”

Among the saving graces of this whole project, was Thérèse’s namesake, Mary Therese Lambert, our International Development Director. She took over all the details and did not let anything slip through. Her tenacious creativity and energy became the driving spirit of the building phase. Thérèse always comes through.

From the time we actually broke ground until dedication day was just over 15 months. It was amazing watching the

different sub-contractors and their different skills. Our construction manager kept everything working smoothly and kept the Carmelites and me calm. There were a few setbacks and surprises. St. Thérèse and Mary Therese were not going to let us down.

We wanted a lot of light in this new shrine. A highlight was to be a 40 foot window of frosted glass, etched with a 24 foot image of Thérèse. We had many discussions and revisions of how the image looked, especially her face. We wanted her smiling and welcoming. When the beautiful window was finally put up about a month before the October 1st dedication, I almost cried with joy and gratitude. She was smiling on us. This was her new home for the ages. This is where her friends would come to renew and deepen their heart connection with her.

Then came the October 1st Feast Day Dedication of her new home. The Bishop of Joliet came to dedicate the Shrine and anoint the altar with chrism. It was a powerful ceremony. The Shrine was packed, the music glorious and mood ecstatic. The members of the Margie and Robert Petersen Foundation Board were thrilled

with the Shrine and how well the money had been used in such a creative and sacred way. They gave it five stars!

The Chair of the Foundation Board wrote: “Heartfelt thanks for all the hard work that created the beautiful new National Shrine for St. Thérèse. You and your team should be so very proud of your accomplishments. It was a most glorious consecration of the Chapel. We shall never forget the significant ceremonies performed by the Bishop. ....we are so grateful for our beautiful St. Thérèse, even if she was a mischievous child.”

After the last Mass that evening, Mary Therese Lambert and I shut the lights off, and watched her shimmer in that window over the lake – her broad smile and the welcoming hands reaching out. It was a mystical experience. I vowed that I’d never build another building, but we all knew it was worth the effort. The faith and generosity of friends of St. Thérèse had made a miracle happen – her new home!

Hopefully you can get a glimpse of it in the pictures here – if you cannot come to Darien yourself.

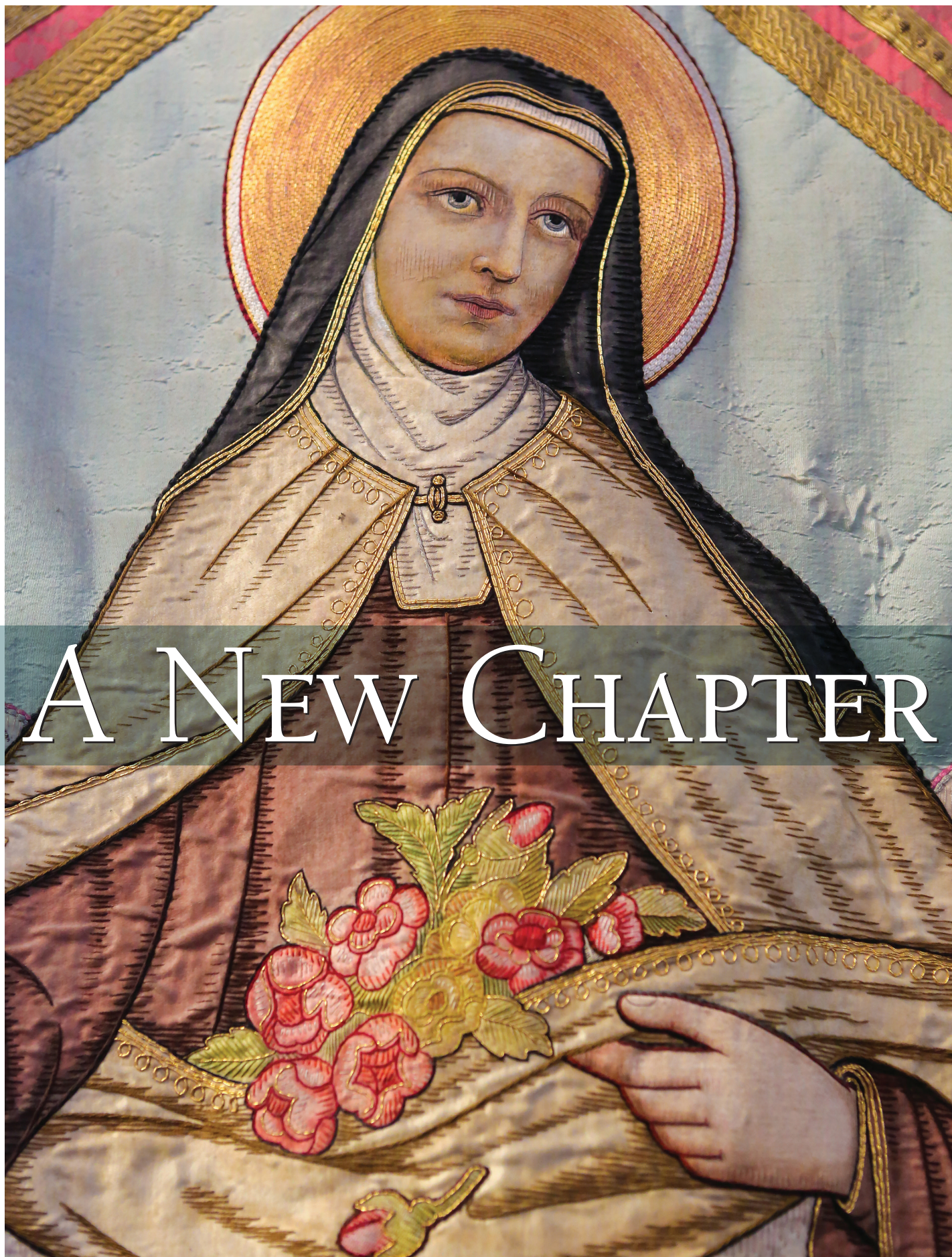
As the overall plan has always been to make the Carmelite Campus in Darien a place of pilgrimage and prayer, we now turn our efforts to smaller outdoor shrines dedicated to Carmelite saints. There are new dreams longing to become real to enhance this St. Thérèse Carmelite holy ground – this sacred place of prayer and pilgrimage. We continue to pray for other benefactors to step forward to help us complete this special project of grace. It is truly a manifestation of her “Shower of Roses” – and a place where hearts meet! 🌹

“

**From the time we actually broke ground until dedication day was just over 15 months. It was amazing watching the different sub-contractors and their different skills.”**









## **M**Y DEAR FRIENDS OF ST. THÉRÈSE,

**Almost 36 years ago on March 15th, 1983 St. Thérèse came into my life and I began my journey with her, the Carmelites, and you here at the Society of the Little Flower. At the time I didn't know who St. Thérèse was – my mother had a deep devotion to the Blessed Mother and I continued that devotion that I learned from her. 'Little' did I know what I was about to experience and learn from St. Thérèse and you.**

The beginning of my journey here was answering the phone. Listening to your stories of intercession and answered prayers and your deep faith, it didn't take long to learn about St. Thérèse and to fully understand the power of her intercession.

Soon after I realized the tremendous impact and good the Carmelites are doing worldwide. Their mission work in third world countries, their financial commitment to young seminarians, their teaching of the Gospel and so much more and that you are a large part of all that they do by your prayers and financial support.

As the years went by my devotion to the Little Flower deepened as I also was witness to her intercession and presence in my life.

But when I started visiting donors face to face it became more evident than ever the depth of faith, trust, love, and sacrifice each one of you possess. I truly see the Face of God in you. I hear the message of St. Thérèse in and through you. Your support and friendship are awe inspiring and to say that I am humbled by you is an understatement. When I enter your home and you greet me with open arms, trust and kindness it feels like God and St. Thérèse are in the room with us. And I believe they are.

I once visited with a wonderful, gentle, and kind older woman who lives in a very modest subsidized apartment who has donated to us every month for many years. She spoke of the terrible childhood she had and the physical and emotionally abusive life as an adult she endured. She was left to raise 6 children alone with almost nothing – not even running water or food for her children. She then went on to say how she prayed to St. Thérèse to intercede to God for her and that she knows neither she nor her children would have survived without St. Thérèse's help. She prayed to the Little Flower every day and felt her by her side through it all. She sat there in her chair in that room with almost nothing in it and spoke of how blessed she is to have God and St. Thérèse in her life. She was at peace. When I left I cried. I was overwhelmed with respect for her and I envied her faith. She never gave up hope and sees everything as grace. That day I learned so much from her about complete faith in God and trust in the Little Flowers intercession.

I will never forget her. Or you. You have enriched my life and taught me about selflessness, sacrifice, generosity, and faith than I never dreamed possible 36 years ago. I thank you from deep within my heart.

The next chapter of my life is about to begin and I take a part of you with me. How truly blessed I am to have spent time with you whether it over the phone, in written communication, or in person. Please know that you will remain in my prayers and thoughts always. God bless you for the support and generosity you continue to give the Society of the Little Flower and the Carmelites. They reach to the ends of the earth because of your goodness. You are messengers of the Little Flower in the truest sense. Surely she is smiling upon you. 🌹



**Mary Zacharias** is a member of our Special Gifts Office and has been on staff at the Society of the Little Flower for more than 30 years.

“

**I truly see the Face of God in you. I hear the message of St. Thérèse in and through you. Your support and friendship are awe inspiring and to say that I am humbled by you is an understatement.**

”



# TIPPING OVER APPLE CARTS

**I**T'S BECOMING HARD TO FIND people who are willing to stand their ground – to stand up for one's convictions and beliefs. Relativism is the order of the day; few want to upset another's apple cart.



**Daniel Pritchard**

Perhaps it's time to start tipping over a few. When talking with the friends of St. Thérèse, it is not uncommon for people to voice their concern about children and grandchildren who are failing to practice the faith. These good people wonder where they went wrong. I assure them they didn't "go wrong;" the problem is much bigger than any individual.

And thankfully, the heart of the solution is no bigger than the individual.

Each of us can make an enormous difference in the lives of those we love, as

well as in the lives of people we don't know, if we are willing to take a risk and stand up for what is true – even if the truth is unpopular. Our Church and our society need people of such courage.

Archbishop Fulton Sheen once remarked, "Truth is the truth, whether or not anyone believes it. Error is error, whether or not everyone believes it."

What are the truths by which you live, the truths you are willing to fight for and possibly even die for? Whatever they are, they shouldn't be hidden under a bushel basket. Let your light shine!

When we expanded and renovated the National Shrine of St. Thérèse and our Carmelite campus, the intention was clear: we wanted our Carmelite spirituality and the Little Way of Saint Thérèse to light the way for a society that is in many ways lost – and to provide a clear path to future generations who are seeking direction in life and in their relationship with the Lord.

We put our money (actually, your gifts) where our collective mouth is. Even though we knew we were making a huge financial





commitment, we knew it was the right thing to do. And the response we have seen so far has truly been heartening.

But we are not quite at the finish line. As you have seen in other sections of this issue of *Between Friends*, there are projects that have yet to be accomplished. One of the most important is creating an endowment to provide for the future needs of the Society and the new National Shrine.

We would be honored if you would consider helping us to fund such an endowment. The good news is that a number of these ways also provide a benefit to you.

#### HERE ARE TWO THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER:

- **Creating a charitable gift annuity** provides an income to you (and/or someone you love) for life, and what remains will become part of our endowment fund. See the back page of *Between Friends* for more details.
- **Remembering the Society of the Little Flower in your estate plans** gives you the

flexibility of keeping control of your assets during life, and when God calls you home, a gift to benefit our work can be designated for our future needs. You can accomplish this by stating in your Will or Living Trust that a specific dollar amount (or a percentage of your estate) should support our mission. There is even an opportunity to make a gift through your IRA. By the way, our corporate title is "The Society of the Little Flower."

As a gesture of gratitude to those who might be considering remembering us in their estate plans, we are pleased to make available a free copy of our planning guide, "Directions." You can request your copy by calling our office at 888-996-1212.

In the end, how people will remember us will be a testament to our values, and perhaps more importantly, what we were willing to fight for, even if that meant upsetting a few apple carts along the way. We are truly grateful that you have chosen to stand with the Carmelites and the Society of the Little Flower. 🌹



*"I will spend my heaven doing good upon earth... you shall see a shower of roses"*



# A gift for your future & theirs

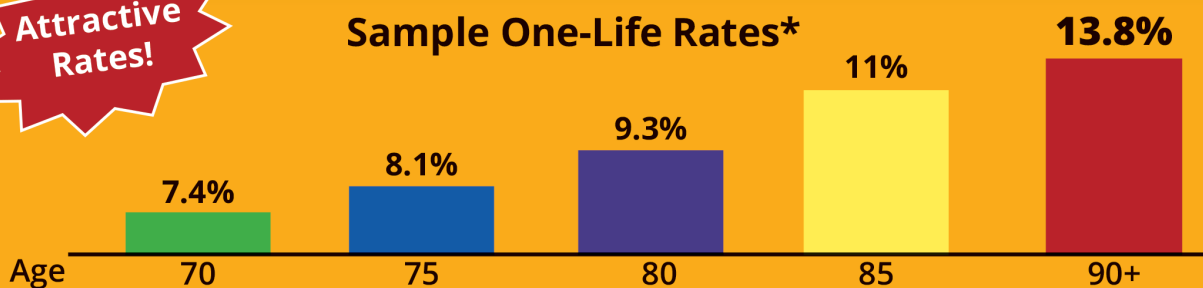


## Make an irrevocable gift — Receive fixed income for life

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.

Attractive  
Rates!

### 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

**Toll Free: 888-996-1212**

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