



Between Friends

A publication for the Friends of the Society of

the Little Flower, Darien, Illinois, and Canada

Generosity is
the heart of God

*Living
Water*

Sit back and take your time

Please accept my warmest welcome to our latest issue of *Between Friends*! Since I last wrote to you in this publication, much has happened. The Society of the Little Flower and St. Thérèse's National Shrine and Museum have reopened, and we have become a beehive of activity. We wish you were here!

I am constantly struck by the beauty of our campus. These 40 acres are stunning, winding along from the outdoor Stations of the Cross through the meditation paths and ending by the spring-fed pond that frames the life-sized sculpture of our beloved patron saint. Tranquility is the word of the day here – actually it's the word of every day here – and peace is within easy reach for those who visit. No one leaves disappointed.

As people wander throughout the campus, they cannot help but be moved spiritually as they encounter prayer

stations, grottoes, and so much more. Our most recent campus highlights are the three fountains that serve as points of welcome, reminding all that refreshment for the soul awaits. After all, it is refreshment and renewal of the soul that serve as the foundation of why we are here.

St. Thérèse draws us into her heart, whether one can visit us personally or online at littleflower.org. Her heart is huge and her love knows no limits. As our faithful friend, you know this well.

I invite you to sit back and take your time as you read through our magazine. You are family to us, and we will be forever grateful for all you make possible for our mission. No matter how distant you may be, you will always be with us in spirit. And please, never hesitate to reach out should you have any special prayer requests. 🌹

Gratefully in her love,
Rev. Thomas Schrader, O. Carm.
Director



Rev. Thomas Schrader, O. Carm.
Director

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GETTY IMAGES

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the Little Flower

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GETTY IMAGES

from the editor

St. Thérèse intercession

A S MANY FRIENDS OF ST. THÉRÈSE KNOW, out of personal heartache blessings can abound. Josie, a Canadian friend of the Little Flower, recently reached out to me to share her story. It is a story that speaks of a heavy cross, but also of an incredible resurrection. Her story is a testament to the miracles that continue to occur through St. Thérèse's intercession; she is still showering roses on those who entrust themselves to her care.

When Josie was 20 years old, she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Her central nervous system was deteriorating, and a wheelchair was destined to be part of her future. Singing and playing the piano were her passions, but music was destined to be part of her past. The doctors held out little hope for her.

Undeterred, Josie was determined not to let this disease define her. That determination was soon to be bolstered by a book that has given hope to so many: St. Thérèse's autobiography, *The Story of a Soul*. In this book, Josie discovered

the "Little Way" of spirituality, and it gave her the reassurance that through faith, all things are possible. Truly, faith is the foundation of miracles.

Today, Josie remains deeply devoted to the saint whose own struggle gave her the courage to not give up. Although Josie's brain is filled with multiple lesions, an indication that MS has not left her body, she walks, records albums, and performs musical concerts. The 55 rose bushes planted in her garden serve as a constant reminder of St. Thérèse's love for her. 🌹

■ This issue of *Between Friends* shares similar stories of beauty, often nourished by the living water that is featured so prominently throughout our Shrine and Carmelite campus. I invite you to walk with me through the pages of our magazine and discover the miracles that you make possible each day through your friendship with St. Thérèse and the Society of the Little Flower. We are graced by your enduring friendship!



Mary Thérèse Lambert
Editor of *Between Friends*

An unpetaled rose

THE LITTLE FLOWER poetically captured the generosity of self-emptying in her poem “An Unpetalled Rose.” It is a beautiful reflection on giving away, from the eyes of a child’s loving and sensitive heart. Please reflect on it.

An Unpetalled Rose

by St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face

Jesus, when I see you held by your Mother,
Leaving her arms, trying, trembling, **your first steps**
On our sad earth, before you I’d like **to unpetal a rose**
In its freshness, so that your little foot
might rest ever so softly on a flower!

This unpetaled rose is the faithful images,
Divine Child, of the heart that wants to sacrifice itself
for you unreservedly at each moment.
Lord, on your altars more than one new rose likes to shine.
It gives itself to you . . . but I dream of something else:
To Be Unpetalled!

The rose in its splendor can adorn your feast, Loveable Child,
but **the unpetaled rose** is just flung out to blow away.
An unpetaled rose gives itself unaffectedly **to be no more**.
Like it, with joy I abandon myself to you, Little Jesus.

One walks **on rose petals** with no regrets,
and this debris is a simple ornament
that one disposes of artlessly, that I’ve understood.
Jesus, for your love I’ve squandered my life, my future.
In the eyes of men, a rose forever withered, I must **die!**

For you, I must die, Child, Beauty Supreme, what a blessed fate!
In **being unpetaled**, I want to prove to you that I love you,
O my treasure! Under your **baby steps**, I want to live here below
with mystery, and I’d like to soften once more
on Calvary your last steps!

(All emphases by Thérèse herself)

From *The Poetry of St. Thérèse of Lisieux*, translated by Donald Kinney,
OCD, ICS Publications, 1995.

BY FATHER BOB COLARESI, O. CARM.



2022 PILGRIMAGES

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



Pilgrimage to Carmelite and Colonial Spain

Carmelite and Colonial Spain: April 21-May 4, 2022

Following in the footsteps and spirituality of **Sts. Teresa of Avila and John of the Cross**, the great Carmelite Doctors of mysticism and spirituality, we will visit **Avila, Alba de Tormes, Salamanca, Fontiveros, and Segovia**. We will also include history and heritage of Spain, including the Islamic and colonial elements by visiting **Granada, Cordoba, and Seville**, along with **Madrid and Toledo**. Spain is a wonderful country, rich in history and heritage. It hosted the golden age of enlightenment, when Christianity, Judaism, and Islam co-existed with a great sense of

peace, wisdom, and mutual respect. Parallel schools of mysticism and spirituality mutually enriched each other. Reactionary Catholicism, manifested in the Inquisition, eventually destroyed this time of enlightened peace when the Jews and Muslims were expelled from Catholic Spain in 1492.

Cost: \$4,550 - for double occupancy.

The 2021 November Pilgrimage to the Holy Land is sold out. If you are interested in receiving a brochure for the next **Pilgrimage to the Holy Land**,

for the first two weeks of November 2022, please get on a list to receive a priority first notice when the details and prices are finalized later this year.

If you are interested or seek further information on either of these 2022 Pilgrimages of Faith, please contact the Carmelite Spiritual Center, 630.969.4141 or retreats@CarmeliteSpiritualCenter.org.

A brochure of sites, travel, and full details will be sent. With the reopening and transition of airline travel, most details are not finalized until 10 months before the trip.

For further information, full brochure, and registration form, please contact: Carmelite Spiritual Center, 8419 Bailey Rd., Darien, Illinois 60561 ~ 630.969.4141 - retreats@CarmeliteSpiritualCenter.org



***WELCOME THE
NEWEST STAFF MEMBER
of the Society of the Little Flower***



WE WISH A WARM WELCOME TO KEVIN KELLER, the newest staff member of the Society of the Little Flower in Darien, Illinois. He is native of Chicago's southside and a long-time member of the Carmelite family. As the lead coordinator of the National Shrine and Museum of St. Thérèse, he is ready to open the spirituality of The Little Flower to guests, pilgrims, and members of the Carmelite family.

Growing up, Kevin's parish was served by several Carmelites from the Province of the Most Pure Heart of Mary, whom he remembers fondly. They must have left an impression. Kevin chose to attend Mount Carmel High School, where he met several Carmelite friars and fell in love with Carmelite living. He attended the University of Illinois at Chicago, where he earned a BA in communication and discerned entering the priesthood. Meanwhile, he kept running into the Carmelites.

After college and a few years working in emergency medical service, Kevin entered the Order of Carmelites. As a friar, he served in a variety of ministries focusing on teaching, retreat work, and quiet evangelization (although most people know him to be a bit loud). After living life as a friar for several years, it became clear the God was calling him to a life of holiness as a layperson.

This past year, Kevin enjoyed teaching in the hybrid in-person/online educational system at Joliet Catholic Academy (also a Carmelite school). It was a dream of his to teach at a Carmelite school since his youth. Since his early years as a friar, he developed a devotion to St. Thérèse and longed to serve the Little Flower.

Thanks to the grace of God, the love of Mary, and the persistence of St. Thérèse, Kevin is now the new Lead Coordinator of the National Shrine and Museum of St. Thérèse in Darien, Illinois. He finds the Shrine to be a refreshing, nourishing, and life-giving service to the Church, Our Lady's order, and to all who can benefit from the life and spirituality of our sister St. Thérèse.

After a tour of the Shrine chapel, the Museum, and the peaceful prayer paths around them, Kevin was touched. "It confirmed in my heart what I already knew in my head – God wants me here." He hopes he can do justice to the wonderfully made legacy of St. Thérèse, the benefactors, and laborers who made this place possible, and to all the visitors. "This is a life-giving place," Kevin said, "I am a steward to keep it alive and flourishing."

We sincerely hope that you will come visit this beautiful place, a true gift to the Church and the world! Kevin will be around most days beginning in August; he would love a visit from you. Come, see the joy of the Little Way. Be moved by the great treasures collected here for you. Know God and live the way of St. Thérèse. 🌹

St. Thérèse of Lisieux

PATRONESS OF MISSIONARIES

FEAST DAY: OCT. 1

The much-loved youngest daughter of a religious French family, Marie Françoise Thérèse Martin was born in 1873. Even as a child, precocious Thérèse was aware of her spiritual vocation. At age 14, she asked her widowed father to let her enter the cloistered order of Carmelites. Although her father agreed, the Carmelite superiors and the bishop insisted she wait. So, on a pilgrimage to the Vatican in 1887, Thérèse pleaded directly to Pope Leo XIII, begging him to allow her to enter the convent at age 15. Although impressed with her fervor, the pope advised patience, saying, "You shall enter if it be God's will." Nearly a year and many prayers later, she joined the order. She was named Sister Thérèse of the Infant Jesus; later, "and of the Holy Face" was added.

Sister Thérèse spent her days in penitence, meditation, and work. In her autobiography, *The Story of a Soul*, she described herself as "the little flower of Jesus" in God's garden of souls. As she reached her 20s, Thérèse desperately wanted to join the Carmelites in French Indochina. Tragically, incurable tuberculosis dashed any chance for her to serve as a missionary. Instead, she counseled two missionaries, writing them often to offer spiritual encouragement.

As she lay dying in agonizing and constant pain at the age of 24, Thérèse could see the roses she loved blooming outside.

Confident of God's love, she promised, "After my death, I will let fall a shower of roses. I will spend my heaven doing good upon earth." Through the years, some of Thérèse's petitioners have said that they smell or see roses when their petitions are answered. 🌹

PRAYER TO ST. THÉRÈSE

*O Thérèse of the Child Jesus,
please pick for me a rose from the heavenly gardens
and send it to me as a message of love.*

*O Little Flower of Jesus,
ask God to grant the favors
I now place with confidence in your hands.*

*St. Thérèse, help me to always believe as you did
in God's great love for me, so that I might
imitate your Little Way each day.*

AMEN.

Generosity is
the heart of God

Living Water

*"My vocation is Love. It is you, O my God, who has given it to me.
In the heart of the Church, I will be love. Thus I will be everything ...
love will descend into my nothingness and transform
nothingness into living fire!"*

- St. Thérèse of Lisieux

GENEROSITY IS THE HEART OF GOD.
We experience divine love and generosity in Jesus' self-emptying on the cross. We experience it when we look at the sky, the innumerable stars, and vast beautiful universe God created for us.

The more we explore the vast universe around us and the complexity of human embodiment within us, even scientists stand in awe. So generous is our God! He created us as spiritual beings having a human experience (Teilhard de Chardin), and made us so interdependent. Aren't we overwhelmed?

Water speaks to us and ignites us. Niagara Falls, by the Canadian National Shrine of St. Thérèse, is awesome. People from around the world seem speechless before the powerful and awesome river cascading recklessly and powerfully. When we were college students in the Carmelite seminary there, we went down there just to experience the powerful presence of God! God's generosity provides the falls.

Here on the Carmelite campus in Darien, by the National Shrine of St. Thérèse, we have three new fountains. They gently speak of the flowing grace of God. One is by the Carmelite Spiritual Center, where people sit by the calming flow. My favorite is by the gazebo in the Meditation Garden. In stressed times, I go there and listen to the gentle splash of the fountain and the trickling brook and it calms my soul. I know all is well and God is in charge.

Fire and water seem like opposites! Yet the divine spark freely given by God ignites the living waters of God's unconditional love. The living waters of God's love ignite the divine spark in our soul. Seems like a conflicting contradiction, but it is the paradox and mystery of how God loves and dwells within us.

God sent us His son who died for us that we might live! St. Thérèse had to empty her neediness and accept her nothingness to become a living flame of love for God and the world. The material of her fire and passion was God, not her

neediness – just like us! We have within us that indwelling of the Holy Trinity who create and sustain the universe and connect us with everyone and everything. The Divine life flows in and through us and unites us in a spiritual ocean of unity, love, and responsibility.

"Everything is grace" is the way beloved St. Thérèse explained it.

An enormous example of generosity and grace is the waterfall of support you, our donors, give to the Society of the Little Flower to help the Carmelites enfold God's love in our missionary efforts here and around the world. Amid times of isolation, contraction, and fear, you continued to be open to share with others whose situation was worse. This is truly a miracle of generosity and self-giving and a much appreciated waterfall of grace.

So many charities were bracing for the worst, because of the economic damage the shutdown occasioned. The Carmelites always knew that the friends of St. Thérèse were special and generous. But your continued response to our appeals for help just expanded that notion. We are humbled by and grateful for your generosity in challenging times.

St. Thérèse was a Carmelite, like we are. Besides seeing ourselves as the Brothers and Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel, we also understand ourselves as the sons and daughters of the prophet Elijah. Amid a terrible drought and famine, God led Elijah to call people back to faith. He was led to a widow in Zarephath, who was gathering sticks. He asked her for some

water and bread. She responded honestly: "I don't have any bread, only a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it – and die."

Elijah said to her, "Please, don't be afraid. Go home and first make a small loaf of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son." Despite being at wit's end, she did the hospitable and generous action. Because of her generosity, the Lord blessed her that so that her jar of flour and jug of oil would never run dry. (1 Kgs 17: 7-16) Generosity softens God's heart!

There are so many biblical stories of generosity and sacrifice, in both testaments.

“
The more we explore the vast universe around us and the complexity of human embodiment within us, even scientists stand in awe. So generous is our God!”





■ *The Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes*, by Lambert Lombard

Among them is the miracle of the loaves and fishes – repeated five times in our Gospels. A crisis of hunger and panic breaks out as Jesus is teaching. The disciples ask Him to send the crowd away. They were hungry also. But Jesus tells them to feed the crowd. The inner circle panics; they have so little. In several accounts Andrew finds a young boy with five loaves and two fish. They protested that is all they could find. I wonder what the young man felt about them commandeering his lunch!

But Jesus insists: “You give them something to eat.” Their excuses that they did not have enough did not work with Jesus. And somehow as Jesus blessed them, they started to give it away; and Jesus miraculously multiplied the bread and fish.

Jesus’ encounter with the rich young man is challenging. He asked what he needed to do to be good and saved. He let Jesus know that he followed the commandments and lived righteously. What else? Jesus said to him, “If you would be whole, complete and holy, go, sell what you possess, and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” The young man left sad. The generosity Jesus asked of him was too much, for he had great possessions.

Certainly it was the example of the early followers of Jesus, who shared their resources so that inequality did not exist among them. Paul even challenges the Corinthian community

about the inequality at their Eucharistic banquets. If the Lord’s presence in Eucharist did not challenge them to share equally at table and in life, then how does it reflect Jesus’ self-emptying life and sacrificial death?

Jesus uses many references to water – especially with the Samaritan woman – the living water that flows from deep within, without needing a bucket. Blood and water flow from His heart as He surrenders to life! So much so that the followers of Jesus quickly used the Jewish Mihvah tradition of water immersion into the waters of Eden as their sign of belonging to the way of the anointed of God – Baptism in Christ! When they were separated from their true center and life, they bathed in the living waters of God’s always available divine love. It became our Sacrament of Baptism and Reconciliation. Remember when we used holy water fountains to remind of us of this immersion in grace – and the bigger picture of who we are!!



Deep, honest, and sincere contemplative prayer of listening helps us live more attentive and intentional lives. We are in touch with the truth of what is going on within us and around us.”

We all long to be excited, energized, and inspired to be bigger and better. At the heart of our DNA is the generosity of the heart of God! That is why most world religions celebrate the virtue of generosity in cultural and religious ways. Even science has uncovered this innate goodness – like the oxytocin response a newborn gets after being birthed from its mother’s womb and suddenly feels disconnected and alone.

When the baby is taken to the mother and their eyes connect, and before the baby finds the breast of life, a new communion and energy ignite within the child. Love is transferred from generation to generation.

One of our great contemporary mystics, Teilhard de Chardin, said: "Someday, after mastering the winds, the waves, the tides and gravity, we shall harness for God the energies of love, and then, for a second time in the history of the world, we will have discovered fire." French, like St. Thérèse, he learned through science, objective truth.

Other mystics like Carmelite Teresa of Avila and Thomas Keating teach us that "prayer" has become a functional and pious thing for believers to do, even though its true purpose is to be an invitation to inner experience. When spiritual teachers invite us to "pray," they are in effect saying, "Go inside and know for yourself!" We know the truth within us – and we know we belong to the whole human family, even if we focus on our own nationality or ourselves.

Keating explains it well: "The chief thing that separates us from God is the thought that we are separated from God. If we get rid of that thought, our troubles will be greatly reduced. We fail to believe that we are always with God and that God is part of every reality. The present moment, every object we see, our inmost nature are all rooted in God. But we hesitate to believe this until our personal experience gives us the confidence to believe in it. God constantly speaks to us through each other as well as from within. The interior experience of God's presence activates our capacity to perceive the divine in everything else – in people, in events, in nature. We may enjoy union with God in any experience of the external senses as well as in prayer." Did not Thérèse teach us "Everything is grace" – and makes us connected, in communion with God and each other, and responsible for each other in God's name.

Generosity is not about charity or giving of our excess. Generosity is about justice – a sense of responsibility to the basic human rights, dignity and happiness that every one of God's daughters and sons has a right to!

This is the heart of generosity. Thomas Keating stated: "Our duty, as men and women, is to proceed as if limits to our ability did not exist. We are collaborators in creation of the fullness of God's reign. We are one, after all, you and I, together we suffer, together exist and forever will recreate each other."

There is generosity of goods and resources – but equally important is generosity of attitude; giving people the benefit of the doubt, the space of latitude and respect for different views.

The Martin family, despite their comfortable wealth, made



sure that all their children, including Thérèse, had to be aware of, sensitive to, and generous to the homeless poor in their town. They were challenged to give some of their allowance to the poor and be respectful when their dad occasionally brought in a drunken homeless person for a meal, bath, or to rest. We are all God's children.

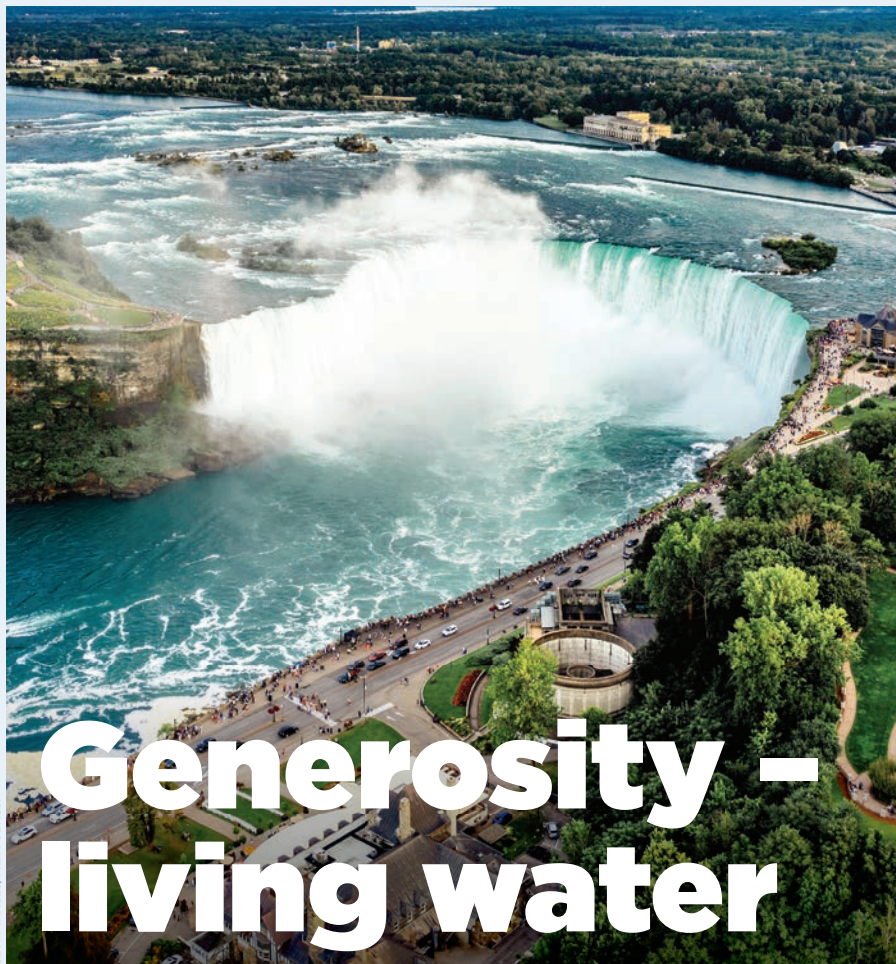
As part of her own inner journey, Thérèse had to learn to work through being uncomfortable with people and situations, and even herself. She wrote: "If you are willing to bear serenely the trial of being displeasing to yourself, you will be for Jesus a pleasant place of shelter." This is generosity of spirit, which unveils God's presence.

Deep, honest, and sincere contemplative prayer of listening helps us live more attentive and intentional lives. We are in touch with the truth of what is going on within us and around us. We are not easily deceived by other people's projections, conspiracy theories, and vengeful darkness because we are listening to the God of light and truth.

True contemplative presence also knows that "everything is grace" – everything is a gift! We stand in humility before the generosity of God. When we count our blessings, like writing in a gratitude journal every night, they outweigh our disappointments. We humbly live in gratitude for the simple things, like breathing, walking, health, and safety, which we often take for granted.

Gratitude and humble generosity. Once we realize how much is given to us, we inherently want to give back – we want to make a difference in other people's lives. We want to better our sisters and brothers in Christ around the world. Just like Thérèse wanted to do – "Go to the ends of the world to make God known and loved." That is what you are doing as friends of the Little Flower – bettering people's lives and giving hope and letting them know they are loved – by God – and God through you! Your five loaves and two fish are more than enough when shared.

God is generous. And you share and reveal the divine generosity by touching people's lives, they who are our sisters and brothers in the body of Christ. 🌹



There is so much in sacred Scripture about water giving new life, and also about water being a destructive force. When I reflect on “living water,” I think of how often in Scripture that we see a river flowing, and in its midst, flowers, plants, and trees grow abundantly. As Psalm 1 says, “They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.” In John 7, 37-38, Jesus says, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” God is the source of all life, and with God flowing from within us, we can bring new life to others.

God’s living water flowed so generously in and through the life of St. Thérèse, even in her struggles. It still flows through her. Sometimes, the waters in her life were like a thunderous falls, while other times, a gentle stream. The living water gave her the vocation of love. The living water continues to give life and beauty to the flowers that she showers continuously upon us in our need. She has helped so many people through this pandemic storm with showers of healing, showers of strength, showers of persistence.

And the beauty is that through St. Thérèse, and through the generosity of you, our donors and benefactors, this new life is being poured into Carmel, as you assist the formation of new Carmelites throughout North and South America. All the rivers and streams of love, support, and generosity that you send across Canada, from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean, as members of the Society of the Little Flower, are what make so much new life possible. This generosity has such a huge impact in God’s Garden of Carmel, and in God’s world. And for that, we Carmelites are grateful. Through the intercession of St. Thérèse, may the living waters of new life, flow through your lives. Thank you for your generosity. Thank you for helping to bring new life to others. 🌹

G **ROWING UP IN ST. MARY’S BAY, NEWFOUNDLAND,** I always loved the water. Our lives were spent around the ocean. So refreshing. So fierce at times. The sounds, the colors, the storms, the winds, the calms, the sunsets, the gentle breezes. All created by God. As a child, I didn’t take the time to appreciate it, but now, I long for those waters and the beauty the ocean offers. Today, I serve downstream from the greatest waterfall in the country, Niagara Falls!

Sitting above the thunderous waters of Niagara Falls, Canada, is the Monastery of Mount Carmel and the National Shrine of the Little Flower! During any season of the year, you can walk outside and hear the roar of the water. If the wind is in the right direction, you can feel the mist on your face! Soothing. Refreshing. A gentle, yet generous reminder of living water. New life. This reminds me of what St. Thérèse said, “All is grace!”

If you go down and stand above the falls, or beneath the falls, or take the tour boat up to the base of the Horseshoe Falls, God’s commanding presence and forceful power are certainly made known. Niagara Falls

is a natural wonder of Canada, and one of the most powerful waterfalls in the world. Imagine, sitting on a boat and watching Lake Erie fall into Lake Ontario! And being bathed in its mist and beauty, even brushed by a rainbow! “All is grace!”

Blessed Titus Brandsma, O. Carm., a Dutch Carmelite, on a visit to Niagara Falls for Carmelite meetings in 1935, wrote, “I not only see the riches of the nature of the water, its immeasurable potentiality; I see God working in the work of his hands and the manifestation of his love.” Father Titus was amazed beyond words at the power and splendor of the falls, which communicated God’s very being.



Prayer to St. Thérèse for Healing

St. Thérèse desired to be love in the heart of the Church. She still is! That's still her vocation! She is one of the patron saints of the missions. The other is St. Francis Xavier. Thérèse never traveled to the missions, or served in the missions, but she had a profound love for the missions. On December 14, 1927, less than three years after her canonization, she was named Patroness of Universal Missions.

Since May of this year, more darkness has been brought to light here in Canada, with respect to the treatment of our Indigenous communities in the Residential Schools. Finding some 1,100 unmarked graves up to July of this year comes as no surprise, if one is familiar with the report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (2008-2015), which was released in December 2015. There were 94 "calls to action." It is a painful time for us as a country and as a Church. We have every right to be angry. I want to offer this prayer for the intercession of St. Thérèse. 🌹

DEAR ST. THÉRÈSE,

*Patroness of the Universal Missions,
we call upon you
in this our time of need.*

*So much wrong had been committed
to our Indigenous brothers and sisters,
through the Residential Schools.
You know that our God wants all of us
to be in a good relationship with Him
and with one another.
We failed deplorably.*

*You found your vocation to be
'love in the heart of the Church' ...
and in the heart of the world.*

*Shower down upon us,
more of that Love.*

*Shower down upon us,
Roses of Healing for our country
and for our church.*

*As we express our anger and sorrow,
at what has been done,
shower down upon us,
Roses of Truth, Peace and
Reconciliation.*

*Help us to be committed
to walk hand in hand
with our Indigenous brothers
and sisters; to have
more respect for one another;
and to learn from one another.*

*Shower down upon us,
a stronger will to walk a new path
toward peace and healing.
Shower down upon us,
a fresh vocation ... of LOVE.*

AMEN.



Father Gerard Power, O.Carm.

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



GETTY IMAGES/SILVIAJANSEN

A splash of water was all it took **LIVING WATER**

WHEN YOU WERE BAPTIZED,
a splash of water was all it took.

That splash was an essential part of welcoming you into God's family, and through the Holy Spirit, it freed you from the effects of original sin. All through a splash of water!

Water is a powerful symbol. It is a sign of life, and it can remind us of our lifelong need for cleansing and renewal. Many of the friends of St. Thérèse who visit her Shrine here in Darien, Illinois, are looking to our beloved saint for a rebirth of sorts, seeking an answer to prayer and a fresh start in life.

With this in mind, as we work to complete the rest of the grounds that surround the National Shrine of St. Thérèse in Darien Illinois, we felt called to integrate water into our visitors'

experience in a more dramatic way: We have installed three fountains as the final element of this ambitious project. It is a project meant to inspire others in their walk of faith for generations to come.

These water features are truly beautiful and are placed in prominent locations, situated to welcome those who enter our Shrine Chapel or our Retreat Center. But more importantly, for those who walk our grounds, their beauty will be eclipsed by the peace they instill, helping our friends to recall that God can make all things new.

We invite you to walk with us on this last leg of the Shrine's renovation journey, and ask you to consider helping us with the costs incurred by obtaining and installing these fountains. They were a substantial investment for us, but we believe the investment was well worth it, given the impact they will have. By joining with us, your support will serve as

a testament to your devotion to St. Thérèse, while also helping to lead those who will visit us in the years ahead into the arms of our loving God.

To learn more about this opportunity, please call our Office of Special Gifts at 888.996.1212. We would be pleased to discuss these details further and explain the recognition opportunities that are available for such an extraordinary gift. 🌹

For information on how
to be a part of the legacy of
St. Thérèse's National Shrine,
call 888.996.1212

SEND INQUIRIES TO:
Society of the Little Flower
Special Gifts Department
1313 N. Frontage Rd.
Darien, Illinois 60561

A Heart of Gold

ANN GREW UP ON A FARM, and it was there that she learned the importance of family. When she married, she moved to the city, where she and her husband raised four children. The children eventually left home to start families of their own. The house was already feeling a bit empty when Al passed away in 2005. Loneliness set in, as it does for many at that time of life, but Ann was grateful for her friend, Thérèse.



GETTY IMAGES/CECILE ARCURI

They would spend hours together, sometimes even in the middle of the night. Although Ann did most of the talking, every once in a while, Thérèse would get in a word or two. Ann treasured those words – they provided comfort when she was feeling down in the dumps.

In gratitude for her friendship with St. Thérèse, Ann gave what she could to the Society over the years. She once wrote to us, “I don’t have much, but I do what I can. The Little Flower has been so good to me.”

Sadly, Ann eventually fell out of contact with us, and we recently learned that she passed away seven months ago. We found out from her attorney, who also shared Ann’s story with us, that she included a place in her will for the Society of the Little Flower. It seems that all along she thought of us as part of her family.

Some might wonder about the size of Ann’s bequest, but, be assured, the Society doesn’t measure a person’s heart by the number of zeros in their gifts. To us, every gift matters – and every gift makes a difference.

It’s hard not to recall this touching Gospel story:

Jesus sat down opposite the treasury and observed how the crowd put money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow also came and put in two small coins worth a few cents.

He told His disciples, “Amen, I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury. For they have all contributed from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has contributed all she had, her whole livelihood.”

Have you ever wondered what the widow was holding in her heart as she approached the treasury? Was she embarrassed? Were her eyes cast down for fear of being ridiculed? Perhaps. But clearly, within the widow’s heart was a deep, deep sense of gratitude. She wanted to give God everything, and all she had were two small coins. But she had a heart of gold. Just like St. Thérèse’s friend, Ann.

Have you ever felt that what you had to offer someone wasn’t enough? Have you ever wondered that a sacrifice you wanted to make might not make a difference – but you sacrificed anyway?

With any sacrifice, it’s the heart that is behind it that really matters. And it’s the heart of St. Thérèse’s friends that we are privileged to see every day at the Society.

Your heart, and the heart of others, is what makes so much possible for the people who turn to us in their time of need, in their gratitude, and in their desire to make a difference.

We invite you to do something extraordinary for St. Thérèse, just as Ann did. Do it within your means, and let your act of generosity reflect your heart and your love for our faithful friend and saint. That act will help to heal, educate, feed, and comfort those who turn to us during the important moments of their lives.

Some choose to support the Society by creating a gift annuity; it’s a way to provide income for one’s own future while providing for ours as well. Some name the Society as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy or IRA. And some decide to honor us by including us in their estate plans. Whatever means one uses to support our todays and tomorrows, we will be forever grateful for your kindness. And please remember ... we’re not counting the zeros! 🌹



Daniel Pritchard

■ As a gift for friends of St. Thérèse, we are pleased to offer a free copy of our planning guide, “Giving for Our Future.” To request your copy, just call our Office of Special Gifts at 888.996.1212. By the way, those who include the Society of the Little Flower in their estate plans are enrolled in our Legacy Society, the Rose Garden of St. Thérèse, with its many spiritual benefits.

Secure Your Future

with a Gift Annuity through the Society of the Little Flower.

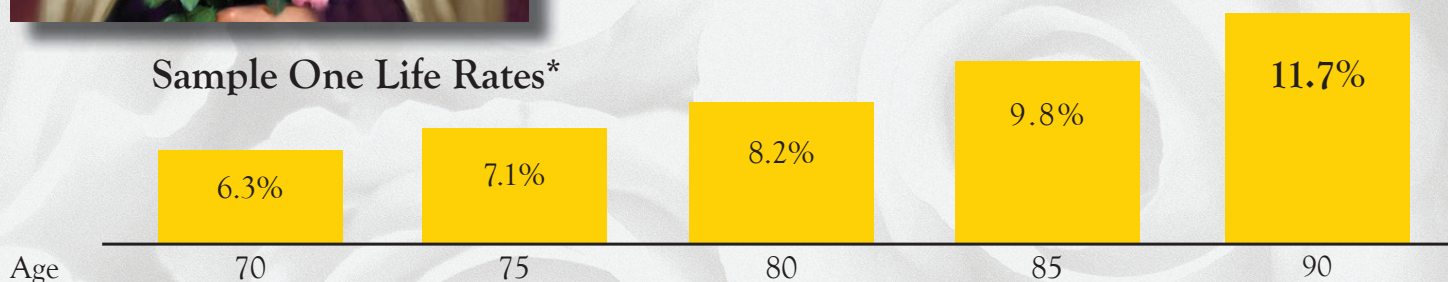


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