



Joseph and Veronica Thie Service Award winners

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93 REASONS TO LOVE LITTLE FLOWER



In 1926, the Sisters of St. Francis welcomed the first students to Little Flower Catholic School.

Ninety-three years later, Little Flower continues to offer a quality Catholic education on the Eastside of Indianapolis. Thousands of students have made millions of memories in the halls, in the gym, and on the playground.

We gathered many of those memories from current and former Little Flower teachers,

parents, and students and published our *93 Reasons to Love Little Flower*. From Fr. Bob to Mrs. Slaton, *The Little Way* to many field trips, small class sizes (a more recent development) to our close knit community, the reasons for loving Little Flower covered a wide swath. You can see the full list at **93reasons.com**.

This Christmas season we find another reason to love Little Flower--the strong commitment, present since the Sisters first arrived, to giving back. Saint Therese said, "Love is repaid by



love alone." In this newsletter, we give thanks for the many current and former Little Flower students and teachers who continue to give back to their community, to lead with a servant heart.

MISSION STATEMENT

Little Flower Catholic School, an educational ministry of Little Flower Parish, exists to provide quality Catholic education for the Eastside and beyond as it has since 1926. Little Flower is a compassionate, caring community for pre-kindergarten through eighth grade that celebrates the growth of each person. We welcome all families who share our philosophy and mission.

Our school provides a safe, nurturing environment, a challenging academic curriculum, with an emphasis on the arts, that prepares students for higher education and helps them develop into confident, responsible citizens. Following the words of St. Therese, our patroness, "Love is repaid by love alone," we promote a dedication to the Catholic values of peace, justice, and service.



A WORD FROM FR. BOB

Dear Friends,

I hope everyone will have a most blessed and joyful Christmas and an even more blessed New Year.

During this Christmas season, we do not want to forget the true meaning of Christmas. Jesus is the one true light of the world. He is the embodiment of God's love in the world. He makes the impossible possible. Finally, he transforms lives.

On Saturday, November 2, 2019, Little Flower hosted its Annual All-Class Reunion at the Marriott at 21st and Shadeland. As always, the highpoint of our reunion was the presentation of awards.

Each year the \$1,000 Bob Kiley Scholarship is awarded to an outstanding 8th grader who is an altar server. This year the award was split between Wil Battles and Reanna Hollada.

Four outstanding alumni were added to our Wall of Honor.

After graduating from St. Mary Academy, Sr. Barbara Hileman, OSF, Class of 1947, entered the convent, graduated from Marian College, and began a twenty-four year career in elementary education. She then moved into parish ministry until she responded to a request for sisters to serve the Navajo at a remote mission in New Mexico. Later she returned to Indianapolis to serve fourteen years as chaplain at St. Vincent Seton Specialty Hospital. Today Sr. Barbara is retired at the Motherhouse in Oldenburg. Sister

has been an Oldenburg Franciscan Sister for 68 years. Sister Barbara is grateful to Little Flower for preparing her for an interesting, fulfilling, and blessed life!

Mike Boyle, Class of 1951, graduated from Cathedral High School in 1955 and from Marian College in 1959. After college, Mike was hired as part of the Ford College Graduate Program as an accountant. Since Ford always encouraged community service, Mike took on many volunteer opportunities. For example, he advised the Warren Township School Board and developed the first accounting curriculum for the Walker Career Center. He also assisted with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program sponsored by the IRS to prepare income taxes for low-income persons. Mike wrote, "Little Flower and the neighborhood were my roots.... LF was the cornerstone of my Catholic education."

Bill Bevan, Class of 1959, graduated from Little Flower and Scecina Memorial High School and attended Marian College. He worked for Allstate Insurance Company for 40 years as Office Operations Supervisor. When the Indiana Pacers came to Indianapolis, Bill was asked to be a member of the initial statistics crew and later became their official scorer, a position he held for almost 49 of his 51 years with the Pacers. Bill worked more than 2400 games. Over the years Bill volunteered as a coach for many teams at Scecina. After retiring from Allstate, he became a substitute teacher at Scecina. Bill said, "My Catholic faith was instilled by my family and enriched at Little Flower."

Bob Gavaghan, Class of 1973, is a great family man who does not like the limelight and stays

in the background. He attends daily Mass every day during Lent and many other days as well. Bob reaches out to people in need. Bob began organizing the Gav's Classic Basketball Tournament in 1976. Since 1985 it has been a fundraiser. The total amount raised to this day is \$81,000. For example, this year's Classic honored Marydell Moran and David Short. Bob wrote, "Little Flower taught me, at a young age, faith and good morals that I have used throughout my life.... I always felt the love and support from Little Flower teachers and nuns."

It is evident from what they wrote that our honorees recognize that their Little Flower education was a great gift to them. All have generously shared that gift with others.

Over the years Little Flower has recognized 76 outstanding alumni and alumnae. We know there are many more who deserve to be recognized. This year I want to invite and encourage all of you to nominate deserving candidates.

Finally, thank you for all your support for Little Flower School. Your gifts to Little Flower help guarantee that the gift of a Little Flower education will continue for today's and tomorrow's students. Therefore, I hope all of you will participate in this year's Little Flower Annual Fund campaign. Today's and tomorrow's students will thank you.

Have a blessed Christmas and New Year.

fr. Bob

RANSBURG YMCA VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

DJ Young entered the Ransburg YMCA as a two and a half year old. He loved being in Play and Learn, playing, making friends, and helping other kids.

This summer DJ wanted to give back to the place in which he had grown up, so he began volunteering in Play and Learn. "I'd been there my whole life, and I wanted to contribute to what they had done for me." He quickly made a name for himself as



DJ Young

a hard worker and all-around good guy.

DJ loves to help out with any age group and always makes sure he meets the new kids. "I just love to help out and make people smile," he

says. DJ is a conscientious worker and always makes sure everything is covered before he leaves his shift.

For this, DJ has been recognized as Ransburg YMCA Volunteer of the Year for delivering outstanding service to his community.

As an eighth grader Little Flower DJ has consistently shown a great volunteer work ethic. He serves as our photographer and is always looking for an opportunity to help in our school. We are proud of DJ for his Servant Leader mentality, and we congratulate him on being named Volunteer of the Year.

SCECINA STUDENT PUTS HIS HEART INTO COOKOUT FOR LIFE FUNDRAISER

By Beth Murphy

Suicide prevention, mental health, and firefighting are issues close to the heart of Scecina junior Elijah Clegg.

He lost his brother, Zac, to suicide when Zac was a freshman at Roncalli High School and Elijah was 10.

His dad, Steve Clegg, a 1990 Scecina graduate, is a firefighter.

After his brother's death, suicide prevention became a major cause for Elijah's family, including his mom, Amy (Montgomery) Clegg, Scecina Class of 1994. They organized a group, called Zac's Amazing Crew, to walk in the American Foundation for



Elijah Clegg

Suicide Prevention's (AFSP) Out of the Darkness Community Walk.

Elijah decided last summer to create a fun event to raise money for his causes. He set a goal of raising \$1,500. Local TV stations broadcast stories about Elijah and his fundraiser. Roncalli also promoted the event.

On Sept. 1, people from all over the city came together at the Indianapolis Firefighters Local 416

Union Hall in Downtown Indy for Elijah's fundraiser, Cookout for Life.

He raised \$8,600, way above his goal.

"It was insanely amazing. I was thinking too small" said Elijah, who also takes part in band, Rock Band, theatre, and cross country at Scecina. "I'm very proud of the results and the people who showed up."

The funds from the September fundraiser were split between AFSP and Local 416 Peer Support Fund to help firefighters dealing with mental health or emotional issues.

Elijah said he got "an adrenaline rush" from seeing all the people show up and support him.

He's already thinking about another Cookout for Life next year.

"We're talking to more bands, adding a few other surprises, and more featured speakers," he said.

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

Last year during the last week of school, when kids were “done” with school, Meghan Reasner’s first graders came in to school to find all their desks gone. In place was a blue tarp with inner tubes for kids to sit on and float through their work for the day. They were extremely busy and productive all day! That is the type of innovation and creativity that has made Meghan this year’s Little Flower nominee of the St. Theodora Guerin Excellence in Teaching Award.



Meghan Reasner's first grade class

Meghan has taught at Little Flower for eight years, in fourth grade and now in first. Our older students gushed when I asked about her. “She

made learning fun!” “We couldn’t wait to come back to school!” “She treated us like people, not just students and helped us learn from our mistakes.” “She made us a closer family.”

Her classroom is fun and innovative--Rube Goldberg Projects, Reasner’s Corner Store (where kids made and sold their own products), the Reading Porch--and productive. Meghan’s first graders last year showed above average growth on NWEA reading and math.

Meghan’s influence goes beyond the classroom. She is always willing to do what is needed. She attends PTO nights, helped plan Literacy Night, and has even coached basketball. But she is most proud of the relationships she has built at Little Flower.

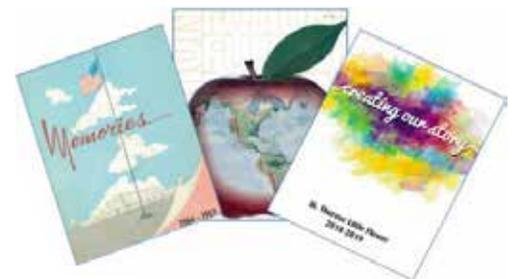
“I remember the first time I walked into the front doors of Little Flower for my interview a week before school started. ONE WEEK! I was so nervous, but the moment I stepped inside I felt at home. I knew from that moment that this was where I

wanted to start my teaching career. My Little Flower family started helping me on day one and haven’t stopped since. I never thought that I would learn and grow so much from my wonderful coworkers, students, and families throughout the years! I know I would not be where I am today without all of the support I have received from my Little Flower family. Together, we have shared everything from laughter and joys to frustrations and heartbreaks. I am grateful that I work in a school that values relationships as much as learning and lets me transform my classroom for silly lessons to create fun memories. I love teaching here because I can share my passions through my lessons and have the courage to try new things. I am honored to be nominated for the St. Theodora Excellence in Education Award. We have wonderful teachers who all deserve recognition for their talents, so being nominated has made me feel very special. Thank you for your continuous love, support and encouragement!” Congratulations to Meghan Reasner for showing us how to strive for excellence.

PAST YEARBOOKS AVAILABLE TO VIEW ONLINE!

Through the generosity of many alumni and parents who dug through their closets and basements and loaned us their old yearbooks, we are excited to announce that ALL of Little Flower School’s past yearbooks (1964-65 through 2018-19) have been digitized and put on our web site. Huge thanks goes to David Smock ’85 for initiating and completing this project. Take some time to relive your fondest Little Flower memories at

<https://www.littleflowerparishschool.org/alumni/school-yearbook-archives>.



WARNING: This trip down memory lane is likely to grab your attention for several hours at a time. Enjoy!

ALUMNI GATHER TO CELEBRATE ALL-CLASS REUNION

On November 2, 2019, we celebrated the annual All-Class Reunion for Little Flower Catholic School. Around 300 Little Flower Alumni and their guests were in attendance.

As always the evening began with optional tours of the school building, allowing alumni to recall fond memories of their alma mater as well as see new additions to the school they once called home. Fr. Bob Gilday, '63, celebrated Mass, and the Little Flower Adult and Student Liturgical Choirs added beautiful sounds to the service.

After Mass, alumni and their guests reconvened at the Indianapolis Marriott East for a social hour, followed by a delicious dinner and dessert. Finally, the evening was highlighted by the presentation of awards.

The Bob Kiley Scholarship was awarded to 8th graders Reanna Hollada and Wil Battles. Four Outstanding Alumni were honored: Sr. Barbara Hileman, OSF, '47, Mike Boyle, '51, Bill Bevan, '59, and Bob Gavaghan, '73.

Outstanding Alumni are chosen primarily from nominations made by other alumni, friends, or family. Anyone wishing to nominate a Little Flower graduate for this honor should send an email to lfalumni@yahoo.com or visit the school web site at www.littleflowerparishschool.org and click the link to submit a nomination in the Alumni section. Characteristics to consider include occupation/vocation, community/parish involvement, and demonstrated Catholic school values.

Next year's All-Class Reunion will be on **Saturday, November 7, 2020**. Mark your calendars and plan to attend this enjoyable evening!



Kiley Award Winner Reanna Hollada (center) with pastor Fr. Bob Gilday (left) and principal Kevin Gawrys (right). Co-recipient Wil Battles was unable to attend due to a prior commitment out of town.



Outstanding Alumni Award Winners (Front row from left:) Sr. Barbara Hileman and Mike Boyle. (Back row from left:) Bob Gavaghan, Kevin Gawrys, Fr. Bob, and Bill Bevan.

Save the Date

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2020

ANNUAL FUND LAUNCHED IN NOVEMBER

Your generosity sustains us! Each year Little Flower Catholic School conducts an annual alumni appeal, which was launched at our All-Class Reunion. An Annual Fund is essential to the operation of the school, as it helps with the costs of supporting programs and improving facilities that are not covered by tuition. It is important for our continued sustainability to have a successful Annual Fund.



In the past we have been able to renovate classrooms, update restrooms, and update technology for our students from the money raised in the annual appeal. The Annual Fund also provides needs-based tuition assistance for those students who do not

qualify for full state vouchers as well as funds innovative teaching ventures.

In conjunction with our 93rd anniversary and our "93 Reasons to Love Little Flower" campaign, we are setting a goal of \$93,000 for this year's Annual Fund. As of December 15, we have raised over \$35,000 in donations!

You may remember last year's donations were directed toward updating security features in the building, specifically focusing on security cameras and new interior doors. We are continuing to focus on security for one more year, this time addressing exterior building access and equipping the school with emergency supplies. Although it is not typical for us to have the same focus for

two consecutive years, we are intentionally making safety a priority for the ever-changing demographic of the student body. Many of our students have difficult home lives, and Little Flower is a place where they feel happy and comfortable. Therefore, it is important that we maintain a secure environment for them while they are "home" with us.

Your gifts will also continue to benefit tuition assistance for those in need. In our current year, students qualified for over \$90,000 of needs-based assistance over and above any assistance from the state. This enables us to make a Little Flower education possible for all students.

Our school website makes it easy to make a donation. Go to littleflowerparishschool.org, click the "Support Us" link, then click the link to the Annual Fund, and you will find a donation button.

Whether you are donating for the first time or you are a long-time benefactor, your assistance will make a positive impact on our students. We hope you will prayerfully consider a gift to the Annual Fund. Please continue to pray for God's continued blessings on our school.

CORRECTION

In our last newsletter we incorrectly identified one of our alumni scholarships as the Brown Scholarship. The correct name of the scholarship is the Chris Cardis Memorial Scholarship. Our apologies for the mistake and our thanks to Butch and Donna Brown for their support of Little Flower Catholic School students and families.



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