



2020 Fish Fry

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A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

On Wednesday, March 11, a team of teachers, principals, and Archdiocesan administrators visited our school as part of our accreditation process. The day included classroom observations and interviews with Fr. Bob, Angie Mackell, all school staff, and several parents and students. It was an excellent day, and we look forward to the final report that will highlight our strengths and offer suggestions on how we can continue to improve.

One of the things that several of the visitors pointed out to me was how wonderful our kids are. They described them as intelligent, articulate, and kind. The visitors noted that our kids

truly understand the mission of Little Flower and knew, and are committed to, The Little Way. Students told them how much we are family and that they consider Little Flower to be a second home to them.

That is what makes this current shutdown so difficult and heartbreaking. While we will find ways to deliver instruction and create engaging work for our kids, the real difficulty will be in keeping our connections and our fantastic sense of community. For example one student came in on the first Monday of the shutdown and told his teacher how much he missed her. She hugged him and laughed and said, "It's only been the weekend!"

As usual, Little Flower teachers have been fantastic in adapting and preparing during this time. Our staff put together a checklist as families came in

to make sure we were helping meet all their needs. Teachers continue to reach out to families via phone and social media.

Fittingly, this week the Little Way tenet we were to discuss is "Find the Joy in Everything." I shared with parents a TEDTalk by Shaun Achor on the science of happiness at https://www.ted.com/talks/shawn_achor_the_happy_secret_to_better_work. This is my favorite TEDTalk. In the talk, Shaun posits that it is not our circumstances, but our attitude toward them that creates greater happiness and, in turn, greater success.

Please keep Little Flower students in your prayers that they do not feel isolated, that they find the joy in everything, and that they are able to return "home" to Little Flower soon.

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,

Archdiocesan educators were here on Wednesday, March 11, for our school accreditation visit. On Thursday, March 12, the Archdiocese decided to close all Archdiocesan schools because of the coronavirus pandemic. Therefore, March 12 became the last day of in-person classes until at least April 6, now extended to May 1, except for those children whose parents had no other option for Friday with such short notice.

Once the announcement was made, our administration, faculty, and staff immediately began preparing for two weeks of e-learning. Parents were asked to pick up their children's work and books on Friday, March 13. 260 out of 290 families picked up their work in the first 1½ days. By Friday, one of our Pre-4 students had her classroom set up at home similar to her classroom at school.

Our Pre-3 and Pre-4 teachers sent packets home for their students with suggestions for games and other activities. They continue to send videos to their students. Our K-8 teachers have also sent home packets, and the older students are being asked to work online. We loaned computers to those who did not have computers or did not have enough computers at home. We also opened Google Chat so teachers and students could interact with each other. Mrs. Moore, one of our 4th Grade teachers, created a TikTok account so students could share videos exclusively with each other. Students have access to their teachers every day, and teachers will call their students at least weekly.

I was totally impressed and grateful that our administration, faculty, and staff were able and willing to get so much ready so quickly. Likewise, I was impressed that so many of our parents picked up their children's books and work so quickly.

The pandemic is taking a toll on everyone physically, emotionally, spiritually, and financially. Throughout the world, large numbers of people are becoming ill, and a significant number are dying from this new disease. The constant news reports about the virus are creating a lot of anxiety for a lot of people and panic in some people. Likewise, social distancing is very hard for some people. The pandemic may cause some to question their faith. The perennial question is how God can allow a pandemic that will kill or sicken so many people.

Financially, this pandemic is hurting the national and local economies. The people for whom I feel most are the people who can least afford not to have income. Likewise, I feel for parents who still have to work and who are now challenged with finding childcare for their children who are suddenly out of school.

Not long ago I started reading Bruce Scifres' latest book, *True Impact: 25 Short Stories and Insights that Inspire Transformational Leadership*. Bruce Scifres, now the Executive Director of CYO, coached Roncalli's football team to seven Indiana Football State Championships. Chapter 1 is titled "The Choice Is Ours." In this chapter, he presents Urban Meyer's success equation: $E + R = O$. According to Bruce, E represents events that occur in our lives over which we have no control. R is how we react to the events around this. I would prefer the word *respond*. O represents the

eventual outcomes. Certainly we cannot control the coronavirus or the restrictions in our lives because of it, but we can control how we respond, which in turn will determine the outcome.

What should our faith response be? In a reading from Genesis on the Second Sunday of Lent, God said to Abram, "Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your father's house to a land that I will show you.... Abram went as the LORD directed him." God asked Abraham to entrust his life and his future to God and God's word of promise. We are called to do the same. This is the true meaning of faith.

At the same time, we have to do our part. French philosopher Maurice Blondel wrote, "Once we have done everything as if expecting nothing from God, we still have to expect everything from God as if we had done nothing of ourselves." Little Flower School is doing everything possible to keep our students safe while also continuing their education.

Your continuing support of Little Flower Catholic School helps enable us to continue to serve not only the parishioners of Little Flower but the larger community. Because of your support, we are an instrument of evangelization in both good times and bad times, and you help us continue the mission and ministry of Jesus. The entire Little Flower School community and I thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Stay healthy. Stay safe.

PARVULI DEI AWARD

Andrew Kennedy, Little Flower 4th grader, received the Parvuli Dei Award from the National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS).

NCCS promotes and supports Boy Scouts of America as a viable form of youth ministry with the Catholic youth of our nation. It provides a religious emblem program to help our scouts grow in their faith and develop good Catholic values.



The purpose of the Parvuli Dei (Children of God) emblem is to help young boys explore a wide range of activities in order to discover the presence of God in their daily lives as members of their families and parishes, and also to develop a good, positive self-image through the contributions they can make to the group or community.



PINEWOOD DERBY





FAMILY TRADITION

When school opened this past August, Jessica (Wallpe) Freudenstein found herself in a new position, but in a very familiar place. Jessica, LF class of 2001, was returning to Little Flower to serve as our Resource Director. "I always knew that I was going to come back to Little Flower. It's neat to see that some traditions are still the same while others have changed."

If anyone would understand the importance of tradition at Little Flower, it would be Jessica. She had enrolled her daughter Mya, LF class of 2029, in our preschool the previous year, making it four generations of her family that have attended Little Flower.

"She was here before I worked here, so it was important that (A) she went to a Catholic school and (B) that she went where I went. It's a family tradition and really important to me, and my husband is on board because he knows how important it is to me."

Jessica's mother, Julia Wallpe, LF class of '77, felt the same way when she chose Little Flower for her daughter. "Why did I send Jessica to Little Flower – to keep with the tradition of a wonderful Catholic Education. I wanted her to experience the same feeling of family, friends and community that I experienced and that I still do experience every time I walk through the doors of both the school and the church. I feel at home, I feel safe, I feel God's love, and she feels that same way."

Jim Erlenbaugh, LF class of '55, feels very proud to have a great grandchild(ren)--Macy will join the LF family next year--at Little Flower. "It's important to me because Little Flower has always been such a good, stable environment for the Eastside and it still is." Jim remembers First Fridays when the nuns would serve donuts and hot chocolate. "Because I lived so close to school I would go to daily Mass and sing with the nuns in the choir loft."

Jessica laughed when she heard that memory from her grandfather. "We always talk about him and then my mom singing in the Christmas choir, but I never knew he sang with the nuns until now."



Four generations at Little Flower (L to R) Jim Erlenbaugh '55, Julia Wallpe '77, Jessica (Wallpe) Freudenstein '01, and Mya Freudenstein '29

Many other memories are often shared. The Washington, DC trip, daily Masses, midnight Masses, the Tree Song. "Mom and I shared some of the same teachers, we have always been involved in the parish (choir, decorating church, festival) as well, and now we are passing it down to Mya and Macy."

ANNUAL FUND UPDATE

As you know, Little Flower Catholic School typically conducts an Annual Fund, beginning in November of each year in conjunction with our annual All-Class Reunion.

An Annual Fund is essential to the operation of Little Flower School, as it helps with the costs of sustaining programs and improving facilities that are not covered by tuition. In addition to building improvements,

the Annual Fund also supplies funds needed for technology improvements, innovation grants for teachers, and needs-based tuition assistance.

In our continued effort to increase security in the building, this year's goal is to raise enough funds to improve our exterior building access and equipping classrooms with emergency supplies. Since November 1, the Annual Fund has generated over \$80,000.00 in donations! We need to keep the trend going in order to begin making the necessary updates.

For those who are able, we invite you to increase your investment in Little Flower Catholic School through a generous donation to this year's Annual Fund. Whether you are a first-time donor or a long-time benefactor, your assistance will make a positive impact on the lives of our students and can help us to carry on the tradition and promise of Little Flower Catholic School.

Please continue to pray for God's continued blessings on our school.

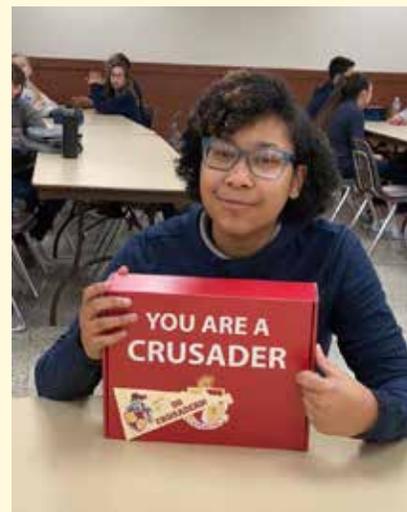
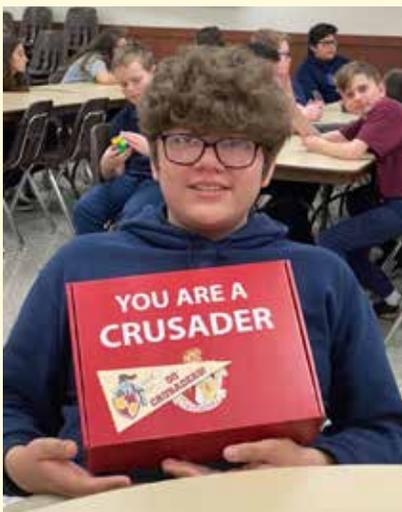
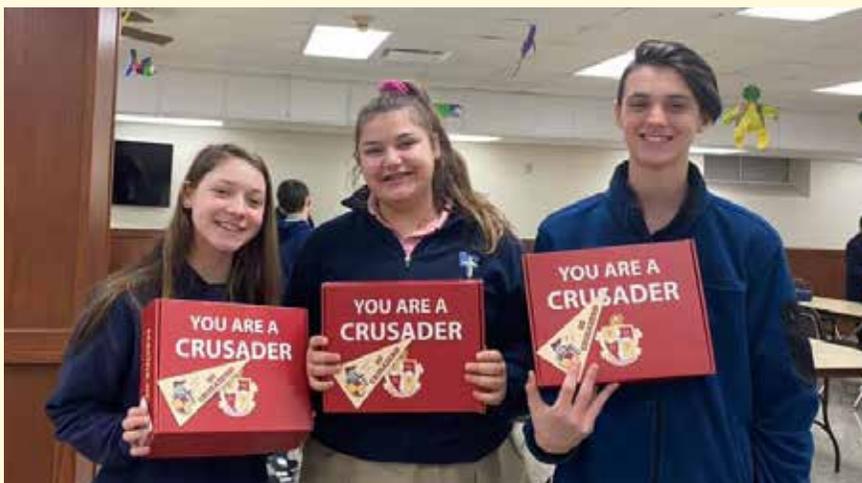
ALUMNI NEWS

Katie Null, LF class of '08, daughter of **Julie McAllen-Null '75** and sister of **Alana Null '09**, will marry Nicholas Bernauer of Our Lady of Lourdes on April 18, 2020 at St John the Evangelist Catholic Church at one o'clock in the afternoon. (below)



Gavin Turner, LF class of 2020, demonstrated his academic excellence by earning the top score among all students who took the Secina placement test this year.

SECINA ACCEPTANCES



THE SUMMERFEST SILENT AUCTION IS GOING DIGITAL

Exciting changes are afoot for this year's Silent Auction at Summerfest!

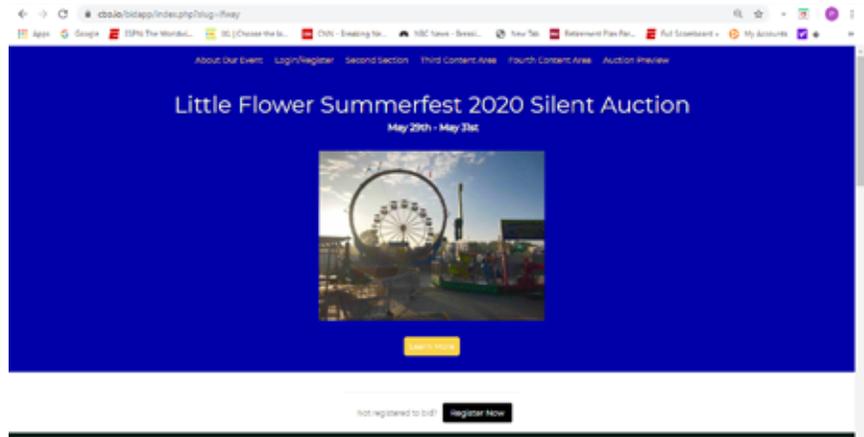
After serious consideration over the past couple of years, we have decided to move the Silent Auction bidding to a mobile platform. Simply stated, this means that you will use your mobile device (or tablet or computer) to place your bids instead of writing them on paper bid sheets. Alumni and friends from all over the country can participate in our Silent Auction!

All you have to do is visit the website below to register as a bidder anytime from now until the end of the auction on 9/13/2020.

<https://lflway.cbo.io>

There are several benefits to the new platform worth noting:

- Mobile bidding allows bidders to bid from wherever they are – on church grounds, at home, anywhere!
- Mobile bidding will send alerts to bidders' devices when they have been outbid. Bidders can then place a new bid from wherever they are.
- You can set automatic maximum bids on the items you want to try hardest to secure. The system will automatically keep raising your bid to the amount you set.
- Convenience - Mobile bidding makes it convenient to



participate and bid on auction items throughout the entire event.

- No app download necessary. Registration is as easy as providing your name, email and mobile number.
- Bidders may pay on website with a credit card or choose to pay cash/check/credit at time of pick-up as usual.
- We will NOT require bidders' credit card information to make bids.
- Bidders can monitor bids anytime without having to go to the location of the item.
- Items can be viewed before the event. Bidders can come prepared and ready to bid on the items they want to take home.
- There will be volunteers on hand at the silent auction to assist and make bids for people that do not have smart phones. The volunteers can also assist bidders with bidding on their own devices.
- Winners will be texted immediately upon closing the auction with information about

what they won and how much to pay. No more waiting in line at the end of the auction to see if you won something.

We are hopeful that the new bidding platform will increase revenue by increasing the volume of bids and the number of people who can participate. In light of that, our auction will only be as good as the items we can put in it. So please consider whether you have anything that you could donate for the auction. It could be as simple as an unused gift card you have laying around or a timeshare you won't have a chance to use this year, or perhaps you are a skilled artisan and want to donate a one-of-a-kind piece. Donations can be dropped off at the Parish Office.

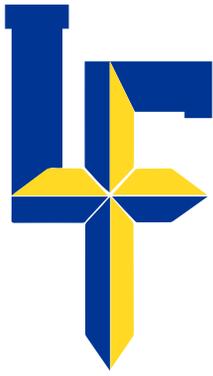
Please reach out to Elizabeth Mann (edeputy1@yahoo.com) if you have any questions about the new platform or making a donation. We truly appreciate your support of the auction through donations and participation over the past years and in 2020!

LITTLE FLOWER CATHOLIC SCHOOL ANNUAL ALL-CLASS REUNION

*Save
the
Date*

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2020
5:00 P.M. MASS WITH DINNER FOLLOWING

FORMAL INVITATION AND DETAILS TO COME!
ALUMNI, PLEASE PLAN TO JOIN US!



St. Therese of the Infant Jesus
Little Flower Catholic School
4720 E 13th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46201
www.littleflowerparish.org/school

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SUMMERFEST 2020 – NEW DATES

Summerfest 2020 was postponed due to the pandemic. The leadership team is now planning for a smaller version of Summerfest to take place September 11, 12, and 13. Because our ride vendor is completely booked through the fall, there will not be rides at this year's festival. We are looking into alternative activities to fill the space and keep the fun going!

Updates will be posted on our Facebook page, Little Flower Catholic Church and School, and in the parish bulletin, *The Theresean*.

As you probably know, Summerfest proceeds are used to fund capital projects which we would not be able to do with regular operating revenue. This year we plan to update the cooling system with backup heating in the rectory.

Please pray that we are able to have a successful festival while keeping everyone safe and healthy. Stay tuned for updates!