



Little Flower students and parents assembled one of the largest groups in the Indianapolis St. Patrick's Day parade this year. This is an LF tradition that continues to flourish and grow.

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A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

On the first Friday in May, Little Flower eighth graders participate in our traditional May Crowning. Second graders line the pathway to Mary. Those who received First Communion the previous Sunday are dressed in their suits and dresses from their special day. Eighth graders process in and gather around the statue of Mary. One eighth grade girl is chosen to carry the wreath for Mary, and one is chosen to crown her.

Following the ceremony, eighth graders and their parents gather for donuts, milk, and juice in the cafeteria. (Second graders get donuts in their room also.) Students give their parents thank you letters in which they thank their parents for all they have done and sacrificed for them.

For many students, they have spent a majority of their lives as Little Flower students. Every year we have a few students who have attended since preschool. Imagine the continuity and sense of being at home for a 14 year old who has spent 11 years in the same school!

While not all students have that lengthy of a career at LF, the final month of their eighth grade year is always one of fond memories, cherished relationships, and the difficulties of saying goodbye.

The solemnity of May Crowning quickly gives way to the nerves and energy of the Spring Musical on Friday and Saturday nights. Eighth graders lead, in the play and by example, and continue the legacy of musical excellence at Little Flower.

Two weeks later, eighth graders, in their final All School Mass, help Kindergarteners as they lead their first Mass ever. The very next day, eighth graders board the bus at 7:00 a.m. for the annual Washington, DC trip. This whirlwind, four-day adventure is an ideal time for bonding, reliving the joys (and sorrows) of school, and looking ahead. With stops at Flight 93, Arlington National Cemetery, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, a night tour of the Mall memorials, and a boat ride down the Potomac, it is an exhausting, exhilarating finale for the kids.

Returning on Wednesday, they go home and SLEEP (after an overnight bus trip we all need that). Thursday is clean-up day

and then off to Ellenberger Park for a class picnic. Friday is the Eighth Grade Luncheon, provided and served by the seventh grade. The day ends with a final procession out of the building to the cheers of the entire school. The last two years have also seen the police or fire department in attendance to wail their sirens and maybe even soak the kids.

After a long Memorial Day weekend, our eighth graders hold their Graduation Mass and Ceremony on Wednesday. Dressed in their finest they honor the hard work they have put in and that others have put in on their behalf. Then they head to the café and party!

After a long, eventful May, capping many years of growing in mind, body and spirit, it is always a pleasant surprise at how many of our new alumni show up for the school's final Mass on Tuesday morning. I hope all our alumni take some time this May to remember your school days at Little Flower. I also hope you all find time to "come home" and join us for Mass and a trip down memory lane.

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 you all had a most blessed and happy Easter.

The students of Little Flower had a wonderful experience of Lent this year. At Mass on Ash Wednesday, the students received ashes. Five eighth graders and I distributed ashes. Each student received "My Path to Easter" to help them make their Lenten promises of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. On each floor was a poster with "Fast, Pray, Give." The 8th grade class led "Living Stations" for the school and for the parish on Good Friday.

Individual teachers had their own class discussions and activities focused on Lent. For example, Mrs. Echegaray's 5th grade class watched Dynamic Catholic's Best Lent Ever videos followed by a discussion about the question at the end. They also worked on "newspaper" articles involving Scripture passages about the events that transpired throughout Holy Week. Mrs. Reasner's 1st grade class created a Lenten folder with their daily acts of kindness. They talked about the Trinity, different ways to pray, what fasting means (for kids), the pretzel prayer, the jelly bean prayer, forgiveness, the stations of the cross, the importance of the church and community, and looking within themselves and finding Jesus. Besides singing a Lenten song, Mrs. Stevens'

Kindergarten class colored their "Good Deeds" chart in the hallway when the children made a good choice by helping others.

Why is this important? School Choice has been a wonderful gift to families in the State of Indiana. It enables parents to choose the schools that they believe will be best for their children. The downside is that as parents have an increasing number of choices for their children, some parents see a Catholic school education as just one choice among many. Over the years, Catholic school parents have sacrificed to send their children to Catholic schools precisely because they were Catholic schools.

Public schools, charter schools, or non-Catholic private schools, many of which are excellent schools, cannot give children what a Catholic school can, i.e., a Catholic education. As a Catholic school, we try to teach our students our Catholic faith and Catholic values. More importantly, Catholic school education enculturates them into the Catholic community by helping them develop a Catholic world view and forming them according to the principles of Catholic social teaching.

At the end of one of our Lenten fish frys, a parent of two former students called me over to tell me that he wanted to bring them back to Little Flower. All year his children have talked about how their new school does not talk about God or Jesus. When he talked to his son about his behavior at school, his son said that he cannot be as good there as here because he does not have me

to guide him. These parents are not Catholic, but now because of their children they recognize the importance of education in faith.

During grade school, the faith of children is affiliative faith. Their faith is very much influenced by their community. This argues the importance of Catholic Schools. If the faith of young children is affiliative, we should want our children to be enculturated into the Catholic faith community. Our Little Flower Lenten practices are part of enculturating them into the Catholic faith.

Thank you for all you do to support Little Flower Catholic School. Although Catholic parents have always sacrificed to send their children to Catholic schools, the cost of tuition today is still prohibitive for many. Your generosity is helping the next generation of Catholics obtain a Catholic school education and Little Flower School to provide these young Catholics with an excellent Catholic education.

fr. bob

Congratulations to **Moira Corcoran**, class of '11 for her induction into Phi Beta Kappa after learning earlier in the day she will receive a Boren Scholarship to study Turkish language and culture overseas for a year. Before leaving for Baku in the fall, she will intern with the fabulous team at New America in Washington, D.C.

ANNUAL FUND UPDATE

Little Flower Catholic School 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.

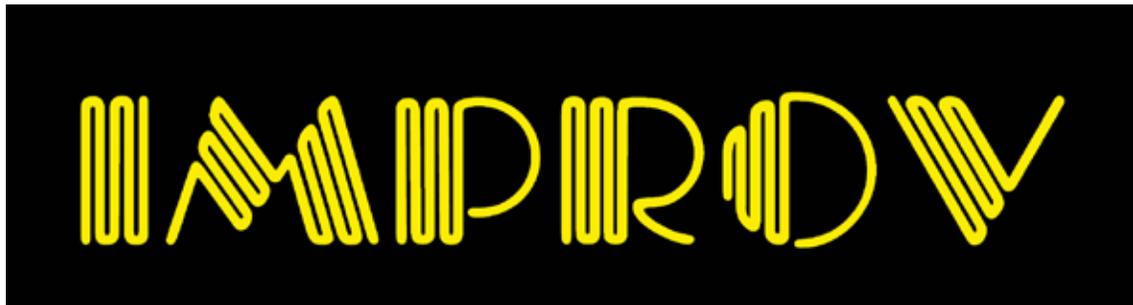
Since November 1, the Annual Fund has generated approximately \$76,000.00 in donations, which is about 64% of our goal of

\$118,000.00. We hope to reach this goal by June to prepare for summer projects in the school.

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.

Little Flower



Club

For two years, the Little Flower Improv Club had been going strong. When the club sponsor moved, the kids made an appointment with the principal and brought a written petition explaining why the club needed to remain. Mrs. Echegary, fifth grade teacher, stepped up as sponsor, and the club held their first show of the year last month.

Each Wednesday the kids meet during their lunch period (or recess) and decide on an improv game to play. They also teach the new members how to "play." After much practice the club performed for the third and fourth graders at St. Matthew School. Everyone participated in the show, and the audience laughed throughout and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

A Night at the **DRIVE-IN** *Senior Prom 2018*

By Miriam Herrera and Rebecca Rayl

On February 10, 2018, the senior prom that occurs every year was held at Little Flower Catholic School. This year's theme was "A Night at the Drive In."

A group of students were selected to come up with ideas for the theme to be voted upon, and another group was formed to create a fun, authentic banner design; they worked on the banner during their lunch time, putting in lots of hard work. Their creative banner was displayed in the cafeteria for all to see.

An inventive idea was proposed by Mrs. Slaton -- to create speakers out of milk cartons and tin foil, which were arranged on each table the night of the prom.

All the seniors came in hungry and ready to eat. Thanks to the Nevins family who generously took their time to prepare a scrumptious meal, the seniors were able to eat right away! The Nevins made salad, spaghetti and meatballs, and garlic bread. Every eighth grader served his or her table restaurant style.



After everyone finished dining, the eighth graders got up and danced to "Cupid Shuffle," much to the seniors' entertainment. Then the seniors were able to join in on the fun as well, as each eighth grader chose a partner to dance with. All enjoyed themselves during this dance.



In the midst of the dancing, the Senior Prom Queen and King were announced. The queen was Susan Young, and the king was Frank Skinner. They shared a lovely dance, and it was beautiful to watch.

Following the dance were competitive games of bingo. Every senior got a chance to select a prize. The night was full of joy and laughter. Everyone had a fantastic night.

However, none of this would have been possible without the help of the parents, teachers, and students. A big thanks to all of those who helped make this night come true. The eighth graders are extremely grateful to all the seniors who wrote sweet letters about their fun night!



Eighth graders annually perform the Living Stations of the Cross on Good Friday. Stations are presented to the entire school at 8:30 and again at 1:00 for parishioners. This is one of our most powerful prayer events of the year.

TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES

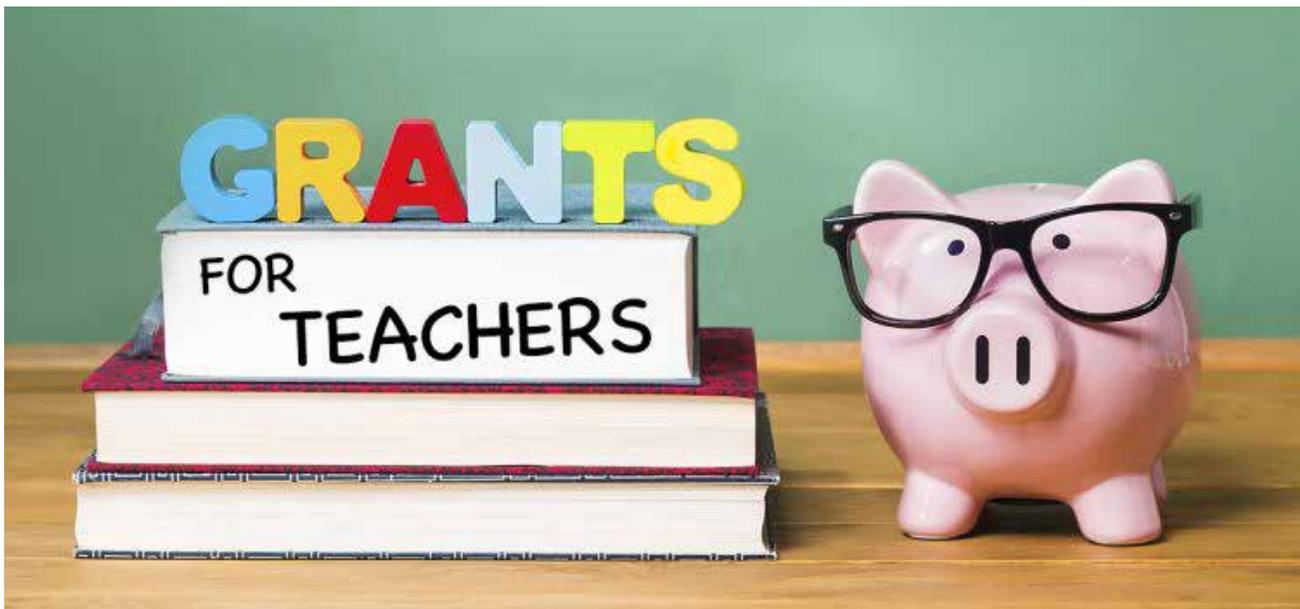
Several years ago **Chuck Finkbiner, class of '56**, challenged our school to become the best technology school in the city. With the personal and financial support of Chuck and his wife Debbie, as well as our other generous alumni and friends, Little Flower transformed technologically. All teachers have laptops, students in 3-8 have 1:1 technology, all rooms have Smartboards, document cameras, and/or a Large Screen TV. We have mobile Ipad carts and an Apple computer lab. We have a new state of the art web page.

All of this technological progress has pushed our infrastructure (last updated in 200?) to its limits and caused some reduction in our speed and capacity.

Once again, Chuck and Debbie stepped up with their time, talent, and treasure. Chuck introduced us to a top flight tech company

and worked with them to get us the best equipment and the best pricing. After discussing our needs and reviewing our system, technicians came out during spring break and made the changes and renovations necessary to, once again, make our system second to none.





INNOVATIVE TEACHING GRANT

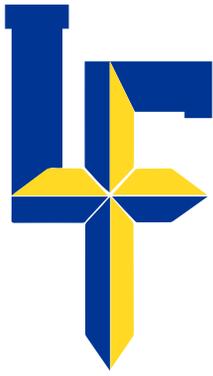
Each year our alumni and friends generously support our Annual Appeal. These funds allow us to do building renovations necessary for a 92 year-old building and to provide tuition assistance to make quality Catholic education affordable for everyone. This year we also put funds aside for an Innovative Teaching Grant. These funds are made available to teachers to help them find “innovative ways to create meaningful work for young people” (one of Pope Francis’s 10 secrets to happiness).

So when the students in on of our science classes got really excited about ecosystems, their teacher was able to access funds to purchase owl pellets for dissection, furthering their discussion of invasive species. When our primary teachers attended a math workshop, they were presented with one first grade kit (\$700) full of resources, games, extra study materials, and more that meshed with, and enhanced, our current math curriculum. Thanks to the Innovative Teaching Grant, we were able to purchase additional kits for Kindergarten and second grade.

We have been able to provide flexible seating (ball chairs, ergo disks, wobble chairs) for younger kids who need movement or

additional sensory input. When our sixth grade teacher noticed that his students got increasingly fidgety throughout the day, he researched and requested a treadmill desk for his class. “The treadmill is cool because if you’re antsy, you can move, but also do your work,” said one sixth grader. The kids have loved it, shared it willingly, and (surprise!) been less fidgety and more focused. Mr. Galyen, the sixth grade teacher stated, “This flexible seating option has given my students the ability to physically move around and stay focused without leaving the room and disrupting their learning experience. It’s been a great addition to the room!”





St. Therese of the Infant Jesus
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THE
DATE**

JUNE 1-3: SUMMERFEST

Planning for SUMMERFEST 2018 is underway! Our volunteers are excited to be making preparations for a great time to be had by all. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR JUNE 1, 2, and 3, and plan to attend the festival to help make it a success!**

We have been blessed with successful festivals the past few years, and we want this year to be no exception. Festival proceeds will fund a project to replace the final HVAC units and flat roofs on the church building, which have needed replacement for quite some time.

Plan now to attend, and invite your family, friends, and co-workers. Word of mouth is our best advertising. If you have not been around the parish lately, this is a great time to come home for a visit. We encourage all alumni to gather some former classmates and stop by the festival to help make it the best one yet!