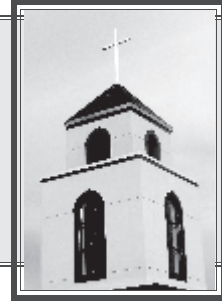




Connections

News of Little Flower Catholic Parish

Toledo, Ohio ❖ November, 2013



Backpacks for schoolkids

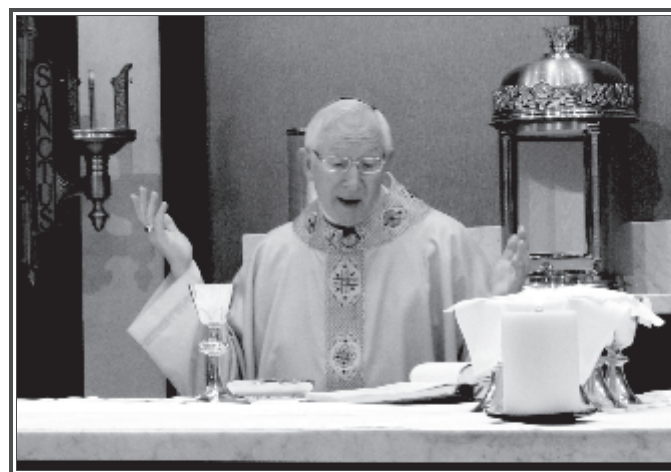


Neighborhood children surround parishioners **JoAnn Newmeyer** and **Sandie Roccia**, to show brand new backpacks -- loaded with school supplies -- given them by Little Flower. JoAnn is president of the LF St. Vincent de Paul Society that distributed the packs. They were purchased by parishioners' donations, a project of the Caring Tree ministry, coordinated by LF member **Vickie Flahie**. *More on Page 11*

Bishop Dedicates Transformed church



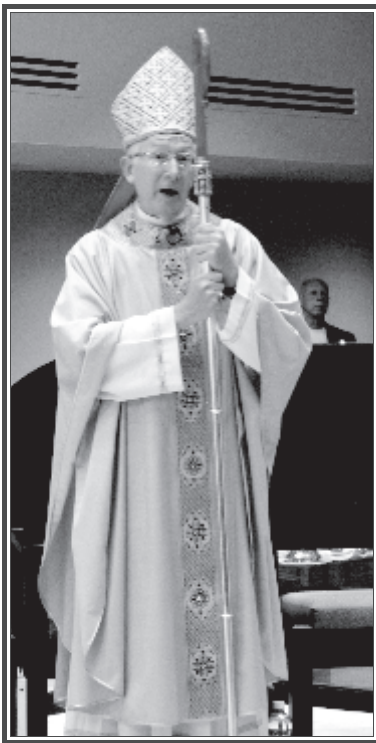
LITTLE Flower's newly transformed worship space was consecrated and dedicated by **The Most Rev. Leonard Blair**, Bishop of the Diocese of Toledo (at right). **Fr. Dave Nuss**, LF pastor (left), welcomed an overflow crowd, and festivities followed the mass. **More about that long-awaited event on Pages 2-7.**





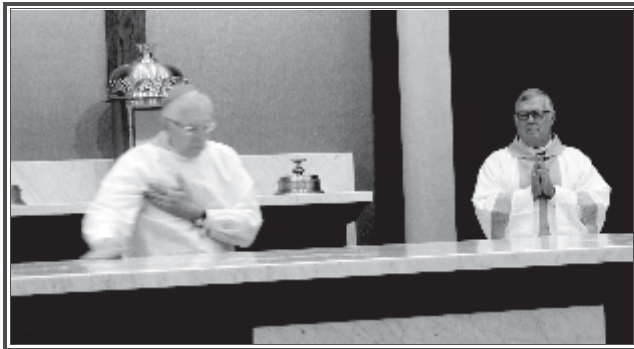
A day to remember

On a Sunday in September, worshippers witnessed a mass and age-old liturgical rite to dedicate the newly transformed sanctuary of Little Flower Church. After seven years of listening to the wishes of parishioners and parish ministries, planning and re-planning, the building was completed, doors opened and people, priests, sisters, families, and the bishop of Toledo entered and celebrated both reverently and joyfully.

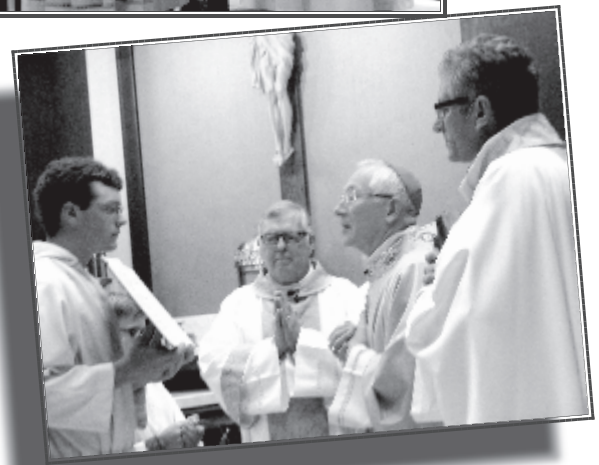


Photos: Mike Tressler

Bishop Blair addressed the people and, below, consecrated the new altar.



Little Flower server Ethon Pawlaczyk held the prayer for Bishop Blair's reading.



*SONS OF LITTLE FLOWER --- Msgr. Michael Billian, left, Rev. Tom Helfrich, and Rev. Tom McQuillen returned to the parish where all three grew up.
LEFT -- Deacon Doug Bullimore, Bishop Blair, and Fr. Dave Nuss.*





Jesus is encountered here among us

“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you” -- Matthew 28:19-20.

HERE AT LITTLE FLOWER Catholic Parish we are committed to taking those words of Jesus to heart as we labor joyfully and obediently to *make disciples*. Authentic disciples of Jesus Christ and members of His church know that activities matter only to the degree that they *bring the Good News of Jesus into every human situation*.

Inspired by God’s truth, we have embarked upon a new era as a community of disciples in which we are seeking to lead people to Jesus so that they can be profoundly touched by the presence and power of the "Living God."

Just like the magi experienced when they encountered the Living God in the person of Jesus Christ the newborn king, when we meet Jesus everything becomes different and we no longer can return by the same route to where we were before.

Jesus Christ is encountered here among us in His sacraments and, most especially, in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist which is the source and summit of our faith. We have received the mission from Jesus: to catechize *and* evangelize. Eternal salvation is offered to every person by means of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and living intentionally as His disci-

Fr. Dave
NUSS
Pastor



'At Little Flower we seek to know Jesus personally'

ples. We seek to do so and inspire others to do the same.

More than as a charismatic leader, magnificent teacher, and holy man, at Little Flower Catholic Parish we seek to know Jesus personally, encountering Him in God’s Word and

praising Him as the power and wisdom of God made personal and concrete for us.

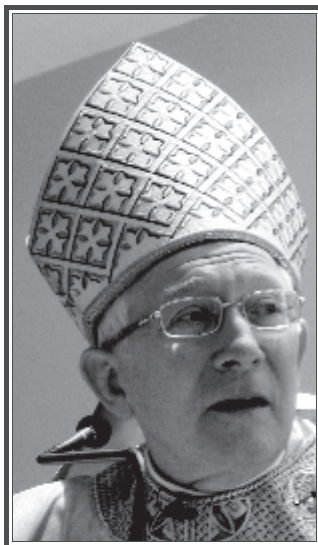
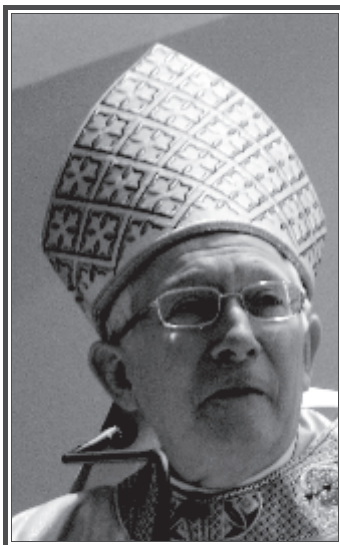
Through His suffering and death, Jesus has experienced the brokenness of humanity and restores us to a right relationship with God. Jesus suffers through our sin, He feels our pain, and He knows the thirst of our mortality. Jesus accepts the

limits of our human life in order to bring us beyond those limits. Saint Paul states it like this: “The love of Christ conquers all things, even death itself” (Romans 8).

By means of experiencing the Living God in Jesus Christ, everyone can discover that the sin, coldness, indifference, disappointment, and doubt marking human lives are overcome by God assuming our human nature and in doing so leading us to new life. In Jesus and Him alone, is the promise of resurrection and new life. People embracing this truth is who we profess to be and labor to become.

For those who have been away from praying alongside us on Sundays, we kindly invite you to give us another chance. For others who never have experienced the love of God here at Little Flower, please join in!

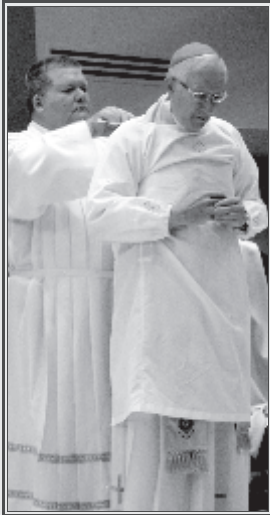
Bishop Leonard Blair:
‘One of the most beautiful images the church has is the vision, and an entire process, that brings us Christ in the world. This parish did the best job of bringing to completion the very best settings in which to worship.’





THE DAY seemed to go on and on as parishioners and visitors, clergy and religious, joined in celebration during, and after the dedication liturgy.

Fr. Dave Nuss:
'This is not an end. It's a beginning. Now this (the project) is behind us and we continue to be about the work of advancing God's kingdom.'



Bishop Blair is covered in preparation to consecration of the altar.

In ceremonial dress, Knights of Columbus added to the pomp. That's parishioner John Spears in the middle.



After the liturgy, the bishop met with Little Flower members, groups, and families, including the Bishop family (at left).



Photos: Mike Tressler



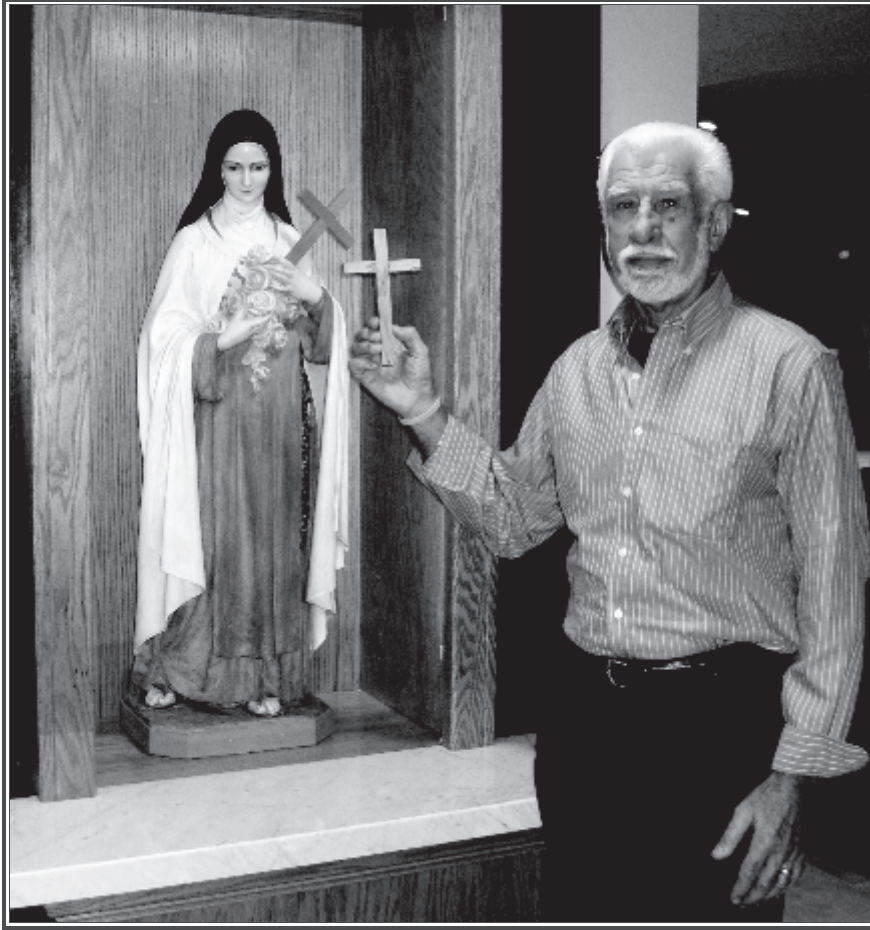
Waiting to dry and cover the consecrated altar were Martha Nasset, left, Chris Lewinski, Marianne Hassen, Joe Gilroy, and Sue Madden. Each was active in planning for the 'new' sanctuary. Sue (above) also proclaimed the word during the mass.





Where'd those crosses come from?

SOME WORSHIPPERS may have noticed small wooden crosses on each wall of the transformed church. Here's why they're there: Each cross, in each direction, represents the spirit of Little Flower Church's patron, **St. Thérèse of Lisieux**, and each marks the place where the bishop blessed a wall.

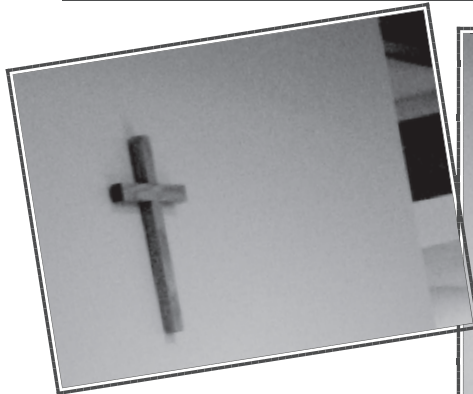


Bill Roccia shows one of the crosses he made, alongside the model, a wooden cross in the hand of the statue of St. Thérèse of Lisieux, popularly known as the 'Little Flower of Jesus.'

The story of the crosses

FR. DAVE NUSS pays attention to detail. When he got the idea to place a "St. Thérèse cross" on each wall of the "new" church, he decided each cross must be identical to the one held by Thérèse in the image of her that stands in the new Little Flower shrine at the new entrance. He removed that wooden cross. Then, he asked -- who else? -- **Bill Roccia**, a parishioner and retired FBI agent who has crafted many things for the parish, to replicate that cross. Copying the St. Thérèse cross perfectly (or even better), Bill delivered the four crosses that hang on the church's walls just days before the formal dedication of the transformed church.

Oh, and by the way, those readers who might find the ambo too high when they proclaim the Word of God can thank Bill, who also built a step for them to rise to that occasion during a mass.



BISHOP LEONARD BLAIR blesses a wall on which hangs one of the 'St. Thérèse' crosses. He continued around the church, blessing each cross and each wall.

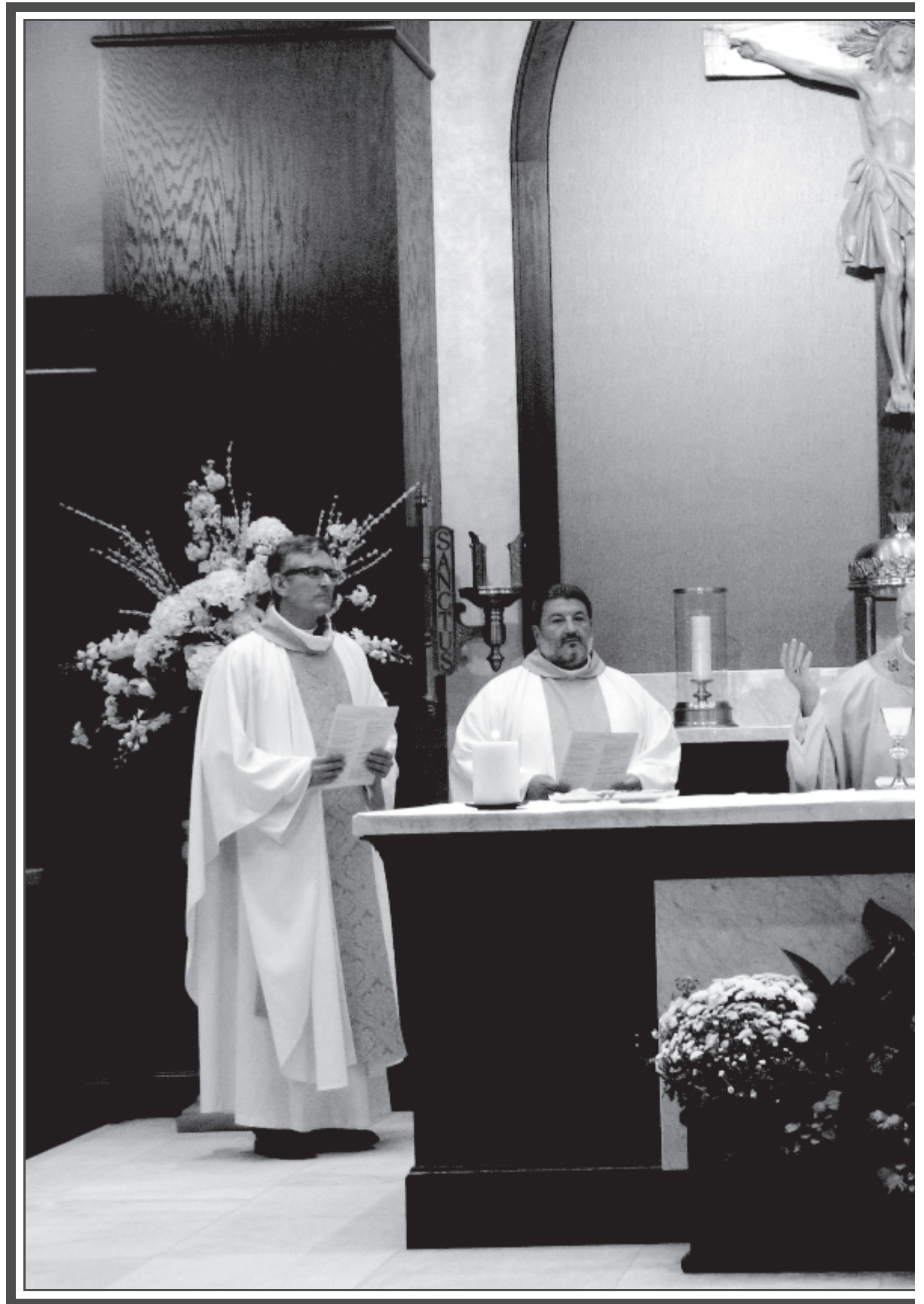




A spirit-filled moment at Little Flower

IF THE MANY members and visitors at the mass dedicating the transformed church were hoping for a notable 'transforming moment,' some may have said this was it.

PRAYING at the newly consecrated altar were bishop pastor, deacon, and three priests who grew up in the parish. All were part of the September liturgy of Toledo's 'new' Church of the Little Flower of Jesus.





FROM LEFT:

Fr. Dave Nuss,
Little Flower pastor;
**Msgr. Michael
Billian**, pastor of
Corpus Christi and
Blessed Sacrament
parishes;

**The Most Rev.
Leonard Blair**,
bishop of the Dio-
cese of Toledo;

Fr. Tom Helfrich,
pastor of St. Rita's
Parish, at Clark
Lake, MI;

**Deacon Doug
Bullimore**
of Little Flower
Parish, and

Fr. Tom McQuillen
faculty of Mount St.
Mary Seminary

Photo: Mike Tressler





Pastoral Council

What is it? What does it do?

WHAT IS Pastoral council and what does it do?

Members are parishioners in an advisory body to the pastor. Among them is **Vicki Sorgenfrei**, who said, "At the 'foot washing' on Holy Thursday, many people were surprised to learn who is on pastoral council." Here's a clue, said Vicki: "They are the people washing fellow parishioners' feet – as Jesus washed the feet of his disciples.

"We are really behind the scenes, and most parishioners on council are part of other ministries, too," said Vicki. Here are answers to other queries about Pastoral Council:

Who serves on council?

Each spring, all Little Flower parishioners are invited and welcome to attend scheduled discernment meetings. Council members must be registered parishioners and at least 18 years of age, and be willing to attend a likely nine monthly meetings.

Parishioners chosen to serve on Pastoral Council must be open to prayer for help in



Photo: Mike Tressler

PASTORAL COUNCIL, from left, **Marianne Hassen, Ron Arnett, Marianne Cappillo, Pat Johnson Fr. Dave Nuss, Carmen Barbosa, Joe Koerper, Vicki Sorgenfrei, Lynn Nedrow, Frank Terrill, Jim Bishop. Not there: Judy Polcyn.**

making decisions, to discern how to advise and assist the pastor.

What is pastoral council about?

Members serve an initial three-year commitment and can renew for an additional three-year term. Monthly meetings follow an agenda. Council members pray

and focus each month on a prayerful theme.

The council makes recommendations to **Fr. Dave Nuss**, considering his questions, concerns and ideas. Each year, the council discerns its continued purpose.

What has pastoral council been involved in recently?

Current members are involved in numerous ways in the parish. Some examples:

Groundbreaking of new Dorr Street tower entrance.

Ribbon-cutting and dedication of the tower entrance.

Dedication/consecration of the new worship space.

Roster of parish ministry leaders.

Distribution of monthly ministry activity updates.

Continuous support of the "Seeds of Faith" projects.

Assistance to the evangelization committee greeting guests at Easter masses.

Support of council members in ministries: LF choir, Haiti outreach, Evangelization, Right to Life, Altar Rosary, Bible study, Bingo, retreat initiation, Ministers of Eucharist and Word, Seeds of Faith, Altar Rosary, Men's Club, St. Vincent de Paul, Stewardship, and all others.

'Thanks,' Haiti pastor tells LF group

The **Rev. Parnel Lundy**, pastor of St. Joseph Parish and St. Francis of Assisi School in Pestel, Haiti and **Sr. Fidelis Rubbio** came to Little Flower to meet and thank parishioners for twinning with that parish and for financial support to school and parish. He met with committee members to talk about that help and support.

Fr. Parnel said the school has 208 students, grades 1-9 and has built sixth, seventh, eighth, and ninth-grade classrooms in four years, possible because of Little Flower donations. It is significant because many students leave families to go to Port-au-Prince for grades 7 and above. Most parents cannot afford tuition but St. Joseph Parish does not refuse students if parents cannot pay as do most schools.

"I am extremely satisfied with all your support and gifts you have given -- money, sewing machines, and buckets. We continue to pray for you. I especially thank Fr. Dave and the Haiti Committee for the work the past five years. I . . . thank the members . . . who have befriended us in Pestel. God be praised! Today, like every day, we in Haiti join with you to pray, to praise, and to be grateful to our God. We, like you, try to be Jesus to one another."



Photo: Jan Kusowski

Sr. Fidelis Rubbio and Fr. Parnel Lundy



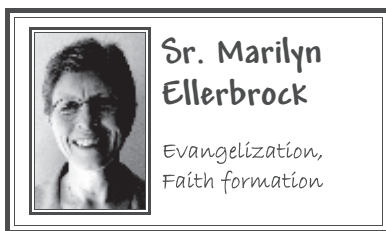


ACTS: a retreat -- and more -- coming to LF

EXCITEMENT is mounting as we continue to prepare for our first-ever ACTS retreats in the spring! ACTS is inspired by the life of the early Christians as recorded in the Acts of the Apostles and is founded on the four pillars of Adoration, Community, Theology, and Service.

More than a weekend retreat program, ACTS is meant to foster intentional disciples, individuals who are growing in their relationship with the Lord and eager to share this relationship with others.

In the spring of 2013, a group of women and a group of men traveled from Little



Flower Parish to St. Louis to participate in ACTS weekend retreats. The ACTS community in St. Louis not only graciously welcomed us for the retreat there but committed to helping us bring ACTS Missions here to Little Flower Parish. We will be the first parish in Ohio to engage in that pro-

cess. Over Labor Day weekend in September, three retreat leaders from St. Louis visited here to begin preparations for our retreats in the spring. Our first ACTS retreats will take place March 20-23 for Men and April 24-27 for Women.

All -- parishioners and others -- who are interested in deepening a relationship with the Lord are invited to prayerfully consider registering for ACTS retreat. For more information check the parish web site or contact me at mellerbrock@littleflowertoledo.org or call 419.537.6655.

EACH YEAR, we invite people to join the RCIA (*Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*) as a way of exploring and deepening their relationship with the Lord. While the RCIA team, catechists, and sponsors play significant roles in this process, all parishioners are invited to embrace the privilege and responsibility of accompa-

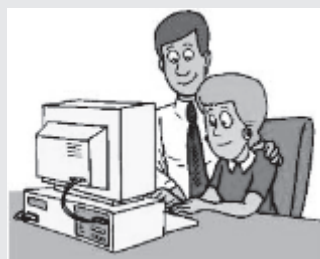
Wanted: RCIA witnesses

nying candidates on their faith journey. Through our witness, our hospitality, and our willingness to grow in our own relationship with the Lord, we proclaim to the candidates that our Catholic faith is an awesome gift and way of life. Check Sunday bulletins for opportunities to join and get to know the RCIA candidates for faith formation sessions.

Tour the 'new' church --virtually!

IN ADDITION to being in a redesigned Church for prayer, we now have the opportunity for a virtual tour of our worship space. A new section on the parish web site offers an explanation of the various aspects of our church along with their meaning and importance.

The church design and structure tell the story of our worship and how we are called to relate to God and to one another. What we do to grow as individuals and as a parish community in the worship space will have a direct impact on how we go forth as disciples and witnesses of Jesus.



Men's Club announces golf winners

The 38th **Red Smith** Golf Outing was held at Spuyten Duyval Golf Course this past summer. **Tom Coy** of the LF Men's Club said the winning team was **Dave Pierce, Tom McMahon, Gary Aldrich, and Matt Knapp**, 13-under par.

Second was the quartet of **Tom Hammond, Tom Stebbins, Craig Andrews, and John Kendzel**, at 11 under.

Four teams tied for third at 9 under. Two skins were won and each paid \$160. Winners were the Dave Pierce team and the team of **Rob Thomas, Grant Thomas, Greg Thomas, and Fred Lopez**. Three won closest to pin: **Dominic Brenner, Dave Pierce, and Chris Flynn**). Longest putt: **Jeff Johnson**. Longest drive: **Drew Roberts**.

Hole Sponsors & Patrons: Piasecki Service; **Tom Bensman** Family; Mayberry Diners, Suburban Federal Credit Union, Remax-**John Malhoit**; Ameriprise Financial-**Barb Malhoit, Bob Darmofal**; Sobb Roberts Inc., Libbey Glass -**Mike Mielcarek**; Golf Galaxy; **John Ando**-Best Auto Glass; IMCO-**Tom Hammond, Dick Gasiorowski, Tom Coy**; Bayer Hardware, and Leisure Sports (Spuyten Duyval).

Event chairman was **Rick Desautels**. Registration, scoring, and raffles work was by **Ken Kujawa** and **Bill Jay**. Photographers were **Nancy Desautels** and **Dorene Lyczkowski**.

Men's Club meets on fourth Mondays each month except summer and December.

In the news . . .

Readers of the Catholic Chronicle recognized a familiar face among members of religious communities observing anniversaries. It was **Sr. Jeanette Zielinski**, former principal of Little Flower School. Sister Jeanette celebrated 60 years as a Sylvania Franciscan. She made her first vows in 1953 and now is a pastoral associate in Upper Sandusky, OH.





St. Benedict Catholic School

Students find new technology

On August 26 it was my privilege to welcome students to our school building for the 25th time! Many of our current 209 students are children of students I welcomed years earlier. I felt like a proud grandmother!

We have wonderful new technology and programs for students this year. The pre-school is now a full day for 4-year-olds and we have a full day and half-day option for 3-year-olds. **Katelyn Helminiak** is the teacher for the program for 3-year-olds. She was a student teacher in first grade last year and we are very pleased to welcome her full time to St. Benedict.

Under the leadership of **Sue VanHersett** we have created another atrium for the



Carol Huss
Principal

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program. This atrium is designed and sized for older children. We are certainly grateful for her leadership in that program and are happy to be able to offer it to more grades.

St. Benedict Catholic School was able to purchase 30 iPads for student use. They are housed in a charging cart and can be taken directly to classrooms. Tech-

nology is a major part of education and we are very proud to offer a beautiful air-conditioned computer lab with 38 desktop computers, two mobile laptop labs for a total of 60 laptops and the 30 iPads for students to use. We are determined to prepare students for a world in which technology is seamlessly integrated.

On Sept. 10, two days after the dedication, St. Benedict students were in the church's newly designed worship space for the first student mass of the school year. What a wonderful, beautiful space to worship together weekly. Our students do a wonderful job preparing and participating in the mass and the beautiful environment makes it more inspiring.

Three Catechists join religion school

LITTLE FLOWER'S Sunday morning School of Religion faith formation classes are well under way.

The first weekends were filled with great enthusiasm for sharing faith. We welcomed three new catechists to the ministry – **Lillian Miller, Peggy Delcher, and John Foisy**.

They are eager to work with eighth-grade students preparing



Sue VanHersett
Youth Formation

to celebrate their complete initiation into the Church with the Sacrament of Confirmation.

We look forward to an enriching year and growing in our relationship with Christ.

Parents should note that if they did not fill out an emergency medical form they should do so without delay. If they did not attend parent orientation there is a volunteer contact form that they can get Sunday mornings, or they can email me --

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Children's Liturgy of the Word welcomed catechists **Deb Appert, Jackie Terrill, Stefania Carruba, and Joan Love** and welcomed back **Lucy Bell**.

At Little Flower's Children's Liturgy, the Word of God is proclaimed and

meditated upon in language fitting for age levels of children. This ministry is offered for children kindergarten-second-grade at 11 a.m. mass (parents asked to please respect the age-level of-fering).

For children under 5 we offer faith-oriented books they can enjoy before, during, or after mass. Books are in the St. Clare Room, off the narthex. Books must be returned to the St. Clare Room before leaving church.

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd staff was excited to begin another year in that journey of faith with the "Good Shepherd." We are filled with joy as we open a third atrium and expand that ministry to sixth grade at St. Benedict School.

Sofia Cavalletti, in *"Religious Potential of the Child 6-12 Years Old,"* wrote: "The atrium is a community in which children and adults live together a religious experience. Such ex-

perience facilitates participation in the wider community of the family, the church (liturgy), and other social spheres."

Additionally this year we are exploring ways to expand that ministry even further and to reach out to families beyond our parish school. That program could take place weekdays after school. Any family interested should watch for more details in upcoming Sunday bulletins and listen for announcements.





LF ministers to its neighbors

FAMILIES IN the Reynolds Corners neighborhood that had expressed a financial difficulty and a need for school supplies were identified by Little Flower's St. Vincent dePaul Society chapter. The packs had been collected and purchased by **Vickie Flahie** and members of the Caring Tree ministry.

"We are so blessed by the generosity of the Little Flower parishioners and members of the Caring Tree group who contributed to this much-needed outreach to our neighborhood children," said **JoAnn Newmeyer**, SVdP president. "We ask God to bless all who are involved in this effort!"



'I could not afford to buy all his school things. I was here (at LF) for St. Vincent dePaul and JoAnn asked if I needed help with school expenses. I said, "Oh, yes, I do," and here he is today with a new book bag and school supplies.'

Mother of a kindergartner



Elaine Braun, below left, Sandie Roccia, and Mary Burchette did the paperwork and Sr. Marilyn Ellerbrock, at left helped distribute about 100 backpacks to schoolchildren.



Baptized at Little Flower

Molly Marie Desmond,
daughter of Joshua and Kathleen

Easton Brooks Navarre,
son of Sean and Nicole

Sophia Louise Miley,
daughter of Tom and Erica

Amaya Brooklyn Hafner and Bella Mira Foulk,
daughters of Dara Meyer

Tabitha Kate Wood,
daughter of Drew and Kelly

Gregory Richard Nasta,
son of Jaime

Alexander David Schak,
son of Jeff and Andrea

Nora Lucille Spino,
daughter of Joseph and Erica

Ella Rosalyn Miller,
daughter of Jeff Miller and Ashley Robinson

Charlotte Catherine Smith,
daughter of Alex and Beth

Welcome, new members of the parish

Stephen and Laura Scharf
Jim and Brenda Bal
John and Maura DeMilt
Jean Allen
Greg and Barbara Eckhart
Eileen Kearney

Fred and Tamara Cerrone
Jessica Syrek
Kelly Schoettley
Alex and Beth Smith
Joseph and Erica Spino
Cherian and Anita Zachariah

Lillian Miller
Amy Koerper
Sr. Marilyn Marie Ellerbrock, SND
Dan and Holly Miller
Cynthia and Victor Venegas
... and their families



Diocese requires certification of Tarcisians

Little Flower's Tarcisian ministers, who take communion to home or institution-bound Catholics, are required, under new direction from the Diocese of Toledo, to attend a workshop and be fingerprinted. Preparation for certification will include the workshop and becoming identifiable by fingerprint. "The diocese requires it because we deal with adults who are vulnerable because of age or sickness," said **Sandie Roccia**. LF members interested in being Tarcisians or those with questions about certification can contact **Gerri Mouch** (419-531-8005) or Sandie (419-81-7616).





Little Flower Church
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TIME DATED MATERIAL

Little Flower of Jesus Catholic Community

The Rev. Dave Nuss, *Pastor*

Masses: Saturday 4:30 p.m., Sunday 8:30 and 11 a.m.

Reconciliation: One-half hour before each mass

Sue VanHersett, *Youth Faith Formation*

Doug Bullimore, *Deacon*

Tom Williams, *Liturgist & Music Director*

Sr. Marilyn Ellerbrock, *Adult Faith Formation*

Chris Lewinski, *Business Manager*

Lynn Harman, Laurie Fitzpatrick, *Secretaries*

Missy Gillig, *Parish Bookkeeper*

Jeff Sharp, *Parish Head Custodian*

Parish office: 5522 Dorr St..

open Mon.-Fri. 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

419-537-6655 - FAX: 419-537-1469

parishcenter@littleflowertoledo.org

www.littleflowertoledo.org

St. Benedict Catholic School

Carol Huss, *Principal* ♦ The Rev. Joseph Cardone, *Superintendent*
419-536-1194 www.stbenedicttoledo.com

Little Flower *Connections* . . . is a journal containing news for and about the people and ministries of Little Flower of Jesus Catholic Parish. Parishioners and organizations wishing to submit reports or notes for editing and publication should follow guidelines or request guidelines from the Parish Center or from Mike Tressler. All submissions are welcome and will be considered. Submit by email to parishcenter@littleflowertoledo.org or to miketwriter@gmail.com. Deadlines are noted in Sunday bulletins. Please note that editing, design, printing, and mailing take several weeks beyond a deadline date and submissions should not include information that will be outdated or events that will be past by the time *Connections* is delivered.

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