

Connections

NEWS FROM LITTLE FLOWER CATHOLIC PARISH | FALL 2014



A MESSAGE FROM FR. DAVE

THE MISSION: ENCOUNTER, LIVE SHARE

From the 46 families who first were touched by God to band together and begin the new parish in 1928, Little Flower Catholic Parish now has around 1,400 families who choose our community as a spiritual home. Some 1,000 people gather every weekend for spirited praise and worship of God at one of our four regular mass offerings.

Personal outreach to those needing assistance is a defining feature of our discipleship. This is especially seen through our partnership with the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul and the dedicated relationship shared with our brothers and sisters in Pestel, Haiti, in communion with the Sisters of Saint Francis of Sylvania.



The presence of a newer pastor, sizeable increase in regular worshippers, and rapid expansion of ministry outreach and spiritual formation hatched meaningful conversations about the parish mission.

Properly understood and expressed, a mission statement defines purpose – who we are, why we are and what we are daring to do together.

Over the past two years numerous people have participated in conversations about our mission as a community of disciples here in the Reynolds Corner area of Toledo. In many instances these were on-going conversations involving leaders, including members of the Pastoral Council, Finance Council, and other ministry teams, along with parish employees.

In other instances the conversations were less formal yet no less substantial and important for helping make sure our expression of mission clearly and correctly reflects who we are, why we are, and what we are daring to do together. So, here it is, the mission statement of Little Flower Parish.

OUR MISSION

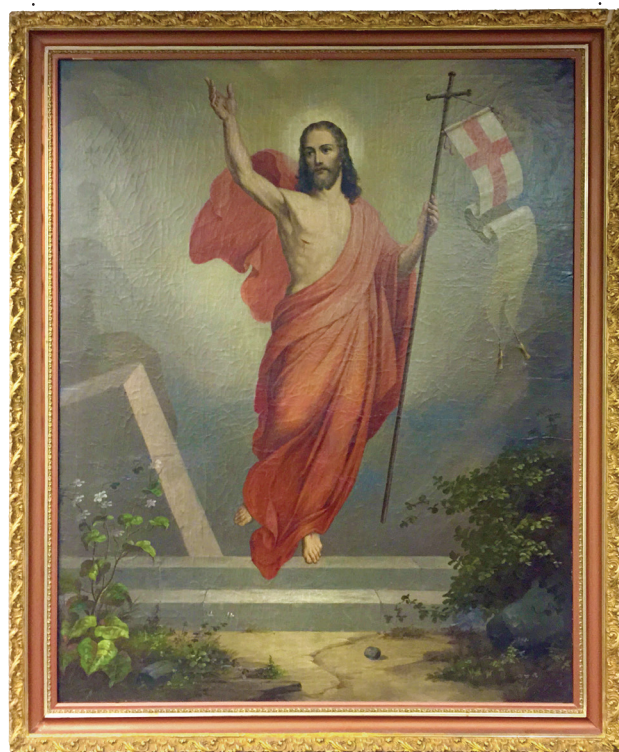
*ENCOUNTERING the Risen Lord, Jesus Christ
LIVING as His missionary disciples
SHARING His fullness of life in the spirit of
Saint Thérèse.*

LITTLE FLOWER'S ART TREASURE

CLOAKED IN MYSTERY

Churchgoers and visitors alike pause for second looks at *Resurrection*, that hangs on a Little Flower entrance wall. It's a mystical and compelling 'old-time' religious picture – a red-robed Christ floating forward.

The huge painting also is shrouded in mystery.



Who painted the large work of religious art? Where did it come from? How did it find a home at Little Flower?

No one knows who the artist was. "It is not signed," said Don Nath, a restoration expert in Sandusky, Ohio, who spent many hours repairing it.

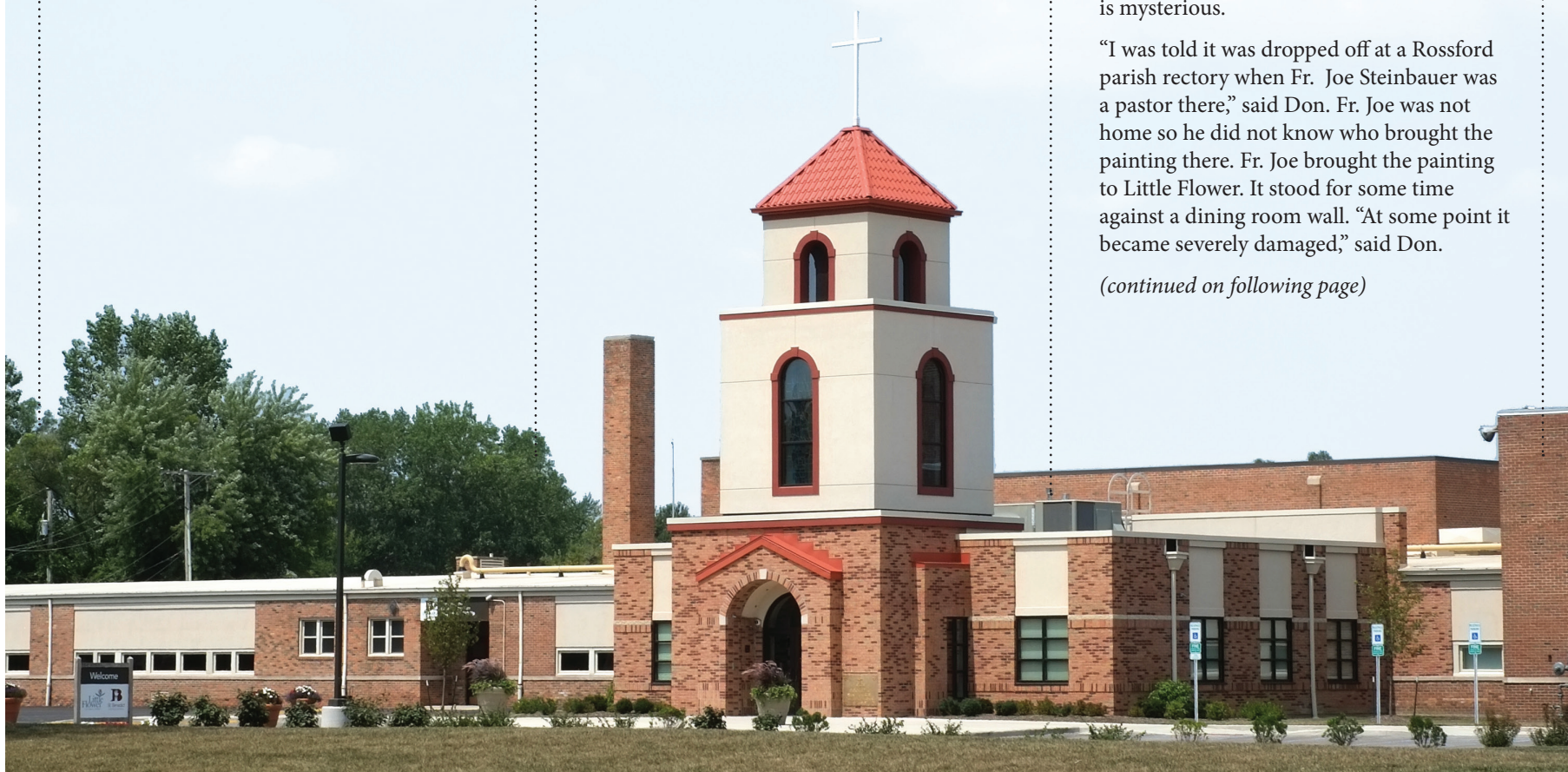
"The painting is at least a hundred or more years old, said Don. I believe it was done in a studio of a church decorating company. Firms today, like Daprato Rigali or Conrad Schmitt Studios, hire outstanding artists to create new art and restore old paintings. It is the work of the studio so employees do not sign their work."

"The art style is unique. Most resurrection paintings depict the risen Christ in a pure white robe. A red robe is quite rare. (But) the painting was well done – great composition, first class painting technique."

The painting's path to Little Flower also is mysterious.

"I was told it was dropped off at a Rossford parish rectory when Fr. Joe Steinbauer was a pastor there," said Don. Fr. Joe was not home so he did not know who brought the painting there. Fr. Joe brought the painting to Little Flower. It stood for some time against a dining room wall. "At some point it became severely damaged," said Don.

(continued on following page)



SR. MARILYN MARIE

SOCIAL MEDIA CAN CONNECT A PARISH



In his apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel), Pope Francis speaks of the foundation and reason for our evangelization efforts:

“We become fully human when we become more than human, when we let God bring us beyond ourselves in order to attain the fullest truth of our being. Here we find the source and inspiration of all our efforts at evangelization. For if we have received the love which restores meaning to our

lives, how can we fail to share that love with others?”

Having encountered the person of Jesus, who makes all the difference, we are compelled to share his love with others.

The invitation and challenge for us as Catholics is to find the best and most effective means for sharing this love and joy with others. This challenges us to remain aware and attuned to the culture around us. We need to know the language of those with whom we are trying to communicate. Jesus is the “communicator par excellence” as he speaks to farmers of sowing the seed, to fishermen of an extraordinary catch of fish, to housekeepers of finding a lost coin.

JESUS IS THE “COMMUNICATOR PAR EXCELLENCE” ...

As a parish, we are continually trying to sharpen our communication of the faith. The parish web site, littleflowertoledo.org, provides the opportunity to hear homilies and radio broadcasts, a virtual Church tour, forms, and a great deal of updated information. Our weekly bulletin combines formation and information. Facebook (Parish, Life Teen, Young Adults) gives us a platform for more regular contacts and resources for inspiration. Mailings keep us connected with our entire parish membership at strategic times of the year. This newsletter allows us to share highlights of parish life and ministry.

All means of communication are points of contact with parishioners and beyond but are made truly meaningful when they lead to one-on-one personal contact.

FR. DAVE NUSS

MARK TELLS US: SURRENDER TO THE GOOD NEWS

Every Advent the Church begins anew with the reading of a different gospel at weekend masses. Soon, we will complete our proclamation from Matthew and commence with Mark.

Mark is the oldest Gospel. It was finished just more than three decades after Jesus rose from the dead.

It is the gospel that the early Church first assembled in order to better respond to its fundamental needs in preparing people for baptism and for living lives as intentional disciples of Jesus Christ.

Mark's 675 total verses make it the briefest of all four Gospels. It presents the essential facts about Jesus.

Most likely composed in Rome and influenced by the teaching of St. Peter, it was written mostly for the conversion of the pagan world – those people not believing in, or know knowing about, the life and promise of Christ.

The Gospel of Mark sets forth a guide from pagan religiosity, superstitions, and excesses to encountering the God of Jesus Christ. In Mark, God is the God who comes to meet us, the God to whom Jesus abandoned Himself and by that action, revealed divine power and majesty.

Mark sounds a clarion call for all to set aside every last vestige of self security in order that we can surrender ourselves entirely to God's "Good News" that was -- and still is -- made personal and accessible through Jesus.

FR. DAVE

THREE SPIRITUAL LESSONS FROM MARK

- It takes time to learn to live by God's ways and heavenly perspectives
- Our own lives ought to inspire people to faith
- We ought to seek God's healing touch and lead others to it

“Before cleaning, it was impossible to see any of the beautifully painted foliage at the bottom of the canvas. The red robe took 14 different shades, tints, and tones of red to hide the damage.”

Before it was repaired and returned to Little Flower, Fr. Dave knew where he wanted it hung – on a wall where it is seen straight ahead on entering the church, even from a distance.

“Little Flower's Resurrection painting is a treasure. A lot of parishes could be envious should they be fortunate enough to see it,” said restorer Nath.

LITTLE FLOWER'S ART TREASURE (continued from cover)

The large painting stayed in Toledo when Fr. Joe was assigned to Sandusky St. Mary's Parish. Fr. Dave Nuss, Little Flower's then new pastor, found it in the rectory and asked Don and Rose Nath to examine it. They found it was nailed to a frame, not on a traditional stretcher. “Most unusual and improper,” said Don.

The framing and a wide rip in the canvas were challenges to the Naths. It meant re-mounting the picture, pulling torn canvas together and, according to Don, “cleaning decades of dirt and carbon from burning candles and incense away from old oil paint.



MEET JASON SZYNKOWSKI

ENGAGING AND CHALLENGING STUDENTS

The school year is underway and hallways are filled with student chatter and laughter. The families and staff at St. Benedict Catholic School have made my transition much easier. Being in an atmosphere founded on the Catholic values of love and respect is truly rewarding.

Each week we celebrate a school mass. A different grade level is responsible for the mass and they have done an excellent job. These students performed at a high level and so have set the bar high for all classes to follow. Parishioners and school families are invited to share in our weekly celebrations of the Holy Spirit.



Looking forward, we are very excited to continue to find ways to challenge and engage students so they can apply the knowledge gained in the classroom with 21st-century skills. The teachers at

St. Benedict continue to focus on our goal of student achievement. Our students will leave St. Benedict knowledgeable about content, but also with the skills to research, form solutions, and implement plans with the passion to evolve as life-long learners.

While our students learn academic skills for success, it is also our mission to help them form an authentic and joyful relationship with Christ by meeting their spiritual and emotional needs.

Finally, I want to thank the parishioners of Little Flower for your support and prayers. We are truly blessed to be a part of this community. Your commitment to Catholic education as a parish has never been more important as we work together to revitalize Catholic education.

SCHOOL LEADERS



REV JOSEPH CARDONE



GREG CHAMPA

Superintendent of the two-parish school is the Rev. Joseph Cardone, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Parish and Vice President of Mission and Values Integration at Mercy St. Vincent Medical Center. Greg Champa of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish is school board president. The Booster Club president is Ron Rekart, a parishioner of Little Flower Parish, who succeeded Maria Bailey, an Our Lady of Lourdes parishioner.



MENS' RETREAT

ACTS RETREAT NEWS

LOOKING FOR a jump start to your life of faith or the extra support you need to go deeper? The ACTS Retreat (Adoration, Community, Theology, Service) may be the answer.

Last spring, the ACTS Retreat movement was inaugurated here at Little Flower Parish. Thirty-eight women and 30 men from Little Flower took part, either as team members or participants. Several men and women from St. Louis and Louisville served as ACTS mission team members as well.

Those two weekend retreats were amazing experiences of God's love and action. Even more awesome has been the growth in faith that has continued to unfold in the months since the retreats. Small groups spent several weeks meeting for prayer and faith sharing. Those who made the retreats have become involved in new ministries; many have made a greater commitment to prayer. The Spirit is definitely alive and well!

ACTS retreats scheduled are:

Men: November 20-23, 2014

Women: May 14-17, 2015

Registration forms can be found at littleflowertoledo.org or in kiosks at church entrances. There are a limited number of spaces available for each retreat, so those interested are encouraged to register soon.

WELCOME

NEW PARISHIONERS

Rayna Anderson
Eileen and Raymond Backus-Trzcinski
Walter and Maria Bailey
Victoria Barker
Joan and Robert Bradner
Father Michael Brown
Kathi and Keith Daly
Vicki and Christopher Dougherty
Jessica and Daniel Eckhart
Julie and Brendan Foley
Jennifer and Steve Heckman
Kathryn and Thomas Jordan
Young and Junhee Kim
Jessica and Travis Lewis
Sara Locker
Callie Lorton
Megan and Christopher Martinek
Sandra McCluskey
Alicia McElheney
George Nelson
Maureen Raab
Hollie Reichle
Abigail and Robert Sadowy
Robert Schneider
Joan and Roger Seibenick
Alicia and Richard Skidmore
Wm Patrick Smith
Patricia Wilhelm
Matthew Winkler

BAPTISMS

Vivian Lorraine Lowry
Daughter of Jaclyn and Matthew Lowry

Oscar Bernard Paskiet
Son of Matthew Paskiet and Nicole Foels

Griffin Michael Navarre
Son of Nicole and Sean Navarre

Bryson Thomas Viers
Son of Jessica and Kevin Viers

Oliver Frost Dougherty
Son of Carrie and Benjamin Dougherty

Emmalyn Grace Ringle
Daughter of Brandon Ringle and Anne Gillhouse

Niko Joseph Pasienza
Son of Mark Pasienza and Angela Pappas

Jace Thomas Retana
Son of Dana and Jorge Retana

Logan Alphonsse Flynn
Son of Christine and Christopher Flynn

Genevieve Ann Foley
Daughter of Julie and Brendan Foley

Daimon Gabriel Garner
Son of Ronald Garner and Victoria Barker

Ava Marianna Saggese
Daughter of Daniel Wilson and Amie Saggese

Derek Andrew Kayser
Son of Jessica and Scott Kayser

Edward Cole Martinek,
Son of Megan and Christopher Martinek

IF YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A MEMBER OF LITTLE FLOWER CATHOLIC PARISH, PLEASE CALL THE PARISH OFFICE.



LITTLE BIG NEWS

LITTLE FLOWER'S HAITI MINISTRY

MANGO TREES GIVE PROMISE

LITTLE FLOWER IS DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PLANTING OF MANGO TREES IN THE RAVAGED REGION OF HAITI WHERE THE SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS MINISTER. HAITIANS WILL RECEIVE AND CARE FOR THE TREES WHICH WILL BEAR FRUIT IN TWO YEARS AND THEN SELL THE FRUIT. "IT'S A VISIBLE EXAMPLE OF HOW LITTLE FLOWER HELPS THE REGION'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT," SAID PARISHIONER CATHY RICE.

: BINGO TEAM HOPES FOR BIGGER CROWDS

JUST MORE than a year ago parishioners were asked, "What is Bingo?" People responded, showing interest. Most patrons at Little Flower's Tuesday fundraiser are parishioners but many are not and the parish thanks all who come to Bingo at Little Flower.

"We invite people who have not tried Bingo to bring a friend on a Tuesday evening and take a chance on winning several hundred dollars. Attendance has been down this year and it is hoped that will change," said Len Polcyn. "The game is one of Little Flower's bigger fund raisers, and we hope that will continue. Please attend."



: MEN'S CLUB OFFICERS ELECTED

OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR are president Tom Coy, vice-president Ray Lewandowski, treasurer Dan Gesick, and note taker Bill Jay. Dick Gasiorowski, Cos Figliomeni, and Tom McDonough are directors, responsible for hospitality and order.

NEW FACES are always welcome. Men's Club meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. fourth Monday of each month in the O'Grady Community Room. Contact officers or directors for more information.

: RED SMITH GOLF OUTING

TEAMS captained by Bob Earl and Rick Desautels tied for first place at the 39th annual Red Smith Golf Outing at Spuyten Duyval. The team of Gary Roberts finished third among 14 teams that played.

Chris Flynn, Mike Mielcarek, Jeff Johnson, Joe Zalewski, and Elaine Gesick were recognized for closest to pin, longest drive, and longest putt. Janet Butler was the 50/50 winner. Thanks to golfers, volunteers, and chairman Rick Desautels for making it another successful outing.

: BOB MOUCH MEMORIAL

MORE THAN 80 tickets were sold for the annual Bob Mouch Memorial Mud Hens game in July – perfect weather and a perfect win for the Hens. The 12th Texas Hold'em poker tournament was September 19, with prize money based on number of card players – always many regulars as well as new faces.

: SCOUTS' SPAGHETTI DINNER

IN SUMMER, Men's Club members helped with the scout's spaghetti dinner and Altar Rosary's rummage sale. They also plan to assist with the Men's Club-sponsored November 15 Feather Party.

SR. MARILYN MARIE FEATURED IN CROSSROADS MAGAZINE

SISTER Marilyn Marie Ellerbrock, a busy and popular staff member at Little Flower, was featured in a full-page article in CROSSROADS, the magazine of her order, the Sisters of Notre Dame.



Sr. Marilyn is Little Flower's director of Evangelization and Faith Formation. She began work at Little Flower a year ago and has addressed many ongoing ministry opportunities, helping to establish some new directions for the parish, such as the Simeon and Anna ministry for senior-age parishioners.

Fr. Dave noted in the article that, "We are enormously blessed by her spirit-filled presence and leadership in ministry which brings to us the SND spirit and leadership."

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER 15, 2014 | 5:30 PM
FEATHER PARTY

O'Grady Community Center
Fellowship event hosted by the Men's Club

NOVEMBER 20-23, 2014
ACTS MEN'S RETREAT

Weber Center, Adrian, Michigan
Parish based retreat for Men of Little Flower Parish

DECEMBER 14, 2014 | 7:00 PM
ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS

A prayerful reflection on Advent
Scriptures and Songs

DECEMBER 22, 2014 | 7:00 PM
PRESENCE FOR CHRISTMAS

Eucharistic Adoration with praise
and worship.

JANUARY 25-31, 2015
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Celebration of Catholic Education

MARCH 1, 2015 | 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM
ST. BENEDICT CATHOLIC SCHOOL
OPEN HOUSE

Tour the school.

Father Dave Nuss
Pastor

Doug Bullimore
Deacon

Sister Marilyn Marie
Ellerbrock, SND
Director of Evangelization
and Faith Formation

Laurie Fitzpatrick
Administrative Assistant

Missy Gillig
Bookkeeper

Lynn Harman
Administrative Assistant

Christine Lewinski
Business Manager

Diane Spetz
St. Benedict School Secretary

Jason Szykowski
St. Benedict School Principal

Mike Tressler
Newsletter Editor

Tom Williams
Director of Music and Liturgy



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