



THE LITTLE FLOWER GARDEN

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 2

AUGUST 2021

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Church Community
- Summerfest Recap
- Parish Life Events
- Men's Club
- Golf Outing 2021
- Vets Memorial Mass
- Gabriel Project SOS
- National Night Out
- Bible Study
- Power of Prayer
- School Reunion

We would love to hear from you if you have any upcoming events.

Take lots of pictures so we can use some of them in future issues. Submit photos and info by **10/22/21** in order for them to be published in the **November 2021 issue.**

Please e-mail all pictures and info to lfp parishnews@yahoo.com. Thanks!

Access the LFG online at:
Littleflowerparish.org

THE CHURCH AS COMMUNITY

My Brothers and Sisters,

In today's Gospel [18th Sunday in Ordinary Time], Jesus begins his Eucharistic Discourse.

Little Flower, together with most Catholic parishes and other Christian churches, is struggling to recover from the pandemic. Almost every week our numbers at Sunday Eucharist are increasing. Currently we are at approximately two-thirds of pre-pandemic attendance. Thank you for having returned home to Little Flower. In the coming weeks, we will attempt outreaches to encourage those who are able to return to Sunday Mass.

One of our challenges is that many people are finding it hard to return to Mass simply because they got out of the habit of attending Mass. Others are finding it hard to attend every Sunday because again they are out of the habit of attending every Sunday. Other have found it easier to watch the streamed Mass either live or at their convenience. Still others do not feel safe returning.

However, churches have an even bigger challenge than encouraging their parishioners to return to Mass. Even pre-Covid, attendance at Mass here and in many, if not most, parishes hovered around one-third of registered members. Today many Christians and Catholics believe they can be good Catholics or good Christians without attending church because they believe in Jesus, pray, and try to live good lives. Many of them and others would answer they are spiritual but not religious.

If we look at the New Testament, however, the Christianity of Jesus is a Christianity of church or community. In the Gospels, Jesus first built a community of disciples and then established a church built on the foundation of the apostles. His teaching was constantly bringing people together. Acts of the Apostles is primarily the story of the foundations of the first Christian communities around the Roman Empire. Most of Paul's Letters were written not to individuals but to church communities.

What does it mean to be church? An American Catholic Catechism attempted to define the Church: "The Church is the community of those called to acknowledge the Lordship of Jesus, who ratify that faith sacramentally, and who commit themselves to membership and mission for the sake of the Kingdom of God in history." The Church is, first of all, a community, a flesh and blood community, called by God. This community, established by Christ, is called to faith, sacraments, and service.

In other words, we are called to live and share faith within a faith community. In fact, the New Testament frequently urges us to support one another in faith.



(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

THE CHURCH AS COMMUNITY

When we are actively part of a parish or faith community, we have the benefit of having others to support us both in our faith struggles and our everyday life struggles. Likewise, being actively part of a faith community adds a layer of accountability to our choices. Finally, it is easier to live a faith-filled and faithful Christian life just being together with individuals who share our faith and our values.

My brothers and sisters, in today's Gospel, Jesus said, *"I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst."* Although John 6 is often referred to as Jesus' Eucharistic Discourse, it might better be termed Jesus' Bread of Life Discourse because only part of the discourse focuses on the Eucharist. In this passage, Jesus proclaims that he himself is the bread of life. As he said, those who come to him will never hunger, and those who believe in him will never thirst. Where do we find Jesus? Jesus promised always to be present in the community of the Church: *"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them"* [Mt. 18:20].

(From Fr. Bob's homily the weekend of July 31-August 1 exploring the meaning of church as community.)

SUMMERFEST 2021

Summerfest 2021 – "Homecoming" – turned out to be the perfect way to kick off the summer and return home to Little Flower after a long time away! The weather was good to us all three days, and the atmosphere was nothing short of electric. It was clear that people were happy to be out and come together to celebrate once again.

The determination of the leadership team, the hard work of all the festival volunteers, and above average attendance resulted in a top-notch event that realized **a net profit of over \$76,000!** Proceeds will fund a variety of much-needed campus improvements, including resealing the parking lot, interior painting of school entrances, and repairing sidewalks where needed.

The silent auction introduced an all-digital platform this year which was a huge success! Patrons were able to bid on and track items through their smart phones, tablets, or computers from anywhere inside or outside of the festival. Silent auction staff woke up each morning to see new bids that had taken place overnight! Bingo enthusiasts were able to have double the fun this year, with bingo taking place both Friday and Saturday nights.

Huge thanks to all those who attended the festival and spread the word to make it a success!

Left: A great crowd having fun at Summerfest 2021

Right: Andrew Minton and Bobbie Lawless were crowned Homecoming King and Queen of Summerfest 2021



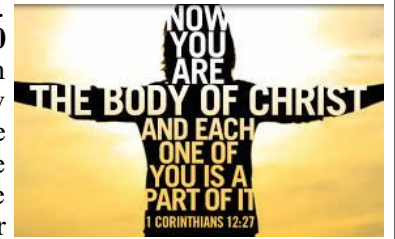
SUMMERFEST 2021: WE LOVE OUR SPONSORS!

**Amy Barbar, FC Tucker Realtor®/Broker
Anonymous Member of the Class of '68
Anonymous Parishioner
Bee Window, Inc.
Bill Harris Construction, Inc.
Dr. Brian E. Nunley, Family Dentistry
E.M. Company, Inc.
Eric and Kelli Tromiczak
In Memory of ZAC
Iris Eskew-Gallery of Homes Real Estate LLC
James Babcock Inc., Electrical Contractors
K & K Fence Company
K & R Tool Shed
Kendra's Floral Kreations
Larry Adams and Associates, Inc.
Law Office of Mark Nicholson
Little Flower Adult Choir
Little Flower Class of 1963
Lowell Family
McDonald's - 10th and Bosart
Pam McGinley, Neora Indep. Brand Partner
PNC Bank - Linwood Square
Prime Smile
Printing Partners
Residential Remodeling & Maintenance
Scecina Memorial High School
Shirley Brothers Mortuaries
Silly Safaris
Steer-In
The Lathrop Family
Thiele Heating and Air Conditioning
Tronitech Document Imaging
Z Shirts Custom Printing**



NEWS FROM THE PARISH LIFE COMMISSION

The Parish Life Commission will be in full swing from now until the end of the year. Our **annual Parish Picnic** will be held on **Sunday, August 29 following the 9:30 a.m. Mass**. It will be held right here on the parish grounds, rain or shine. The Parish Picnic is a great opportunity to relax and enjoy good food with your fellow parishioners. There is usually something for everyone – games and activities for the younger children, bingo for all ages, and our traditional kickball extravaganza. There will be a water slide for children weighing less than 100 pounds. Swim suits will be needed when using the water slide. It's a pitch in so bring your favorite side dish or dessert (chicken, paper products and drinks provided) and join us!



On **Saturday, October 2**, we will have our **annual Pet Blessing at 9:30 a.m. on the Bosart Avenue lawn**. Don't miss out on this opportunity to have your favorite fur baby blessed by Fr. Bob in honor of the Feast of St. Francis!

Also on **Sunday, October 31st**, we will host our **annual Halloween Bash from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the school**. There will be "trick or treating" throughout the school as well as games in the gym and hot dogs, chips, and drinks in the cafeteria. This is a safe and fun way to celebrate Halloween. Start thinking about your costume now and plan on joining us for a "spooktacular" evening.

On **Monday, November 1st** the Parish Life Commission will be helping with our **annual Mass of Remembrance at 6:00 p.m. in the Church**. This is an opportunity for our parish to honor and remember all those buried from our parish in the last year as well as an opportunity for parishioners to remember other loved ones who have died and were not buried from Little Flower. Please mark your calendar and plan on attending this special Liturgy.

Journey into Advent: Faith, Family, and Fun will be held on **Monday, November 22, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the cafeteria**. This is an opportunity for families to make an Advent Calendar before Advent begins on Sunday, November 28. Dinner will be provided!

Finally, our **annual Christmas Party** will be held on **Sunday, December 12, following the 9:30 a.m. Mass**. More details will be in the bulletin closer to the date. Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus will be there – so plan on bringing your camera!!

RCIARCIA RCIARCIA RCIARCIA

Do you have a relative who always asks you about the Catholic Church at family gatherings, or a friend who always brings up the Church and asks about things like "transubstantiation"? If you know the answers, that's great, but if you don't know the answers, bring your wondering friend or relative and join others who are interested in knowing more about the Catholic Church at the next session of The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults or RCIA.

RCIA is the process through which interested adults are gradually introduced to the Roman Catholic faith and way of life. Little Flower will begin another RCIA session on **Tuesday, September 7, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Parish Center**.

The RCIA is a communal process which will touch on almost everything about the Catholic Church and answer the questions of potential candidates or catechumens as they move toward the final rite, usually at the Easter Vigil, when they will become full members of the Roman Catholic Church. The process takes several months, but it goes fast. We learn but we also have fun, listen to music, and have snacks. If you are interested, please call Lisa at 317-357-8352, ext 105, or email lgibbons@littleflowerparish.org. All are welcome!

JOURNEY
OF
Faith

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM COMING SOON



We are currently enrolling for our Religious Education Program for children attending public schools. We offer classes for grades kindergarten through 8th. **Classes will begin September 19.** We will meet most Sundays from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Please call Lisa at 357-8352 ext. 105 or email lgibbons@littleflowerparish.org, if you have any questions or would like to register.



FIRST EUCHARIST AND RECONCILIATION

Sacramental preparation for First Eucharist and Reconciliation will begin in the fall for children entering 2nd grade. Children who attend Little Flower School will prepare during school.

If you have a child who is in 2nd grade, attends public schools and needs to be enrolled in our Sacramental Program, please contact Lisa at 317-357-8352, ext 105 or email lgibbons@littleflowerparish.org to register. Classes will begin on Sunday, September 19, from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

If you have a child in 3rd grade or above who has not made their First Eucharist, please contact Lisa at 357-8352, ext 105, or lgibbons@littleflowerparish.org as soon as possible.

A requirement for First Eucharist is to be a baptized Catholic. If your son or daughter has not been baptized in the Catholic Faith, please contact the parish center for more information. Generally speaking, at least one parent of a child being presented for Baptism must be Catholic.

AND THE WINNER IS...

Ten years ago Worldwide Marriage Encounter sponsored an annual search to honor the commitment of married couples and to give hope to younger couples – that marriage can last a lifetime. **The 11th Annual Search is now on for the Longest Married Couple.** In addition to honoring the longest married couple for the entire United States, recognition will also be given to a couple from each state who has achieved that distinction. Go to wwme.org to find out more information and to nominate couples. You do not need to know the couple personally to nominate them. **Nominations must be received by 10 September 2021.** THANK YOU for participating in our 11th Annual search for the Longest Married Couple!



CAMPUS MINISTRY: MAKE THE CONNECTION



If you are making plans to attend college, belong to something great! Connect to Catholic campus ministry to make friends and have some fun. Getting connected to your college campus ministry is simple; you can use this link to sign up: signup.newmanconnection.com Or you can download the Newman Connect App, available for Apple and Android devices, to connect to your campus ministry instantly! <https://landing.newmanministry.com/app>

MEN'S CLUB: MORE THAN ACTIVE IN 2021

The Men's club is still very busy during 2021! We hold our monthly meetings on the third Monday of the month in the cafeteria (sometimes cookouts outside in the summer)-please join if you can!

- We started the year with the Lenten season, hosting our annual Fish Fry. To help in the COVID times, we had drive-thru service, which was a great success and will continue next year!
- As always, we had great participation in Little Flower's Festival, especially with the setup before and tear-down after the festival. The festival infrastructure owes a lot to the efforts of the Men's Club.
- We have been helping out around the Little Flower campus with grounds and school clean-up, sidewalk snow removal and grass cutting!
- In May we hosted our annual Mother's Day Breakfast, for a much-needed break for the Mothers in our parish!
- We continued supporting the Little Flower Ladies in kickball through our tailgating opportunities in the spring and fall.
- Our annual baseball outing is closer to home this year. On **Saturday, August 28th**, 7 p.m. at Victory Field to watch the Indianapolis Indians versus the Louisville Riverbats. Contact Rick (317-502-2982) if interested.
- Save the date our second annual Euchre tournament will be held on **Saturday, September 18th**, right after 5pm Mass in the cafeteria. Sign-up from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. with play starting right after! Contact Rick (317-502-2982) if interested.

So, as you can see, a lot of fun opportunities for the men of Little Flower! We would love to have you join our Club!

Yours in Christ,

Rick Fischer, Men's Club President

317-502-2982

Fischer6266@gmail.com

Men's Club Activities

Summerfest 2021



Baseball at Victory Field



Euchre Tournament



2021 GOLF OUTING IS SEPTEMBER 10

Save the Date!

The 21st Annual Father Robert Borchertmeyer Golf outing is just around the corner. The outing will be on Friday September 10, at 8:00 a.m., at Pleasant Run Golf Course. The cost is only \$75 this year! This year we will be doing online registration and sponsorships. See the link below. We will also be sharing the link via Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn.

<https://lfgolftournament.com/>

Please notice that the time has changed for this year. **We will be teeing off at 8:00 a.m. this year.** Please contact Jeff Lyons at 317-294-9242 or jeffly200@gmail.com if you are interested in playing.



ANNUAL DAVID O'CONNOR AND ALL VETERANS MEMORIAL MASS

The 10th annual David O'Connor and All Veterans Memorial Mass was celebrated by Fr. Bob at 5:00 p.m. on July 31st. David was a 1962 graduate of Little Flower School, a year older than Fr. Bob who graduated in 1963. The usual celebration of life continued at The Irish Mutt with a short presentation by a Vet.

Sergeant O'Connor received numerous medals, including The Bronze Star and four Purple Hearts. Even though the rules of service guaranteed a soldier could go home after three Purple Hearts, Sgt O'Connor wanted to stay to protect his platoon. David was killed in action (KIA) on August 2, 1969. Three bricks honoring David's ultimate sacrifice, shown below, are at the bottom of the steps of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument in downtown Indianapolis.



Paul Hoffmann was also a '62 grad of Little Flower and a first cousin of David. Paul did extensive research with fellow soldiers of Sgt O'Connor, some of whom came from as far away as Montana and Louisiana—even though they did not know anyone at the memorial services—to provide testimonials about how great a leader and protector David was of his men. Paul joined David in Heaven on September 14, 2020. RIP, Paul.

Here is a letter sent to David Dinn, author of this article, from Christine Wolff Taylor:

David, this is Chris (Wolff) Taylor. My dad had a rosary presented by David [O'Connor] on behalf of the Little Flower football team. He carried it with him in his pocket, quite literally, until the day he died. He had a serious surgery many years ago; as he was coming around, he asked for his wedding ring, David's rosary, and his wallet. Thank you for carrying on the Mass for David.

GABRIEL PROJECT NEEDS YOUR HELP

The Gabriel Project has a material resource center in the basement of the rectory. We provide layettes to pregnant women and material support to any mother in need with clothing, diapers, personal baby care items and any other item we have in hand such as high chairs and toys



Air conditioning was recently installed in the rectory. While it was a blessing for Fr. Bob, the workers did not cover the baby products in the storage rooms so layers of dust blanketed everything. We had to wash mounds of baby clothing, blankets and other cloth items. These mounds of clothing are now waiting patiently to be sorted.

We are in desperate need of people willing to help sort baby clothing. There is a coded key box which makes it easy for you to sort anytime you have a few hours without making a long-term commitment. Please contact Anita Moody at moodyak1@yahoo.com or call/text 317-918-0997.

PLEASE CONSIDER REMEMBERING LITTLE FLOWER PARISH AND SCHOOL IN YOUR ESTATE PLANNING

LITTLE FLOWER CELEBRATES NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



Little Flower playground was the setting for the annual Neighborhood Night Out sponsored for the first time by the **Invite Commission** on August 3rd. Attended by approximately 300 of our parishioners and neighbors, clear skies and perfect temperatures set the stage for a wonderful evening of music, food trucks, free school supplies, fun, and fellowship. A visit from Indianapolis Mayor Joe Hogsett and footage on Channel 8 News emphasized the importance of community and getting to know our neighbors. Thank you also to the Indianapolis Police and Fire Departments for their presence and friendliness. The Invite Commission plans to make this an annual event!



Left: The Lowe family of Josh, Malcolm, Rebecca and Maxwell enjoys ideal summer weather for the National Night Out on the school playground. Malcolm is an incoming first-grader at Little Flower School
Center: Brothers Malcolm and Maxwell Lowe receive badge stickers from an IMPD officer
Right: Parishioner Fernanda Girolami “engages” Mayor Joe Hogsett in a discussion over her concerns about speeding and reckless traffic in front of Little Flower School

INVITE COMMISSION OFFERS BIBLE STUDY



The Invite Commission Bible Study classes will begin the week of September 13th with several options available. Watch for details in the Theresean and online beginning the week of August 16th. Get to know others as you watch a weekly video followed by discussion. Hope to see you there!

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS IN THE SECOND QUARTER



The second-quarter earnings from The Kroger Community Rewards Fundraiser are \$789.95, with 225 households participating between 04/1/2021 to 6/30/2021. You could help Little Flower School earn up to \$50,000 every three months! How? By shopping at Kroger and using your registered Kroger Plus Card. To register your Kroger Plus Card, go to www.kroger.com/communityrewards. You will first sign in to your Kroger account or register for a new account. After you log into your account, **please enter our organization number CP031**. The more you spend at Kroger, the larger the check Little Flower will receive. Note: It will be necessary for you to re-register for this program every year. Thanks in advance!

THE POWER OF PRAYER - *THE GLORY BE*



Editor's Note: This open letter from parishioner Dick Kramer is the second in a series of personal thoughts about contemporary Catholic prayer. His goal is to elicit comments, advice and criticisms about how the words with which we pray impact our faith. Dick has provided his contact information at the bottom of this article if you would like to reply to him. The viewpoints expressed here are his alone.

Greetings Fellow Parishioners of Little Flower,

In my article "An Introduction" from the May 2021 Little Flower Garden, I explained my six reasons for suggesting changes to commonly used prayers (see page one for how to access prior newsletters online). The prayer "The Glory Be" touches on several of my ideas for these changes, so I want to start with it in this second open letter.

The current version sanctioned by the church is:

Glory Be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Here is my version which I believe makes things clearer and more meaningful to me:

Glory be to the Eternal Triune God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Your world without end. Amen.

I assume most people have an understanding of The Big Bang Theory. Simply stated, some scientists believe that all of the mass of the ever-expanding universe was the result of the explosion of one central ball of mass billions of years ago. If true, into what is the universe expanding if not an eternity that lies beyond our comprehension? This is why I use the word "Eternal" in my suggested prayer. I think the use of "Triune God" addresses the mystery of our faith in three persons in one eternal God.

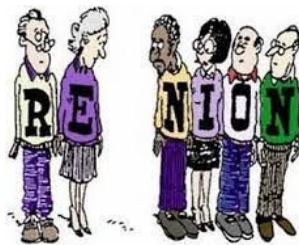
I believe the phrase in the current prayer "As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be..." overlooks the fact that eternity has no beginning and no end. However, there is an "is" in the form of God who has always been and always will be. Finally, concluding with "Your world without end" directly emphasizes God's world (heaven) and not our own here on Earth.

Never forget that God's Son, Jesus Christ, proclaimed: "Only I know the Father and the Father knows Me." Clearly, the Father is a mystery beyond our comprehension.

That's it! I welcome your comments.

Contact Dick Kramer 801 N. Wallace Avenue Indianapolis 46201 Cell: 317-965-1869 E-mail: remark41@sbcglobal.net

ATTENTION LITTLE FLOWER CATHOLIC SCHOOL ALUMNI!



IT WON'T BE THE SAME WITHOUT U!!

Our annual all-class reunion will take place on **Saturday, November 6**. Details will be forthcoming, but all alumni should mark their calendars now! This is a great annual event and we would appreciate everyone's help in spreading the word and encouraging attendance.

Don't forget to "fall back" your clocks on November 7!



In Sympathy

*Please pray for our parishioners who have died,
and for their families...*



- ✠ Patricia Ann Gutzmer – December 16, 2020
- ✠ Virginia Stoops – May 24
- ✠ Salvador Rosales – June 13
- ✠ Regina Kanney – July 7
- ✠ Paul Tuttle – July 13
- ✠ Daniel Forestal – July 14
- ✠ Betty Pfau – August 1



WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST LITTLE FLOWER PARISHIONERS!

Brittany Langbeen
Gerald and Eileen Mader
Hannah Burton
Becka Creech and son, Finnegan
Sharon Hawks
Jesus and Yadira Rangel and children, Melanie, Jesus, and Lenin
Jan Riley
Lauren Lay
Andrew and Blaire Jansen
Gianfranco Bruno and sons, Sean, Giovanni, and Angello
Lauren Smith

Thanks for Joining Us!



Please Welcome Those Baptized into Our Christian Community

- * Maximilian O'Hara Niezer, son of Joseph Niezer and Leah Kuharevicz
- * Catalina Elaine Macias-Smart, daughter of Colin Smart and Marisol Macias Medrano
- * Jemma Lamar Sykes, daughter of Lamar and Noelle Sykes
- * Jonah Nolan Becker, son of Patrick and Erin Becker
- * Keegan William Brown, son of Jennifer Brown
- * Finnegan Phoenix Creech, son of Rebecka (Brown) Creech
- * Hanná Marie Elaine Kemmerlin, daughter of Derek and Crystal Kemmerlin
- * Miánná Marie Lee Kemmerlin, daughter of Derek and Crystal Kemmerlin

St. Therese of the Infant Jesus Catholic Church
4720 E. 13th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46201

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 1596
Indianapolis, Ind.

THE LITTLE FLOWER GARDEN

If there is anything that you would like to see featured in future issues, please contact us at lfparishnews@yahoo.com

Editor: Steve Grohovsky

Contributors: David Dinn, Rick Fischer, Dick Kramer, Jeff Lyons, Anita Moody, Cindy Woods, LF Parish Staff

Dates to Remember

Aug 28: Men's Club Baseball at Victory Field
Aug 29: Parish Picnic (after 9:30 Mass)
Sep 6: Labor Day (parish offices closed)
Sep 13 (week of): Bible Study begins
Sep 18: Men's Club Euchre Tournament
Sep 26: Parish Appreciation Brunch
Oct 2: Annual Pet Blessing
Oct 31: Halloween Bash
Nov 1: Mass of Remembrance
Nov 6: Little Flower School All-Class Reunion
Nov 7: Daylight Saving Time Ends (fall back)
Nov 22: Journey into Advent

Enjoy the beauty of fall in Indiana!
See you in November

