



# THE LITTLE FLOWER GARDEN

VOLUME 19, ISSUE 3

AUG 2023

## LITTLE FLOWER SPOTLIGHT ON TOM COSTELLO

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- LF Spotlight
- Invite Commission
- SVDP
- Gabriel Project
- LF PPS
- LF Alumni
- Parish Life Events
- VBS Recap
- Religious Education
- Festival Review

*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 **10/27/23** in order for them to be published in the **November 2023 issue.***

Please e-mail all pictures and info to [lfp parishnews@yahoo.com](mailto:lfp parishnews@yahoo.com). Thanks!

Access the LFG online at:  
[Littleflowerparish.org](http://Littleflowerparish.org)

This issue's "Little Flower Spotlight" is on Tom Costello.

*Little Flower Garden News (LFGN): You've been in LF your entire life. What are some of the highlights of your time here?*

**Tom Costello (TC):** As might be expected, most of those highlights are in the later years of my time here. Although I attended Little Flower School, most memories of that time have faded. Our three boys all attended Little Flower. My attendance on the eighth grade trip to Washington D.C. began when I attended with them when they were in eighth grade. It then continued when I began working here as I began coordinating the trip. I believe I attended that trip some 20 times, and all of them were great experiences. Most of my highlights came during my time of full-time employment from 2000 until 2017 and included accomplishments that included the formation of the parish youth choir, *Debt Free in 2003*, the replacement of all of the crumbling brick facade of the church building, the facilitation of the capital campaign that resulted in air-conditioning in the school, and my appointment as parish music director in 2017 as my full-time employment came to a close. As much as these large accomplishments are more often recognized as significant, I have worked with so many parishioner volunteers and accomplished so many things much smaller in scope, but, nonetheless, these are highlights for me as well.



Tom and Mary Martha Costello

*LFGN: How did you decide to apply to be the parish administrator back in 1999?*

**TC:** In 1994 I ended a 23-year career as a pharmacist with Hook Drugs when they were sold to Revco. I then became National Director of Customer Support for Medi-Span, a pharmaceutical information database company, until that company was sold in 1999. During 1999 I worked for Bindley Western Drug Company, but was tiring of the uncertainty of the corporate rat race. I was reading a book called *Halftime: Moving from Success to Significance* that addressed career changes in mid-life. I would often read that book in the overnight hours of Friday during an adoration time in the chapel. I decided I wanted to work in a job where I could have more impact on people. Having been an active volunteer here at Little Flower, my next step seemed obvious.

*LFGN: What did you enjoy most about the administrative job? Least?*

**TC:** I have loved the variation that came with every day, and the opportunity to learn new skills and have so many varied experiences. I loved having some impact on the community where I had been formed since birth. I loved (at least for the most part) working with so many parish volunteers to accomplish some really remarkable things. And I have enjoyed the generosity of Little Flower parishioners, who made so many things possible. There is truly not a lot that I did not enjoy, although many would say that I worked too much during those years. And especially in the later years I tended to tire more easily of meetings!

*LFGN: What was the impetus for taking on the music ministry?*

**TC:** My involvement in music ministry became very significant in my faith life. I joined Christmas Choir sometime in the early to mid 1980s, and in the next few years joined the adult choir, became a cantor and became one of the accompanists for the choir. Teresa Eckrich was a very significant person in my musical and faith journey. I had a deep appreciation and affection for, and investment in, the program she had built.

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## SPOTLIGHT ON TOM COSTELLO

**TC:** During the final year of her illness, we were having difficulties searching for a replacement. At the same time, I was approaching age 65 and I had decided to retire from full-time employment. I certainly had not accumulated great wealth during my time working for the church, so I knew I would need to find some part-time work in retirement. Again, my next step became obvious. During all my transitions, I always felt that if I was seeking out God's plan, it became obvious to me.

**LFGN:** You once mentioned youth choir as something you particularly loved. What were the best things about it?

**TC:** I began youth choir in 1995. During those years I have had the blessing to work with many kids. Middle school and high school kids were the groups I had the most opportunity to work with. I really love that age, and that is exactly who was involved with youth choir. Although there were some frustrations along the way, these teens have been very life-giving to me. Their energy helped keep me energized. Their acceptance of me has also been life-giving to me. I can't tell you how many times I would have rather done anything than come back for yet another weekend Mass on Sunday evening. But without fail, when I got here and started preparing with the kids, it was always a positive experience in the end. The energy and vitality of these kids was also the reason I enjoyed coordinating confirmation, facilitating youth room, and going on annual Washington D.C., King's Island, and snow-tubing trips.

**LFGN:** If you could change one thing about our faith, what would it be and why?

**TC:** I am going to address this question from the perspective of what I would change about the church, not the faith. Although there are teachings of the church that I don't necessarily agree with, I also know that these are not things that are likely to change in the short term. The biggest thing I would change is how the church chooses to live those teachings. I believe the church is sometimes guilty of not practicing what it preaches. I don't think we (the church) always demonstrate Jesus' Gospel of love and acceptance. I don't think the church is evolving quickly enough to make sure all people feel welcome, accepted, and loved....and sometimes our official actions demonstrate quite the opposite. Again, I am not talking about changing the teachings, but changing how we respond to those teachings. In addition, I wish the church (both locally and globally) were more innovative and progressive in ways to solve the clergy shortage. Whether that is changing who can be ordained, or developing innovative staffing models that allow a bigger role for lay vocations in the church, we are already many years late in taking some decisive actions. Finally, I wish the church would be more proactive in protecting the universality of the church and its liturgy. In my experience you could go to church anywhere and expect your experience to be much the same. Now, even in our own archdiocese, the liturgy is often celebrated differently by different presiders. I believe the archdiocese needs to get a handle on this. It is important for me to note that these are my personal opinions, and in no way represent the opinion of parish leadership or any staff person. But I think there are always things we would change in organizations that we are a part of, and church is no exception.

**LFGN:** What will you be doing going forward?

**TC:** The jury is still out on that one. Mary Martha will completely retire in August of this year. I certainly hope that some traveling is in our future. And we will probably be looking for some other opportunities to stay busy while here at home. However, we need to find my replacement first!

I am certainly grateful for all of my experiences and all of the people who have come into my life as a result of my time at Little Flower.

*Editor's Note: Thank you, Tom and Mary Martha, for your many years of dedicated service to the parish. Your work will never be forgotten. All the best in your new pursuits.*



## INVITE COMMISSION

The Invite Commission provided a different kind of joy at Summerfest and the school cookout with a variety of Catholic items as well as free school supplies. Lots of smiles and happy faces visit our tables!



## O'CONNOR MEMORIAL MASS

The annual David C. O'Connor (Seccina '66) and All Veterans Memorial Mass was held at Little Flower, Saturday, August 5, at 5:00 p.m.. The celebration of David's life continued after Mass at The Irish Mutt. The group commemorated the lives of David and all of brave veterans who have served. A brief presentation was provided at The Mutt.

For future years, the annual remembrance for all vets is on the Saturday closest to August 2, the day David was killed in action in 1969.

For questions or remembrances to share, please contact David M Dinn, [davidmdinn@gmail.com](mailto:davidmdinn@gmail.com)

*Greater love hath no man than this  
That a man would lay down his life for his friends*  
John 15:13

*All Gave Some, Some Gave All  
Some stood through for the red, white and blue  
And some had to fall  
And if you ever think of them  
Think of all your liberties and recall  
Some Gave All*

# LITTLE FLOWER SVDP VERY ACTIVE



I-70

Sherman

Arlington

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SVDP) is an international organization devoted to service to the poor. The local conference has been active for many years and recently revived with new members.

A debt of gratitude is due to the passion and strength of Judy Corpuz and Pat Dunn for keeping the ideals alive through the pandemic and attrition of members. Currently there are ten active members with several volunteers for special projects.

Many people are aware of SVDP as a place to donate clothes via the drop box on campus or taking things to the warehouse downtown.

The most active part of the local conference is responding to calls made to the United Way 211 call hot line. People in need can call 211 and give their information. If the needs fit the scope of SVDP and they are located in the boundaries of Little Flower (the blue area on the map) the call is directed to us. The needs of the "neighbor" are assessed and help is given. Rent and utility aid is potentially given immediately. Physical needs such as furniture and appliances necessitate a home visit. Two members of our conference make a home visit to assess the need. When called for, an itemized list of warehouse goods is generated and sent to the warehouse. The neighbor then makes arrangements to pick up the items free of charge. Large goods are allowed once a year. Clothing is twice a year.

Donations are the lifeblood of SVDP. Clothes and household goods are always welcome. Monetary aid is critical. Special church collection envelopes are set aside for months with 5 Sundays to help. Recently it became possible to contribute via electronic means.

Personal volunteers are always welcome. The conference meets every other week and prayerfully devotes time to the process of aiding our needy neighbors. Special holiday projects like Thanksgiving baskets and the Christmas Giving Trees need SVDP help.

If you feel inclined to assist in any way contact  
Frank Mackell [fmackell@gmail.com](mailto:fmackell@gmail.com)

10th St

Michigan

## GABRIEL PROJECT MAKING A DIFFERENCE



The Gabriel Project has been very busy. We have assisted 80 women with material goods and helped a mom with her application fee for school and with storage space until she moves into her apartment after the birth of her baby next month.

Here are excerpts from online requests The Gabriel Project received on its parish web page:

"Good evening! Yes I need help with just about everything. Your organization helped me 7 years ago and I never felt judged because of my age. This is my miracle baby. I was told after taking out an ovary that I'd never conceive again. Well I did and had a baby girl! Any help is a blessing...thanks so much for reaching out to me!"

From another mom:

"I appreciate you guys for being a huge support for us (her 5y/o son). I'm so thankful God has allowed us to meet. Even after the baby comes I won't need any help but I would love you guys to be around"

As you can see these women are complicated but just trying to get a grip on life that sends curve balls all the time. We can't cure all their problems but with your support we can ease their burden.

If you feel called to the ministry please contact Joanna Slisz [317-224-3684](tel:317-224-3684). If you can find some time to help with sorting and organizing please contact Brigid Gedig [317-697-3546](tel:317-697-3546).



## LITTLE FLOWER SCHOOL PPS: BASEBALL THIS FALL!



The Little Flower PPS is gearing up for another great school year starting on August 9. PPS Meetings take place the 3rd Thursday every month at 6:30pm in Duffey Hall. Our first meeting will be Thursday, August 17. Please join us to help plan for an awesome year!

Our first FUNdraiser of the school year will be an afternoon at Victory Field on September 24, 2023. The school choir will be singing the national anthem at the Indians game. They did an amazing job last year - you don't want to miss it! Gates open at 12:30 pm and game time is 1:35 pm. Making the event even better, it's Kids Eat Free Sunday! All children 14 and under receive a free hot dog, bag of chips and Capri Sun® juice pouch with price of admission. Little Flower family and friends can purchase tickets in our own seating section by using this link: <https://fevogm.com/event/Stterese0924>. \$5 of every ticket sold through the link goes to PPS. Last year, we raised about \$1,000. Spread the word – let's earn even more this year!



Feel free to reach out to PPS President Jennifer Lathrop at 317-326-6252 or [lathropjj@gmail.com](mailto:lathropjj@gmail.com) with questions or for more information about any of our activities.

## ATTENTION LITTLE FLOWER CATHOLIC SCHOOL ALUMNI

Our annual all-class reunion will be on Saturday, November 4. Details are 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.

## PARISH LIFE COMMISSION PLANNING BIG 2ND HALF 2023

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 27 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 and 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 morning, October 7**, we will have our annual **Pet Blessing at 9:30** 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!

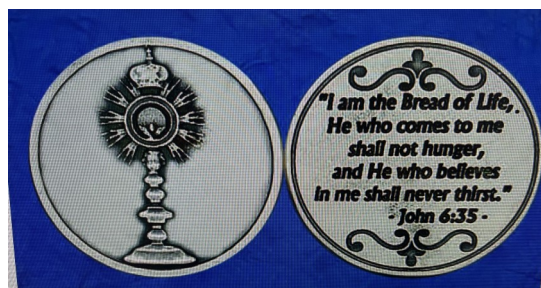
**Tuesday, October 31<sup>st</sup>**, is Halloween and our annual **Halloween Bash is from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.** in school. There will be "trick or treating" throughout the school as well as games in the gym and hot dogs, chips, and drinks in the cafeteria. This is a safe and fun way to celebrate Halloween. Start thinking about your costume now and plan on joining us for a 'spooktacular' evening.

On **November 1<sup>st</sup>** the Parish Life Commission will be helping with the **annual Mass of Remembrance at 6:00 p.m.** in 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 November 29 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. This is an opportunity for families to make an Advent Calendar before Advent begins on Sunday, December 3. Dinner will be provided!

Finally, our annual **Christmas Party** will be held on **Sunday, December 10**, following the 9:30 a.m. Mass. More details will be in the bulletin closer to the date. Santa Claus will be there – so plan on bringing your camera!!

## NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL



Little Flower is in the second year of the National Eucharistic Revival. Please watch for news of special events and materials pertaining to this and be prepared for a glorious year of celebrating our Savior's Body and Blood in the Eucharist.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL - A SUMMER TRADITION



Thank you to all the participants and volunteers in Vacation Bible School the week of July 17-21, 2023. Thirty students from Pre-4 to 4<sup>th</sup> grade participated in Bible School and learned that we are called to shine the light of Jesus! Special thanks to all our volunteers! Workers included adults, teens, and students in grades 5 through high school. They are:

Jeanine Adkins	Kimberly Hall	Caroline Mages	Joanna Slisz
Camila Avalos	Andrew Hollada	Joanne Mages	Marek Torzewski
Sophie Brown	Reanna Hollada	Elizabeth Mann	Paisley Torzewski
Cassie Echegaray	Keeghan Jones	Mary Mann	Mandie Wade
Shannon Estrada	Thomas Kring	Cece Pertile	Elise Weimer
Abby Estrada	Sam Mackell	B.J. Schmidt	



### FIRST EUCHARIST AND RECONCILIATION

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

**If you have a child who is in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, attends public schools and needs to be enrolled in our Sacramental Program (article at right), please contact Lisa at 317-357-8352, ext 105, or email:**

**[lgibbons@littleflowerparish.org](mailto:lgibbons@littleflowerparish.org) to register. Classes will begin on Sunday, September 10, from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

If you have a child in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade or above who has not made their First Eucharist, please contact Lisa at 317-357-8352, ext 105 or [lgibbons@littleflowerparish.org](mailto: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.*

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND RCIA NOW ENROLLING

We are currently enrolling for our Religious Education Program for children attending public schools. We offer classes for grades kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup>. **Classes will begin September 10** We will meet most Sundays from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Please call Lisa at 317-357-8352, ext. 105, or email [lgibbons@littleflowerparish.org](mailto:lgibbons@littleflowerparish.org), if you have any questions or would like to register.



Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Do you have a relative who always asks you about the Catholic Church or a friend who 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 5, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Parish Center.**

The RCIA is a communal process which explains almost everything about the Catholic Church and answers 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](mailto:lgibbons@littleflowerparish.org).

# SUMMERFEST 2023 DELIVERED IN A BIG WAY!

Summerfest 2023 – “Find Us at Summerfest” – was a giant success!



Thanks to our extraordinary leadership team, the hard work of all the festival volunteers, and all who attended Summerfest, we realized a net profit of over \$76,000! Proceeds from this year’s festival will go towards a new heating and cooling system for the parish center.

To go along with our theme, our newly-established festival marketing team designed a fun scavenger hunt that was a big hit for kids and adults alike! The marketing team also made a splash on social media with posts that featured leadership team members, the silent auction, and more.

Once again, the single highest money-maker of the festival was the silent auction, showing a net profit of over \$21,000. The all-digital platform makes it easy for folks to bid on their desired items, whether they are in the room with the item, walking around the festival, at home with their feet up, or traveling the world! We also had a record number of sponsorships, and the stained glass raffle boasted its best ever year as well.

Various bands kept the crowds singing and dancing all weekend, and Ryan “the Lion” Davis entertained children and adults alike showing off his various animals from Silly Safaris. New this year, Little Flower School students (photo right) performed some songs from their spring musical, “Newsies,” and teacher Denni Riley dazzled folks with a daring aerial show in the gym!



A fun time was had by all, and we already can’t wait until next year. Mark your calendars for **May 31, June 1, and June 2, 2024** for next year’s Summerfest!

## Big thanks go to this year’s Summerfest sponsors:

Anonymous Parishioner  
Bill Harris Construction, Inc.  
Brothers Construction - JW Fence  
Chapman Heating Air and Plumbing  
Cross Communications  
Cross Electric, Inc.  
Dr. Brian E. Nunley, Family Dentistry  
EM Company, Inc.  
Eric and Kelli Tromiczak  
Fab Five Ladies of Little Flower  
Firehouse Pools  
In Memory of Virginia Stoops  
In Memory of ZAC  
Indianapolis Firefighters Emerald Society  
J. C. Veerkamp, Inc.  
J.W. "JDub" Warren, Jr.  
James Babcock Inc., Electrical Contractors  
Joe Hammond Oakley-Hammond Funeral Home  
K & K Fence Company  
K & R Tool Shed  
Kendra's Floral Kreations  
Knights of Columbus-Our Lady of Fatima Council 3228

KPS Commercial Construction  
Larry Adams and Associates, Inc.  
Law Office of Mark Nicholson  
LF 56 Kickball Team by Michael A. Maio and John A. Maio  
Little Flower Adult Choir  
Little Flower Class of 1963  
Lowell Family  
Manley's Irish Mutt  
Marlaina Pertile - Certified Massage Therapist  
Pam McGinley, Neora Indep. Brand Partner  
Printing Partners  
Residential Remodeling & Maintenance  
Seccina Memorial High School  
Shirley Brothers Mortuaries  
Silly Safaris  
Steer-In  
Supply Warehouse, Inc. - SWI  
The Lathrop Family  
Thiele Heating and Air Conditioning  
Tom Wood Nissan  
Tronitech Document Imaging  
Z Shirts Custom Printing

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

## In Sympathy

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



- ✠ Michele Fontanella, June 8, 2023
- ✠ Jeanette (McCarty) Corrigan, June 24, 2023
- ✠ Frank Skinner, July 12, 2023
- ✠ Elizabeth "Betty" McDonald, July 19, 2023



### **WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST LITTLE FLOWER PARISHIONERS!**

Hector Figueroa and Jenny Gonzalez; daughter Isabella  
Jerry Bullock and Kaitlyn Schneider; children Karly and Gus  
Jared Kantner and Bridget Dugan; children Alexis, Madisyn and Kathleen  
Micaela Zimmerman  
Carolyn DePaul  
Tiffany Payne

**Thanks for Joining Us!**



### **Please Welcome Those Recently Baptized into Our Christian Community**

- \* Whittaker Frederick, son of Christian Gleason and Jessica Rohn
- \* Bennett Scott, son of Jared and Addie Oswalt
- \* Hattie Marie, daughter of Justun Sharp and Liz Subrin
- \* Grady John, son of Devon and Erica Denney
- \* Kolton Jayce, son of Russel and Tia Mize
- \* Olivia Jo, daughter of Eric and Holly Nixon
- \* Anna Elizabeth, daughter of Liam and Meredith Bonner

St. Therese of the Infant Jesus Catholic Church  
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Indianapolis, IN 46201

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## ***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](mailto:lfparishnews@yahoo.com)*

**Editor: Steve Grohovsky**

**Contributors: Tom Costello, David Dinn, Mary Kennedy, Jennifer Lathrop, Frank Mackell, Anita Moody, Joanna Slisz, Cindy Woods, LF Parish Staff**

## Dates to Remember

Aug 27: Parish Picnic after 9:30 a.m. Mass  
Sep 4: Labor Day  
Sep 20 - Sep 30: Little Flower Novena  
Oct 7: Blessing of the Pets (Bosart Avenue lawn)  
Oct 31: Halloween Bash in the School  
Nov 1: All Saints Day, Mass of Remembrance  
Nov 4: Little Flower School All Class Reunion  
Nov 11: Veteran's Day (thank a Vet)  
Nov 24: Thanksgiving Day

May the beauty of Fall 2023 inspire you!  
Stay safe and see you in November

