

Little Flower Catholic Elementary School -- **Newsletter** for Friday, November 21, 2014

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We at **Little Flower School**, especially in this month of November, draw our students' attention to the Saints of the Church. The Saints hold a place of honor and devotion in our Catholic Faith. These holy men and women lived the Gospel message to its fullest, in their words and deeds. We often choose saints or angels to be our patron saints. They bring us closer to God, and they inspire us to imitate Christ more perfectly. These saints intercede on our behalf; they join their prayers to ours when we ask for that saint's intercessory prayers to God.

Here are just three experiences of **prayer** and how the **saints have interceded** in peoples' lives:

Several years ago, I was going through some troubled times. I did not know where to turn....My Aunt suggested that I ask **St. Therese** to help...We...found a St. Therese Church...decided to attend the service, but it was cancelled....We prayed in the church for about an hour then left. That was the last I heard of St. Therese...so I thought. A month later I took a trip to my native country. I grew up believing in the Intercessions of the Saints. I went to many churches & monasteries and would ask the Patron Saint of that church to intercede for me and ask the Lord to hear my prayer....with no results. At the last church I visited, I became quite frustrated and asked for one Saint to help me...Which one was it going to be? A few hours later we visited a small poverty stricken village where my mother's nanny lived. She gave me a gold medallion of St. Therese. I knew then that St. Therese was going to help me and become my Patron Saint.

After returning to the states, I was looking for a new career....I was stuck in a job where I would go into the office, sit on my computer for 8 hrs. & then go home. Travel is my passion; I longed to travel the world. I put in for a flight attendant position at a major airline....I decided to say a prayer to St. Therese & ask her to intercede for me. St. Therese promised that after she died, her work would begin. She said she "Will Let Fall From Heaven a Shower of Roses." Roses are a message from her letting you know she has heard your prayer and will intercede for you. I asked her to somehow bring me a rose to let me know that I would work for this airline. About an hour went by, and the secretary ... handed me a rose. I went in shock...I couldn't believe it! I asked her why she gave me a rose. She told me that she was sitting in her garden and saw the rose. She immediately thought of me & decided to bring it to me.

A few weeks later, I put in for a position as a flight attendant and got an interview. While waiting at the airport for my connecting flight home, I was reading a book on St. Therese. A man approached me & told me how he had just learned about St. Therese....He gave me a prayer card of St. Therese and shared his experiences with me. I didn't get the job as a flight attendant, but rather took a job at the airport. I worked for this airline for over 15 yrs. & have held numerous positions which allowed me to travel all over the world. My prayer was answered in God's time, through the intercession of my patron Saint-St. Therese. [from the website: <http://www.whensaintsintercede.com/inspiration.htm>]

Dr. Scott Hahn, noted Catholic convert & author, published a new book May 27 titled "Angels and Saints: A Biblical Guide to Friendship with God's Holy Ones." It explores the biblical roots and modern-day interventions of the angels and saints. Hahn opens "Angels and Saints" with a powerful story of the intercession of several saints during a recent pilgrimage to Assisi. During the pilgrimage, his son, Joseph, became very ill. He was taken to a local hospital, where doctors said they would have to operate if his condition did not improve. That night, his son's health took a turn for the worse.

"I knew (Joseph) was facing the possibility of death and he was in absolute agony," Dr. Hahn recalled to the Catholic News Agency. "I felt so helpless as a father...I got down on my knees around midnight and I began to try to connect with God." As he prayed and pleaded for his son's safety, Hahn said he became intensely aware of the presence of others in the room. "That room got really crowded with **Saint Francis of Assisi, Saint Clare** and the **Blessed Virgin Mary**," he said. "If somebody had flipped on the (light) switch and I had seen the faces of the saints and the angels, it wouldn't have made them any more real." Hahn said his encounter with the saints that night reminded him that his "aloneness was really an illusion."

"I realized how we are enveloped in divine love," Hahn said. "And not just God alone, but God drawing all of us into his family as his sons and daughters...as brothers and sisters. I realized more powerfully that all this theory is true, and all this truth is real and all this reality is really beautiful and absolutely indispensable to get through everyday life.

**OVER**

Hahn said he hopes the new book will help the faithful foster a better understanding of the family of God. "Nothing fulfills a father more than to see his sons and daughters becoming better and better friends," he reflected. "And I think nothing glorifies God the father more than to see family members assisting each other."

Hahn said he also hopes the book will inspire Catholics to evaluate their own prayer lives and relationships with the saints. "We live in a society where action is made a higher priority than prayer and contemplation," Dr. Hahn said. "I think what we need to do – at least what I know I need to do – is stop acting, stop working and start sitting in quiet and prayer. I think what the angels and saints show us is that when we're doing things for God, it's not as powerful, it's not as productive as when we allow God to do things in us, which is almost always in quiet, in the interior," he said."

[from the website: <http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/scott-hahn-explores-saints-angels-in-new-book/>]

This last saint experience took place a year ago in North Dakota, not too far from here. A relative (who I will call John) called us to relay this story. It was evident that he was very much impressed & affected by the power of prayer that he witnessed that weekend. A good friend of John's had been washed away by flood waters that spring when he drove on a road with water on it that actually was washed out. John's friend's body was never found though there were months of extensive search efforts. There was a funeral Mass for John's friend on a Wednesday in September, and John was an honorary pallbearer. During the Mass the priest asked all in attendance to use a prepared brochure with John's friend's picture on one side & a novena to **St. Anthony** on the other side. They all prayed the novena together, then the priest asked those in attendance to continue praying it after the funeral. Saturday night (only 3 days after the funeral) John got a phone call from his friend's girlfriend that his friend's body had been found—only 1 ½ miles from where his pickup had been in the river. That area had been searched dozens of times before.

John was really affected by this proof positive of the power of pray. He said as they were praying the novena at the funeral he thought of his grandmother & great aunt who always talked of praying to St. Anthony to find something lost. This time St. Anthony's intercession was powerful in finding John's friend's lost body.

+++++ **Additional Informational for You to Know** +++++

+++ The Little Flower School PTO is sponsoring a **SILENT AUCTION AND SUPPER** on Fri. Nov. 21 at the Rugby Eagles Club. Theresa's famous chicken will be served from 5:30-7:30. The auction will be from 6:30-8:00 PM. Thank you for contributing and supporting Little Flower School.

+++ **Confirmation Retreat** from 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM on November 22 in the Parish Hall.

+++ **Dr. Michael P. Smith**, Diocesan Superintendent of Catholic Schools, will speak at 10:30 AM Mass Sunday, Nov.23.

+++ **Little Flower School Christmas Program** will be Sunday, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm in Rugby HS auditorium. Students in grades K-6 will be participating. There will also be a special presentation by Mrs. Swanson's Preschool students.

+++ From the **Raffle** committee: Books of **tickets** will be sent home with your child in their backpack on Wednesday, Nov. 26 so that families can begin selling tickets over the Thanksgiving Holiday!

+++ On Wednesday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, we will be having a **Thanksgiving Prayer Service** at 12:30 PM in the Church. We are asking that each child bring a canned good to offer at this time. Parents & parishioners are invited to attend.

+++ Advent is a time of giving and preparing for Jesus. With Advent season, comes **Project Joy**, and that means it is time for us to think of others who have very little. We will begin to collect for "Project Joy," on Monday, December 1<sup>st</sup>. There will be a special jar in each classroom for the children to put their donations. The project will end on Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. The following Friday a.m., December 12<sup>th</sup>, the third and fourth grade students will purchase gifts from Shopko with the help of Mrs. Bethany Mack and some parents, to be given to children from the local area in hopes of making their Christmas a bit brighter. Thank you! Mrs. Mack.

+++ Assorted packs of 20 Religious **Christmas cards** are now on sale in the school office. Cost is \$5.00 per box of 20.

+++ Reminder: Monthly **tuition payments** are now due for the month of November. Milk and lunch payments may be made with one check, but please indicate how the money should be divided for lunch and milk.

+++ Parents: With the onset of **colder weather**, please make sure your child wears a warm coat, gloves, boots and hat before coming to school or boarding a rural route or activity bus. **DON'T FORGET YOUR SHOES!**