



# Blue Jay Briefings

*Little Flower School Alumni Newsletter*

*Fall 2010*

## **School News**

### **Welcome, Miss Matta**

Starting her drive to Rugby a week after having accepted the first grade position at Little Flower School, Miss Matta was a bit on-edge about her decision. The second oldest of four children, she is from a tight knit family in Pittsburgh, PA, although colleges and jobs have recently spread them across the United States. Making this move was uncharacteristically adventurous for Miss Matta, and it was a move that wouldn't have happened had it not been for some key factors. Having completed her student teaching at a Catholic school in Boston, she was confident that being a new teacher in a Catholic community would be beneficial for her development as an education professional during her first year of teaching. Having researched the area to where she was about to re-root, there was a definite appeal in moving to a town where people are more grounded and more at-ease than in the fast paced Northeast environment to which she had grown accustomed. Finally, teaching first grade has long been a dream of Miss Matta; she finds it thrilling to teach bright-eyed six-year-olds how to read, write, and love learning. She is happy to report, so far, that all of her hopes about LFS have come true. She has been warmly welcomed into a caring and supportive community, and finds true joy in teaching her very first class. She finds herself

discovering as much as her students are this year, perhaps more, as she continues to learn about a new place, new people, and a new profession.

According to Miss Matta, "I am finding this experience thus far to be humbling, as I realize how much more there is to know about the world in front of me." Two of her favorite phrases to hear during instruction are, "We don't get it," and "Miss Matta, you're talking too fast." The former helps her hone her delivery of material so that she can present it more clearly to her students, and the latter means that she has gotten so caught up in the wonder of a subject that she can't help but gush about it.

"I figure that with such confident requests for clarification on behalf of my students, by the end of the year, I'll get it right, and teaching will be as familiar to me as my new hometown."

### **Changes at LFS**

If you look in the classrooms at LFS you may see some changes. The kindergarten room is busy with kindergarten three days a week, and on Tuesdays and Thursdays kindergarten teacher, Miss Dobitz teaches the pre-school students. First grade teacher, Miss Matta, is from Pennsylvania. In second grade is Mrs. Vernice Brossart's familiar face. Mrs. Brossart taught sixth grade at LFS for many years and is now enjoying her second opportunity to work with second graders. This

group of second graders is made up of seven girls. They are having a great time.

Miss Abby Brossart's third grade and Mrs. Graner's fourth grade are together for phy. ed class with Mr. Ganarrelli. Having the two groups together gives them more opportunities to participate in team activities.

A combination classroom is being tried at LFS this year. Mrs. Mosher teaches a class of 19 fifth and sixth grade students. As with any big change there are adjustments to be made. Students and parents have grown comfortable with the smaller classes and the same group of friends from first grade through sixth grade.

Mrs. Mosher is enjoying the challenges of making the combined classroom work. She thinks that the larger class will also help students with the transition to the larger class sizes when they get to the Rugby Junior High School. More students in a classroom encourages students to become more independent workers. Students have the opportunity to be challenged and motivated by having new students in their classes. Sr. Jean Louise and Foster grandparent, Eileen Jaeger, help with the students in the combination class.

Current enrollment is 53 students K-6 from 40 families. Declining enrollment played a role in the decision to combine some of the grades.

# Alumni News & Reflections

## Where are the Alumni?

**JoAnn Heilman Ho ('66)** was recognized with an Alumni Fellows Award Sept. 23, at Dickinson State University. The award is presented to alumni who have distinguished themselves in their careers. JoAnn is an accomplished storyteller, actress, and drama instructor in Overland Park, Kansas.

**Stephanie Hooker Brossart ('98)** and husband, Jerrod, are the proud parents of daughter, Madisyn born August 2, 2010. Madisyn's big brothers are Landyn and Clifdyn.

**Michael Schmaltz ('01)** and Christine Bruins were married July 9, 2010, at Epiphany Catholic Church in Watford City, ND. They are currently attending NDSU in Fargo where Michael is majoring in Agriculture Economics.

**Erin Wangler ('96)** and Alex Schubert were married June 26, 2010, in Canby, MN. Erin is an early childhood special education teacher in Dawson, MN. Alex works in the agronomy department at Cenex in Canby.

**Austin Schmaltz ('96)** and Mackenzie Lehmann were married August 14, 2010, at Little Flower Catholic Church in Rugby. They live in Bismarck. Austin teaches Art and Multimedia at Bismarck High School.

**Brandon Schmaltz ('93)** and Kate Ferrian were married October 2, 2010, at Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Community in Wayzata, MN. Brandon is an area sales manager of United Auto Credit Corporation in Minneapolis. They live in Minnetonka, MN.

**Lindsey Hamilton ('05)** was chosen as Rugby High School Homecoming Queen for 2010.

**Thomas Swanson ('05)** was chosen as Rugby High School Homecoming King for 2010.

Duane and **Margaret (Schneider) Voeller ('62)** celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. They were married October 16, 1970, at Little Flower Church in Rugby.

**Joseph Heilman ('98)** was elected to the North Dakota House of Representatives from District 45. Joseph lives in Fargo and works for Pedigree Technologies as an account manager.

## Alumni we will miss

**Richard Hager ('65)** passed away from injuries sustained in a farm accident October 2, 2010.

## Making Memories

Andrew Duchscher is just starting to make his Little Flower School memories. Andrew, a kindergarten student in Miss Dobitz's class, read the petitions at the 9 AM school Mass. "For the Pope, Bishops, Fr. Tom and Fr. John. We pray to the Lord," was one of the petitions.

Andrew questioned if I was able to hear him a "little bit" or a "lot" when he read the petitions. He had practiced reading the petitions for two days. He also was able to carry the roses up during the offertory. He liked reading in church and thought he might read again some day.

Andrew likes going to church with the 5th grade buddies, eating snacks and hot lunch, and taking a rest everyday at school.

*The Berenstain Bears, The Story of Christmas, and Clifford the Big Red Dog* top the list of books that Andrew likes to read.

Reading, being an altar server or bringing up the gifts at Mass are some of the memories that most Little Flower alums remember.

This was a special time for Andrew as his great-grandparents, Archie and Monica Grove, grandparents, Chuck and **Linda (Grove) Duchscher ('72)**, parents, Cassie and **Jeff Duchscher ('92)**, sister, first grader Katlyn and several other relatives and friends were able to be there.

## Why I love Little Flower

School by Jazlyn Brossart, daughter of **Dwayne '82** and Jessica Brossart

I have loved LFS since I walked in the door in kindergarten. Every day you get treated with warm smiles and greetings. Everyone knows each other and it seems like we're all a big family.

In kindergarten I remember taking our naps and playtime. In first grade I remember Mrs. Ludwig throwing her laughing ball into the air. I love Grandma Schneider who works at school. In second grade I remember dressing turkeys and having a smorgasbord. In third grade I remember reading *Charlotte's Web* and having a carnival after we read the book. In fourth grade I remember going to the zoo and dressing up people as Christmas trees. In fifth grade I remember going to Lucy's Amusement Park and lots of parties.

Now I am in sixth grade and it has been a challenge being in a combination class. It has been hard to adjust to the number of kids, but for the most part it's okay.

Through all the years I remember the dances, the carnivals, and the marathons. I'm going to miss LFS next year!

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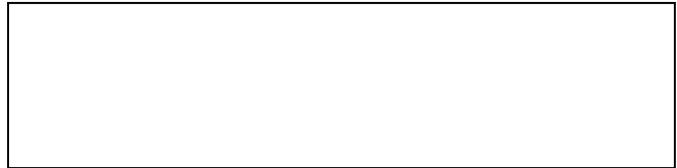
**Service opportunity**

Would you like to give back to Little Flower School by serving in our alumni association? Please let us know if you have talent and time to share.

*Blue Jay Briefings is  
a publication of*

Little Flower School  
Alumni Association  
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*Enjoy your Alumni Newsletter,  
Blue Jay Briefings!*

**Is your class having a class reunion this summer?**

The Alumni Association would be willing to open LFS  
for a tour.

Please contact the school office  
or email [lfsalumni@goNDTC.com](mailto:lfsalumni@goNDTC.com)

## Little Flower Centennial

Little Flower Parish celebrated their Centennial this summer with a Mass celebrated by Fargo Diocese Bishop Samuel Aquila. The celebration was held on August 22, 2010. The day began with a gathering at Little Flower Cemetery. Bishop Aquila read from scripture, shared words of blessing and blessed grave sites with holy water. Parishioners and guests walked in procession to the church for the celebration of Mass. The Little Flower Church Choir provided beautiful music at the Mass and Bishop Aquila shared the message of passing on the faith from person to person, nation to nation. Little Flower Parish has seen the faith passing from generation to generation in the community. That faith that begins here at Little Flower Parish often moves to other cities in North Dakota and throughout the United States. At the end of the Mass, Bishop Aquila offered congratulations to all on the celebration of 100 years of faith in Rugby.

Following the Mass a family picnic lunch was served at Ellery Park. **Robert Brossart ('74)** and crew roasted up the flavorful barbecued pork. The Catholic Daughters made delicious German kuchen. No picnic is complete without German potato salad which was made by the women of the Christian Mothers. **Joe Heilman ('98)** of MoJo DJ Service provided music. Water games for the kids were especially fun since the temperatures were in the upper 90s. Our parish community continues to be blessed as we grow into the next 100 years.

## Little Flower Centennial Souvenirs

Centennial souvenirs were sold this year, and there are still a few available. They would make a great Christmas gift or personal memory of your family's time at Little Flower Parish.



**Christmas ornaments** —\$5.00,  
**Note cards** —\$5.00,  
**T-shirts** —\$10.00 (youth and adult sizes)  
**Cookbooks** —\$15.00.

Call the rectory if you have questions 776-6388. Checks may be made payable to Little Flower Parish and sent to 218 3rd St. SE Rugby, ND 58368.

## Reflections on a Day at Little Flower Convent

The Sisters of St. Francis from Hankinson have been an integral part of Little Flower School and Parish since their arrival September 8, 1942. Sr. Jean Louise shares with us a typical day in their current lives at the convent: The Sisters gather in their convent chapel for Morning Offering and Consecration to Mary at 6:15 a.m. followed by morning prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours. The Sisters attend daily Mass at the church. Sister Jean Louise serves as school librarian, and also teaches several religion classes, supervises students, and helps with tutoring. Sr. Genevieve, who is now retired from the school, has been the director of novices for several years, and prepares classes for the two novices and meets with them regularly, individually and together. Classes include Church History, Prayer, Scripture, Vows,

Franciscan Spirituality, Community Living, Catechism, Psalms, Liturgy, and Mary, Mother and Model of the Consecrated Life. The Sisters' days are rounded out with private prayer and meditation on Scripture, exercise and music practice, along with the usual housework, laundry, and preparing meals. After evening meal, the Sisters return to chapel for adoration and Vespers. Several nights a week the Sisters gather together for recreation. The day ends with Night Prayer and giving thanks to God for another day for His love and mercy. It is a beautiful life if one is called to live it. The Sisters are grateful to be at Little Flower Parish to pray and to serve, and to have here in Rugby the Novitiate of the Hankinson Province of their international congregation of Franciscan Sisters of Dillingen, Germany.

## Life Walk

On September 25 the Sisters, Sr. Jean Louise, Sr. Genevieve, Sr. Maria Veronica, Sr. Mary Ruth along with Rita Graber, Jaqueline Matta and Arlene Schmaltz took part in the Life Walk to raise money for the First Choice Clinic in Devils Lake. The women walked, prayed and sang in support of the dignity of human life. They raised over \$1300.

## 125th Celebration and All-School Reunion

Plan to attend the Rugby High School Reunion and City of Rugby Quasicentennial July 1-3, 2011. The Pierce County Fair and Entertainment by the Johnny Holm Band and The Past Due Band, a car show, softball, golf, 5k run, arts in the park are some of the events planned. Registration information will go out in January.