



Blue Jay Briefings



Little Flower School Alumni Newsletter

Spring 2009

School News

Dedicated volunteers serve our school

Mrs. Magdalena Schneider, originally from the Orrin area, is in her ninth year of faithfully serving our school. She currently helps the kindergarten teacher, Miss Rebecca Dobitz, with little projects. She enjoys doing the work and being around the youngsters. Mrs. Schneider has lived in the Rugby area since she was married and started volunteering at Little Flower after moving into town.

Mrs. Bertha Barbot was a volunteer at LFS for forty years. Both the school library and food service benefited from her services. She helped with other odd jobs and is remembered for her kindness and cheerfulness. In 2003, she decided to cut back her hours and now takes care of the Campbell's Soup labels and "Box Tops for Education" which are a source of money for our school.

Mrs. Eileen Jaeger also helps at Little Flower. Born and raised in the Rugby area, she attended eight years of country school and is a Rugby High School graduate. Mrs. Jaeger is in her eighth year at LFS. She assists in the library and works with students from several different grades. She also helps teachers in other capacities.

Little Flower School is grateful to these faithful volunteers and all our volunteers who have donated time and talents over the years.

LFS Preschool prepares children for kindergarten

The first year of preschool at Little Flower has been a great success! Just ask any four year old in the program and you'll hear all about school.

Lathan Demontigny loves singing, playing with others at recess and using glue and scissors. Zach Jaeger is so proud to bring home his papers and art projects. He loves show-and-tell and playing outside.

Miss Rebecca Dobitz teaches preschool Tuesdays and Thursdays. She has developed a curriculum that introduces the alphabet, numbers, colors and shapes. The preschoolers also work on manners, saying the pledge of allegiance and learning prayers. They are now able to write their own names and tie their shoes! Miss Dobitz has done a great job preparing her preschoolers for kindergarten and creates a fun learning atmosphere.

Children from throughout the community have attended the LFS preschool, and parents are very pleased with the preschool curriculum. Miss Dobitz says the hardest part of teaching preschoolers is "just trying to keep up with them. They have a lot of energy!" Students and their families enjoyed their end of the school year program and celebration May 13.

Preschool registration has taken place for next fall, but openings are still available. LFS is excited to continue providing a preschool opportunity in Rugby.

School marathon and raffle

Support from our families and community helped make our tenth annual marathon, held May 1, a great success. The raffle winners were Leanne Peterson (Berthold, ND) - Harley Davidson and Matt Kersten (Kramer, ND) - electric bike. Congratulations!

LFS "Pupil's Pen"

Hannah Voeller ~ Grade 6



There are many things I will miss about Little Flower School [when I graduate this spring]. First of all, at LFS I know all the students so I can talk to them about a problem.

Secondly, the teachers all know my strengths and weaknesses, and they are able to help me with any problem I may have.

Thirdly, I will miss religion. At LFS we get to go to church every Friday. We have prayer meditation with Fr. Ross every Thursday, religion classes and visits from the priests.

Fourthly, there is a close-knit relationship that we develop with our classmates who we have known since kindergarten. I hope we can continue these friendships as adults.

And lastly, there is the great food. I don't know if I've ever had such good food anywhere else.

You think a school is just a place where you learn to read, count by twos and get homework, but LFS has been more than that for me. It's been like a second home.

Alumni News & Reflections

In the Garden of Life... Katie (Volk) Dilse ('86)

Looking back, I clearly see myself sitting at the prayer corner in Sister Donna's second grade class, planting seeds of faith that I will nourish and fertilize my whole life.

Thanks to the many teachers and priests at Little Flower School; they taught us to see our hearts' garden beautifully filled with bountiful blessings. They taught us to read and to do math, and they taught us to see what God has done for us, to see the best in others, and to find the best in ourselves. They taught us to turn to God with all of our needs, and God would hear us.

One of the greatest gifts the teachers and school gave me was making Friday Mass so very special. What energy Sister Donna, Mrs. Vernice Brossart and Sister Genevieve gave the music they led during the Masses. Now, as a church musician and a helper with children's Masses in Scranton, ND, I often turn to the songs that touched my heart the most while I was at Little Flower School.

At the school, I loved the escape slides, the delicious meals, walking to the Memorial Hall for phy. ed. and getting to do the huge parachute! And...what a treat to have extra recesses on special days and then come to class with ice cold milk in hand! My classmates who journeyed through Little Flower will always have a most special spot in my heart; for I know the garden of life looks most beautiful with a Little Flower.

LFS Memories from Jamie (Wangler) Wiesner ('91)

I was going to be in the sixth grade when our parents decided to have my siblings and I attend LFS instead of Ely Elementary. My parents said I could choose if I wanted to stay at the public school or go to LFS. I remember walking each day to Ely for band practice with Eric Jundt, another student from the class of '91. I especially remember the ice cream sundaes we made to celebrate Catholic Schools Week. Yes, I still love ice cream. Looking back now, I appreciate the small classes and one on one attention LFS was able to provide as well as a curriculum that included religion and prayer.

Reminiscences from Brad McKnight ('47)

I would like to recall my days at Little Flower. I have a kind of cute story about Father Cloos whom I admired. He was so good to me and my family.

I was an altar boy, kind of senior I guess, because he would take me to funerals. One day we left the church and got into his new car, a Chrysler, and I spilled an entire container of incense on the new velour upholstery. It was a scary moment for me, but he just said, "Clean that up when we get back to the church."

I think that we were all lucky to have a school like Little Flower with terrific teachers and a great program. By the interesting comments I read in the newsletter, our school is still great. Keep up the good work.

Where are the alumni?

Duane Bartsch ('57) is in his sixth year on the board of education at Our Lady of Victory School in Fergus Falls, MN.

Alyssa Bednarz ('01) is part-time assistant manager at Maurice's and attends Bismarck State College.

Charlotte (Bickler) Blessum ('50) is the proud grandmother of Samantha, born to Alan and Karleen Blessum April 22, 2009. Her sisters, Jessica, Jacquelyn, and Brooke all currently attend LFS.

Tyler and Tonia (Bruggeman) ('92) Dosch are the proud parents of Tallie Lyn born January 20, 2009. Her big sister is two-year-old Adison.

Duane and **Margaret (Schneider) Voeller ('62)** are the proud grandparents of Kyle, born to **Donovan ('96)** and Crystal Voeller March 21, 2009.



LFS' Franciscan Legacy

The Sisters of St. Francis have been an important part of our school from the very beginning.

"Lady Poverty was certainly present when Little Flower Convent and School opened in 1942. She smiled at the first little group of six: Srs. Cornelia, Engeltraud (Miriam), Gertrude, Helen, Elizabeth and Richarda, when Joe Volk offered them the upstairs of his little brown house as their convent. This consisted of one big room with three beds, a table in the center, and six chairs. The one room was to serve

Continued on next page



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

as a dining, living and bed room, a simple lifestyle that would have delighted St. Clare, a special patroness of the Sisters.

Two days before the opening of school, without books, blackboards or school stairways ready, anxious to start their classes, the Sisters went ahead anyhow, beginning school as scheduled on September 14. All during the Solemn High Mass, they struggled with the thought uppermost in their minds: "Lord, just no accident on our half-finished stairway!"

How busy the six Sisters were the first three months! Besides their regular teaching, they were preparing for the dedication of Little Flower School, painting, and varnishing. Moving from the little brown house into the basement of the school was one of the big events in November. Though the change of living quarters was an improvement, Lady Poverty still sat with them in a very crowded dining room and blessed the tiny sleeping quarters squeezed out of a partitioned-off classroom.

For six years, the Sisters were to live in these rooms in the school basement. Then in March 1948, the pastor, Fr. Cloos, surprised them with the news that the parish had bought Rickie's house across the street from the school. This was to be their convent. Plans for remodeling began immediately. The people of Rugby were characteristically generous. The Catholic Daughters furnished new drapes for the entire house. The mothers painted all the rooms, and the altar society donated new candlesticks for the chapel. In October, 1948, the Sisters were ready to move in.

Moving day was memorable. The students were willing helpers, assisting in carrying the Sisters'

belongings and furniture across the street. Together with their other belongings, the Sisters carried into the new convent a statue of the Blessed Mother, a gift of Mr. Joe Volk."

(Excerpt adapted from "Prairie Praise" by Sr. Patricia Forrest.)

Many Sisters have served here over the years. Along with teaching, they have been involved in various parish and community activities.

Many of the Sisters have already left this world, but the following are still are living and serving in our diocese.

Sr. Elizabeth Klein (1942-1946) is the only one of the six original Sisters still living. She taught lower grades as well as music. She came back to Rugby in 1951 for several years. In a 2005 interview, Sr. Elizabeth said of Rugby: "I liked it very much up there." She now lives at the provincial motherhouse in Hankinson.

Other former LFS Sisters are also currently at St. Francis Convent in Hankinson.

Sr. Donna Welder (1976-2000) is the provincial superior and oversees all the Franciscan Sisters in North Dakota. Along with teaching, she also served as principal and librarian some of her years here.

Sr. Carolyn (Mary John) Althoff (1955, 1969-81) taught grades 7-8 and served for a time as principal. She now lives and works at St. Francis Convent, helping with various projects.

Sr. Mary Louise Jundt (1963-67) taught grades 7-8 and for a time was principal. She now directs human resources at St. Gerard's nursing home in Hankinson.

Sr. Susan Marie Loeffen, convent administrator, spent part of her novitiate at Little Flower in 1989.

Sr. Mary (Bonaventure) Sand (1946-49) continues her artwork at the convent in Hankinson. She taught grades 5-6 at LFS.

Some Sisters are still "out on the missions." **Sr. Genevieve Merrick** (1946-47) returned in 1981. She has been here ever since. She taught third grade and now works with individual students as well as serving as novice directress for young sisters in formation.

Sr. Ann Marie Friederichs (1973-76) is now superior general of the Sisters in Germany. She preformed social work for Little Flower Parish.

Sr. Elaine Marie (Philomena) Roggenbuck serves as bookkeeper at St. Anne's Guest Home (basic care and apartments) in Grand Forks. She came to LFS in 1966 and taught grades 1 and 7 during her three years here.

Sr. Rebecca Metzger, administrator at St. Anne's, was here for a brief internship in the late 1970s.

Sr. Jean Louise Schafer (2000-) is librarian and technical director at LFS.

Sr. Christina Neumann is finishing her second year of helping in the school in various capacities.

The Sisters are grateful to the people of Rugby for the goodness and generosity they have shown over the years and which they continue to offer.

Service opportunity

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



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**Share your news
& reflections!**



Are there any recent milestones, weddings, births or special awards in your life? Do you have memories or reflections from your time at Little Flower School? Please let us know so we can share them with fellow alumni in our next issue of *Blue Jay Briefings*.

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