



# Blue Jay Briefings

*Little Flower School Alumni Newsletter*

*Spring 2010*

## **School News**

### **Karyn Klebe to Leave LFS**

Mrs. Karyn Simek Klebe has taught 12 years at Little Flower School. She taught second and third graders. She saw each year as a new, exciting challenge with very energetic children who had a quest for knowledge.

Mrs. Klebe always had fun projects for the students to do. In the fall students would dress a turkey with materials they brought from home. The turkeys always seemed to have the personality of their creator. A family project in second grade was to make habitats and in third grade they had to make compound machines. It was always exciting when the students brought their projects to school. Their creativity was amazing and seeing the pride on the students' faces was always a bonus. Karen always enjoyed activities that involved food. At Thanksgiving her class has a smorgasbord, on Fat Tuesday they eat all day long, and at the end of their nutrition unit they have a picnic.

Karen has enjoyed her time at LFS. It was a pleasure to work with a great group of fellow teachers, parents, and mostly the children. As for her future she doesn't have any definite plans. She plans to let God lead her down the correct path. She hopes that it involves improving her golf game and vacationing.

Karen is married to Ross Klebe and they live NW of Willow City.

### **Sister Genevieve: 30 years at Little Flower School**

Sister Genevieve has been serving in various capacities at Little Flower Parish for many years. She was one of the first Sisters to teach here in the early years of the school. She also taught at Saint Francis Academy in Hankinson, at the public school in Selz, at Holy Family in Grand Forks and later at St. John's School in Wahpeton. In September of 1981 she returned to Rugby and has been here ever since. Sr. Genevieve taught several grades here, the longest time being in third grade.

Since her retirement from the classroom in 1998 she has been a teachers' aide at the school and teaching religion classes in one or more grades in the parish religious education program and the school. Sister has been very involved with the Cursillo program in the Fargo Diocese, helps coordinate the Life in the Spirit Seminar and the area charismatic prayer group.

After 30 years of serving our children and staff, Sr. Genevieve is retiring from Little Flower School this month. Sister plans to continue in her position as novice director at Little Flower convent along with her many other activities in the parish.

Sr. Genevieve was honored at the 9 AM School Mass and a social on May 14.

Thanks, Sr. Genevieve, for being there for our school and parish.

### **LFS Marathon**

The annual LFS Marathon was held May 7. Students collected pledges from alumni, friends, and family and rode their bikes down Golf Course Road east of Rugby. The weather conditions were poor, 35 degrees, wind, rain, snow, and sleet, but the students were excited and wanted to brave the conditions. Some students chose to go to the Memorial Hall to run and play after they spent an hour in the extreme ND spring weather. The students raised over \$13000 for LFS. After the marathon an ice cream social was held.

### **Sister Donna Welder**

Sister Donna Welder, former teacher and principal at Little Flower for 24 years had a great deal of excitement in early May: she received the long awaited kidney in a transplant surgery at Merit Care in Fargo. The donor was none other than one of our Franciscan Sisters, Sister Sara Marie Belisle, a niece of Rita Bercier of the parish, and cousin of LFS alumni Barb, David, Mark, Karen, Dale, Jeff, Jane, and Monte Bercier.

Both patients are recovering and very grateful for all the support. Sr. Sara Marie, in her thank you letter, wrote that the new kidney started pumping that 'liquid gold' as soon as it was hooked up! We are very grateful to God. Please continue to pray for a complete recovery for both of them. Sr. Donna can be reached at PO Box 447 Hankinson, ND 58041.

# Alumni News & Reflections

## Where are the Alumni?

**Dolorus Olderbak Krile ('52)** moved to Grand Forks in 1953. She graduated from St. James High School in 1956 and UND January, 1961 with a degree in Home Economics Education. Her first teaching job was in Red Lake Falls, MN. She married Vernon Krile on December 30, 1961. They have six children Tim, Kevin, Jim, Michele, Lisa and Leah. Their son, Jim, died in 1999 from a brain tumor. Dolorus and her husband are proud of their 14 grandchildren: 7 girls and 7 boys ranging in age from 25 to 1.

**Joseph Heilman ('98)** was selected as a candidate for the North Dakota House of Representatives from District 45, Fargo.

**Neil Pfeifer ('87)** will be ordained a transitional deacon on Monday, May 31, 2010, at Little Flower Parish in Rugby at 4 PM. He will be at St. Michael's Parish in Grand Forks for the summer assignment, and next year return to Mount Saint Mary's to finish his Master's Degree in Theology. Neil will be ordained a priest on Friday, July 1, 2011, at the Cathedral of St. Mary in Fargo.

**Terry Heintz ('74)** and wife Kristina are proud to announce the birth of daughter, Anne Christine, born February 22, 2010. The Heintzs live in Maple Grove, MN.

**Jena Suchor Triplett ('99)** and husband, Kurt, were blessed with the birth of son, Kollin James, born May 1, 2010. They live in Fargo.

**Melanie Bruggeman Thingvold ('89)** and husband, Kyle, are proud to announce the birth of daughter, Evy Rae, born February 23, 2010. Evy's big brothers are Skylar, age 7 and Bradyn, age 4.

## Reflections from Dolorus Olderbak Krile ('52)

I have wonderful memories of Little Flower School! I have worked as a religious education director at St. Joseph Parish and a teacher at St. Francis de Sales in Moorhead, MN. Our family has since joined St. Elizabeth parish in Dilworth, MN, and I am teaching confirmation class to juniors in high school. Every time we prepare children for the sacraments, my LFS memories return. I shared with my class this year that my confirmation name is St. Theresa because of the parish name and my aunt, Theresa Fritel, who was my sponsor!

I remember my first grade teacher, Sr. Mary James Merrick, who remained a close friend until her death. I also remember Sister Genevieve, Sr. Sigtrudis (Victoria), and Sr. Adeline Nathe. There are others I can't call to mind at this time. There was a nun who taught us German songs. I remember Mass every day - fasting beforehand, the convent in the basement of the school, later moving across the street, our lessons in agriculture, music, and studying the Garrison Dam which was being (or about to be built) about that time, no hot lunch, walking to school and back every day. I remember the office being upstairs; first, second and third grades being on the lower level and it seems to me that 4th and 5th were combined and 6th and 7th were combined on the top floor then, of course, 8th grade.

I also remember Fr. Cloos and his celebrations on December 6th - his feast day! We watched Shirley Temple movies in the church basement and received a bag of candy before we went home.

Father Cloos always had a smile on his face!!

I haven't been inside the school for many years but drive by when we are in town. We still have relatives in Rugby - the Fritels! I enjoyed my time spent at LFS. It was a very good experience!!

## Class of '98 Memory

The Little Flower class of 1998 traveled to Bismarck for a North Dakota field trip in fourth grade. The boys rode in a van with Mike Brossart's mother, and the girls in cars with Eric Stevenson's mother and fourth grade teacher, Nancy Graner.

The students visited the State Capitol, going to the top floor and looking out over the city of Bismarck, the senate chambers and the governor's office. At the North Dakota Heritage Center they enjoyed the many displays, with a favorite being the buffalo display. How awful does buffalo dung smell?

Next stop was Fort Abraham Lincoln to see the Indian earth lodges and the army barracks. Was that really a "rattlesnake" curled up by the fence post that brought all the students racing to hide behind Mrs. Graner? The trip was a great adventure filled with wonderful memories for the students and the chaperones.

## Congratulations Graduates

Eight students will join the ranks of Little Flower School Alumni May 25. Their graduation celebration will take place at a Mass with a social for family and friends in the church basement.

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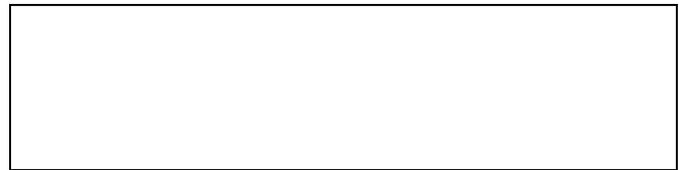
**Service opportunity**

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  
306 3rd Avenue SE  
Rugby, North Dakota 58368  
[lfsalumni@goNDTC.com](mailto:lfsalumni@goNDTC.com)

**Little Flower School  
Alumni Association**  
306 3rd Ave. SE  
Rugby, ND 58368



***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 School Board  
Raffle**

Shauna Faul of Harvey, ND is the winner of the 2010 Harley Davidson Dyna Wide Glide. The winner of the \$500 cash is Matt Elder of Minot, ND.

## **Reflections from Neil Pfeifer ('87)**

As the old saying goes, "If the seeds are planted, there is a possibility they will grow." This does not always mean immediately, but can be considered over a period of time. And for this planting process, I would like to thank my parents, my family, Little Flower School faculty and staff, and all the people who have influenced me in any way and spread the gospel to me while I was growing up in Rugby.

Some of my fondest memories of Little Flower School include: Sr. Barbara Marie Schwan who set us in the right direction the moment I started school in first grade. She was a pleasant Sister with a big smile, but as students we knew when we crossed her path, especially in mischief, Sr. Barbara would take us out into the hallway, look us right in the eye as we were similar in height, and set us straight. She was a great teacher, and may the Good Lord bless her with eternal life as she rests from her labors. In second grade, Sr. Donna was very influential in keeping us on the right path. She made sure that each of us knew how to read in a timely manner by giving us speed reading tests. She always had a way to make these dreadful tests a joy. She added spice to our class with her positive sense of humor, and always kept us guessing as to what was always coming next. By mixing things up, there was never a dull moment, and there was a lot of joy. As we entered third grade, Sr. Genevieve met us at the door with big yellow tickets. We would lose tickets every time we did something that we knew we were not supposed to be doing. If there were tickets left at the end of the week, she would reward those students for their behavior. Sr. Genevieve challenged us to live our lives and model them on the saints. I still remember dressing up on Oct. 31 and processing around the school telling the other students which saint we wanted to be like and why. This is still something that bears fruit for me even today. I think I might be able to hold my tickets longer today than I did in third grade, but hopefully the tickets I would carry today would bear fruit in eternal life. In fourth grade, Vernice Brossart, kept us hopping with arts and crafts preparing us with aesthetical beauty to know what is true, good, pleasing, and beautiful. Much to my surprise, Mom and Dad still decorate our home at Christmas with the three wisemen heads made from macaroni. Vernice helped us to look for the presence of God through what we see, especially in art. As I entered fifth grade, Ms. Cindy Thompson helped us to look not only in art to see the good, but to be able to see the good in our neighbor. She had several community projects, one of which was collecting food for the homeless. She took us to the county jail, and helped us to live the corporal works of mercy. As I entered sixth grade, Ms. Helen Gryscheski, prepared us to live the challenges that will arise once we leave the walls of Little Flower School. She presented us with Gospel challenges as we were about to enter junior high, and I remember her speaking of many peer pressure challenges that are in the world. She said that if we keep Jesus as our guide and mentor nothing will strike us down.

As you can tell the seeds were surely planted at Little Flower School. Fr. John Kallenberg, Fr. Dan Mrnarvic, Deacon Ed Eberle, and my parents planted and helped nurture the seeds to bear fruit.

All of this preparation eventually led me to the seminary, not before I got involved with teaching religious education and leading a great youth group under the direction of Fr. Andrew Dudzinski and Fr. Kevin Boucher. This stage in my life enhanced my spiritual growth that was set as the foundation early in my childhood at Little Flower School.

In the fall of 2004, I entered Cardinal Muench Seminary in Fargo to discern if the priesthood was for me. At this point, I was not sure that was what the Lord was asking me to do with my life, but many inclinations were present for me to pursue this area. In May of 2007, I graduated from Cardinal Muench Seminary with a degree in philosophy and humanities. At least two years of philosophy is necessary to continue studies into theology. Through this process, the Lord continued to develop the seeds that were once again planted in my early childhood days while at Little Flower in Rugby.

Bishop Aquila asked me to continue my studies toward the priesthood at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland, where I have been studying for the past three years. I will be ordained a transitional deacon on Monday, May 31, 2010, at Little Flower Parish in Rugby at 4 PM. I hope many of the alumni of Little Flower will be able to attend, and celebrate this day with me; the Lord has been preparing me for this for a long time. After my ordination, I will be assigned to St. Michael's Parish in Grand Forks for the summer, and next year I will be returning to Mount Saint. Mary's to finish my Master's Degree in Theology. I will be ordained a priest on Friday, July 1, 2011, at the Cathedral of St. Mary in Fargo.

This trip to the priesthood has presented many crosses, blessings, and joys. I would like to thank the current students of Little Flower for their letters and prayers. There are days that these prayers are definitely felt as the Lord continues to form me into the priest that He wants me to be.