



Blue Jay Briefings

Little Flower School Alumni Newsletter

Spring 2011

School News **Marathon**

The weather for this year's spring marathon was the best in 10 years. Former fifth grade teacher, Mrs. Denise Young, brought the idea of a marathon to Little Flower School 12 years ago. Students, staff and family members have been riding bikes and walking to raise money for LFS every year since.

The marathon took place on Golf Course Road, east of Rugby. Refreshments were served at the church basement after the marathon. What a great family event for the school before the start of summer vacation.

Students took turns with super soakers to get Principal, Bruce Gannarelli, wet, making good on a promise if they succeeded in reaching this year's goal. Over \$14,000 was raised this year. Thank you to all who supported LFS through this year's marathon.

First Communion and Confirmation

Bishop Samuel Aquila of the Fargo Diocese was in Rugby May 14 for Confirmation and First Holy Eucharist. This was the day they had been looking forward to all year. Nineteen Little Flower Parish third graders, eight from LFS, were joined by children from Knox, Balta and other surrounding communities for the celebration.

Third grade students throughout the Fargo Diocese have been receiving the two sacraments

together since 2003. This change came about after much discussion "as well as the revision of the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* (RCIA), which calls for the reception of Baptism, Confirmation and First Eucharist in one rite after the age of seven. In ancient practice, the Church celebrated these three sacraments in this unified order — Baptism, Confirmation and First Eucharist." Pastoral Letter, Most Reverend Samuel J. Aquila

School Doors

Little Flower School received a facelift according to Principal Bruce Gannarelli, "The new glass school doors make the building look 10 years younger." Students are now able to watch for their rides indoors during inclement weather. The entry is brighter and more welcoming.

The school was able to purchase the new doors because of the generosity of the Knights of Columbus and the Rugby Eagles.

The Living Rosary

Before the first School Mass in May students and teachers stood, each with a candle, making a living rosary around the church. As each prayer of the rosary was said a candle was lit. At the end of the rosary each person stood holding a lit candle. The sight of all the burning candles made the prayers of the rosary come to life for the students and all the adults attending the Children's Mass Friday, May 6.

Celebrating Years of Sister Genevieve Merrick, OSF

Sister Genevieve received word Wednesday, May 18, that she will not be coming back to the Rugby Parish next fall. Sister will be assigned to the St. Francis Convent in Hankinson, ND, provincial headquarters for the Franciscan Sisters.

Sister Genevieve has been at Little Flower for over 31 years. The first time she was here was Jan. 1946-May, 1947; she returned again in the fall of 1981 and taught third grade at LFS. Sister retired from a fulltime classroom in 1998 and from the school entirely at the end of school year 2010. Sr. Genevieve has been with the Sisters of St. Francis in Hankinson for 67 years.

Sister Genevieve will leave for Hankinson on May 31. Your best wishes can be sent for her to enjoy as she recalls the memories of teaching so many children at Little Flower School over the years. A Spiritual Bouquet can be included; for example, you could offer a rosary prayed for her, or a Mass or other special prayers.

Sister Genevieve Merrick,
PO Box 447,
Hankinson, ND 58041-0447

Trivia

Do you know the names of young men from Little Flower Parish who have been ordained priests?

Alumni News & Reflections

Where are the Alumni?

Casandra Blessum ('02) and Mike Zwingel were married March 5, 2011, at Little Flower Church in Rugby. Casandra is a receptionist at Dakota Eye Institute. Mike is employed as a wind technician for Suzlon at the Rugby wind farm.

Damian Wilmot ('94) and his wife, Rachael, were blessed with the birth of a son, Marshall Francis. Marshall was born Jan. 25, 2011, weighing 5 lbs 8 oz. The Wilmots live in New Ulm, MN. Damian works for 3M.

Rachael (Schniebel) Condit ('98) and her husband, Tim, are the proud parents of a baby boy, Kallen Ryan, born Feb. 2, 2011. He weighed 7 lbs 4 oz. Two year old Mylee Marie is Kallen's big sister. The Condits live in Bottineau.

Michael Duchscher ('94) and his wife, Melanie, are the proud parents of a son, Trystan Charles, born Feb. 24, 2011. Trystan was 7 lbs and 20 in. tall. The Duchschers live in Yankton, SD. Michael works for the city of Yankton in water management.

Rachael (Brossart) Ormond ('92) and her husband, Jimmy, were blessed with the birth of a daughter, Ava Rose. Ava was born Feb 17, 2011, weighing 8 lbs 5 oz. The Ormonds live in Aurora, IL. Rachael is a real estate photographer.

Chris Brossart ('92) and his wife Jennie, are the proud parents of a son, Braden Christopher, born May 4, 2011, He weighed 8 lbs 13 oz. Braden's big sister is Bria. The Brossarts farm and live near Wolford.

Those we will miss

Magdalena Schneider (Grandma Maggie) passed away Feb. 26, 2011. Her funeral was at Little Flower Church March 3. Grandma Maggie was a volunteer at Little Flower School for 11 years. All 13 of her children attended LFS.

Duane Richard Jaeger ('74) passed away May 18, 2011. His funeral was May 24 at Little Flower Church in Rugby.

(Year refers to graduation date from LFS)

Neil Pfeifer Ordination and First Mass

The ordination of Neil Joseph Pfeifer will be held at the Cathedral of St. Mary in Fargo, ND, July 1, 2011, at 4:30 pm. A reception will follow in the cathedral basement. A charter bus will be available for transportation to the ordination in Fargo leaving from Little Flower Church at 11:30 am and returning around 11 pm. Please call the parish office (776-6388) no later than noon June 27 to reserve a seat on the bus.

Father Pfeifer will offer his First Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving at Little Flower Parish on Sat., July 2 at 5 pm. A dinner reception will follow in the parish hall.

90th Birthday Party

John J. Heilman considers Friday the 13th to be his lucky day. He was born on a Friday the 13th and celebrated his 90th birthday with the Little Flower Parish community at the 9 am Children's Mass Friday, May 13th. John and his wife, Harriet, were joined by their 8 children, all alumni of LFS. What a great celebration. Happy Birthday, John, God Bless your family.

John played trumpet in the Army Band. He is a WW II veteran. John owned Heilman Jewelry on Main Street for many years and continues to repair jewelry for people in Rugby.

Congratulations Graduates

Sixth grade graduation celebration took place at the 9 am Mass May 27. Seven students joined the ranks of Little Flower School Alumni. There was a social for family and friends in the church basement following the Mass..

Ten things 6th graders will miss most about LFS

1. Fund raising activities
2. Considerate teachers and staff
3. RECESS
4. Praying as a class and school
5. Archery with Mr. G
6. Fieldtrips
7. Love and guidance of Sisters
8. Great food
9. Going to Mass on Fridays
10. Small classes

Kindergarten graduation was held on Friday May 20. There were 8 students in kindergarten this year.

Newsletter Opportunities

The first edition of the *Blue Jay Briefings* was written the spring of 2008. Since then we have had several alumni or alumni parents submit information or reflections to be shared.

Our goal in publishing this newsletter is to let alumni know what is happening at LFS and to provide a link to alumni. We are looking for people to submit memories as well as current events in their lives.

Please continue to share those stories with us. We know that others enjoy reading about the school and the alumni.

We are also looking for people to help with the newsletter: submitting ideas, writing articles, folding, and stamping.

Updates

Please let us know when you move so we can be sure we have your new address and you receive your alumni mailing.

*Enjoy your Alumni Newsletter,
Blue Jay Briefings!*

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 (contact information is below) so we can share them with fellow alumni in our next issue of *Blue Jay Briefings*.

*Blue Jay Briefings is
a publication of*

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Greetings Little Flower School Alumni,

Spring has finally sprung! The last traces of snow have finally disappeared! We look forward to the approaching summer and all the activities that come with it!

The Rugby Community is celebrating its 125th (quasiquicentennial) anniversary Friday, July 1st thru Sunday July 3rd. Little Flower School is planning an all-school reunion as part of the events scheduled for the 3 day celebration and plans are being finalized for the fast approaching festivities.

Whether this is your first time attending a reunion or you are a seasoned reunion attendee you won't want to miss the festivities. Reunions provide a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with old friends, make new ones and rediscover Little Flower School!

Here is a preview of some of the reunion activities planned at Little Flower School:

Friday, July 1st: There will be an open house at the school from 11-4. Lunch will be served in the church basement from 11-1. Free will offering.

Saturday, July 2nd: There will be an open house from 11-2. Little Flower alumnus, Neil Pfeifer will be celebrating his first Mass as a priest at 5pm. (see info in the *Blue Jay Briefings*)

Sunday, July 3rd: The school will be open following the 8 am Mass. Parish Council will be serving rolls, muffins, juice and coffee throughout the morning in the south parking lot after the 8 am Mass.

Little Flower School families will be conducting tours of the school on Friday and Saturday. Old photos, class pictures and yearbooks will be on display during these times also. Opportunities to purchase/order hats/shirt/bags with the school emblem will be available. All Little Flower alumni will receive a keepsake package from the school.

We are still in need of school/alumni photos prior to 1972. If you have copies of photos to share (which won't need to be returned) please bring them with you so they can be included in the photo displays and/or photo DVD's. You may also send them by email to reled@littleflowerrugby.org and in the subject line please type "school photos".

You are invited to attend any of the worship services at Little Flower Church. In addition to the 5 pm Saturday evening Mass, there will be Masses at 7:30 pm Saturday evening and Sunday morning at 8 am (for the early risers) and 10:30 am.

Your participation is what will make the reunion great! We hope you will join us for a wonderful reunion weekend! It promises to be a fun filled occasion! We look forward to seeing you there!

Sincerely in Christ,

Monica Houim

Director of Religious Education and Development

Little Flower Parish

Rugby, ND 58368

701-776-6388

Friday, July 1 Community Day

Registration @ former Rugby Motor Building downtown

Golf tournament

St. Paul Lutheran Church salad luncheon 11-2

Little Flower PTO open house @ LFS 11-4 with lunch 11-1:30

Open house at Ely 11-4

Class get togethers ongoing

Christmas Country Style

Germans from Russia Heritage Display @ Library 10-5

Pierce County Courthouse Tours cake and coffee 1-3

Opening ceremony @ Fairgrounds 4

Lions Club Picnic @ Fairgrounds 5-8

Johnny Holm Band @ Fairgrounds 9

Saturday, July 2 Reunion Day

Registration @ former Rugby Motor Building downtown

5K Run/ Walk

Breakfast @ Fairgrounds sponsored by Rugby Fire Department

Open House @ Little Flower and Ely Schools 11-2

Pierce County Fair Activities

Softball Tournament

Sand Volleyball Tournament

Bethany Lutheran Church salad luncheon 11-1

Class get togethers ongoing

Christmas Country Style

Germans from Russia Heritage Display @ Library 10-5

Ellery Park Fair 10-4

Car show

Arts, crafts, music and food

Alumni dinner @ armory catered by Grove Catering

Past Due Band in the city parking lot

Sunday, July 3 Faith and Family Day

Breakfast and museum tours

Attend the church of your choice

Christmas Country Style

Germans from Russia Heritage Display @ Library 2-5

Pierce County Fair activities

Parade 12:30

Fireworks