



# The Saint Teresa Times

“Pray, Serve, Learn”



VOLUME 23 ISSUE 1

DECEMBER 2019

## Letter from Father Hottovy

Dear St. Teresa School Family,

It has been a momentous school year so far! Welcoming 50 new students this year has been a great blessing. In visiting with our teachers, they have shared with me that students both new and old have been forming new friendships. Teachers have been fostering community and teamwork in their classrooms. It has been wonderful to have new parents, teachers, and staff become part of our school community.

This school year we welcome back Sister Mary Cecilia, C.K., as our principal. It is with great joy that we have her renewed leadership, expertise, and dedication in fostering the best learning environment for our students, teachers, and staff.

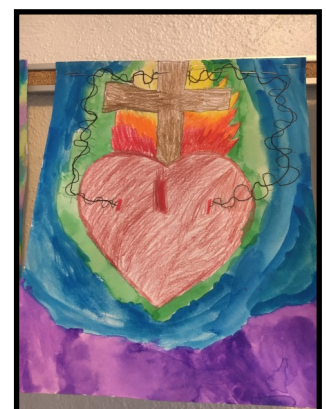
This year is also the first time in St. Teresa School history that *every* classroom has air conditioning. This improvement allows for an environment conducive to engaged and effective learning. Comfortable students are better able to learn and comfortable teachers are better able to teach. A comfortable staff is better able to serve. At least 14 days of our school year would have been early dismissals if not for our new A/C system. This means that our students have been able to settle into their new routine - their new school year - with very few interruptions. This is a historic accomplishment!

Our heating system as well as the electricity in our school has also been updated. A locker room which had been used for storage space has been made into a new, bigger and better, band room, and the music room has been completely remodeled. The kitchen has been renovated throughout, and the cafeteria has been expanded (its floor will be refinished over Christmas break). Solar panels have been installed on the school's roof and will help to offset the new cost of air conditioning. There is much to be excited about!

Special thanks to the many generous donors and volunteers that made these momentous projects possible! For our growing school community these improvements to our campus will benefit our current students, teachers, and staff, and all of those who learn and educate here for years to come!

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Jamie Hottovy, Pastor, St. Teresa Parish



A sample of Mrs. Pokojski's 3rd and 4th grade art work to commemorate the feasts of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary

## Prayer to the Sacred Heart

O Lord Jesus Christ,

O your most Sacred Heart I confide this intention (name Petition). Only look upon me, then do what Your love inspires. Let Your Sacred Heart decide. I count on You. I trust in You. I throw myself on Your mercy. Lord Jesus, You will not fail me.

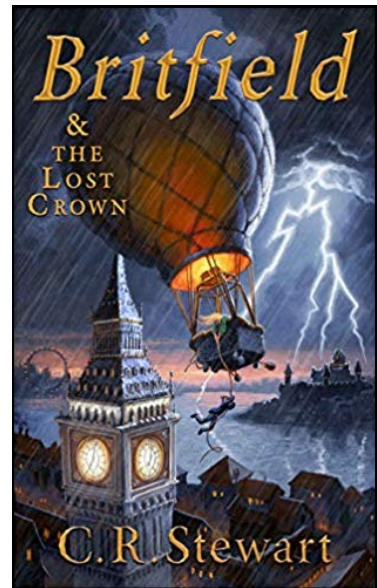
Sacred Heart of Jesus, I trust in You. Sacred Heart of Jesus, I believe in Your love for me. Sacred Heart of Jesus, I have asked You for many favors, but I earnestly implore this one. Take it, place it in Your open Heart. It will no longer be my prayer, but Yours, Jesus.

I place all my trust in You. Amen.



## Creativity and the Art of Storytelling

St. Teresa's 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade warmly welcomed C.R. Stewart, author of *Britfield & The Lost Crown*. His presentation on creativity and the art of story-telling was engaging and inspiring. He shared many dynamic examples of creative story-tellers who developed ideas, persevered through adversity, and enjoyed hard-earned success. Creativity is in everything, including math, art, science, and writing. Great stories have a story within a story. Good vs. Evil. Dark vs. Light. A Battle. He urged, "write about what you know and love." A great story is compelling and brings readers along for the journey. Using Three Acts Structure and The Six Steps of the Hero's Journey are helpful writing tools. "All Children are born artists. The problem is to remain an artist as we grow up." (Picasso) "Creativity is the mark of Individuality." (Elliot Samuel Paul) Mr. Stewart predicts creativity will be the leading skill set sought by employers and urged teachers to plan weekly lessons to help foster creativity and the art of storytelling.



## "Let us love, since that is what our hearts are made for." St. Thérèse



St. Therese pictures created by Grade 3 students.

## Choose Love

Scarlett Lewis visited St. Teresa's with a powerful message. The Choose Love Movement began with three words written on the kitchen chalkboard by Scarlett Lewis' 6 year old son on the morning of the day that he was later killed at Sandy Hook Elementary School. Those words, "nurturing, healing, love" became a movement to "Choose Love." This can be taught and nourished by using Scarlett Lewis' Social Emotional Learning Curriculum. She stressed the importance of what we choose throughout the day. Between a stimulus and our response, there is a space. In that space lies our freedom and power to choose how we respond. Choose love. St. Teresa School is currently incorporating Scarlett Lewis' Choose Love Enrichment Program in some of the classrooms.





**“PRAY, SERVE, LEARN”**

**“GO JAYHAWKS!!!”**

**Welcome to St. Teresa School!**

We would like to extend a special welcome to our new teachers Sr. Mary Jacinta, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade; Miss Maria McLaughlin, 4B; Miss Katherine Hums, 7B; Mrs. Mary Kate Miner, PE and Athletic Director; Mr. Tom Rajewski, 6-8<sup>th</sup> resource para; Mrs. Amy Gerpen, ELC (after school) director; and Sr. Mary Cecilia, principal. Welcome new students and families! We are glad you are at St. Teresa School. We currently have 152 families and 300 students enrolled for the 2019-2020 school year.

**“Nebraska... The Good Life”**



4th grade students enjoying the beauty of the rotunda ceiling on their field trip to the Nebraska State Capitol

**School Open House**

The October School Open House for the parish was well attended and showcased the many school improvements. Some of these included the renovation of the library, music room, school offices, early primary rooms, band room, staff lunchroom and restrooms, expansion of the school playground, the addition of air conditioning, and the renovation of the school cafeteria. Highlights were Rosie’s homemade cinnamon rolls and celebrating the faithfulness of our wonderful St. Teresa Family. Thank you!



Mrs. Rosie Polak, Saint Teresa School Food Service Manager, frosting her delicious cinnamon rolls for the open house.

**PEACE THROUGH THE ROSARY**



Sister Mary Agnes and the 5th grade class led a Living Rosary to celebrate October as the Month of the Rosary. This year they prayed the Joyful Mysteries. The event consisted of singing, prayer, acting out the mysteries, and presenting roses to Mary for each Hail Mary. One student, reflecting on her experience of the Living Rosary, wrote, “While I prayed during the living rosary I felt peace. This prayer helped me to know more about what Mary and Elizabeth experienced at the Visitation and the reality of life in the womb.”



**Thank you Junior Achievement and TMCO from St. Teresa Fourth Grade!**



**Walk the Little Way**

Our Walk the Little Way annual fundraiser was a tremendous success. The Walk was about prayer, community, building for the future, celebrating the fruits of our labor and stewardship. We are very blessed by God and faithful stewardship is about being grateful for all He has given us. We are called to offer in return some of what we have been given. We pray, we fund-raise and we “Walk By Faith” (2Cor. 4:7) Thank you for Walking the Little Way and helping to raise \$44,869 for our school.



## St. Teresa School

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*We are a faith-filled Catholic community called by God to teach, nurture and guide our children to achieve their God-given potential on life's journey to heaven.*



## THE SAINT TERESA TIMES

### Read

Reading 20 minutes at home, students will have heard 1,800,000 words per year. They will have read for 851 hours by 6th grade and will likely score better than 90% of their peers. Sharing books together strengthens relationships, creativity, vocabulary and school success. The data is compelling on the benefits of encouraging your child to read.

### Celebrate Creativity!

Junior High and 6th grade students attended the Celebrate Creativity Workshops at the Joslyn Art Museum. This field trip was made possible by a generous benefactor. Students worked "to discover their own artistic talents, explored music, visual art, theatre, dance, martial art, and technology." They also experienced a live concert with the Omaha Symphony



Grades 6, 7, and 8, in front of the Joslyn Art Museum

### Mrs. Werner's 3rd Grade Saint Project



**We are called to be saints:** In November, the third grade students celebrated the saints with a special saint project. They each chose a different saint, researched his/her life, and then wrote a short biography. The students also drew pictures of their saints to hang in the hallway with their reports. Finally, they joined the Student Council and put on a Parade of Saints by dressing up as their Saint for an all-school assembly to help all students learn about the saints they chose. Many of them carried a prop or held a symbol to help portray the saint they were depicting. It certainly was a fun and educational event for all of the students and their family and friends that attended.

**"Lex Orandi, Lex Credendi, Lex Vivendi" As we Worship, so we Believe, so we Live**