



# The Saint Teresa Times

“Pray, Serve, Learn”



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Bishop Conley celebrated a special Mass on October 1, the feast of St. Therese. He is pictured here with concelebrating priests, altar servers, honor guard, jr. high choir, and dozens of little Thereses.



## From Sr. Mary Cecilia, C.K.

One of my greatest desires when I was in third grade was to ride the bus from the primary school “on the hill” to the elementary and high school in town. Since I was the oldest, my mother would pick me up at the primary school and thereby deny me the joy of fulfilling that desire (at least it seemed that way to my third grade mind). My motive: I wanted to be the song leader on the bus, holding the piece of cardboard that listed the songs that all the primary students knew and could sing during the 10 minute drive. What I really wanted was to lead the singing, that leadership role; I could care less about the bus ride, as that was just the vehicle for the role I desired. The desire was still something for me at that moment, not anything that would bring me closer to my ultimate goal – heaven.

As I’ve been learning more and more about Catholic education over the past twelve months I have had flashes of my elementary and high school memories come more into focus. Some I rejoice in; others I take to prayer for healing and guidance. I think that is true for all

of us when we think back to our elementary and high school educations. If you would have asked me ten years ago what my Catholic elementary education was like I probably would have answered that it was great, it prepared me for my future, and that somehow I was able to keep my faith engaged. As I learn more, though, I want more for the students at St. Teresa’s than what I received.

I want them to know and speak the truth. (Truth is the correct way to think about what is...from God’s view.)

I want them to discern and choose the good. (Good is that which enables a being to flourish...more than morality/ethics.)

I want them to appreciate and create works of beauty. (Beauty is the power of reality to stimulate wonder.)

If that is what we want our students to become, then we must bring in the good, true and beautiful for them to experience. On October 1, the feast of St. Therese, I was visiting with a second grader on our walk to Church for Benediction at the end of the day. He said, “This is the best day ever. I want this

day to happen over and over again.” I asked him what made it the best day. His response was so endearing. He mentioned the beauty of the Mass, the time for prayer in adoration, the stories of St. Therese that he heard, and that he was able to begin and end his school day spending time with Jesus. We have students throughout the school memorizing good poetry and sharing it with others. We have phenomenal works of art present in our school, both visually but also musically. Our choirs and instrumental programs are wonderful and bring about a desire for deeper beauty.

That second grade student had a much deeper and greater desire than I did at third grade. His desire will lead to a greater desire for God, which will help him stay on the path of goodness, truth and beauty as he continues to grow.

As we continue to explore Catholic Liberal Education for the future of our

*continued on page 4*



## Field Trips!

Everyone is excited that the students are able to resume going on field trips this school year. In addition to those pictured here and on page 4, the Pre-K, Kindergarten, and 1st grades all visited the pumpkin patch, and the 6th, 7th, and 8th graders visited the Omaha Zoo.

### Third Grade UNL Bee Lab by Miss Brittany Mangers

The 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class had the opportunity to explore Sunken Gardens, enjoy a picnic at the park, and interact with and learn about bees on their field trip. Sunken Gardens was a great learning experience for the students because they started to discuss plants in class. They had a scavenger hunt to seek the beauty in God's creation of nature, and enjoyed seeing the fish, flowers, and all different kinds of plants. The colors in each plant were magnificent, and it really makes one appreciate God's beautiful creations.

The class was fortunate to attend UNL's Entomology Center involving the bees. They had learned about honeybees at the beginning of the year, so being able to apply their knowledge of bees was a great learning experience. The students learned an immense amount of facts, wore bee suits to have a closer look at the bees, and they even got to pet a male bee. Did you know that male bees do not sting because they do not have a stinger? Only female bees can sting. Now you have learned a new fun fact!

This field trip was one for the books! We are so thankful for the individuals who helped make this happen; the kids had the best time.



### Gr. 2 Architectural Tour by Sr. Teresa Marie

Students pointing and exclaiming to peers and teachers their observations are normal "sound bites" on a field trip. However, to the surprise of University of Nebraska-Lincoln students, pedestrians, and other adults, these peals of excitement were not at a huge pumpkin, bug, or helicopter. Instead, the students shouted out, "Doric! I see a Doric column!" Or "Ionic! Those are Ionic columns!" And "It's a Roman arch!"

Second grade teachers Sr. Teresa Marie, Miss McLaughlin, and Sr. Mary Chiara began planning this field trip about a month ago. As the teachers were delving more into planning lessons on the history of Rome, they discovered the opportunity for teaching on Roman architecture. The teachers consulted Fr. Hottovy and Mr. Kevin Clark to assist them with the necessary background knowledge to help create lessons for the students. As the teachers began to study and develop plans, they quickly realized that this was not just a day long or week long exploration. The rich content had potential for incorporating several subjects and becoming a truly STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) unit filled with truth, beauty and goodness.

In the opening days of their studies, Mr. Kevin Clark generously taught the students three lessons from an expert's perspective. The students loved the hands-



on opportunities and seeing real models of columns, arches, and domes in designs that Clark Architecture firm has created.

After doing a couple of weeks of in-depth study on the three basic types of columns, including the students' building their own column to scale and a brief look at parts of a Roman arch and dome, the students set out to observe these elements of architecture in the world. Fr. Hottovy devoted a whole day to lead the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students on their October 6<sup>th</sup> field trip, a walking tour around UNL's campus and St. Thomas Aquinas Newman Center. One eager student shared with Sister Teresa Marie, "That was the best field trip ever! We counted 68 columns and arches just on our way home!" The 2<sup>nd</sup> graders will continue their exploration of the Roman arch and dome in the coming weeks and hope to conclude their exploration with students' designs of their own Roman floor plan.

### Step Afrika

by Mrs. Terri Schilmoeller

The Sandhills "Arts Are Basic" program paid for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade students to attend *Step Afrika* at the Lied Center. The show was an exhibition of African percussion and step, and showed students the history of African Step in the United States. The performance was an experience of storytelling through music, and the students loved it. Thank you, Sandhills!



**Fifth grade** went to Camp Kateri and the Dunavan Apple Orchard on October 13<sup>th</sup>. At Camp Kateri they went on a nature hike and played outdoor games. At the orchard, they were able to pick many varieties of apples, make apple cider and sample both!

by Sr. Mary Agnes





## JAYHAWK INTRODUCTIONS



My name is **Sr. Teresa Marie**, and it is a great blessing to be back at Saint Teresa School! I was assigned here from 2016-2019 and spent the last two years teaching second grade at Saint James School in Crete, NE. This summer I had the privilege and honor of making perpetual profession in my beloved community of The

School Sisters of Christ the King. I grew up in Columbus, NE. Prior to entering The School Sisters of Christ the King, I attended Benedictine College for three semesters. I later returned to Benedictine as a Sister and graduated with my Theology and Elementary Education degrees in 2015. In my sixth year of teaching, I am immensely enjoying the opportunity to facilitate an encounter with all things true, good, and beautiful, especially through dabbings in Catholic Liberal Education and Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. Let us continue to pray for one another and enter into the prayer of Jesus: "so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me." John 17:21

My name is **Sr. Mary Gabriel**, and I grew up in rural Illinois, 45 minutes from Hannibal, Missouri. The "Mark Twain Cave" was a common field trip destination during my elementary school days. I attended Illinois State University, majoring in middle school education. Like many young people, I left for college hoping to "find myself." Through the Newman Center community I found God instead, or rather allowed myself to be found by Him. I discerned a call to religious life, entering the School Sisters of Christ the King following graduation in 2005. The summer before I entered the Community, I received an unexpected phone call from an aunt living in Connecticut. After expressing her support she said simply, "join the convent and you see the world." Since entering, I've taught fifth grade for 10 years, worked in campus ministry, helped to develop the Confirmation curriculum for the Diocese of Lincoln, and earned a Master's Degree in Theology from the Augustine Institute. I am grateful for the opportunity to share the truth and love of Christ with your children this year.



My name is **John Kosch**, and this year I will be teaching band at Pius X, St. John's, St. Patrick's, and St. Teresa's. I grew up as a member of the Lincoln Diocese—I was a member of St. Peter's parish and attended school at Blessed Sacrament. I received my bachelor's degree in music education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where I played in concert band, marching band, jazz band, and sang in choir. I taught band (grades 4-12) in Elm Creek, NE for three years, before pursuing a master's degree in music composition from the University of Kansas. My wife, Kim, and I are so excited to be back in Nebraska after two years in Kansas!



My name is **Thuy Bouc**. I'm the new administrative assistant. I'm thrilled to be with St. Teresa's and working with many wonderful people. I came to America many moons ago, with my parents and siblings. I'm the youngest of 7 children. I'm married to my sweet husband, Brad Bouc, who's a boom operator for Air National Guard. We have two beautiful daughters. Avery is 5 and Ashlyn is 2. I was a hairstylist for 15 years. I worked for a hair company for 4 years then I was lucky enough to work for myself the last 11 years. My hobbies are cooking, painting, and working out.



My name is **Sr. Mary Chiara**. I grew up in northeast Ohio, then Columbus, Nebraska, and I have nine younger siblings, so our home was usually chaotic, but full of love. I studied education at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for one year after high school. After experiencing the Lord's great love for me in times of Eucharistic adoration and discernment through prayer, I entered the School Sisters of Christ the King in 2018. I was blessed to make First Profession of Vows on July 31, 2021, and am spending this year team-teaching with Sister Teresa Marie in second grade. I enjoy spending time outside with my Sisters, looking at stars and clouds (depending on the time of day), and laughing.



The whole school prayed a living rosary together on October 7, the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. It was staged by the 5th graders.

## Saint 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.**



In September the 5<sup>th</sup> grade was blessed to receive a tour of Fr. Hottovy's garden. They saw a variety of "flora and fauna," including banana trees, cannas, various palms, Latania, papyrus, birds of paradise and Rose of Sharon.

## Letter from Sr. Mary Cecilia, C.K., continued from page 1

school, I am so grateful for the prayers and support of our parish and school communities. What we are striving to become, more than we already are, I find no better way to encapsulate it than the following:

*A school, therefore, is a small culture, a community ordered toward the truth and formation in the good. The school is not simply an institution, but a more organic community that expresses the life of the parish (or the local Catholic community) and forms a home away from home – a room within the House of God. The school should be an authentic expression of Catholic culture as a*

*whole – its beliefs, practices, beauty, and its lived expression. The Catholic school, therefore, should form an environment that is truly Catholic. (Renewing Catholic Schools, 132-133)*

We rely upon the prayerful support of the parish and school community. Thank you for your witness of joy and goodness as we continue to explore what Catholic Liberal Education means for St. Teresa School. If you have questions or thoughts to share with me, please know that I would be welcome to visit with you about those. I lift all of you up in prayer and beg the graces you need most to be poured upon you.

God bless you.

## 4th Grade Capitol Tour

by Mrs. Shelly Sullivan

The Fourth Grade Class took their learning outside of St. Teresa School and entered the halls of the Nebraska State Capitol of our great State of Nebraska, where they were immersed in Nebraska History! "The Capitol of the State is the outward sign of the character of its people," said Nebraskan Thomas Kimball, "Their respect for its traditions and history, their belief in its importance and worth, and their love of its fair name---all find expression in its Capitol."

The class's tour began with the Nebraska Hall of Fame, where they recognized names like Father Flanagan, J. Sterling Morton, and several more. Their attention was drawn to the intricate mosaics that held the stories of the past. A favorite of theirs was the "Children's Blizzard." Native American designs carved into the colorful doors of the Memorial Chamber...if one looks closely, the lock to the door is hidden in the cen-

ter of a sunflower. The students learned about the Nebraska Unicameral, and were able to go into the Nebraska Supreme Court. The Nebraska Supreme Court was designed with acoustic tiles and a ceiling made of walnut. The 4th graders took a moment to peer up from the Rotunda floor to the ceiling of the dome, filled with spectacular gold tile mosaic, and were filled with beauty wonder and awe, of how the State Capitol is filled with Nebraska history and symbols! The students' experience did not end there...they were greeted by sack lunches provided by Agriculture in the Classroom! While eating lunch on the Capitol lawn, they had a presentation on cattle, pork and poultry and other interesting Nebraska agriculture facts!

There is no place like Nebraska!

