



# The Rose

THE SAINT THERESE NEWSLETTER



## EXTRAORDINARY LOVE

IHM SISTERS | ST. THERESE OF LISIEUX | DONOR & VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

FALL 2023

# extraordinary LOVE

## Dear friends,

For over 50 years we have been inspired by the vision of our founders and driven by our mission to *doing ordinary things with extraordinary love*. This mission is what makes Saint Therese such a unique and special place.



Our mission was inspired by the life and writings of St. Therese of Lisieux. Our founders, especially Jerry Choromanski, recognized that our work closely fit with St. Therese of Lisieux's way of doing little things, every day, with great love. We continue to live out her teachings throughout our communities.

This year marks St. Therese of Lisieux's 150th birthday and 100th anniversary of admission to sainthood. To celebrate, we conducted a variety of activities throughout the month of October, from Feast Day masses at all our communities to providing education and showing our appreciation to our residents, staff, volunteers and donors.

Throughout this issue you will see several ways we are bringing our mission to life every day by serving each of our residents with compassion, kindness and extra love just as St. Therese of Lisieux taught. I also hope you will enjoy learning a little about our namesake.

Saint Therese was founded for a special reason, and I thank you for being one of the many reasons why we continue to be such an extraordinary place. Thank you for supporting our mission and being part of our Saint Therese family.

With deep gratitude,



Craig W. Abbott  
President and CEO

**“Miss no single opportunity of making some small sacrifice, here by a smiling look, there by a kindly word; always doing the smallest right and doing it all for love.”**

**— St. Therese of Lisieux**

# IHM Sisters and Saint Therese

## An Inspiring and Authentic Transfer of Ownership

In August, the Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM) Sisters and Saint Therese participated in a moving and formal ritual of transfer of ownership of the IHM Senior Living Community in Monroe, Michigan, to Saint Therese.

Members of Saint Therese and the IHM Sisters congregation attended the event in IHM's beautiful Motherhouse Chapel. There was a formal reading of the Entrustment Document and a ceremonial exchange of the Document from Sister Jane Herb, President of IHM to Craig Abbott, President & CEO of Saint Therese.

One of the more emotional moments in the ceremony was the reading of the Entrustment Covenant, an excerpt from which includes:

*"As the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary enter a new chapter of this unfolding story with praise, love and thanksgiving, we entrust to Saint Therese:*

*An aesthetically beautiful campus that honors the dignity, wholeness and life*

*journey of each person who lives and works on this campus.*

*A sanctuary of prayer and spiritual care that embraces the spiritual dimension and inner journey in each chapter of one's life, attentive to the holistic and integrative care*

*of body, mind, and spirit.*

*A culture of inclusion that accepts the uniqueness of each individual, welcoming differences in race, cultural background, ethnicity, religion and sexual orientation.*

*A tradition of learning and growth that encourages and supports intergenerational relationships, the awakening of new understandings, transformation of consciousness and lifelong learning.*

*A commitment to justice and right relationships that nurtures and promotes human flourishing, and sustains the well-being of all nature as God's good creation."*

Craig Abbott, President and CEO, Saint Therese, said "I've worked in the senior services industry for over three decades and this was this first time I've had the opportunity to take part in a ritual of transfer of ownership of this nature. Sitting in the beautiful chapel, surrounded by IHM Sisters and the community-at-large, I was struck by the magnitude and the symbolism of the ceremony, and was sincerely touched by what this means for the IHM Sisters and for all of us at Saint Therese. It's an event I certainly won't forget; I reflect on the ceremony and the words that were shared in the Entrustment Covenant frequently as we now go about extending our mission of doing ordinary things with extraordinary love at the IHM Senior Living Campus."

The Entrustment Document will be framed and displayed on-site at the Monroe campus and also at the Saint Therese office in Saint Louis Park.

To learn more about the IHM Sister's rich history and deeply held convictions, visit [sainttherese.org/blog](https://sainttherese.org/blog) and [ihmsisters.org](https://ihmsisters.org).



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St. Therese of Lisieux



I understood that every flower created by Him is beautiful, that the brilliance of the rose and the whiteness of the lily do not lessen the perfume of the violet or the sweet simplicity of the daisy.

I understood that if all the lowly flowers wished to be roses, nature would lose its loveliness.

And so it is in the world of souls, where each one has its own mission and is different from others in qualities and sanctity.

— St. Therese of Lisieux

## WHY WE ARE CALLED

# Saint Therese

The embodiment of our organization's name and mission goes very deep and the teachings of St. Therese of Lisieux are at the root of what makes every one of our communities special. Jerry Choromanski, one of our four founders, was strong in his Catholic faith. With his knowledge of St. Therese of Lisieux he suggested her mission become our mission.

St. Therese of Lisieux was a Carmelite nun who never went on missions, never founded a religious

order, and never performed great works or public displays of faith. Instead, she lived uneventfully and grabbed onto every opportunity to love others more than herself. She smiled throughout the day, refused to complain even in hardship, and she performed small, hidden favors for others regularly.

St. Therese of Lisieux called the practice of doing all things (especially little things) with great love, the "little way." She wrote, "You know well enough that Our

Lord does not look so much at the greatness of our actions, nor even at their difficulty, but at the love with which we do them."





St. Therese of Lisieux in her youth



St. Therese of Lisieux at age 15

She is commonly known as the “little flower” and her image is associated with flowers and roses because she saw the seasons in nature as reflecting the seasons of God’s love for us. She saw herself as the “little flower of Jesus,” who gave glory to God by just being her little self among all the other flowers in God’s garden. We embody the rose in our logo and throughout the stained glass and amenities in our communities.

St. Therese of Lisieux passed away at age 24 and it might seem surprising that she had such an impact. However, with the humble and honest way she lived, the publication of her writings, their circulation, and word of mouth, her teachings did not take long to grow roots around the world. She was made a Catholic Saint only 34 years after her death. This year marks the

100th anniversary of her being named a Saint.

Our staff and volunteers demonstrate St. Therese of Lisieux’s “little way” every day with small acts that are done with extraordinary love.

**“I enjoy getting to know little things about each resident so I can brighten their day uniquely.”**

**— Saint Therese of New Hope staff member**

With our purpose of caring for senior residents at the center of everything we do, our founders were wise in choosing our organization’s identity. We continue to be inspired by our mission and the life and works of St. Therese of Lisieux.

# Growing the heart of our communities one blessing at a time

We cherish our Saint Therese family and the blessings they bestow on one another every single day.

**“We are blessed in so many ways and want to give back to the community that we are part of and that so warmly welcomed us.”**

**— The Jacobs, Saint Therese of Oxbow Lake residents**

Along with residents, staff, volunteers, and partners, our donors play an integral role in sustaining and growing our mission. Whether it is a resident touched by the compassionate care they receive or someone who simply wants to support elder care, our donors make the little things that grow the heart of our communities possible.

In 2023 our donors grew the heart of our communities with these blessings:

- Outdoor furniture for the gazebo at Saint Therese of Woodbury
- Hymnal board for the Our Lady of Peace Chapel
- Therapy dolls for residents with dementia
- Organ music for Sunday masses
- Physical therapist scholarships
- Canvas painting art therapy classes
- Happy hour entertainment
- Flowers for our chapels
- Mother’s Day spa party
- Popcorn machine
- Meal outings
- Ice cream treats
- Nursing scholarships
- Father’s Day barbeque
- Monthly birthday parties
- Roaring 20’s senior prom
- Watercolor art therapy classes
- Electric pianos for music therapy
- Server robot for Saint Therese at Oxbow Lake dining services
- Large screen television for Saint Therese of New Hope auditorium
- Planters, flowers and gardening supplies for our patios
- And so much more!

**With History Comes Experience.  
With Longevity Comes Knowledge.**

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# SELFLESS LOVE IN ACTION

Our namesake, St. Therese of Lisieux, encouraged doing little things with great love. She called this her “little way.” Examples of these small, selfless acts can be seen across our campuses on a daily basis. Today, we want to highlight a few special volunteers who help our residents continue to live out their faith fully, even when memory and mobility pose challenges.



Meet Pam and Pat Hebert, a newly retired couple with a God-led desire to be of service to those in long-term care. On a weekly basis, they escort memory care residents to and from mass and distribute Holy Communion to residents who can't make it to the service. They find their visits with memory care residents extremely meaningful and fulfilling. Pam says, “We feel blessed to be able to support the residents living out their faith.”



Terry Provo is another volunteer who finds great personal joy in escorting residents with mobility issues to and from mass. Her mother lived in a senior housing facility during the last few years of her life and one of her favorite things to do was to go to Mass. “When I decided to begin volunteering last year, the opportunity to be a Mass escort was appealing because I understood how meaningful it had been to my mother. I absolutely love doing it! Not only does it get me to Mass during the week, but I've really enjoyed getting to know the “regulars” who are so appreciative of being able to get to Mass.”

We offer many “little ways” that people can share their time and talents with Saint Therese residents including being a resident visitor, bingo assistant, Eucharistic minister, art assistant, hair salon escort, Pokeno assistant, event assistant, office assistant, rehab assistant, music assistant, guest musician or lector, or even provide pet therapy or mail delivery.

To learn more, please contact our Volunteer Department at 612-418-1954.



## Saint Therese

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# Celebrating the Jubilee of St. Therese of Lisieux

**In celebrating St. Therese of Lisieux's Jubilee, we think it is important for you to have an opportunity to support our mission.**

Please use the enclosed envelope to contribute to honor St. Therese of Lisieux's Jubilee year! Doing ordinary things, such as this, has an extraordinary impact on the lives of our residents. Giving allows you to deepen your commitment to Saint Therese and follow St. Therese of Lisieux's message of spreading God's love, to others, through small acts and sacrifices.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support!



**"You know well enough that Our Lord does not look so much at the greatness of our actions, nor even at their difficulty, but at the love with which we do them."**

**— St. Therese of Lisieux**