

30 Year Anniversary Celebration

As we are celebrating our 30th Anniversary, it amazes me to think of our simple beginnings in a rowhome in Baltimore, MD. When I realize that many of the first Little Flowers are now mothers, religious and more, I am humbled. I've been thrilled to meet Little Flowers who aren't little at all but taller than I am, busy with their families, school, careers and continuing to be the Light to the World.

Time and again, over these past 30 years I've pondered this apostolic field of work, our garden of virtue. There have been times of real joy and more than a few struggles (COVID shutdowns were not easy for any of us, was it?). Joan and I have dealt with difficult times just as you have. Dealing with my chronic and progressing MS and the death of Joan's husband, Bob, has been exceptionally challenging. BUT God has always been faithful.

Isn't the same true for you? What have your past 30 years looked like? Thirty years is a long time and so much can happen in that timeframe. There is a history of the significance of 30 years in Scripture - Joseph entered Pharaoh's service as second in command after his time as a slave when he was 30 (Gen. 41:46). Both Saul (1 Samuel 13:1) and David (2 Samuel 5:4) became king at the age of 30 and we know Jesus began his ministry when he was 30 (Luke 3:23).

Thirty years in a career or marriage is cause for celebration. Thirty years of marriage especially seems impossible these days and in a wonderful coincidence, the traditional gift for 30 years of marriage is a pearl. A pearl. A pearl.

A pearl of great price is spoken of in Matthew 13:44-46, "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls. When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all that he has and buys it."

The traditional flower for a 30th anniversary is a lily. We honor the lily in our Wreath II for Mercy with St. Faustina. God tells us no lily is arrayed as beautiful as we are.

Over the past 30 years, I have felt the Lord's mercy in my life and I have long considered Little Flowers to be a real treasure in my life. Hopefully, in yours as well.

We are honoring this year with a special badge and hope you will consider joining us.

REQUIREMENTS - Complete 5-7 (depending on age) of these 10

1. _____-Investigate those meaningful 30 years from Scripture referenced listed above. Read the stories of Joseph (Old Testament), Saul, David, Ezekiel, and Jesus beginning His ministry. While there is nothing magical in the number 30, it is profound to realize that God will call people to service throughout their whole life to join Him in the vineyard.
2. _____-Lilies are mentioned in the Bible both in the Old and New Testament. The verse from the New Testament might be familiar. Talk with your group or family about the significance of its meaning. Is there some way to practice the lilies' lesson in your own life and family?
3. _____-Pearls are also mentioned in the Bible with the verses in the Old Testament using them as a sign of excessive wealth. But, the pearl finds new significance in the New Testament. It is included in a chapter that has more than one parable - how many? Make a list of these parables.

Talk to your parents or with your group about why Jesus used parables. Illustrate your favorite parable.

4. ____-Do you know how pearls are made? Find out how pearls are made. Consider that these lovely items are created by a struggle, something uncomfortable. Think about something uncomfortable you have gone through. Did something beautiful come for it? Did your struggle create something beautiful? What are the pearls you have created?
5. ____-Find someone who has completed at least 30 years of 'something': marriage religious life, a job? Talk to them about what it means to stay with something for that long. Did they have struggles, doubts? What have they learned? How many celebrations have they had? Find out how many days 30 years is and compare it with how many days you have been alive. Using fake pearls and lilies create a small memory book, box or small gift to honor a few of these events. Give it to them along with a spiritual bouquet of Memorares (a prayer honoring the Blessed Mother's commitment to us, her children) as well.
6. ____-Our words of inspiration for this 30th year is "Go Be A Light to the World". How many definitions of light are there? Check a dictionary and think about these and how they all apply to Jesus! There are dozens of verses that mention light and find your favorite. Make either a votive candle or get a pillar candle and paint your verse on it. Remember to use it when you need to be reminded that Jesus is asking you to be a light to others.
7. ____-Write a short history in words or pictures of your own Little Flowers group. Include things like how long you have been meeting, the names of the original leaders or girls in the group. If your group has been around for several years, find a girl (or woman) who used to be a Little Flower and talk to them about where they are in life and the influence and memories of Little Flowers had in their life.
8. ____-Set up a prayer corner in your living room or bedroom (a special 30th Anniversary prayer corner pack is available at Behold Publications, or you can make your own). Say the prayer on the 30th Anniversary prayer card daily for all the Little Flowers throughout the world.
9. ____-Look on the map on the Behold Publications website to see where the nearest Little Flower group is to you. Do you have another group in your diocese? Try to get together with them for an activity, prayer service, or service project. The map can be found at this link: <https://beholdpublications.com/home/find-a-club/>
10. ____-Find a Little Flower group on the map in an area that you're interested in. See if you can contact the group or the parish and ask if your group can either be a sister group to the other, or if they would like to be pen pals. The map can be found at this link: <https://beholdpublications.com/home/find-a-club/>

Signature of Leader or Parent

Date Completed