

January 29, 2018

Work is underway for the difficult, but incredibly important, task to find a successor for Sister Donna Shallo. There are five areas of knowledge, skills and practices that our next President must possess:

1. Catholic Education: Mission, Tone and Culture
2. Vision and Leadership: Setting Direction
3. Building Relationships and Developing People
4. Board Development, Fiscal Stewardship and Advancement
5. Operational Expertise

Last Friday, the search committee, conducted focus groups with representative groups of Little Flower students, faculty, staff, alumnae and parents to hear what they believe is important for the next President to know and accomplish. We are grateful to everyone who gave their time and shared their perspectives and ideas.

More than 60 candidates from very diverse backgrounds and experiences have expressed interest in the role. The Search Committee is now screening those applicants and will conduct initial interviews in February, with the hope to appoint a new President later this spring.

We are committed to a transparent process and will update you on our progress over the coming months.

This is a tremendous and humbling responsibility and we ask for your prayers. Beginning today, the Board of Directors will pray the attached Novena. Please join us and please pray for the intercession of St. Therese to help us find the new President of Little Flower Catholic High School for Girls, who will influence the future direction of our beloved school for generations.

Respectfully,

The Search Committee

Barbara Majowski Bowen, '80, Chair, Little Flower Board of Directors

Bob Cahill, Little Flower Board of Directors

Sister Mary Dacey, Healey Foundation

Doreen Halbruner, '81, Little Flower Board of Directors

Chuck Hughes, Office of Catholic Education

Father James MacNew, Holy Family University

Marie Foody O'Riordan, '81, Little Flower Board of Directors

Lynn Tarini, '93, Little Flower Board of Directors

Dr. Joanne Walls, Former Office of Catholic Education Leader

## **O Jesus, I Surrender Myself to You**

A Prophet of our Time Don (Fr) Dolindo Ruotolo

On November 19, 1970, Don (Fr) Dolindo Ruotolo died at the age of 88. Padre Pio once said of this priest from Naples, Italy, "The whole of paradise is in your soul." His name "Dolindo" means "Pain" and his life was rich with pain. As a child, a teenager, a seminarian and a priest, he experienced humiliation, which was the realization of the prophetic words of a bishop who said, "You will be a martyr, but in your heart, not with your blood."

In his profound humility, he was able to hear the words of God. Even with his hidden life he was one of the greatest prophets of the last century. He wrote to Bishop Hnilica in 1965 that a new John will rise out of Poland with heroic steps to break the chains beyond the boundaries imposed by the communist tyranny. On this postcard, he wrote words of consolation for Poland and all the countries suffering under the communist regime. This prophecy was realized in the papacy of John Paul II.

In this tremendous suffering, Dolindo became more and more a child who lived his self-offering to the Divine Father. "I am totally poor, a poor nothing. My strength is my prayer, my leader is the will of God which I let take me by the hand. My security over the uneven path is the heavenly mother Mary."

One of the treasures from the words which Jesus spoke to Dolindo was the teaching about total abandonment to God. In this novena, Jesus is talking to Don Dolindo and also to you.

Words of Jesus to Don Dolindo Ruotolo

### **Day 1**

Why do you confuse yourselves by worrying? Leave the care of your affairs to me and everything will be peaceful. I say to you in truth that every act of true, blind, complete surrender to me produces the effect that you desire and resolves all difficult situations.

O Jesus, I surrender myself to you, take care of everything! (10 times)

### **Day 2**

Surrender to me does not mean to fret, to be upset, or to lose hope, nor does it mean offering to me a worried prayer asking me to follow you and change your worry into prayer. It is against this surrender, deeply against it, to worry, to be nervous and to desire to think about the consequences of anything. It is like the confusion that children feel when they ask their mother to see to their needs for themselves so that their childlike efforts get in their mother's way. Surrender means to placidly close the eyes of the soul, to turn away from thoughts of tribulation and to put yourself in my care, so that only I act. Saying, "You take care of it."

O Jesus, I surrender myself to you, take care of everything! (10 times)

### **Day 3**

How many things I do when the soul, in so much spiritual and material need turns to me, looks at me and says to me: "You take care of it," then close its eyes and rests. In pain you pray for me to act, but that I act in the way you want. You do not turn to me, instead, you want me to adapt to your ideas. You are not sick people who ask the doctor to cure you, but rather sick people who tell the doctor how to. So do not act this way, but pray as I taught you in the Our Father: "Hallowed be thy Name", that is, be glorified in my need. "Thy kingdom come", that is, let all that is in us and in the world be in accord with your kingdom. "Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven", that is, in our need, decide as you see fit for our temporal and eternal life. If you say to me truly: "Thy will be done". Which is the same as saying: "You take care of it". I will intervene with all my omnipotence, and I will resolve the most difficult situations.

O Jesus, I surrender myself to you, take care of everything! (10 times)

### **Day 4**

You see evil growing instead of weakening? Do not worry, Close your eyes and say to me with faith:

“Thy will be done, You take care of it.” I say to you that I will take care of it , and that I will intervene as does a doctor and I will accomplish miracles when they are needed. Do you see that the sick person is getting worse? Do not be upset, but close your eyes and say, “You take care of it.” I say to you that I will take care of it, and that there is no medicine more powerful than my loving intervention. By my love, I promise this to you.

O Jesus, I surrender myself to you, take care of everything! (10 times)

#### **Day 5**

And when I must lead you on a path different from the one you see, I will prepare you; I will carry you in my arms; I will let you find yourself, like children who have fallen asleep in their mother’s arms, on the other bank of the river. What troubles you and hurts you immensely are your reason, your thoughts and worry, and your desire at all costs to deal with what afflicts you.

O Jesus, I surrender myself to you, take care of everything! (10 mins)

#### **Day 6**

You are sleepless; you want to judge everything, direct everything and see to everything and you surrender to human strength, or worse – to men themselves, trusting in their intervention, - this is what hinders my words and my views. Oh how much I wish from you this surrender, to help you and how I suffer when I see you so agitated! Satan tries to do exactly this: to agitate you and to remove you from my protection and to throw you into the jaws of human initiative. So, trust only in me, rest in me, surrender to me in everything.

O Jesus, I surrender myself to you, take care of everything! (10 times)

#### **Day 7**

I perform miracles in proportion to your full surrender to me and to your not thinking of yourselves. I sow treasure troves of graces when you are in the deepest poverty. No person of reason, no thinker, has ever performed miracles, not even among the saints. He does divine works whosoever

surrenders to God. So don’t think about it anymore, because your mind is acute and for you it is very hard to see evil and to trust in me and to not think of yourself. Do this for all your needs, do this all of you and you will see great continual silent miracles. I will take care of things, I promise this to you.

O Jesus, I surrender myself to you, take care of everything! (10 times)

#### **Day 8**

Close your eyes and let yourself be carried away on the flowing current of my grace; close your eyes and do not think of the present, turning your thoughts away from the future just as you would from temptation. Repose in me, believing in my goodness, and I promise you by my love that if you say, “You take care of it.” I will take care of it all; I will console you, liberate you and guide you.

O Jesus, I surrender myself to you, take care of everything! (10 times)

#### **Day 9**

Pray always in readiness to surrender, and you will receive from it great peace and great reward, even when I confer on you the grace of immolation, of repentance and of love. Then what does suffering matter? It seems impossible to you? Close your eyes and say with all your soul, “Jesus, you take care of it.” Do not be afraid, I will take care of things and you will bless my name by humbling yourself. A thousand prayers cannot equal one single act of surrender, remember this well. There is no novena more effective than this:

“O Jesus, I surrender myself to you, take care of everything!”

O Jesus, I surrender myself to you, take care of everything! (10 times)

Mother, I am yours now and forever. Through you and with you I always want to belong completely to Jesus.