



Little Flower Catholic Therapy Missions  
1933 Cypress Rd.  
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## Stay Connected to our mission

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 Little Flower Catholic Therapy Missions

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# *Little Flower Catholic Therapy Missions*

*Elevating the dignity and quality  
of life of those living with  
disabilities across the world.*



# Answered Prayers: The Day the Flowers Came in the Form of Wheelchairs



Picture this, our nonprofit had been working hard for years to source, adapt, ship, and supply wheelchairs for the children's home. Time-consuming, expensive, and slow to develop, we had been fretting over the children having to stay in their beds all day versus getting to experience their home more fully, changing positions throughout their day, and being more mobile with wheelchairs.

Fast forward to our summer mission trip in July, where we had a chance encounter with two elders from the Mormon Church. They asked what our biggest need was. 'WHEELCHAIRS! But not standard ones. We need ones that can be adjusted to fit medically complex children,' I said, almost defeated. I also included tentatively, 'You know this is a home run by the Catholic church, not the Mormon church.' His answer stuck with me and softened my heart. 'These are God's children; we can do it. We have a team that can get the chairs and fit them', he responded. I was skeptical. Through the years, organizations had promised wheelchairs but ended up being standard adult chairs that couldn't be used by the children due to their complex needs.

Now, most of you know that St. Therese of Lisieux, also known as the Little Flower, is the namesake and the patroness of our nonprofit. She spent her days cloistered in a rhythm of prayer, praying for souls and allowing her work to flow from that deep place of unity with Jesus, trusting that God would provide. The Church named her the patroness of missionaries. In her writings, she said:

*"When I die, I will send down a shower of roses from the heavens, I will spend my heaven by doing good on earth."*

*-St Therese of Lisieux*

To my surprise, on October 1st, the Feast of St. Therese of Lisieux, I got a video call from Brother Prem, who serves as the director of Bethlehem House. 'We have the wheelchairs!' he exclaimed. He took me around to show each child in their specialized chair. The joy in his voice, the smiles of the children, and the pride of the caregivers were infectious. This was an answer to a prayer that the whole team had been praying for years!

The promised 'roses' St. Therese sent to us on her feast day came in the form of wheelchairs. She had our backs the whole time. I had been struggling with doubt and God's faithfulness. We had been working so hard for years and had not much to show for it. These wheelchairs reminded me that God answers prayers and not always in the ways I think He will; He is bigger than my biggest doubt. Whatever faith background people have, we are all united with the poor and strive to serve them however we can. I have never received such a beautiful bouquet in all my life. God's love is abundant.



Carla Heinsch  
Co-Founder & Secretary

# Beloved Children of God: Reflection on Mission Trip 2025

We had just taken our seats in the outside chapel when a young Missionary of the Poor (MOP) brother grabbed a microphone and shouted, “God is good!” The children and adults from the orphanages, workers, volunteers, and community members shouted, “All the time!” What followed was a joyful, clapping, dancing, and singing praise and worship session that extended all the way through Mass. During Mass, I noted the gentleness of the brothers as they attended to the children by repositioning them in wheelchairs, giving them communion, touching their arms or hands, and simply being present. The children and Brothers looked at one another with such respect and affection. Their presence radiated Divine Love, and I knew this week would be a paradox of heartbreak and love.

As I took a deep breath and inhaled the new sights, smells, sounds, and people around me, I recalled how this unexpected journey had begun in February 2025, when I heard about Little Flower Catholic Therapy Missions. As a speech-language pathologist with over 25 years of experience supporting non-speaking individuals, I had long dreamed of helping children who lacked access to augmentative and alternative communication (AAC). I prayed for an open heart, hands, and eyes, and for Jesus and Mother Mary to guide each step. As always, God transformed my heart more than I could have ever imagined, beginning with Mass.



After Mass, we spent time at Bethlehem House interacting with the children and getting oriented to the space. On the way back to our hostel, we stopped for ice cream and walked through a park filled with magnificent Indian Banyan trees and families enjoying time together, playing and laughing. A beautiful witness that across all cultures and places, the human heart is created to love and be loved! Then, we returned to the hostel to prepare for Monday’s mission work.

Our workdays began early and followed a similar flow. We boarded the van at 5:45 a.m. to join the brothers for Mass, Adoration, morning prayer, and breakfast before heading to Bethlehem House to work with the children. We stopped working at midday to join the brothers for prayer and lunch. Then, we returned to work with the children and our projects until late afternoon/early evening. On our way back to the hostel, we prayed the Rosary. Every prayer opportunity was filled with music, joy, and love for God, Mary, and the work at hand. I found the flow and balance of work, prayer, and rest to be a beautiful part of the mission trip!

Our primary goal this year was to complete OT, PT, language, assistive technology, and feeding evaluations on all 54 children in Bethlehem House. To complete this task, we divided into three teams, each assigned to a separate room. The children’s significant contractures and physical limitations, as well as complex sensory needs, made this task challenging at times. There were many times when I didn’t know what to do except whisper, “Come, Holy Spirit.” The sweet Holy Spirit always showed us what was needed! We also created switch-adapted toys, adapted chairs, and crib activity frames, trained staff, organized therapy spaces, and led many spontaneous dance parties! The children’s joy—sparked by bubbles, light-up balls, music, and interaction—was radiant. It reminded me that joy flows not from possessions but from knowing one is a beloved child of God.

Evenings at the hostel were filled with team dinners, reflecting on the day, working on therapy projects, and even taking a few minutes to cool off in the hostel’s pool. We shared our “high” and “hard” moments of the day. Often, it was the same event, such as witnessing a parent bring their child to the orphanage, a parent visiting their child, or watching each other work tirelessly and gently to help the children. In each high and hard, Divine Love was present, wrapping us in mercy and grace. The great paradox of love and heartbreak: one cannot be present without the other.



# cont. Mission Trip Reflection

Midweek, we took a day off for restoration. It began with a lingering morning and a simple breakfast while watching Toucans and listening to singing birds. Then we headed to the beach, where we enjoyed the shade of a large and unique tree, built a sandcastle, and enjoyed a Jamaican lunch of chicken, pumpkin rice, plantains, and festival. We frolicked in the water, sharing conversation and laughter. God was palpably present in each person and in nature. In the evening, with hearts and bodies refueled, we planned for our last days in the orphanage.



Along the way, God spoke deeply to me through prayer, the people I encountered, and in each new experience. During Adoration one morning, I heard a clear message: "Stop thinking. Let my Divine Love flow through your hands to the children." As I entered Bethlehem House that morning, the first child I saw in the "littles" room was struggling. I gently picked him up and patted his back while swaying to "Goodness of God," which was playing in the background. As I gazed at this child, I saw only Jesus. We were fully connected heart to heart through God's love, even if only for a few moments. It was a gift beyond my understanding; one I will never forget.

As I reflect on the week, this mission was a cultural immersion, a spiritual renewal, and a deep expansion of my heart. I saw Divine Love in the eyes and work of the brothers, the workers, our team, and most of all, in the children. Though I arrived with plans to implement picture-symbol AAC, I quickly saw that the children's physical needs were the priority. As I shifted to creating and introducing switch-adapted toys and training the staff, and using my heart more than my head, I was filled with peace, energy, and excitement. The Holy Spirit was alive and moving all around and in us. The work of the MOP and Little Flower Catholic Therapy Missions, along with their commitment to loving and upholding the dignity of life for each child, reflected the goodness in this world and who we are called to be as brothers and sisters in Christ. The week was a lesson in surrender, obedience, love, and seeing God in every person and creation. It was a gift to have my heart cracked just enough to allow God's perfect love to expand it. I am ready for our 2026 mission trip!

I left Jamaica forever changed. A beloved child of God. We are ALL beloved children of God.

Angie Joines  
Mission Trip Participant

## Drop us a letter!

*Little Flower Catholic Therapy Missions -1933 Cypress Rd, Saint Cloud, MN 56303*

*Elevating the dignity and quality of life of those living with disabilities across the world.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Check if applicable:

- I am interested in joining you in Jamaica in 2026!
- I would like to help sponsor someone's mission trip.
- I would like to make a monthly commitment to building therapy programs.

Prayer requests: \_\_\_\_\_



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