



## *In the company of flowers...*

- Jesus said to pay attention to the flowers of the field - how they are beautiful, and neither strive, nor worry.
- St. Therese of Lisieux saw herself as the “little flower of Jesus,” glorifying God *just by being herself*.
- The poet Rainer Maria Rilke wrote, “When you give someone flowers, you arrange them beforehand, don’t you?”
- Mother Teresa wanted to “make something beautiful for God” out of her life.
- Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel’s “advice to young people” in a 1972 interview: “... above all remember the meaning of life is to build life as if it were a work of art. *When you’re young, start working on this great work of art called your own existence.*”

The idea behind Little Bouquets is to offer kids a space to notice, gather, name, arrange, and pray through the experiences of their lives.

My hope is that through these sessions, kids would:

- get to know and love themselves better
- be inspired to work on and play with the “great work of art” that is their own existence
- come to recognize and savor the moments of truth, beauty, mystery, goodness, & love in their experiences
- have a space to feel and name (if desired) their questions, doubts, losses, and fears
- become more aware of God’s near and felt presence in their lives (or whatever language suits them)

## Taking Kids' Spirituality Seriously



## Little Bouquets is:

- A 45 minute conversation for kids ages 4+ with an unhurried listener, or "soul friend," who helps them recognize and respond to the presence of truth, beauty and goodness in their lives
- A place where children receive undivided attention as they express themselves, explore their experiences, engage their five senses, and interact with creative resources
- Spiritual in nature, not psychological. In other words, this ministry is not counseling, psychotherapy, or a "fix-it" methodology. It's about listening, wondering, waiting, and savoring.
- Confidential: I will never reveal what your child says to anyone unless it is for their own protection (i.e. if abuse is suspected or if the child is in danger to themselves or others, I will notify the authorities as mandated by law)
- Safe: I observe [Safe Church](#) practices that ensure the child's safety whenever they talk with me.

## Permission form:

Name of child (incl. preferred pronouns): \_\_\_\_\_

Child's address: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's birthday: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of parent/guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Faith community affiliation (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the child's living situation (household members, etc):

Are there any particular challenges (life, school, home) that the child is facing? (\*optional)

Does the child have any physical limitations or allergies that may limit their engagement in sensory activities? If so, please specify:

Have you read and understood the ministry as described in this brochure? YES or NO

Do you understand that by signing this form you agree that the content of the session will be kept confidential (including not revealing content to the parent/guardian), excepting only that information which must be reported by law? YES or NO

Do you consent to and authorize Little Bouquets to potentially use a photograph of your child in spiritual direction for the sole purpose of reporting to the Anglican Foundation of Canada and The United Church of Canada in cooperation with their grants received for this project? (I will ask your permission for any other photographic use involving your child). YES NO

By signing below, I give permission for a Little Bouquets spiritual director to meet with my child. I affirm that I have read the informational brochure and understand that the ministry provided is spiritual in nature and not psychological in nature.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date