



City of Coral Gables
CITY COMMISSION MEETING
September 25, 2025

ITEM TITLE:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA, CO-DESIGNATING INDIAN MOUND TRAIL AS "SAINT THERESA'S LITTLE WAY" IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE CHURCH OF THE LITTLE FLOWER AND SAINT THERESA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

(Sponsored by Commissioner Fernandez)

BRIEF HISTORY:

The parish Church of the Little Flower was established in the spring of 1926 at the request of small group of Catholics in the new community of Coral Gables. The parish was named in honor of Saint Therese of Lisieux, France, a Carmelite Sister, also known as the "Little Flower. Initially, masses were celebrated in the convent library of Saint Joseph Academy, a boarding school built and opened on the church grounds in 1925 by the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Saint Augustine, Florida.

The first structure built for the new parish community was a parish center and auditorium which also served as a temporary church for nearly a decade beyond World War II and later became the parish hall, named in honor of Monsignor Thomas Comber, the founding pastor of The Church of the Little Flower. The new church, which exists today, was built and dedicated in 1952 and continues to serve as the center of parish worship.

The Church of the Little Flower's current membership exceeds 3,000 registered households and people from all over the world and are baptized and married at the parish. Thousands of children have been educated at Saint Theresa Catholic School (formerly St. Joseph's Academy) that has been administrated by the Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles since 1991. The buildings of Saint Theresa School and the Church of the Little Flower, located along Indian Mound Trail in Coral Gables, are designated local historic landmarks.

Saint Theresa Catholic School, which opened its doors as St. Joseph Academy on September 15, 2025, celebrated its 100th birthday and the Church of the Little Flower will celebrate its 100th birthday in October 2026. The proposed resolution recognizes the Church of the Little Flower and Saint Theresa Catholic School, which has become a staple in South Florida Catholicism, by co-designating Indian Mound Trail as "Saint Theresa's Little Way."

ATTACHMENT(S): Proposed Resolution

FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

No.	Amount	Account No.	Source of Funds
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1.			
Total:			

Fiscal Impact: TBD

BUSINESS IMPACT:

N/A