

The Little Flowers Craft Companion

Book II

Wreaths II and III

By

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Dedication:

*To All the Little Flowers Leaders, I wouldn't have done this but for you.
And to my Goddaughters: Rachel, Julia and Sophia Hackler; and Marie Foster.*

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Printed in the United States of America by Ecce Homo Press

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Introduction

Welcome to the second Little Flowers Craft Companion--and thank you for inspiring me to write it.

When I finished writing the *Blue Knights Craft Companion*, I had declared to my husband that my craft writing days were over. My sons aren't particularly craft-inclined, and my daughter has moved from crafting to Tae Kwon Do (with occasional dreams of being a fashion designer). Also, we're getting to the point in our family life where mess and chaos are less and less welcome. In fact, the chaos was getting to me so badly, I was about ready to send the kids to public school. I had been looking forward to clearing out the schoolroom of all the stuff--you know, the beads and fabric scraps, the oodles of odds and ends, ribbons and strings, and things that some child might use one day--when Joan sent me a note saying she'd been getting requests for another Little Flowers craft book.

How could I say no? It means so much to me that you've found the first book useful.

Before I could think about a book, however, I needed to put some order into our homeschooling situation, which I did with a stricter schedule and preparing all the lessons (including activities and crafts) in advance. Just like Rachel says in her essay on orderliness, our home--especially our homeschooling--was full of stress with missed lessons and time lost looking for this book or that paper. So the craft book had to be set aside until I could bring our chaos under control. (We did and had a fantastic year! In fact, I spent all of this May getting next year ready.) I apologize for the delay getting this written, but I know you homeschooling moms understand.

As with the first book, I tried to create crafts that are inexpensive, easy, and useful. A lot of them are very interchangeable this time, so if you don't like the crafts listed for the particular lesson, please scan the table of contents for something else. A lot of the ideas I got from leafing through craft books and the Oriental Trading catalog. (I love Oriental Trading!) The directions, though, are my own, determined from trial and error and "thought crafting." I did make all the crafts, sometimes with my children or their friends, and sometimes on my own. I also have a couple of crafts gladly shared by moms. They are credited, and my thanks and prayers are for them.

Since the girls in wreaths II and III are older, I tried to make a few more complex crafts, particularly sewing projects. These are marked with an S. In some, I have given alternatives or simpler versions. Also, as in book one, I have a 3-star complexity system, one star being easiest.

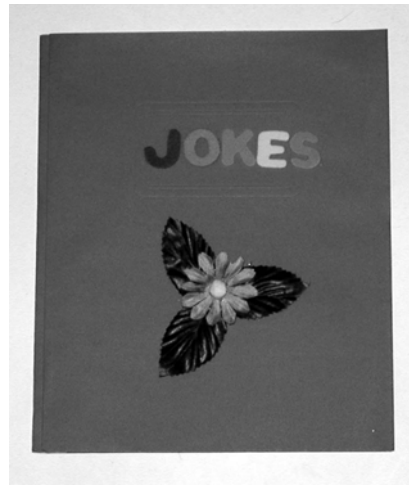
Finally, I've included an updated resources section with web sites, magazines and craft books for other ideas. These have been recommended to me by other moms who have used and enjoyed them as well as those I found in my searches. Like some of you, the library is not someplace I frequent (is that homeschooling blasphemy?), so I depend on the Internet a lot. Not all the sites are religious, but they may have ideas you could easily adapt to religious lessons.

Enjoy, God bless, and thanks again!

Joke Book **

Tulip—St. Clare—Joy

*Humor is a prelude to faith and
Laughter is the beginning of prayer*
-- "Discerning the Signs of the Times," Reinhold
Niebuhr



Preparation Time: None to 15 minutes

Craft Time: 10-30 minutes, depending on how you do the jokes

Materials: Per girl:

3-ring report folder

Paper (lined unless you provide the jokes yourself)

Construction paper (If Embellishing)

Markers, construction paper, foam shapes, stickers, etc. for decorating

Glue if needed for decorating or Embellishing

Pens

White board or chalkboard and something to write on (optional)

Page protectors (optional)

Tools: Scissors if needed for decorating

Computer with printer (optional)

Hole punch if printing the jokes from the computer (optional)

Preparation: If Simplifying and you want to provide the jokes ahead of time, write and print out 15-20 jokes. You may want to do one or two per page.

Craft: The girls can decorate the covers of their folders however they like. They may want to put a title on it, with the club name and date so they can remember when they made it. While they are decorating, they can work on the jokes. Jokes can be done in several ways:

--Each girls can write one or two jokes, making enough pages for everyone's books.

--Girls can brainstorm jokes and you can write them on the white board for everyone to copy.

--Have the girls tell you the jokes and you type them into the computer, printing them up (one or two per page) for them to put in the book.

If printing up the jokes, you'll need to punch holes in the papers **OR** put the pages in page protectors.

Simplify: See Preparation.

Embellish: If you want to do riddles or knock-knock jokes instead, cut out pieces of construction paper and glue these like a flap over the answer or punch line.