*Where* was simple. *How* was a little harder.

John Allen and his family found the solution with the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln. In honor of his parents, Allen, his brothers Richard and David, and their families established the John A. and Lucille M. Allen Family Fund. The Fund is a designated fund that will support Little Flower School and Parish.

Lucille Allen passed away in January 2011. Her husband, John Allen Sr. had passed away 10 years ago. The couple had been heavily involved at Little Flower. Lucille Allen served as the school secretary for 16 years and her husband was a trustee at the church and served on the finance committee. The couple’s three sons all attended K-8th grade at the school. In later years, John and Lucille organized the Bingo nights that helped fund church activities.

“The church and the school meant a lot to her,” Allen said. “They were part of the fabric of Little Flower. It was a real easy choice.”

John Allen had spoken to his mother prior to her death about establishing a fund to benefit the parish and school. His brothers readily agreed to support the Fund. For many generations of church goers, the Allens were synonymous with activities at the church. The family chose to work with the Community Foundation in part because that multi-generational support can continue.

“Maybe it won’t be as large a gift as it could have been right away but over time, that the Fund will go on and support the church is something really neat,” Allen said.

The Allens, who lived in Springfield since the 1940s, didn’t limit their philanthropic efforts to Little Flower. The couple delivered Meals on Wheels for years, were active in the Boy Scouts of America and other charitable organizations. However, it was the Church that always held a special place for the family and in an era where the Church isn’t as populated as before, supporting the cause that enriched their family for decades was crucial.

“In tougher times, it’s harder for churches to get by. The numbers work against churches. This is one way my folks can continue to contribute,” Allen said.