

Fr. JC's Pastoral Letter

My dear Little Flower,
Happy Father's Day.

As we gather this weekend for the Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time, we give thanks for one of God's greatest gifts: the gift of fatherhood. We honor fathers, grandfathers, godfathers, spiritual fathers, foster fathers, and all those men whose lives have become a source of strength, wisdom, sacrifice, and love for others. At the same time, the Church invites us to look beyond earthly fatherhood to the One from whom all fatherhood ultimately flows: God, our Father.

The greatest blessing of the Christian life is not simply that we believe in God. It is that we have been invited by Jesus Christ to know God as Father. When the disciples asked Jesus how to pray, He did not teach them to begin with fear, distance, or uncertainty. He taught them to pray, "Our Father." In those two words, Jesus revealed the deepest truth of our identity. We are not abandoned in the universe. We are not forgotten by heaven. We are beloved sons and daughters of a Father who knows us, loves us, and never ceases to care for us.

This Sunday's Gospel from Matthew offers one of the most tender images of God's fatherly love. Jesus tells His disciples, "Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's knowledge. Even all the hairs of your head are counted. So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows."

These words are especially important in our own time. We live in a culture that often leaves people feeling unseen, anxious, and uncertain about their worth. Many carry burdens that others never notice. Many wonder whether anyone truly understands what they are going through. Yet Jesus reminds us that our Heavenly Father sees everything. Nothing escapes His loving gaze. He knows our joys and disappointments, our victories and failures, our hopes and fears. He knows us better than we know ourselves, and He loves us more deeply than we can ever imagine.

To all the fathers of Little Flower Parish, thank you. Thank you for the countless sacrifices that often go unnoticed. Thank you for the responsibilities you carry, the worries you bear, the prayers you offer, and the love you give day after day. Thank you for every lesson taught, every encouragement spoken, every act of forgiveness extended, and every example of fidelity shown to your families. Your vocation is sacred. Your witness matters more than you may ever know.

As we celebrate Father's Day, may we also renew our trust in the Father who never ceases to watch over His children. May His love strengthen every family in our parish. May His wisdom guide every father. May His mercy heal every wound. And may His voice continually remind each one of us that we are precious in His sight. May Saint Joseph, the faithful foster father of Jesus and patron of fathers, intercede for all the men of our parish. And may God the Father bless you abundantly with wisdom, courage, peace, and joy. Happy Father's Day, Little Flower. Never be afraid. You belong to the Father, and there is no safer place in all the world than in the heart of God.

Your parish priest,
Fr. JC Merino
Pastor



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ENCOUNTER
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