



My dear Little Flower,

It is with mixed emotions that I announce the retirement from full-time music ministerial work of our current Pastoral Associate for Music Ministry, Valerie Torkelson. After many years of dedicated worship leading and singing at parishes - and now, with our faith family, Valerie discerned that it was time for her to step back and enjoy her time with family.

We are thankful for Valerie's time at Little Flower Parish. During a time of transition, she has proven to be grace-filled while assuming a very important role in our parish family.

Valerie will be with us until mid-September to help transition and welcome the new Pastoral Associate for Music Ministry. Valerie will not disappear and she has expressed her desire to be a part of our faith community and occasionally cantor for us.



**VALERIE
TORKELSON
HAPPY RETIREMENT**

I am excited to welcome Ellen Estallo as our new Pastoral Associate for Music Ministry! Ellen comes to us with a wealth of experience in music ministry, having served in various capacities in Catholic churches. She is a gifted musician, arranger, and composer.

Ellen is passionate about using music to bring people together in worship and prayer. She believes that music can be a powerful tool for healing and transformation, and is eager to share her love of music with our community.

We are grateful to Ellen for hearing God's calling to serve our parish family. I look forward to working with her to create a vibrant music ministry at Little Flower. Ellen officially begins on August 15 on the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Your pilgrim priest,
Fr. JC Merino



**ELLEN ESTALLO
PASTORAL ASSOCIATE
FOR MUSIC MINISTRY**