

Fr. JC's Pastoral Letter

My dear Little Flower,

Pentecost is not simply the memory of a moment long ago. Pentecost is the birth of the Church. It is the moment when frightened hearts became courageous witnesses, when locked doors were opened, and when the breath of God became fire within ordinary human souls.

Throughout these sacred weeks, we have journeyed together from Ashes to Fire. We began with ashes upon our foreheads on Ash Wednesday, remembering our weakness, our mortality, and our longing for God. We walked through the Cross, through silence, through the tomb, through Resurrection, and now we arrive at the fire.

The fire of Pentecost.

The Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Most Holy Trinity, is revealed not as a distant force, but as the living presence of God dwelling within His people. The Spirit is the fire that refuses to die. The fire that remains. The fire that stays close to us even when the world grows cold.

So often in life, we experience goodbyes. Seasons end. People leave. Hearts break. We know what it feels like to stand in the ache of absence. But Pentecost proclaims something extraordinary: when everybody else says goodbye, the Holy Spirit says, "I will be with you always."

This is the promise of God. We are not abandoned. We are not left orphaned. The Spirit of the Risen Christ lives within us, breathes within us, strengthens us, prays within us, and loves us from the deepest places of our soul.

And because of that fire, the Church still lives.

Every act of mercy, every Eucharist (Holy Sacrifice of the Mass) celebrated, every child baptized, every sinner forgiven in the Sacrament of Confession, every poor and forgotten person reached with God's caring love, every young men and women who say "yes" courageously to God's call to religious and consecrated life, every family that continues to hope, every weary heart that still chooses to love — all of it is Pentecost continuing in the world.

Brothers and sisters, the journey from Ashes to Fire does not end today. It begins again within us.

May the Holy Spirit set our hearts ablaze once more. May He make our homes places of peace. May He strengthen our parish to become a people of courage, holiness, and joyful witness. And may the fire of divine love within us never grow cold.

Come, Holy Spirit.

The Church is alive because You refuse to leave us.

Your parish priest,
Fr. JC Merino



ENGAGE

ENCOUNTER

EXPERIENCE

Served by our Pastoral Associates:

Teresa Johnson
Office/Business Manager
officemgr.lf@gmail.com

Genevieve Emanuel
Religious Formation
& Family Ministry
religiousformation.lf@gmail.com

Dan Grossano
Outreach & Ministries
pastoral110.lf@gmail.com

Giovanni Longo
Music Ministry
lfmusicministry.lf@gmail.com

Carolee Aresco
Technology & Media
lftech.lf@gmail.com

Eileen Baker
Baptism Coordinator
secylittleflower.lf@gmail.com

Peggy Squazzo and
Isabel Cabrera
Reception
littleflower.frontdesk@gmail.com