



Dear Little Flower,

Just recently, our Office (Executive) Manager, Teresa Johnson, has gifted me with my first batch of parish business cards - a hundred copies of them. I was elated upon receiving them! It was striking to me that she had only asked for 100 copies to be printed. The reason she gave was that my title as 'Administrator' would only be temporary (God willing) - and we were hoping that the next set of business cards might say "Pastor" under my name! So, my advice is - if you haven't yet, to grab your own copy of the "LIMITED EDITION" of the Fr. JC Merino as Administrator Edition - while supplies last! I will only be an "Administrator" once in this lifetime! (Again, God willing)

I like the title 'Pastor' better than 'Administrator'. While the word 'administrator' points to a particular function of the Office, the word 'pastor' reminds me of the necessary relational nature that the title carries. The truth is that these two titles are not exclusive of, nor contrary to, each other: a pastor necessarily administers, while an administrator - by the virtue of the position's ministerial nature - shepherds to his flock. In Filipino, the word "Pastol" means Shepherd; and this is my present desire - I would like to be your good shepherd, a good friend and a spiritual guide and a father to you.

The readings in Genesis about the intercessory prayer of Father Abraham on behalf of his people and the Prayer 101 teachings of Jesus in the Gospel inspired me not so much to realize the effective merits and power of intercessory prayer but to recognize the power of the infinite goodness and graciousness of the Father in Heaven.

YES! It is good to know that all our prayers are answered by God (even when, sometimes, we are not too happy about His response); and they are answered not because we are good or persistent in our prayer life (which really helps a lot), but all our prayers are answered mainly because GOD is good - GOD is gracious - GOD is loving.

His business cards write many titles under His Name: Majesty, Almighty, Omnipotent, etc. There are a few in the list that are my favorites: Advocate, Good Shepherd, The Good Father.

What title do you have written under His Name?

Your Parish Priest,

Fr. JC Merino

Go and Make Disciples. Go and Make Leaders.