

My Dear Little Flower,

These past two weeks, we have received two letters: one from the *Respect Life Office of the Archdiocese of Newark*, and another from *Family Promise of Union County*. Both heart-warming letters speak of their gratitude for our parish's support and generosity towards their mission. We also enjoyed the friendship and discipleship of Fr Daniel Owuor from *the Franciscan Missionaries of Hope* last weekend at our liturgies; he also expressed his gratitude towards the welcome, generosity and hospitality of Little Flower.

Our Responsorial Psalm today sings about God's goodness and generosity for the poor: *God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor*. Where goodness, graciousness, and generosity abound, there our Father is - there our home will be.

As the new leader of this parish community, I am blessed, inspired and continue to thank the Lord for the magnanimity of the *hearts of the faith community* of Little Flower here in Berkeley Heights. A grateful and generous heart can do anything! The friendliness and the magnanimity of your hearts are very telling of who you are and what your heart is about: You care for the mission of love. You stand for our faith in Jesus Christ and His Church. You inspire me. *We may be little, but our "littleness" is our precious gift to the world.*

These past weeks have been, for me, a personal reminder, and an invitation. A reminder to see ourselves as the Master's instruments with a great purpose and a mission - the mission of promoting the Kingdom of God here on earth; an invitation, too, to go out to gather, and to bring "church" - to bring Jesus and His Good News of salvation - to those who are in the fringes of our Christian communities. To be aware that we walk in faith together in this journey; and to invite them to participate in this beautiful journey with Jesus.

With our Mother, the Queen of Peace, we march together with her Army of Charity.

Your Parish Priest,
Fr. JC Merino